

# NAPOLEON, As Seen by His Associates

## PECULIAR TRAITS AND HABITS

XVIII.

On hearing of Napoleon's overthrow at Waterloo, Francis I of Austria exclaimed: "I always thought that man would end badly; he wrote such a villainous hand!"

This remark cannot be laid to the prejudice of an uncongenial father-in-law, for Napoleon often confessed that he couldn't read his own writing. Says Bourrienne:

"Napoleon left a great deal for the copyists to do. He was their torment. His handwriting actually resembled hieroglyphics. He often could not decipher it himself. Las Cases' son was one day reading to him a chapter of 'The Campaign of Italy'. On a sudden he stopped short, unable to make out the writing. 'The little blockhead,' said Napoleon, 'cannot read his own handwriting.' 'It is not mine, sir.' 'And whose, then?' 'Your majesty's.' 'How so, you little rogue? Do you mean to insult me?' The emperor took the manuscript, tried a long while to read it and at last threw it down, saying: 'He is right. I cannot tell myself what is written.' He has often sent the copyists to Las Cases to read what he had himself been unable to decipher."

And had chirography was not his only literary failing, according to Mme. de Remusat and his secretary, Bourrienne.

"On state occasions," she says, "Bonaparte's incorrect pronunciation was a great drawback. In general he had his speech drawn up for him, and he would try to learn it by heart, but

with little success, for the least constraint was insupportable to him. He always ended by resolving to read his speech, and it was copied out for him in a large hand, for he was little accustomed to read writing and could have made nothing out of his own. Then he would be instructed in the proper pronunciation of the words, but when he came to speak he forgot his lesson and in a muffled voice, with lips scarcely parted, would read the speech in an accent more strange even than that of a foreigner, most unpleasant and indeed vulgar. I have heard numbers of persons say that they always felt a painful sensation on hearing him speak in public. The indisputable testimony of his agent to the fact that he was a foreigner struck painfully on the ear and mind alike."

"In the common intercourse of life and his familiar conversation," says Bourrienne, "Napoleon mutilated the French names. Yet this would not have occurred on any public occasion. He has been heard many times during his walks to repeat the celebrated speech of Augustus in Cornelia's tragedy, and he has never missed saying, 'Take a seat, Sylla,' instead of Cincia. He would frequently create names according to his fancy, and when he had once adopted them they remained fixed in his mind, although they were pronounced properly a hundred times a day in his hearing. But he would have been struck if others had used them as he had altered them. It was the same thing with respect to orthography. In general he did not attend to it, yet if the copy which were made contained any faults of spelling he would have complained of it."

Precipitancy was a trait that neither time nor circumstance could efface.

"Although in every ceremonial he was too precipitate," says Mme. de Remusat, "the great point he insisted upon took the place of the dignity that was wanting. When Bonaparte, in the course of any ceremony, had to walk to-



NAPOLEON IN 1785.

ward the throne prepared for him he always seemed to rush at it."

The Duchesse d'Angoulême says that at his coronation ceremony he "listened to the prayer with pious devotion, but just as the pope was about to take the crown from the altar Napoleon seized it and placed it on his own head." Me neval says that the court librarians brought once a week to Napoleon the latest books and books which the authors sent him "in token of homage. The emperor glanced over them all, throwing down on the ground or pitching into the fire those which did not interest him or which displeased him."

Teasing was another of Napoleon's marked traits. Says Mme. de Remusat, "He always derived amusement from causing any one uneasiness and distress."

At a grand fete given by his sister, the wife of Marshal Murat, "he ate fast and talked little until he came to the dessert, then asked each of the ladies present her age."

He would pinch the ears of ladies of the household or of any one who hap-

pened to be with him when the mood was on. Constant, the valet de chambre, was often a victim of this trait and saw it practised upon others. He says: "One day his majesty pulled the ears of one of his physicians. The doctor drew himself away, crying, 'Sir, your hurt me!' Perhaps this speech was tinged with some irritation, and perhaps also the doctor was right. Apropos of this pinching of ears, any one would be much mistaken in supposing that he touched lightly. He pinched very hard, and pinched as much stronger in proportion as he happened to be in a better humor."

