

WIDGER'S QUOTATIONS FROM THE MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON

DAVID WIDGER*

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The quotations are in two formats:

1. Small passages from the text.
2. Lists of alphabetized one-liners.

The editor may be contacted at jwidger@cecomet.net for comments, questions or suggested additions to these extracts.

D.W.

QUOTATIONS FROM THREE COLLECTIONS OF MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON

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NAPOLEON'S MEMOIRS BY BOURRIENNE

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MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON, V1, by Bourrienne
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His superiors, who were anxious to get rid of him
Josephine: Readily laughed at her own credulity

Not always agreeable that every truth should be told
Opinion of posterity is the real immortality of the soul
Passions are always bad counsellors

MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON, V2, by Bourrienne
[nb02v10.txt]3552

Bonaparte was a creator in the art of war
Leave ordinary letters for three weeks in the basket
Occupied with what he was thinking of than with what was said

MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON, V3, by Bourrienne
[nb03v10.txt]3553

Always meet your enemies with a bold face
Least benefit which accrues inspires the hope of a new
Look upon religions as the work of men
Napoleon loved only men with strong passions and great weakness
Religions a powerful engine of government
We never know what we wish for

MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON, V4, by Bourrienne
[nb04v10.txt]3554

Doctrine of indefinite perfectibility
Ideologues
Men were only to be governed by fear and interest
Moliere's—"I pardon you, but you shall pay me for this!"
Police, catch only fools
Trifles often decide the greatest events
Two levers for moving men,—interest and fear
Well-bred ladies can tell falsehoods without seeming to do so

MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON, V5, by Bourrienne
[nb05v10.txt]3555

Calumny has such powerful charms
Die young, and I shall have some consolatory reflection
Immortality is the recollection one leaves
Most celebrated people lose on a close view
Religion is useful to the Government
The boudoir was often stronger than the cabinet
To leave behind him no traces of his existence
Treaty, according to custom, was called perpetual

MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON, V6, by Bourrienne
[nb06v10.txt]3556

Ability in making it be supposed that he really possessed talent
Absurdity of interfering with trifles

Admired him more for what he had the fortitude not to do
Animated by an unlucky zeal
Ideologues
Put some gold lace on the coats of my virtuous republicans
Trifles honoured with too much attention
Were made friends of lest they should become enemies
Would enact the more in proportion as we yield

MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON, V7, by Bourrienne
[nb07v10.txt]3557

Malice delights to blacken the characters of prominent men
Manufacturers of phrases
More glorious to merit a sceptre than to possess one
Necessary to let men and things take their course

MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON, V8, by Bourrienne
[nb08v10.txt]3558

An old man's blessing never yet harmed any one
Buried for the purpose of being dug up
Kiss the feet of Popes provided their hands are tied
Something so seductive in popular enthusiasm

MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON, V9, By Bourrienne
[nb09v10.txt]3559

Always proposing what he knew could not be honourably acceded to
Cause of war between the United States and England
Conquest can only be regarded as the genius of destruction
Demand everything, that you may obtain nothing
Submit to events, that he might appear to command them
Tendency to sell the skin of the bear before killing him
When a man has so much money he cannot have got it honestly

MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON, V10, By Bourrienne
[nb10v10.txt]3560

I have made sovereigns, but have not wished to be one myself
Go to England The English like wrangling politicians
Let women mind their knitting

MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON, V11, By Bourrienne
[nb11v10.txt]3561

A sect cannot be destroyed by cannon-balls
Every time we go to war with them we teach them how to beat us
God in his mercy has chosen Napoleon to be his representative on earth
The wish and the reality were to him one and the same thing

MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON, V12, By Bourrienne
[nb12v10.txt]3562

Treaties of peace no less disastrous than the wars
Yield to illusion when the truth was not satisfactory

MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON, V13, By Bourrienne
[nb13v10.txt]3563

I almost fancy I am dreaming when I look back on the miraculous incapacity of the persons who were then at the head of our Government. The emigrants, who, as it has been truly said, had neither learned nor forgotten anything, came back with all the absurd pretensions of Coblenz. Their silly vanity reminded one of a character in one of Voltaire's novels who is continually saying, "Un homme comme moi!" These people were so engrossed with their pretended merit that they were blind to everything else. They not only disregarded the wishes and the wants of France; which in overthrowing the Empire hoped to regain liberty, but they disregarded every warning they had received.

M. de Talleyrand, accompanied by the members of the Provisional Government, several Marshals and general officers, and the municipal body, headed by the prefect of the Seine, went in procession beyond the barrier to receive Monsieur. M. de Talleyrand, in the name of the Provisional Government, addressed the Prince, who in reply made that observation which has been so often repeated, "Nothing is changed in France: there is only one Frenchman more."

This was the opinion which the mass of the people instinctively formed, for they judged of the Emperor of Austria in his character of a father and not in his character of a monarch; and as the rights of misfortune are always sacred in France, more interest was felt for Maria Louisa when she was known to be forsaken than when she was in the height of her splendour. Francis II. had not seen his daughter since the day when she left Vienna to unite her destiny with that of the master of half of Europe

MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON, V14, by Bourrienne
[nb14v10.txt]3564

The facility with which the Ministers of Finance and of the Treasury provided for all these expenses astonished everybody, as it was necessary to pay for everything in ready money. The system of public works was at the same time resumed throughout France. "It is easy to see," said the workmen, "that 'the great contractor' is returned; all was dead, now everything revives."

