

DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Friday, November 20, 1893.

NAPOLÉON AND JOSEPHINE.

(Continued.)

Josephine felt almost affrighted at the pertinacity of the General, and a sentiment of apprehension overcame her as she looked into the pale, decided countenance of this man, a stranger to her, and who claimed her for his wife. "Oh, sir," she exclaimed, "with some anguish, 'you offer me your hand with as much carelessness as if the whole matter were merely for a contra-dance. But I can assure you that marriage is a very grave matter, which has no resemblance whatever to a gay dance. I know it is so. I have had my sad experience, and I cannot so easily decide upon marriage a second time.'"

"You refuse my hand, then?" said Bonaparte, with a threatening tone. Josephine smiled. "On the contrary, General," said she, "give me your hand and accompany me to my carriage, that has been waiting for me this long time."

"That means, you dismiss me! You close upon me the door of your drawing-room?" exclaimed Bonaparte with warmth.

She shook her head, and bowing before him with her irrepressible grace, she said in a friendly manner, "I am too good a patriot not to be proud of seeing the conqueror of Toulon in my drawing-room. To-morrow I have an evening reception, and I invite you to be present, General."

From this day Bonaparte visited Josephine daily; she was certain to meet him everywhere. At first she sought to avoid him; but he always knew with cunning foresight how to baffle her efforts and how to overcome all difficulties which she threw in his way. Was she at her friend Terese's, she could safely reckon that General Bonaparte would soon make his appearance, and come near her with his eyes beaming with joy, and in his own energetic language, speak to her of his love and hopes. Was she to be present at the reception of the five monarchs of Paris, it was General Bonaparte who waited for her at the door of the hall to offer her his arm and lead her amid the respectful, retreating and gently applauding crowd to her seat, where he stood by her drawing upon her the attention of all. Did she take a drive, at the accustomed hour, in the Champs Elysees, she was confident soon to see General Bonaparte on his gray horse gallop at her side, followed by his brilliant staff, himself the object of public admiration and universal respect. And finally, if she went to the theatre, Gen. Bonaparte never failed to appear in her loge, to remain near her during the performance, and when she left to offer his arm to accompany her to her carriage. It could not fail that this preserving homage of the renowned and universally admired young General should make a deep and flattering impression on Josephine's heart, and fill her with pride and joy. But Josephine made resistance to this feeling; she endeavored to shield herself from it by maternal love. She sent for her children from their respective schools, and with her nearly grown-up son on one side, and her daughter budding into maidenhood on the other, she thus presents herself to the General, and with an enchanting smile said: "See, General, how old I am with a grown-up son and daughter who soon can make of me a grandmother!" But Bonaparte, with a heartfelt emotion, reached his hand to Eugene and said: "A man who can call so worthy a youth as this his son is to be envied." A cunning expression of the eye revealed to Josephine that he had understood her war strategy—that neither the grown-up son nor the marriageable daughter could deter him from his object. Josephine was at last won by so much love and tenderness; but she could not yet acknowledge that the wounds of her heart were closed—that once more she could trust in happiness and devote her life to a new love, to a new future. She shrank timidly away from such a prospect of her destiny; and even the persuasion of her friends and relatives, even the father of her deceased husband, could not bring her to a decision. The state of her mind is depicted in a letter which Josephine wrote to her friend, Madame de Chateau Renaud, and which describes in a great measure the strange uncertainty of her heart:

"You have seen General Bonaparte at my house? Well, then, he is the one who wishes to be the father of the orphan of Alexandre de Beauchamp, and the husband of his widow. 'Do you love him?' you will ask. Well, no! 'Do you feel any repugnance towards him?' No; but I feel in a state of vacillation and doubt, a state very disagreeable to me, and which the devout in religious matters consider to be the most scandalizing. As love is a kind of worship, one ought in its presence to feel animated by other feelings than those I now experience, and therefore I long for your advice, which might bring the constant indecision of my mind to a fixed conclusion. To adopt a firm course has always appeared to my creole nonchalance something beyond reach, and I find it infinitely more convenient to be led by the will of another. I admire the courage of the General; I am surprised at his ample knowledge, which enables him to speak fluently on every subject; at the vivacity of his genius, which enables him to guess the thoughts of others before they are expressed; but I now I am frightened at the power he seems to exercise over every one who comes near him. His searching look has something strange which I cannot explain, but which has a controlling influence even upon our Directors; judge, therefore, of his influence over a woman. Finally, the very thing which might please—the violence of his passion—of which he speaks with so much energy, and which admits of no doubt, that passion is exactly what creates in me the unwillingness I have so often been ready to express. The first bloom of youth lies behind me. Can I, therefore, hope that this passion, which, in General Bonaparte, resembles an attack of madness, will last long? If, after our union, he should cease to love me, would he not reproach me for what he had done? Would he not regret that he had not made another and more brilliant union? What could I then answer? What could I do? I could weep. A splendid remedy! I hear you say, 'I know well that weeping is useless; but to weep could find when my poor heart, so easily wounded, has been hurt. Write to me a long letter, and do not fear to send

me if you think I am wrong. You know well that everything which comes from you is agreeable to me.' After their marriage and the successful campaign in Italy, the happy pair enjoyed each other's society for a brief time at Montebello.

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