Numerous vagaries of Napoleon are described by his valet and secretaries. Says Constant: "The emperor had no fixed hour for resting. Sometimes he retired at 10 or 11 o'clock in the evening; oftener he stayed awake till 2, 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning. He was soon undressed, for it was his habit on entering the room to do throw such garments right and left, his coat on the floor, his grand cordon on the rug, his watch haphazard at the bed, his hat far off on a piece of furniture; thus with all his clothing, one piece after another. At all seasons his bed had to be warmed with a warming pan, and it was only during the very hottest weather that he would dispense with this."

He kept a fire burning in his work-room in July.

"Bonaparte made others watch, but he himself slept, and slept well," says Bourrienne. "His orders were that I should call him every morning at 7. I was therefore the first to enter his chamber, but very frequently when I awoke him he would turn himself and say, 'Ab, Bourrienne, let me lie a little longer.' When there was no very pressing business I did not disturb him again till 8 o'clock. He in general slept seven hours out of the 24, besides taking a short nap in the afternoon. When he awoke in the night he sometimes began to work or he buried or ate. His awakening was generally melancholy and appeared painful."

"Among the private instructions which Bonaparte gave me one was very curious. 'During the night,' said he, 'enter my chamber as seldom as possible. Do not awake me when you have any good news to communicate, with that there is no hurry—but when you bring bad news rouse me instant-

ly, for then there is not a moment to be lost.'"

Among other peculiarities of Napoleon it appears from the memoirs of his associates that he was wholly lacking in that manly skill which belongs to the most ordinary breeding. He could not fire a rifle or mount a horse gracefully nor ride gracefully nor handle a carriage team with success. Neither could he smoke. When hunting to hounds he would drop into a reverie and wander away from his companions. Constant shows that his master made a very indifferent host at ordinary times. Says he:

"The emperor ate very fast and hardly spent a dozen minutes at the table. When he had finished he arose and passed into the family saloon. But the Empress Josephine remained and made a sign to the guests to do the same. Sometimes, however, she followed his majesty, and then no doubt the ladies of the palace indemnified themselves in their apartments, where whatever they wished was served them."

"One day, when Prince Eugene rose from the table immediately after the emperor, the latter, turning to him, said, 'But you have not had time to dine, Eugene.' 'Pardon me,' replied the prince; 'I dined in advance.'"

Besides this habit of eating too quickly, and due in a great measure to his haste, the emperor lacked much of eating decently and always preferred his fingers to a fork or spoon. Much care was taken to place within his reach the dish he preferred, which he drew toward him and dipped his bread in the sauce or gravy it contained, which did not, however, prevent the dish being handed round and those eating from it who could, and there were few guests who could not."

"The dish which the emperor preferred was the kind of fried chicken to which this preference of the conqueror of Italy has given the name of poulet a la Marengo. He also ate with relish beans, lentils, cutlets, roast mutton and roast chicken. The simplest dishes were those he liked best, but he was fastidious in the article of bread. It is not true, as reported, that he made an immoderate use of coffee, for he only took half a cup after breakfast and another after dinner, though it sometimes happened when he was much preoccupied that he would take, without noticing it, two cups in succession, though coffee taken in this quantity

always excited him and kept him from sleeping."

Napoleon never felt his heart beat, nor could others detect in him the slightest pulsation of that organ. His pulse was only 40 to the minute. GEORGE L. KILMER.

(Napoleon's "Wealth and Luxuries" will be the subject of next week's letters).

### Disastrous Wrecks.

Carelessness is responsible for many a railway wreck and the same causes are making human wrecks of sufferers from Throat and Lung troubles. But since the advent of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption Coughs and Colds, even the worst cases can be cured, and hopeless resignation is no longer necessary. Mrs. Lois Cragg of Dorchester, Mass., is one of many whose life was saved by Dr. King's New Discovery. This great remedy is guaranteed for all Throat and Lung diseases by Z. C. M. J. Drug Store. Price, 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free.

### Our Fall Hats

Combine the attributes of style and quality. Warburton, Denney and Miller in \$5.00 qualities. BROWN, TERRY & WOODRUFF CO. 166 Main Street.

### OGDEN & RETURN, \$1.00

Sunday, Aug. 28th, Via D. & R. G.

Grand Kolitz excursion to Ogden Canyon. Special train leaves Salt Lake 10:00 a.m. Returning leaves Ogden 10:00 p.m. Refreshments free on the train. Tickets checked free. Everybody invited.