One of the most important struggles of modern times was now about to commence—
a struggle which for many years was to decide the fate of Europe. Napoleon

and
Wellington at length stood opposite one another. They had never met; the
military reputation of each was of the highest kind.

On one occasion he ordered his camp-bed to be displayed for the inspection
of
the English officers. In two small leather packages were comprised the couch
of the once mighty ruler of the Continent. The steel bedstead which, when
folded up, was only two feet long, and eighteen inches wide, occupied one case,
while the other contained the mattress and curtains. The whole was so
contrived as to be ready for use in three minutes.

MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON, V15, by Bourrienne
[nb15v10.txt]3565

In 1812 Jerome was given the command of the right wing of the Grand Army
in its
advance against Russia, but he did not fulfil the expectations of his brother,
and Davoust took the command instead. Every king feels himself a born gen-
eral:
whatever else they cannot do, war is an art which comes with the crown, and
Jerome, unwilling to serve under a mere Marshal, withdrew in disgust. In 1813
he had the good feeling and the good sense to refuse the treacherous offer of
the Allies to allow him to retain his kingdom if he joined them against his
brother, a snare his sister Caroline fell into at Naples.

Having returned to private life solely on account of Fouche's presence in the
Ministry, I yielded to that consolation which is always left to the
discontented. I watched the extravagance and inconsistency that were passing
around me, and the new follies which were every day committed; and it must
be
confessed that a rich and varied picture presented itself to my observation.

The reintroduction of much that was bad in the old system (one country
even
going so far as to re-establish torture), the steady attack on liberty and on
all liberal ideas, Wurtemberg being practically the only State which grumbled
at the tightening of the reins so dear to Metternich,—all formed a fitting
commentary on the proclamations by which the Sovereigns had hounded on
their
people against the man they represented as the one obstacle to the freedom and
peace of Europe.

MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON, V16, by Bourrienne
[nb16v10.txt]3566

Every one cannot be an atheist who pleases
Grew more angry as his anger was less regarded
I do not live—I merely exist
Strike their imaginations by absurdities than by rational ideas

Those who are free from common prejudices acquire others

COMPLETE MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON, by Bourrienne
[nb17v10.txt]3567

Always proposing what he knew could not be honourably acceded to
Cause of war between the United States and England
Conquest can only be regarded as the genius of destruction
Demand everything, that you may obtain nothing
Submit to events, that he might appear to command them
Tendency to sell the skin of the bear before killing him
When a man has so much money he cannot have got it honestly
I have made sovereigns, but have not wished to be one myself
Go to England The English like wrangling politicians
Let women mind their knitting
A sect cannot be destroyed by cannon-balls
Every time we go to war with them we teach them how to beat us
God in his mercy has chosen Napoleon to be his representative on earth
The wish and the reality were to him one and the same thing
Treaties of peace no less disastrous than the wars
Yield to illusion when the truth was not satisfactory
Every one cannot be an atheist who pleases
Grew more angry as his anger was less regarded
I do not live—I merely exist
Strike their imaginations by absurdities than by rational ideas
Those who are free from common prejudices acquire others

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE PRIVATE LIFE OF NAPOLEON BY JULES
CONSTANT

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PRIVATE LIFE OF NAPOLEON, V1, by Constant
[nc01v10.txt]3568

”To paint Caesar in undress is not to paint Caesar,” some one has said. Yet men will always like to see the great ‘en deshabille’. In these volumes the hero is painted in undress. His foibles, his peculiarities, his vices, are

here depicted without reserve. But so also are his kindness of heart, his vast intellect, his knowledge of men, his extraordinary energy, his public spirit. The shutters are taken down, and the workings of the mighty machinery are laid bare.

Never did poet or novelist imagine scenes so improbable. The son of an obscure lawyer in an unimportant island becomes Emperor of the French and King of Italy. His brothers and sisters become kings and queens. The sons of innkeepers, notaries; lawyers, and peasants become marshals of the empire. The Emperor, first making a West India Creole his wife and Empress, puts her away, and marries a daughter of the haughtiest and oldest royal house in Europe, the niece of a queen whom the people of France had beheaded a few years before. Their son is born a king—King of Rome. Then suddenly the pageantry dissolves, and Emperor, kings, and queens become subjects again.

The old woman who met him incognito climbing the hill of Tarare, and replying to his assertion that "Napoleon was only a tyrant like the rest," exclaimed, "It may be so, but the others are the kings of the nobility, while he is one of us, and we have chosen him ourselves,"

Attached to the person of the Emperor Napoleon for fifteen years, I have seen all the men, and witnessed all the important events, which centered around him. I have seen far more than that; for I have had under my eyes all the circumstances of his life, the least as well as the greatest, the most secret as well as those which are known to history

PRIVATE LIFE OF NAPOLEON, V2, by Constant
[nc02v10.txt]3569

He admitted, however, notwithstanding all his jokes, that he had never thought himself so near death, and that he felt as if he had been dead for a few seconds. I do not remember whether it was on this or another occasion that I heard the Emperor say, that "death was only asleep without dreams."

Mademoiselle Hortense was extremely pretty, with an expressive and mobile countenance, and in addition to this was graceful, talented, and affable. Kindhearted and amiable like her mother, she had not that excessive desire to oblige which sometimes detracted from Madame Bonaparte's character.

