

Battle of the Nile.

Its Effect and Its Influence Were
Far-Reaching.

**The Continent of Europe Was Convulsed
From End to End When the News Was
Known — Honors and Congratulations
Were Showered Upon Nelson.**

Of 13 French ships of the line all but two were taken or destroyed. The fleet was annihilated. "Victory," said Nelson justly, "is certainly not a name strong enough for such a scene as I have passed." In completeness of immediate results upon the field no fleet action has ever equaled the battle of the Nile. Upon the fortunes of the particular enterprise which elicited it—Bonaparte's oriental expedition—the

effect was absolutely decisive. It became impossible, and was by experience demonstrated to be impossible, to afford to the expeditionary force the renewal of men and supplies, upon which depended not only the prosecution of the undertaking, but even the maintenance of the position already achieved.

The influence of the battle of the Nile

was more far-reaching still. The continent of Europe became convulsed from end to end as soon as the news was received. Elated by Bonaparte's career of victory in Italy and by the submission of Austria to terms of peace, the French government had entered upon a course of arrogant aggression toward other countries—of which the unprovoked Egyptian expedition was only one example—that had aroused the wrath of all nations. Even the United States was forced from its attitude of benevolent neutrality, which had depended upon the tradition of the war of independence and the adoption by France of republicanism.

The general resentment in Europe was however, curbed by experience of the might of the French revolutionary movement and of the French armies when welded by a man like Bonaparte, and there was wanting the demonstration of some power capable of imposing an absolute check up on their future progress. The battle of the Nile gave such a demonstration. As Nelson said, it was more than a victory it was a catastrophe. The French fleet was annihilated, the Mediterranean passed into the absolute control of Great Britain

the flower of the French army and the invincible Bonaparte were cut off hopelessly from France. Turkey, previously overawed by the fleet, declared war in 1800. Austria, Russia and Naples had already drawn together in coalition. They were emboldened, as the permanence of the conditions due to the battle became evident, to pursue their military enterprises upon a scale which brought the republic to the brink of ruin, from which it was saved only by the unexpected and fortuitous return of Bonaparte and his accession to supreme power a year later. Before the year 1798 expired a combined Rus-

The general satisfaction, not to say exultation, was shown, by the honors and rewards showered from all sides upon the

Victor. The sultan and the czar, the king of Sardinia and of the two Sicilies, sent messages of congratulation and rich presents, the czar accompanying his with an autograph letter. On the part of his own country, the two houses of parliament awarded them thanks and a pension of £2,000 a year. The East India company by a gift of £10,000 acknowledged the security gained for the Indian possessions. Other individual corporations took appropriate notice of the great event, instances so far as the cities of London and Palermo and the island of Zante, showing how wide was the interest excited by the event.

In titular rank Nelson was raised to the lowest grade of the peerage as Baron Nelson of the Nile. Indignant comment was made in some quarters upon the inadequacy of this advancement to the brilliance and importance of the service done. The ministry justified its action upon the technical ground that, though no superior was within 2,000 miles of Aboukir, Nelson was nevertheless a subordinate flag officer, not a commander in chief.

Not least gratifying to him, with his sensitive appreciation of friendship and susceptibility to flattery, must have been

the numerous letters of congratulation he received from friends in and out of the service, and especially from men whose eminence and professional standing made their praise a sound criterion for the calm after judgment of mankind. Besides many other officers of character and reputation, the three great admirals, Lords Howe, Hood and St. Vincent, the leaders of the navy in rank and distinguished service, wrote to him in the strongest terms of admiration. The latter two did not hesitate to style the battle the greatest achievement that history could produce, while Howe, in language, more measured, was so only by

cause, like himself, it was more precise in characterizing the special merits of the action and was therefore acknowledged by Nelson with particular expressions of pleasure.—"Nelson in the Battle of the Nile," by Captain A. T. Mahan, in *Century*.

take the things they tell other people a "poison"—this is very creditable to the profession. The reproach, "Physician, heal thyself," would appear to be unfounded if it seems they do heal themselves, or all events manage to hang on to life long than the rest of the world. They probably know more about antidotes and "poisons" than we do. Where their great pull consists, however, is no doubt in their opportunities of observing what treatment most efficacious with their patients. A certain physician is said to have let his

The calla lily is considered emblematic of feminine beauty, its perfect whiteness symbolizing the purity of female character.

James VI Scotland had 44 kings.
