



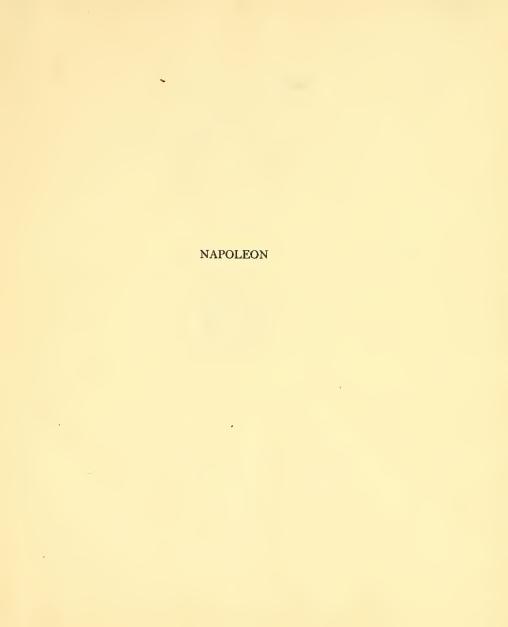
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NAPOLEON

AN ESSAY BY

WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY

TOGETHER WITH REPRODUCTIONS OF V
FIVE ORIGINAL SKETCHES
BY THE AUTHOR V



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1915
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FOREWORD

The original sketches of Napoleon from which these reproductions are made came into my possession some years ago and are probably of the period when Mr. Thackeray wrote the "Essay on Napoleon."

On acquiring the manuscript of this essay, it seemed appropriate, at this particular time, that I should have both reproduced for my friends,—a token of my sincere appreciation of their kindnesses shown to me from time to time, and of the associations that have afforded me such pleasure and happiness.

My thanks are due to Mr. Charles E. Lauriat, Jr., for his untiring interest and for obtaining the manuscript and letters from Lady Ritchie; also to Mr. Updike for his care and guiding hand in preparing this little volume.

W. B. O. F.

645 Fifth Avenue, New York

March, 1915



9 St. Leonard's Terrace,

Chelsea, S.W.

Nov. 21.

I have been deeply interested re-reading the MSS. and I send you back the notes amplified.

I think you ought to publish this Napoleon MSS. NOW; It seems so fitted to this terrible time—so noble, so terrible—may peace be with us!

Yours very truly,

ANNE RITCHIE.

P.S. My son has been ill, but he is able to drill his men and to work at the Depot in Leicester. My nephew is badly wounded—another nephew is at the front—my friends are killed—but thank God they have done noble duty, and are doing it.



These unpublished notes for an Essay on Napoleon must have been written by my Father either in 1836 when he was a news-paper correspondent in Paris, or as I am now inclined to think later on when in 1842 & the following years he was contemplating a life of Talleyrand and publishing articles in Fraser and other Magazines.

With what a different response one now reads this noble expression of feeling, from that with which in July last—only five months ago—I wrote the short preceding note at the request of Mr. Lauriat. How the truth and generous fire of the whole goes to one's heart. He—my Father—would not have loved Peace as he did if he had not kindled, & as I can remember so well, too generous valour and noble patriotic deeds over which I have heard him exclaim in sympathy and pride.

I have often thought of late what would my Father have said about this cruel war? *THIS* is what he would have said, only changing the terrible indictment of hatred & unrighteous attack from the French to the German Nation.

ANNE RITCHIE.

November 21, 1914.







Mentod keeterse, forward by luxuly years of peace, have good for to desistante The helvier guned our to our unconjurate hapolon, the twenty fraspel. Than we have followed his downful, and above all the punishment for overlook his ambition and laid low his prime, have down much to oblitante in the winds of all the people is burefu , the harres with he they once required him , and the twops he led . But there who can uner. bu the fulnyo of a sure of years back, will revolued with what a frery unanimity, all the sent European autions marchalled together to resist these commence enemy, and to crush by the force of Their union The produces finis role had wring to so much the upon lack. As the Butish who therego is had wasted Spain and Portugal from the prosp of his best pourals, carried their triumphant was into the Torrelog of France, the horthern dutions Limitarly victorious in the Jugansii combat of Leipzig and Presolen, pourous their lanners her Acriso the Plain, followed and fought the great lower with he could fight no sure o the server from his hear of the sure from his have and respecting this general and his uninfortunes consequed him to an honorable dails. It We are how how he returned from the trick, be har to have the and how it can never because necessary for Europe the arm own again, and here has the sured from his hand, and sent the crown for his hour hus of was the was a cases , w! doing the time of the crusade; section which is the control of the control of the second to getting it was that not because the bline together in 18150 and sometime for ever the hope, a fours of Neglolan. he rees own county the feeling against him was strong: had we had



he defeats a risult to average which as the Alke Gurgeau Brown had received form him , and rememp as was our rest the to be every , it was like Compared with the kathed felt by his horstern countries against their Lieune hand opprierer . In furnish the second course of the forest was not murely a helian cause, adopted by Prince and government, but because to the te fle cause of each individual man, see to for searchy on but in the form his own Junou or that y some our war of dear to him, had suffered wring & widighty at the hands of the trench invade and have finished me were hower to Take the news ket, and four presents winteres to send eway There valy boy to face the factor pate desired them to the law love fact desired Me Junas Tyraux. hote his great where to there at their , madelingual months for fine the

hose the great when to these at these, according to sent the for from the thought for from the stay has according to do : he have only to the of a few hunds from the there when fall there beared out with standarding the time from the there took place .