About this time she inspired a most violent passion in a gentleman of a very good family, who was, I think, a little deranged before this mad love affected his brain. This poor unfortunate roamed incessantly around Malmaison; and as soon as Mademoiselle Hortense left the house, ran by the side of her carriage with the liveliest demonstrations of tenderness, and threw through the window flowers, locks of his hair, and verses of his own composition. When he met

Mademoiselle Hortense on foot, he threw himself on his knees before her with a thousand passionate gestures, addressing her in most endearing terms, and followed her, in spite of all opposition, even into the courtyard of the chateau, and abandoned himself to all kinds of folly.

The Archbishop of Milan had come to Lyons, notwithstanding his great age, in order to see the First Consul, whom he loved with such tenderness that in conversation the venerable old man continually addressed the young general as "my son." The peasants of Pavia, having revolted because their fanaticism had been excited by false assertions that the French wished to destroy their religion, the Archbishop of Milan, in order to prove that their fears were groundless, often showed himself in a carriage with General Bonaparte.

The celebration of this sacrament at Notre Dame was a novel sight to the Parisians, and many attended as if it were a theatrical representation. Many, also, especially amongst the military, found it rather a matter of raillery than of edification; and those who, during the Revolution, had contributed all their strength to the overthrow of the worship which the First Consul had just re-established, could with difficulty conceal their indignation and their chagrin.

"Why did you quit the service?" resumed the First Consul, who appeared to take great interest in the conversation.—"My faith, General, each one in his turn, and there are saber strokes enough for every one. One fell on me there " (the worthy laborer bent his head and divided the locks of his hair); "and after some weeks in the field hospital, they gave me a discharge to return to my wife and my plow."

PRIVATE LIFE OF NAPOLEON, V3, by Constant
[nc03v10.txt]3570

Her sudden appearance astonished, and even alarmed, Roustan and myself; for it was only an extraordinary circumstance which could have induced Madame Bonaparte to leave her room in this costume, before taking all necessary precautions to conceal the damage which the want of the accessories of the toilet did her. She entered, or rather rushed, into the room, crying, "The Duke d'Enghien is dead! Ah, my friend! what have you done?" Then she fell sobbing into the arms of the First Consul, who became pale as death, and said with extraordinary emotion, "The miserable wretches have been too quick!" He then left the room, supporting Madame Bonaparte, who could hardly walk, and was still weeping. The news of the prince's death spread consternation in the chateau; and the First Consul remarked this universal grief, but reprimanded no one for it. The fact is, the greatest chagrin which this mournful catastrophe caused his servants, most of whom were attached to him by affection even more than by duty, came from the belief that it would inevitably tarnish the glory

and destroy the peace of mind of their master.

Women not residing in Boulogne were prohibited from remaining there without a special permit from the minister of police. This measure had been judged necessary on account of the army; for otherwise each soldier perhaps would have brought a woman to Boulogne, and the disorder would have been indescribable.

In spite of all these precautions, spies from the English fleet each day penetrated into Boulogne. When they were discovered no quarter was given; and notwithstanding this, emissaries who had landed, no one knew where, came each evening to the theater, and carried their imprudence so far as to write their opinion of the actors and actresses, whom they designated by name, and to post these writings on the walls of the theater, thus defying the police.

There were also traitors in Boulogne. A schoolmaster, the secret agent of Lords Keith and Melville, was surprised one morning on the cliff above the camp of the right wing, making telegraphic signals with his arms; and being arrested almost in the act by the sentinels, he protested his innocence, and tried to turn the incident into a jest, but his papers were searched, and correspondence with the English found, which clearly proved his guilt. He was delivered to the council of war, and shot the next day.

About this time his Majesty was riding on horseback near his barracks, when a pretty young girl of fifteen or sixteen, dressed in white, her face bathed in tears, threw herself on her knees in his path. The Emperor immediately alighted from his horse, and assisted her to rise, asking most compassionately what he could do for her. The poor girl had come to entreat the pardon of her father, a storekeeper in the commissary department, who had been condemned to the galleys for grave crimes. His Majesty could not resist the many charms of the youthful suppliant, and the pardon was granted.

PRIVATE LIFE OF NAPOLEON, V4, by Constant
[nc04v10.txt]3571

The Empress Josephine was of medium height, with an exquisite figure; and in all her movements there was an airiness and grace which gave to her walk something ethereal, without detracting from the majesty of the sovereign. Her expressive countenance portrayed all the emotions of her soul, while retaining the charming sweetness which was its ruling expression. In pleasure, as in grief, she was beautiful, and even against your will you would smile when she smiled; if she was sad, you would be also. Never did a woman justify better than she the expression that the eyes are the mirror of the soul. Hers were of a deep blue, and nearly always half closed by her long lids, which were slightly arched, and fringed with the most beautiful lashes in the world; in regarding her you felt yourself drawn to her by an irresistible power. It must

have been difficult for the Empress to give severity to that seductive look; but she could do this, and well knew how to render it imposing when necessary.

The Empress had a remarkable memory, of which the Emperor often availed himself; she was also an excellent musician, played well on the harp, and sang with taste. She had perfect tact, an exquisite perception of what was suitable, the soundest, most infallible judgment imaginable, and, with a disposition always lovely, always the same, indulgent to her enemies as to her friends, she restored peace wherever there was quarrel or discord. When the Emperor was vexed with his brothers or other persons, which often happened, the Empress spoke a few words, and everything was settled. If she demanded a pardon, it was very rare that the Emperor did not grant it, however grave the crime committed; and I could cite a thousand examples of pardons thus solicited and obtained.

Before his departure for Russia, the Empress, distressed at this war, of which she entirely disapproved, again redoubled her recommendations concerning the Emperor, and made me a present of her portrait, saying to me, "My good Constant, I rely on you; if the Emperor were sick, you would inform me of it, would you not? Conceal nothing from me, I love him so much."

