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THE MONTHLY'S GOT.

My lady, when thy cavaliers
About thy footstool bend,
And wait the words with eager ears,
Thou dost not condescend
To look on me. My faithful lute,
That soothed thee with its notes,
Hath lost its charm, the strings are mute
Amid the knightly throng.

Thou proud one, thy slave to woo,
And can thy hand be prone
Thus deaf to him, thus not seek to prove,
Thou art scornful the while:
And yet to me, whose life is love,
Thou granted not one smile.

Yet such, perchance, are the fate of scorn
Dull oak, thy knights away,
And dull, forgetful of the charms,
Bide faithful to pine the while.
Ere the last promised lance is hid
Thy lute that be heard,
To smile thy scorn? I am old,
And gladly I respond.

Thy thought is with the cavaliers
Who laughing ride away,
And to dispel thy lonely tears
I know nothing be.
I am fond to love's sweet song,
All happiness is divine;
But love is true, nor woe is strong,
Thy pride are fleeting mine.

Thou knowest not this love I hold.
Thou dost not answered
The love that in its songs is said—
Love beautiful and grand.
Songs are to hearts laughing time,
Thy dreams are dreams of pride;
The lover pictured in my rhyme
Unheeded walks at thy side.

—Harper's Bazar.

NAPOLEON AT LODI.

THE STORY OF HIS EARLIEST MASTER STROKE IN WAR.

The Fleeing Was the Boldest of the Bold, the Executive Prudent and Skillful—Personal Vigilance and Bravery at the "Little Corporal."

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IN SEARCHING for a key to Napoleon's success on the battlefield one need not look beyond his action at the affair of the Bridge of Lodi, about which a much romance and as little history has been written. His favorite victory was not an accident, the lucky outcome of a random blow.

In the first place the French had everything against them when their Irish republican army set out in 1796 to crush the Austrian power in Italy. The odds at arms were two to one in favor of the Austrian allies. Napoleon himself was or ought to have been a new applicant, with a poor successor as a general to bolster up his cause. After passing the Alps and entering northern Italy by rare strategy he found himself approaching twenty-two Austrian armies, separated only by the distance between Mantua and Milan and having the shorter line for marching to a junction.

To meet the French invasion both armies marched toward each other, and the army from Milan had just crossed the Adda river at Lodi when the head of Napoleon's column reached that point. To beat the Milan army before it should be re-enforced was the French problem; to keep Napoleon on the lifting side of the Adda the Austrian problem. A gross bridge across the Adda 100 yards in length was the key to both problems. The Austrians didn't destroy it after crossing because they hoped to use it later in retracing their steps to Milan, and in order to prevent Napoleon from crossing it they made ready to fight. A battery of fourteen cannon—an enormous number for thirty—was planted on their side to play upon the structure, and to support these were two lines of troops 6,000 strong. On the flanks and in rear were opposite encamping to several thousand.

The walled town of Lodi extended to the river on the side where the French approached, and a gateway in the high in chosen wall along the river bank opened upon the bridge. After driving the Austrian rear guard out of the town Napoleon placed artillery on the heights in rear of the bridge and bombarded the Austrians. The Austrians in turn bombarded Lodi to drive out the French. Thus far Napoleon's column consisted of 5,000 grenadiers and 2,000 cavalry, and massing these troops behind the river wall and in the street near by he awaited the arrival of his main army, the divisions of Massena and Augereau, each 6,000 strong, and following him on separate roads.

Meanwhile the young leader made plans to cross the bridge in spite of everything. In order to do that he must first preserve the bridge, for the Austrians might take alarm and destroy it. The fact that it seemed to them so extremely improbable that Napoleon would attempt to cross and their wish to let it stand for future use had kept them from sacrificing it. To aid to their reason for letting it alone Napoleon went to the front and personally leading several guns to the open Austrian entrance to the structure, so that his enemies could not reach it without heavy loss of life.

It is said that when the republican generals with Napoleon saw that their lively was bent upon an attack they opposed it strongly, and that he responded with spirit: "We must cross, let it cost what it may. It must not be said that the Italians Adda stopped those horses who had forced the Po."

But there was no parallel between anything previously encountered along the river Po and the situation at Lodi. Also under the great need some such phrase as finding its paragon of the tenacious dispatched by a Prussian foot after he had crossed the Rhinemouth. No doubt some emulate put these words in the mouth of the modern Alexander as being a good fit. But Napoleon had thrown work at Lodi than the crossing of the bridge.

