THE WORLD'S GREAT EVENTS

ALBERT PAYSON TERHUNE

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Napoleon Bonaparte

E UROPE, for the first time in twenty years, could rest in peace and repair its shattered fortunes. Napoleon, who had been the "bogle man" of a whole scared continent, was beaten by sheer force of numbers; disowned by his own people; and safely stowed away on a distant island, where he could annoy no one. Small wonder that there was thanksgiving in Europe!

But the calm was soon broken. Barely ten months after the ailles nad in risoned him on Elba, Napoleon escaped. With 1,000 of his "Old Guard" he landed in France, March 1, 1815. The news of his return swept the country like wildfire. The French nation which, a year earlier, had groaned under his yoke, went mad with joy. Louis XVIII had been a stupid, unpopular king. After a quarter century of military glory and endless excitement it had been hard for France to settle down to humdrum peaceful existence. People spoke of Napoleon as an almost immortal hero.

With one accord army and populace greeted their returned emperor with a frenzy of joy. He moved northward prepared for opposition. But he met with none. His journey to Paris was a triumphal march. Soldiers sent to arrest him flocked to his standard.

The gates were everywhere thrown open to the Corsican. Poor old Louis XVIII fled for his life, and Napoleon entered the French capital without striking a blow. In his absence people had forgotten his tyranny and self-ishness and the havoc he had wrought. They remembered only his glory, magnetism and genius. He was again their idol.

But the Napoleon who returned from exile was not the same sort of man who had overawed Europe. His early life was beginning to tell on him. He could no longer concentrate als, thoughts, make up his mine quickly, nor even keep awake at critical moments. He was living solely on his past fame.

The "Hundred Days" now set in. By modifying some of his former despotism the emperor won over to him those whose memories had at first proved stronger than their enthusiasm. The Royalists crept out of sight and bided their time. But the great body of the empire rallied about their former tyrant, eager to follow him against the whole universe. And they had not long to wait for a chance to prove their devotion. For the allies again rushed to arms, putting an army of 700,000 men into the field. Napoleon could muster barely 200,000 men for active service. Yet, to save France from a second invasion, he hurried his troops into Belgium, where the English, Dutch, Brunswickers, etc., under the duke of Wellington and the Prussians under Marshal Blucher, were encamped.

Napoleon knew Wellington and Blucher would try to unite at Charleroi; so he planned to get there ahead of them, thrash them each in turn and then march eastward, where the Austrian and Russian armies were gathering. The plan was worthy of Napoleon at his best. But its execution showed the pastworthy Corsican at his worst. He beat the first corps of the Prussian army at Ziethen, June 13, and seized Charlerol. Then he sent part of his army, under Ney, against Wellington. The two met at Quatrebras, June 16. After a hard battle Ney was repulsed, but Wellington was forced to fall back on the heights of St. Jean, near the Belgian village of Waterloo. Meantime Napoleon, with the remainder of the French army, met the Prussians, under Blucher, at Ligny and utterly defeated them, killing 12,000. It was the last of the emperor's innumerable brilliant victories. He sent General Grouchy with 33,000 men in pursuit of the flying Prussians (in the wrong direction, as it happened), and himself started after Wellington. The French reached Waterloo late on June 17, 1815. The next day they attacked Wellington's army in one of the most bloody and epoch-making battles ever

Out of all Wellington's great army only 24,000 were English, the rest be-

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By a stroke of diplomacy that is variously described as a necessary measure and as a flagrant breach of trust, the man who for twenty years had defied the whole world was sent to the island of St. Helena, and was kept there under strict guard until in May, 1821, he died of cancer of the stomach.

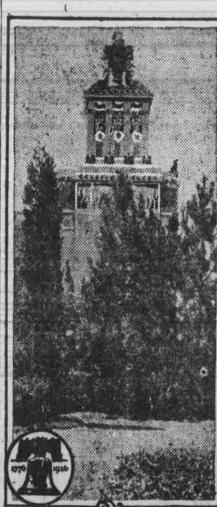
So perished Napoleon Bonaparte, genius, charlatan, wonder-worker "holdup man" of Europe—one of the greatest men that ever lived. A man however, not great enough to realize that selfish ambition and purely personal glory can never bring lasting success.

Peace, Goodwill



Columbia, Peace and the Spirit of Brotherly love have been joined in one person, a beautiful woman. This young lady was one of the central figures in a pageant staged at the Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition in Philadelphia, celebrating 150 years of American Independence. The Exposition continues until December 1.

"A Thing of Beauty Is a Joy Forever"



This is one of the beauty spots of the Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition in Philadelphia. The exposition celebrates the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The view shows the tower of one of the main exhibit buildings, rearing its head up from among the gorgeous landscape which artists have built around the giant structures which house exhibits from forty-three nations of the world. The Exposition continues until December 1.

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