His Majesty walked in advance of the persons who accompanied him, and took much pleasure in being first to call by their names the various localities he passed. A peasant, seeing him thus some distance from his suite, cried out to him familiarly, "Oh, citizen, is the Emperor going to pass soon?"—"Yes," replied the Emperor, "have patience."

PRIVATE LIFE OF NAPOLEON, V5, by Constant
[nc05v10.txt]3572

I left the Emperor at Berlin, where each day, and each hour of the day, he received news of some victory gained, or some success obtained by his generals. General Beaumont presented to him eighty flags captured from the enemy by his division, and Colonel Gerard also presented sixty taken from Blucher at the battle of Wismar. Magdeburg had capitulated, and a garrison of sixty thousand men had marched out under the eyes of General Savary. Marshal Mortier occupied Hanover in the name of France, and Prince Murat was on the point of entering Warsaw after driving out the Russians.

...since his Majesty took the lead, and left the others but little to say. Such was often his habit; but no one thought of complaining of this, so interesting were nearly always the Emperor's ideas, and so original and brilliantly expressed. His Majesty did not converse, as had been truthfully said in the journal which I have added to my memoirs, but he spoke with an inexpressible charm.

Thereupon the Emperor left the table, opened a little casket, took therefrom a package in the shape of a long square, and handed it to Marshal Lefebvre, saying to him, "Duke of Dantzic, accept this chocolate; little gifts preserve friendship."

This premature death was to her an inconsolable grief; and she shut herself up for three days, weeping bitterly, seeing no one except her women, and taking almost no nourishment. It even seemed that she feared to be distracted from her grief....

PRIVATE LIFE OF NAPOLEON, V6, by Constant
[nc06v10.txt]3573

When his Majesty returned to his apartment, I heard Marshal Berthier say to him, "Sire, are you not afraid that the sovereigns may some day use to advantage against you all that you have just taught them? Your Majesty just now seemed to forget what you formerly told us, that it is necessary to act with our allies as if they were afterwards to be our enemies."—"Berthier," replied the Emperor, smiling, that is a good observation on your part, and I thank you for it; I really believe I have made you think I was an idiot. You think, then," continued his Majesty, pinching sharply one of the Prince de Neuchatel's ears, "that I committed the indiscretion of giving them whips with which to return and flog us? Calm yourself, I did not tell them all."

The day after their arrival at Saint-Cloud, the Emperor and Empress went to Paris in order to be present at the fetes of the 15th of August, which it is useless to say were magnificent. As soon as he entered the Tuileries, the Emperor hastened through the chateau to examine the repairs and improvements which had been made during his absence, and, as was his habit, criticised more than he praised all that he saw.

By this arrangement the two Emperors found themselves in such a conspicuous position that it was impossible for them to make a movement without being seen by every one. On the 3d of October AEdipus was presented. "All the sovereigns," as the Emperor called them, were present at this representation; and just as the actor pronounced these words in the first scene: "The friendship of a great man is a gift from the gods:"—the Czar arose, and held out his hand with much grace to the Emperor; and immediately acclamations, which the presence of the sovereigns could not restrain, burst forth from every part of the hall.

Those who traded in curiosities and objects of art liked him exceedingly, since

he bought their wares without much bargaining. However, on one occasion he wished to purchase a telescope, and sent for a famous optician, who seized the opportunity to charge him an enormous price. But Asker-Khan having examined the instrument, with which he was much pleased, said to the optician, "You have given me your long price, now give me your short one."

PRIVATE LIFE OF NAPOLEON, V7, by Constant
[nc07v10.txt]3574

The officers of the line, who had served in several campaigns and had gained their epaulettes on the field of battle, held a very different position in the army. Always grave, polite, and considerate, there was a kind of fraternity among them; and having known suffering and misery themselves, they were always ready to help others; and their conversation, though not distinguished by brilliant information, was often full of interest. In nearly every case boasting quitted them with their youth, and the bravest were always the most modest. Influenced by no imaginary points of honor, they estimated themselves at their real worth; and all fear of being suspected of cowardice was beneath them.

His Majesty passed the two months and a half of his stay working in his cabinet, which he rarely left, and always unwillingly; his amusements being, as always, the theater and concerts. He loved music passionately, especially Italian music, and like all great amateurs was hard to please. He would have much liked to sing had he been able, but he had no voice, though this did not prevent his humming now and then pieces which struck his fancy; and as these little reminiscences usually recurred to him in the mornings, he regaled me with them while he was being dressed. The air that I have heard him thus mutilate most frequently was that of *The Marseillaise*.

His Majesty's, favorite singer were Crescentini and Madame Grassini. I saw Crescentini's debut at Paris in the role of Romeo, in *Romeo and Juliet*. He came preceded by a reputation as the first singer of Italy; and this reputation was found to be well deserved, notwithstanding all the prejudices he had to overcome, for I remember well the disparaging statements made concerning him before his debut at the court theater. According to these self-appointed connoisseurs, he was a bawler without taste, without method, a maker of absurd trills, an unimpassioned actor of little intelligence, and many other things besides.

PRIVATE LIFE OF NAPOLEON, V8, by Constant
[nc08v10.txt]3575

A short time after, my wife went to see the Empress Josephine at Malmaison; and this lovely princess deigned to receive her alone in the little room in front

of her bedroom. There she seated herself beside her, and tried in touching words of sympathy to console her, saying that this stroke did not reach us alone, and that her grandson, too, had died of the same disease. As she said this she began to weep; for this remembrance reopened in her soul recent griefs, and my wife bathed with tears the hands of this excellent princess. Josephine added many touching remarks, trying to alleviate her sorrow by sharing it, and thus restore resignation to the heart of the poor mother.