### BLOOD POISON

the easiest to cure. It is a sure sign of blood poisoning. When you know what to do, many have pimples, spots on the skin, sores in the mouth, ulcers, falling hair, bone pains, catarrh and don't know it is BLOOD POISON. Send to DR. BROWN, 833 Arch St., Philadelphia, Penn., for BROWN'S BLOOD PURIFIER, \$2.00 per bottle; lasts one month. Sold in Salt Lake only by P. C. Schramm, First South and Main Sts.

### QUEEN OF THE VALLEY ROLLER MILLS.

Thirty years of milling in the Salt Lake Valley, and now a new mill, the most modern in the West, is what makes

### SMITH'S FLOUR

a necessity in most families here. And old friend you know, tried and true. Most housewives will have no other. Ask your grocer or neighbor.

### SPECIAL ANTHRACITE COAL

All Sizes. BURTON COAL & LUMBER CO. 66 W. 2nd South.

### MEN

YOUNG, MIDDLE, AGED AND ELDERLY—if you are weak, no matter from what cause, have varicose veins, etc., MY PERFECT APPLIANCE will cure you. No drugs or electricity. 3.00 cured and developed. 10 DAYS TRIAL. Send for free booklet. Sent sealed. Guaranteed. Write today. R. P. Emmet, 103 Taber Block, Denver, Colo.

### Are You Going?

Visitors to the World's Fair will find Home accommodations at

### THE DESERET,

1623 Missouri Avenue.

\$1 per night. Meals 50 cents.

Fine location. Five cents car ride to Fair. MRS. HANNAH PRATT.

Get All There Is To Be Had Out of Your  
Business By Using

# Modern Approved Devices.

These Mechanical Methods Save Time, Labor, Promote Efficiency of Employees, and Decrease Expense.

THE DESERET NEWS BOOK STORE HAS JUST RECEIVED AN IMMENSE STOCK OF

## Shaw-Walker's Multi-Cabinet Systems!

Embracing

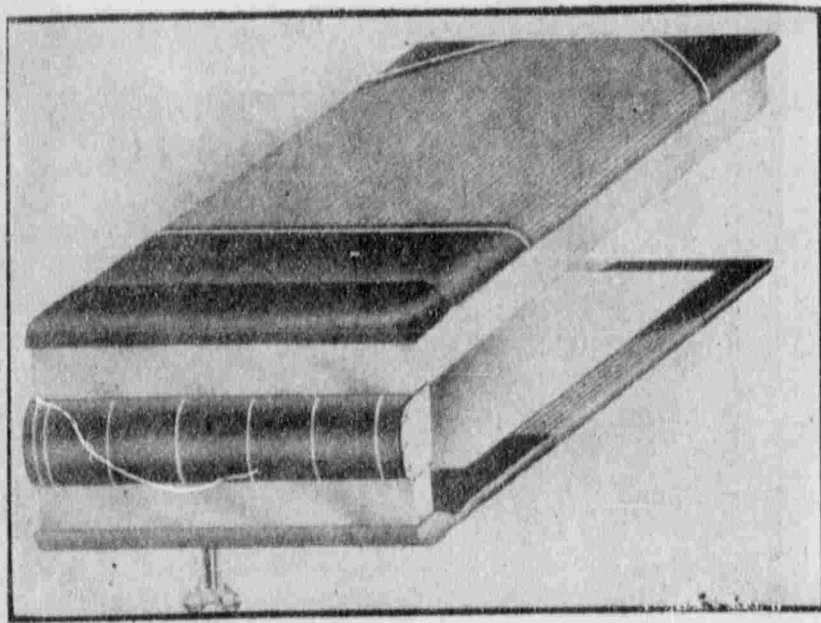
Card Records, Card Ledgers, Miscellaneous Filing Cabinets;  
Ready-Made, Time-Saving Business Systems.  
Fit Any Business. Grow as Your Business Grows.

SEE OUR SHOW WINDOW DISPLAY and GET ILLUSTRATED and DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE.