Massena's division reached the scene and was ordered to take rest, and the entire day was passed in getting ready to "make assurance doubly sure" in an enterprise which if it was rash in conception was not to be so in execution. Inquiry among the inhabitants led to the discovery of a ford across the river some miles above the town, and Napoleon detached Beaumont's cavalry column, with some cannon, to attempt the ford and try to give the Austrians a little fire in the rear. This move he meant to follow up by a vigorous assault across the bridge, and after careful study formed a column and gave orders for the assault. His plans were based on a close study of points in the game that his old school at

NAPOLEON WENT AMONG THE TROOPS.

tactics failed to note. In the first place the Austrian artillery was planted along the river heights and in such a position that it could bring upon the French position to make it hazardous for assailants to reach the bridge from the streets of Lodi.

The French column was shortly formed at the French end of the bridge near the gate, the rear of it being concealed. The French battery, carefully trained by Napoleon, was designed for the same for the first time and so that the latter could use station guns or cannon among the whole course of the bridge. Hence a charging column would not be in danger either at the very entrance to the bridge, a few feet at most, and if a sudden dash were made through that another hole of fire the loss would be comparatively light and the work would be over until the bridge was crossed. But once across the bridge, what then? When at the Adda Napoleon had stationed on the Alleaste to cross the French advance beyond the bridge should they succeed in crossing it? This Napoleon saw that the Austrian infantry had backed away from his fields dealing cautiously slowly the river bank, and that, with the exception of a skirmish line and the few artillerists who handled the Austrian cannon, his own troops were the nearest to the enemy's stronghold.

If the French forces could carry beyond the fiery Lodi end of the bridge the storming column could rush across and up the heights and overpower the artillerists before the Austrian infantry could take alarm and come to the rescue of their batteries. These were simple matters when once thought of, but no one did think, and act as well, except Napoleon.

But this was not all. Nothing else to adversity, if possible to foresee it. The attack was delayed until Augereau's division got near enough to the march to support it if need be. Then the final preparations were made. A solid storming column of 4,000 grenadiers was massed near the head of the bridge with a battalion of 400 fine carbineers, or light infantry, in front. The rocks were the cases with of the bridge and were so arranged that at the word "Forward!" the leading section would wheel from the curve of the parapet with cross the short sixty-yard space against the gateway at a single spring, and then make the run along the embankment to the Austrian side quite free from danger. Napoleon went among the troops and spoke familiar and encouraging words. It was the striking contrast between his slight figure and the massive grenadiers who stood in the front ranks that suggested the nickname of "Little Corporal." He looked like a little boy in each company.

It was late in the afternoon, 6 or 7 o'clock, when the sound of Beaumont's guns at the distant ford reminded through the valley, and the Austrians at once moved slight of consciousness. Napoleon quickly ordered the charge. Drums beat the signal "Forward!" the foremost sansculotte leaped from behind the rock parts, wheeled under a terrible fire of grape and musket and attempted to pass the gateway to the bridge. The front ranks went down like a row of grain stalks before the reaper, the column stag gered and recoil backward, and the valiant grenadiers were appalled by the rent before them. Just this emergency had been provided for. The moment the charge sounded, a force of sharpshooters that had crept along the river walls and down the bridge piers, and otherwise made their way unseen to the water's edge, emerged from their cover and by swimming and wading reached the rocks and mounted to the arches and opened fire upon the Austrian gunners. Seeing this, the grenadiers took courage and rallied for another attempt. To cross all Napoleon placed himself at their head, and his aide and generals—Cervoni, Dallemagne, Dupas, Massena and Lannes—rushed to the side.

Forward again, this time over the heaps of dead below that shaded the passage and a quick run, counted by seconds only

PLACED MORTAR AT THEIR HEAD

carried the column over the 100 yards of close space, scarcely a shot from the Austrians taking effect except at the point where the platoons wheeled to take the first loop.

The suddenness of the blow and the miracle of the passage of the bridge at all by the French took the Austrian right rear alarm and dismay it. The fact that it seemed to them so extremely improbable that Napoleon would attempt to cross and their wish to let it stand for future use had kept them from sacrificing it. To aid to their reason for letting it alone Napoleon went to the front and personally leading several guns to the open Austrian entrance to the structure, so that his enemies could not reach it without heavy loss of life.

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