When this hilarity had somewhat subsided, Princess Stephanie returned to the charge, saying, "It really is a pity that your Majesty does not know how to waltz, for the Germans are wild over waltzing, and the Empress will naturally share the taste of her compatriots; she can have no partner but the Emperor, and thus she will be deprived of a great pleasure through your Majesty's fault."—"You are right!" replied the Emperor; "well, give me a lesson, and you will have a specimen of my skill." Whereupon he rose, took a few turns with Princess Stephanie, humming the air of the Queen of Prussia; but he could not take more than two or three turns, and even this he did so awkwardly that it increased the amusement of these ladies. Then the Princess of Baden stopped, saying, "Sire, that is quite enough to convince me that you will never be anything but a poor pupil. You were made to give lessons, not to take them."

Her Majesty the Queen of Naples had been sent to Brannan, by the Emperor to receive the Empress. Queen Caroline, of whom the Emperor once said that she was a man among her sisters, as Prince Joseph was a woman among his brothers, mistook, it is said, the timidity of Marie Louise for weakness, and thought that she would only have to speak and her young sister-in-law would hasten to obey.

No one could resemble the first Empress less than the second, and except in the two points of similarity of temperament, and an extreme regard for the Emperor, the one was exactly the opposite of the other; and it must be confessed the Emperor congratulated himself on this difference, in which he found both novelty and charm. He himself drew a parallel between his two wives in these terms: "The one [Josephine] was all art and grace; the other [Marie Louise] innocence and natural simplicity.

PRIVATE LIFE OF NAPOLEON, V9, by Constant
[nc09v10.txt]3576

Even the vessels and broom-handles were painted various colors, and cared for like the remainder of the establishment; the inhabitants carrying their love of cleanliness so far as to compel those who entered to take off their shoes, and replace them with slippers, which stood at the door for this singular purpose. I am reminded on this subject of an anecdote relating to the Emperor Joseph

the
Second. That prince, having presented himself in boots at the door of a house
in Broek, and being requested to remove them before entering, exclaimed, "I
am
the Emperor!"—"Even if you were the burgomaster of Amsterdam, you should
not
enter in boots," replied the master of the dwelling. The good Emperor
thereupon put on the slippers.

The Emperor in his tender moods was sometimes even more childish than
his son.

The young prince was only four months old when his father put his three-
cornered hat on the pretty infant.

The child usually cried a good deal, and at these times the Emperor em-
braced
him with an ardor and delight which none but a tender father could feel, saying
to him, "What, Sire, you crying! A king weeping; fie, then, how ugly that is!"
He was just a year old when I saw the Emperor, on the lawn in front of the
chateau, place his sword-belt over the shoulders of the king, and his hat on
his head, and holding out his arms to the child, who tottered to him, his
little feet now and then entangled in his father's sword; and it was beautiful
to see the eagerness with which the Emperor extended his arms to keep him
from
falling.

The Cossacks, in common with all races still in their infancy, believe in
magicians. A very amusing anecdote was told of the great chief of the
Cossacks, the celebrated Platoff. Pursued by the King of Naples, he was
beating a retreat, when a ball reached one of the officers beside him, on which
event the headman was so much irritated against his magician that he had him
flogged in presence of all his hordes, reproaching him most bitterly because he
had not turned away the balls by his witchcraft. This was plain evidence of
the fact that he had more faith in his art than the sorcerer himself possessed.

The Emperor rode over the field of battle, which presented a horrible
spectacle, nearly all the dead being covered with wounds; which proved with
what bitterness the battle had been waged. The weather was very inclement,
and
rain was falling, accompanied by a very high wind. Poor wounded creatures,
who
had not yet been removed to the ambulances, half rose from the ground in their
desire not to be overlooked and to receive aid; while some among them still
cried, "Vive l'Empereur!" in spite of their suffering and exhaustion. Those of
our soldiers who had been killed by Russian balls showed on their corpses deep
and broad wounds, for the Russian balls were much larger than ours. We saw a
color-bearer, wrapped in his banner as a winding-sheet, who seemed to give
signs of life, but he expired in the shock of being raised. The Emperor walked
on and said nothing, though many times when he passed by the most mutilated,
he

put his hand over his eyes to avoid the sight. This calm lasted only a short while; for there was a place on the battlefield where French and Russians had fallen pell-mell, almost all of whom were wounded more or less grievously. And when the Emperor heard their cries, he became enraged, and shouted at those who had charge of removing the wounded, much irritated by the slowness with which this was done. It was difficult to prevent the horses from trampling on the corpses, so thickly did they lie. A wounded soldier was struck by the shoe of a horse in the Emperor's suite, and uttered a heartrending cry, upon which the Emperor quickly turned, and inquired in a most vehement manner who was the awkward person by whom the man was hurt. He was told, thinking that it would calm his anger, that the man was nothing but a Russian. "Russian or French," he exclaimed, "I wish every one removed!" Poor young fellows who were making their first campaign, being wounded to the death, lost courage, and wept like children crying for their mothers. The terrible picture will be forever engraven on my memory.