We Have Also Closed Contract For The

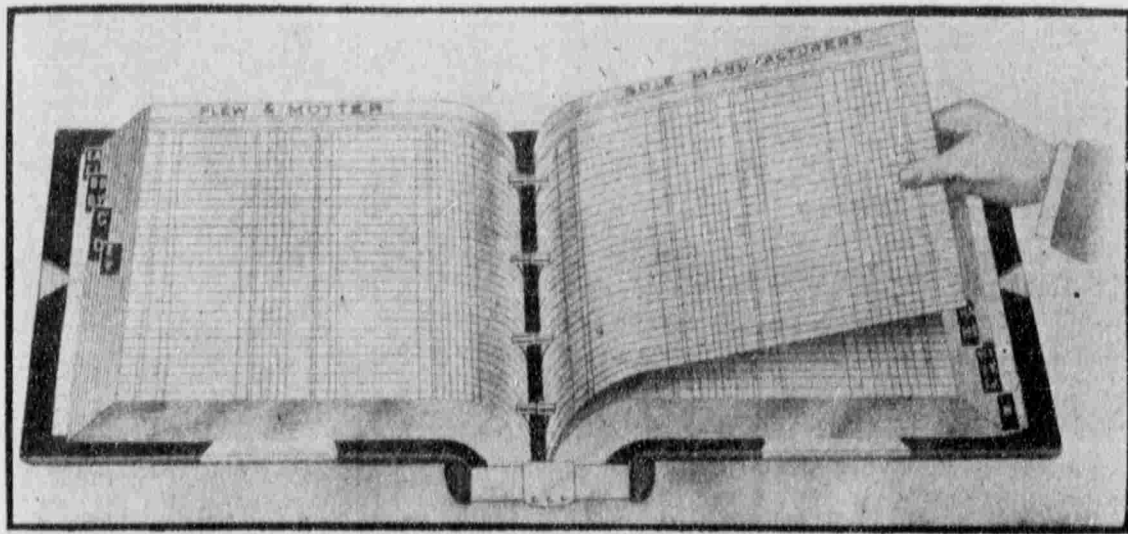
## Best Triple Expansion Loose Leaf Ledger

IN THE  
WORLD.



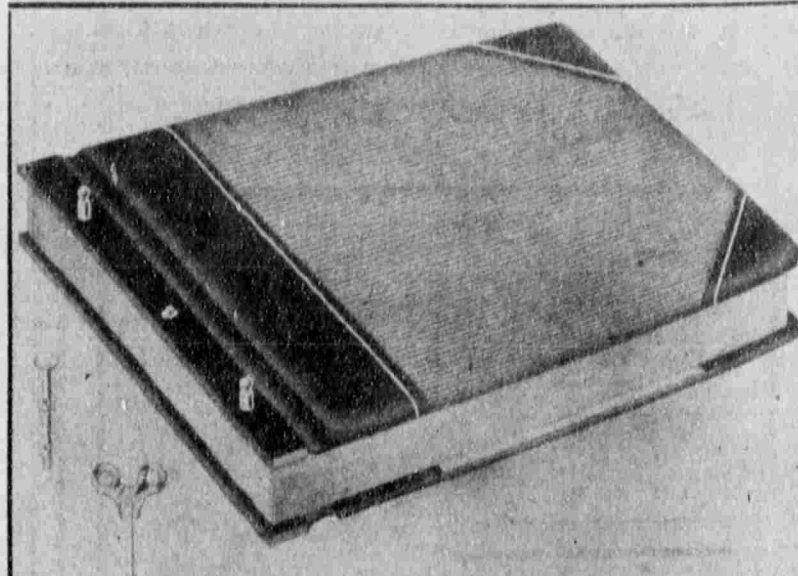
TRIPLE EXPANSION LOOSE LEAF LEDGER

Fully Expanded, showing possible increase in number of sheets.



TRIPLE EXPANSION LOOSE LEAF LEDGER.

"Unlocked" and Open showing easy method of removing and inserting sheets.



TRANSFER LEDGER

Showing Sectional Posts. Capable of any expansion desired from one sheet.

These Ledgers are supplanting the Old Style Ledger in all the Up-to-Date Offices in the Land. Business men who have once used them will always use them. One Ledger will last for years. Cost of annually transferring accounts alone will more than install the New Device.

We have them in all sizes and styles of rulings. Call and examine for yourselves.

# DESERET NEWS BOOK STORE,

NO. 6 MAIN STREET, SALT LAKE CITY.