had it must survey be tain here , for but that the surges coal his the strongly a the often wiged) -it is not only the ruin and weekstuding of the day and of the actual participates, y the war we can keeple have to fine: but the accurred logary of hatrest we'd have before it was to he was to he was to he was all the accurred logary of hatrest we'd have to have to he was all such some force and freedom, wholesome enter free and hours thought, tender the offering for long ago after the guarres is said to be could , and the sworm are in Alais then the hours way were happened a it is very well. Town for hundreds of othe one have a un ubbra for that service, and a lette undal hanging to it : but water the devising fury of Laked is test dead yet, and for fur and leverly years part has interpreted a thousand times town the bufot of two relives were in question - blackening with suspicion wery lives allege to coachatur, and Theresting every hearly sumple plan of mumal interest - black the the l'aproval parti . surce churse sature , una non sente suou monerous shan sur chi tampero locardor mudas manero suite as , the feeling of hatere was senally as has I described farowants, but it would be well, if the french walls be brought to the same with Locke buy bew the chief propagator of the auti- bug is it cry - livery Lises to the up as he goes into officient a come of how have repeteted suite to secret obstrancy proportioned that it has got to be assess hadineral "here. that is what Me there late for folding their , Barros , Berryer each addresses humself the public and appeals to was is called the harvors fuling - harvand is the could - for theme that my maker should be to magnerous as to make habred a habored guestion;



be warth staly, we he humble think church of lexterloo, the reader has very likely been the cetaloguely the have of the English officers who die There - The names of the freet wice, toke fell reform that day and down then chety to the full as well, are not mentioned in how thought wither that the humble persons dis not murit, water lovery a dead to help towpary well Justimes bearing the Magestys commission, a think the corn of murba word he the quat : - in fact a figural would have been big surright to secreta the hours of their four fellows . If howwa tome obiting of the head could be hops of access and agency it would form * wholever and untruster Through not finhale agreeable reading, and angle (please for every year with his I have cost the published at he very great charges as a sappament of the Jugath . Leaving out the cause of the battle a their classed , the longites should stale simply the have and age of the stain soldier , the marine of worring of me he dies , the warm of his hear alalions and berthe place. " John Thompson . 34 . received a mushed bak in the thigh ad · leut amputated same day : die of the operation : born es James ai Somes the him - only lon of Jam Thompson now ades under there . Her left a widow of thew chelotren " - Avery commen imagination and supply from the outline the accessory details - the way in not folio thompson fully as with a same and a hurrate the form a higher as we some lefting, exchanging his hurran for a curse as he work and the column marches over here parties of his acres of his horness as he his at the field - the agency of the operation and the five had that Subsequent tis - the agone of his mother the widows of his weep the window too ; the woods of the chelitical need foreity the ensuing beggary of the whole family, suight all to very early fourtraps to the well, and work hart his common farmen to be presented to it, as well as that hiture of tumples and to-dennes, knighthores, gun firing . I parliamentary grathede, we place up a the successful of some thousands of more a les bucky John Thompson Through of the nature, are especially of late spaces much more common in England that when we surplied thirty years sind in the french was Next with our sugarous the warkin spired some to be talk abover as thong as ever : at hast it is to throng that every demagage in his him has but to very revenge much he fends half a dentition of whose to his cry: and sain the defeate of the trupies, it has been the cowardly thetis of wary harf



THE victories gained over the once unconquerable Napoleon, the twenty possession leon, the twenty peaceful years which have followed his downfal, and above all the punishment which overtook his ambition and laid low his pride, have done much to obliterate in the minds of all the people of Europe, the hatred with which they once regarded him, and the troops he led. But those who can remember the feelings of a score of years back, will recollect with what a fiery unanimity, all the European nations marshalled together to resist their common enemy, and to crush by the force of their union the prodigious Genius who had wrought so much ill upon each. As the British who had wrested Spain and Portugal from the grasp of his best generals, carried their triumphant war into the territory of France, the northern nations similarly victorious in the gigantic combats of Leipzig and Dresden, poured their immense horde across the Rhine, followed and fought the great Warrior until he could fight no more, and still respecting his genius and misfortunes consigned him to an honorable exile.