PRIVATE LIFE OF NAPOLEON, V10, by Constant
[nc10v10.txt]3577

"Viewed from a political standpoint, how would the papal government in these days appear compared with the great kingdoms of Europe? Formerly mediocre men succeeded to the pontifical throne at an age in which one breathes well only after resting. At this period of life routine and habit are everything; and nothing is considered but the elevated position, and how to make it redound to the advantage of his family. A pope now arrives at sovereign power with a mind sharpened by being accustomed to intrigue, and with a fear of making powerful enemies who may hereafter revenge themselves on his family, since his successor is always unknown. In fine, he cares for nothing but to live and die in peace. In the seat of Sixtus V. —[Sixtus V., originally Felix Peretti, born at Montalto, 1525, and in 1585 succeeded Gregory XIII. as pope. He was distinguished by his energy and munificence. He constructed the Vatican Library, the great aqueduct, and other public works, and placed the obelisk before St. Peter's. Died 1589.]—how many popes have there been who have occupied themselves only with frivolous subjects, as little advantageous to the best interests of religion as fruitful in inspiring scorn for such a government! But that would lead us too far."

The Emperor indicated every movement with admirable tact, and in such a manner that it was impossible to be taken at a disadvantage. He commanded only the troops as a whole, transmitting either personally, or through his staff officers, his orders to the commander of the corps and divisions, who in their turn transmitted or had them transmitted to the chiefs of battalions. All orders given by his Majesty were short, precise, and so clear that it was never necessary to ask explanations.

It would have been said that the past was no longer anything to him; and living ever in the future, he already saw victory perched again on our banner, and his enemies humiliated and vanquished.

As for myself, during the entire campaign I did not a single time undress to retire to bed, for I never found one anywhere. It was necessary to supply this deficiency by some means; and as it is well known that necessity is ever ready with inventions, we supplied deficiency in our furnishings in the following manner: we had great bags of coarse cloth made, into which we entered, and thus protected, threw ourselves on a little straw, when we were fortunate enough to obtain it;—

And when to this is added the neighing of horses, bellowing of cattle, rumbling of wheels over the stones, cries of the soldiers, sounds from trumpets, drums, fifes, and the complaints of the inhabitants, with hundreds of persons all together asking questions at the same time, speaking German to the Italians, and French to the Germans, how could it be possible that his Majesty should be as tranquil and as much at his ease in the midst of this fearful uproar as in his cabinet at Saint-Cloud or the Tuileries? This was nevertheless the case; and the Emperor, seated before a miserable table covered with a kind of cloth, a map spread before him, compass and pen in hand, entirely given up to meditation, showed not the least impatience; and it would have been said that no exterior noise reached his ears. But let a cry of pain be heard in any direction, the Emperor instantly raised his head, and gave orders to go and ascertain what had happened. The power of thus isolating one's self completely from all the surrounding world is very difficult to acquire, and no one possessed it to the same degree as his Majesty.

PRIVATE LIFE OF NAPOLEON, V11, by Constant
[nc11v10.txt]3578

These are the details which I learned in regard to Moreau; and, as is well known, he did not long survive his wound. The same ball which broke both his legs carried off an arm from Prince Ipsilanti, then aide-de-camp to the Emperor Alexander; so that if the evil that is done can be repaired by the evil received, it might be said that the cannon-shot which tore away from us General Kirgener and Marshal Duroc was this day sent back on the enemy. But alas! it is a sad sort of consolation that is drawn from reprisals.

”Nothing has been interposed on my part to the re-establishment of peace; I know and share the sentiments of the French people. I repeat, of the French people, since there are none among them who desire peace at the expense of honor. It is with regret that I demand of this generous people new sacrifices, but they are necessary for their noblest and dearest interests. I have been

compelled to re-enforce my armies by numerous levies, for nations treat with security only when they display all their strength. An increase of receipts has become indispensable. The propositions which my minister of finance will submit to you are in conformity with the system of finance I have established. We will meet all demands without borrowing, which uses up the resources of the future, and without paper money, which is the greatest enemy of social order.”

It was while speaking of this audacious attack of Vandamme that the Emperor used this expression, which has been so justly admired, ”For a retreating enemy it is necessary to make a bridge of gold, or oppose a wall of brass.”

It would seem that this was well understood in Paris; for the day on which the 'Moniteur' published the reply of his Majesty to the senate, stocks increased in value more than two francs, which the Emperor did not fail to remark with much satisfaction; for as is well known, the rise and decline of stocks was with him the real thermometer of public opinion.

Within the palace itself I heard many persons attached to the Emperor say the same thing when he was not present, though they spoke very differently in the presence of his Majesty. When he deigned to interrogate me, as he frequently did, on what I had heard people say, I reported to him the exact truth; and when in these confidential toilet conversations of the Emperor I uttered the word peace, he exclaimed again and again, ”Peace! Peace! Ah! who can desire it more than I? There are some, however, who do not desire it, and the more I concede the more they demand.”

PRIVATE LIFE OF NAPOLEON, V12, by Constant
[nc12v10.txt]3579

She was a brunette of ordinary height, but with a beautiful figure, and pretty feet and hands, her whole person full of grace, and was indeed perfectly charming in all respects, and, besides, united with most enticing coquetry every accomplishment, danced with much grace, played on several instruments, and was full of intelligence; in fact, she had received that kind of showy education which forms the most charming mistresses and the worst wives.

It has been said that no man is, a hero to his valet. It would give wide latitude to a witty remark, which has become proverbial, to make it the epigraph of these memoirs. The valet of a hero by that very fact is something more than a valet.

Affairs had reached a point where the great question of triumph or defeat could not long remain undecided. According to one of the habitual expressions of the Emperor, the pear was ripe; but who was to gather it?

The princes of the imperial family also enjoyed the right to enter the Emperor's apartment in the morning. I often saw the Emperor's mother. The Emperor kissed her hand with much respect and tenderness, but I have many times heard him reproach her for her excessive economy. Madame Mere listened, and then gave as excuse for not changing her style of living reasons which often vexed his Majesty, but which events have unfortunately justified.

COMPLETE PRIVATE LIFE OF NAPOLEON, V13, by Constant
[nc13v10.txt]3580

A sad sort of consolation that is drawn from reprisals

Act with our allies as if they were afterwards to be our enemies

Age in which one breathes well only after resting
All orders given by his Majesty were short, precise
As was his habit, criticised more than he praised
Borrowing, which uses up the resources of the future
Death is only asleep without dreams
Excessive desire to oblige
Fear of being suspected of cowardice was beneath them
For a retreating enemy it is necessary to make a bridge of gold
Frederick the Great: "No man is a hero to his valet"
Hair, arranged with charming negligence
His Majesty did not converse: he spoke.
Like all great amateurs was hard to please
Little gifts preserve friendship
Living ever in the future
Make a bridge of gold, or oppose a wall of brass
Most charming mistresses and the worst wives
Necessity is ever ready with inventions
No man is, a hero to his valet
Paper money, which is the greatest enemy of social order
Power of thus isolating one's self completely from all the world
Rise and decline of stocks was with him the real thermometer
Rubbings with eau de Cologne, his favorite remedy
Self-appointed connoisseurs
She feared to be distracted from her grief
The more I concede the more they demand
The friendship of a great man is a gift from the gods
The pear was ripe; but who was to gather it?
There are saber strokes enough for every one
Trying to alleviate her sorrow by sharing it
You have given me your long price, now give me your short one.

You were made to give lessons, not to take them.

MEMOIRS OF COURT OF ST. CLOUD

Memoirs of the Court of St. Cloud, v1 [CM55][cm55b10.txt]3892
Memoirs of the Court of St. Cloud, v2 [CM56][cm56b10.txt]3893
Memoirs of the Court of St. Cloud, v3 [CM57][cm57b10.txt]3894
Memoirs of the Court of St. Cloud, v4 [CM58][cm58b10.txt]3895
Memoirs of the Court of St. Cloud, v5 [CM59][cm59b10.txt]3896
Memoirs of the Court of St. Cloud, v6 [CM60][cm60b10.txt]3897
Memoirs of the Court of St. Cloud, v7 [CM61][cm61b10.txt]3898
The Entire Memoirs of Court of St. Cloud [CM62][cm62b10.txt]3899

MEMOIRS OF THE COURT OF ST. CLOUD, V1
[cm55b10.txt]3892

Easy to give places to men to whom Nature has refused parts
Indifference of the French people to all religion
Prepared to become your victim, but not your accomplice
Were my generals as great fools as some of my Ministers
Which crime in power has interest to render impenetrable

MEMOIRS OF THE COURT OF ST. CLOUD, V2
[cm56b10.txt]3893

Bestowing on the Almighty the passions of mortals
Bow to their charlatanism as if it was sublimity
Cannot be expressed, and if expressed, would not be believed
Feeling, however, the want of consolation in their misfortunes
Future effects dreaded from its past enormities
God is only the invention of fear
Gold, changes black to white, guilt to innocence
Hail their sophistry and imposture as inspiration
Invention of new tortures and improved racks
Labour as much as possible in the dark
Misfortunes and proscription would not only inspire courage
My means were the boundaries of my wants
Not suspected of any vices, but all his virtues are negative
Nothing was decided, though nothing was refused
Now that she is old (as is generally the case), turned devotee
Prelate on whom Bonaparte intends to confer the Roman tiara
Saints supplied her with a finger, a toe, or some other parts
Step is but short from superstition to infidelity
Suspicion and tyranny are inseparable companions
Two hundred and twenty thousand prostitute licenses
Usurped the easy direction of ignorance
Would cease to rule the day he became just

MEMOIRS OF THE COURT OF ST. CLOUD, V3
[CM57][cm57b10.txt]3894

As confident and obstinate as ignorant
Bonaparte and his wife go now every morning to hear Mass
Bourrienne
Distinguished for their piety or rewarded for their flattery
Extravagances of a head filled with paradoxes
Forced military men to kneel before priests
Indifference about futurity
Military diplomacy
More vain than ambitious
Nature has destined him to obey, and not to govern
One of the negative accomplices of the criminal
Promises of impostors or fools to delude the ignorant
Salaries as the men, under the name of washerwomen
"This is the age of upstarts," said Talleyrand
Thought at least extraordinary, even by our friends

MEMOIRS OF THE COURT OF ST. CLOUD, V4
[CM58][cm58b10.txt]3895

All his creditors, denounced and executed
All priests are to be proscribed as criminals
How much people talk about what they do not comprehend
Thought himself eloquent when only insolent or impertinent

MEMOIRS OF THE COURT OF ST. CLOUD, V5
[CM59][cm59b10.txt]3896

Hero of great ambition and small capacity: La Fayette
Marble lives longer than man
Satisfying himself with keeping three mistresses only
Under the notion of being frank, are rude
Want is the parent of industry
With us, unfortunately, suspicion is the same as conviction