We all know how he returned from his exile, and how it once more became necessary for Europe to arm, and tear the sword from his hand, and dash the crown from his head; and if ever there was a cause, which since the time of the crusades, united all Christendom together, it was that which assembled the Allies in 1815, and overthrew for ever the hopes and power of Napoleon.

In our own country the feeling against him was strong: but we had no defeats or insults to avenge, such as all other European Powers had received from him, and vehement as was our resistance to our enemy, it was little compared with the hatred felt by the Northern countries against the oppressor.

In Germany especially the crusade against Napoleon was not merely a national cause, adopted by Princes and Governments, but seemed to be the cause of each individual man, for scarcely one but in his own person or that of some one near and dear to him, had suffered wrong and indignity at the hands of the French invader, and peaceful men were known to take the musket, and poor widows to send away their only sons bidding them to stake their lives for the putting down the General Tyrant.

With the great interests then at stake, this story has little to do: we have only to tell of a few humble people whom fate has bound up with the great events that then took place.

And (it need scarcely be said here, but that the subject can't

be too strongly or too often urged)—it is not only the ruin and wretchedness of the day and of the actual participators of the war which people have to fear: but the brutal prejudices it brings with it, the accursed legacy of hatred which it leaves behind it: and which obstruct progress and freedom, and mar and kill wholesome enterprize and honest thought, for long ages after the quarrel is said to be ended, and the swords are in their sheaths. We have conquered Napoleon—it is very well. Some few hundreds of old men still are alive and wear a red ribbon for that service, and a little medal hanging to it: but the fury of hatred is not dead yet, and for five and twenty years past has interposed a thousand times when the benefits of the two nations were in question—blackening with suspicion every honest attempt at conciliation, and thwarting every kindly simple plan of mutual interest. [With the old Imperial party, now almost extinct, and scarcely more numerous than the old Waterloo medal-wearers with us, the feeling of hatred was manly at least and therefore pardonable, but it would be well, if the French could be brought to see who else have been the chief propagators of the Anti-English cry. Every man takes it up as he goes into opposition: Thiers, Barrot, Berryer each addresses himself to the public and appeals to what is

called the national feeling—national is the word—for shame that any nation should be so ungenerous as to make hatred a national question.

On marble slabs, in the humble little church of Waterloo, the reader has very likely seen the catalogue of the names of the English officers who died there. The names of the private men, who fell upon that day and did their duty to the full as well, are not mentioned; it was thought either that such humble persons did not merit, living or dead to keep company with gentlemen bearing His Majesty's commission, or that the cost of marble would be too great:—in fact a pyramid would scarcely have been big enough to chronicle the names of these poor fellows.

If however some obituary of the kind could be kept of armies and regiments: it would form wholesome and instructive though not perhaps agreeable reading, and might (please God every year with less and less cost) be published at no very great charges as a Supplement to the Gazette. Leaving out the cause of the battles and their issue, the compiler should state simply the name and age of the slain soldier, the manner of wound of which he died, the names of his near relatives, and

birth place. "John Thompson. 24. received a musket ball in the thigh at Tezna. limb amputated same day: died of the operation: born at Taunton in Somersetshire-only son of Jane Thompson now resident there. Has left a widow and three children." A very common imagination could supply from this outline the necessary details—the way in which John Thompson feels as he storms a height on which some Afghans are mustered,—exchanging his hurrah for a curse as he drops and the column marches over him, - the agonies of his wound as he lies on the field - the agonies of the operation and the fever and death subsequent to it - the agonies of his mother the widow, of his wife the widow too; the wonder of the children and possibly the ensuing beggary of the whole family, might all be very easily pourtrayed to the mind, and thereto at least in common fairness be presented to it, as well as that picture of triumphs and te-deums, knighthoods, gun-firing, and parliamentary gratitude, which follow upon the successful exertions of some thousands of more or less lucky John Thompsons.

Thoughts of this nature, are especially of late much more common in England than when we were engaged thirty years since in the French war, but with our neighbours the warlike spirit seems to be still almost as strong as ever: at least it is so strong that every demagogue in his turn has but to cry revenge and he finds half a million of echoes to his cry: and since the defeats of the Empire, it has been the cowardly tactics of every party in opposition to raise this shameful outcry in its own favor.

FIVE ORIGINAL SKETCHES BY THACKERAY



109 St. George's Sq., April 6

DEAR SIR

My father drew the pictures of Napoleon somewhere about 1852 in Young Street. He must have been thinking of writing a lecture on the early Caricaturists but he never carried it out.

Yours truly,

ANNE RITCHIE.





The original Sketch measures $11^{5}/_{8}$ by $17^{1}/_{2}$ inches





























Seventy-five copies of this book were printed by D. B. Updike The Merrymount Press, Boston, in the month of March, 1915