MEMOIRS OF THE COURT OF ST. CLOUD, V6
[CM60][cm60b10.txt]3897

A stranger to remorse and repentance, as well as to honour
Accused of fanaticism, because she refused to cohabit with him
As everywhere else, supported injustice by violence
Bonaparte dreads more the liberty of the Press than all other
Chevalier of the Guillotine: Toureaux
Country where power forces the law to lie dormant
Encounter with dignity and self-command unbecoming provocations
Error to admit any neutrality at all
Expeditious justice, as it is called here
French Revolution was fostered by robbery and murder
He was too honest to judge soundly and to act rightly
Her present Serene Idiot, as she styles the Prince Borghese

If Bonaparte is fond of flattery—pays for it like a real Emperor
 Its pretensions rose in proportion to the condescensions
 Jealous of his wife as a lover of his mistress
 Justice is invoked in vain when the criminal is powerful
 May change his habitations six times in the month—yet be home
 Men and women, old men and children are no more
 My maid always sleeps with me when my husband is absent
 Napoleon invasion of States of the American Commonwealth
 Not only portable guillotines, but portable Jacobin clubs
 Procure him after a useless life, a glorious death
 Should our system of cringing continue progressively
 Sold cats' meat and tripe in the streets of Rome
 Sufferings of individuals, he said, are nothing
 Suspicion is evidence
 United States will be exposed to Napoleon's outrages
 Who complains is shot as a conspirator

MEMOIRS OF THE COURT OF ST. CLOUD, V7
 [CM61][cm61b10.txt]3898

Complacency which may be felt, but ought never to be published
 General who is too fond of his life ought never to enter a camp
 Generals of Cabinets are often indifferent captains in the field
 How many reputations are gained by an impudent assurance
 Irresolution and weakness in a commander operate the same
 Love of life increase in proportion as its real value diminishes
 Opinion almost constitutes half the strength of armies
 Presumptuous charlatan
 Pretensions or passions of upstart vanity
 Pride of an insupportable and outrageous ambition
 Prudence without weakness, and with firmness without obstinacy
 They ought to be just before they are generous
 They will create some quarrel to destroy you
 Vices or virtues of all civilized nations are relatively the same
 We are tired of everything, even of our existence

THE ENTIRE MEMOIRS OF COURT OF ST. CLOUD
 [CM62][cm62b10.txt]3899

A stranger to remorse and repentance, as well as to honour
 Accused of fanaticism, because she refused to cohabit with him
 All his creditors, denounced and executed
 All priests are to be proscribed as criminals
 As everywhere else, supported injustice by violence
 As confident and obstinate as ignorant
 Bestowing on the Almighty the passions of mortals
 Bonaparte and his wife go now every morning to hear Mass
 Bonaparte dreads more the liberty of the Press than all other
 Bourrienne
 Bow to their charlatanism as if it was sublimity

Cannot be expressed, and if expressed, would not be believed
Chevalier of the Guillotine: Toureaux
Complacency which may be felt, but ought never to be published
Country where power forces the law to lie dormant
Distinguished for their piety or rewarded for their flattery
Easy to give places to men to whom Nature has refused parts
Encounter with dignity and self-command unbecoming provocations
Error to admit any neutrality at all
Expeditious justice, as it is called here
Extravagances of a head filled with paradoxes
Feeling, however, the want of consolation in their misfortunes
Forced military men to kneel before priests
French Revolution was fostered by robbery and murder
Future effects dreaded from its past enormities
General who is too fond of his life ought never to enter a camp
Generals of Cabinets are often indifferent captains in the field
God is only the invention of fear
Gold, changes black to white, guilt to innocence
Hail their sophistry and imposture as inspiration
He was too honest to judge soundly and to act rightly
Her present Serene Idiot, as she styles the Prince Borghese
Hero of great ambition and small capacity: La Fayette
How many reputations are gained by an impudent assurance
How much people talk about what they do not comprehend
If Bonaparte is fond of flattery--pays for it like a real Emperor
Indifference about futurity
Indifference of the French people to all religion
Invention of new tortures and improved racks
Irresolution and weakness in a commander operate the same
Its pretensions rose in proportion to the condescensions
Jealous of his wife as a lover of his mistress
Justice is invoked in vain when the criminal is powerful
Labour as much as possible in the dark
Love of life increase in proportion as its real value diminishes
Marble lives longer than man
May change his habitations six times in the month--yet be home
Men and women, old men and children are no more
Military diplomacy
Misfortunes and proscription would not only inspire courage
More vain than ambitious
My maid always sleeps with me when my husband is absent
My means were the boundaries of my wants
Napoleon invasion of States of the American Commonwealth
Nature has destined him to obey, and not to govern
Not suspected of any vices, but all his virtues are negative
Not only portable guillotines, but portable Jacobin clubs
Nothing was decided, though nothing was refused
Now that she is old (as is generally the case), turned devotee
One of the negative accomplices of the criminal
Opinion almost constitutes half the strength of armies

Prelate on whom Bonaparte intends to confer the Roman tiara
 Prepared to become your victim, but not your accomplice
 Presumptuous charlatan
 Pretensions or passions of upstart vanity
 Pride of an insupportable and outrageous ambition
 Procure him after a useless life, a glorious death
 Promises of impostors or fools to delude the ignorant
 Prudence without weakness, and with firmness without obstinacy
 Saints supplied her with a finger, a toe, or some other parts
 Salaries as the men, under the name of washerwomen
 Satisfying himself with keeping three mistresses only
 Should our system of cringing continue progressively
 Sold cats' meat and tripe in the streets of Rome
 Step is but short from superstition to infidelity
 Sufferings of individuals, he said, are nothing
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 Suspicion is evidence
 They will create some quarrel to destroy you
 They ought to be just before they are generous
 This is the age of upstarts," said Talleyrand
 Thought at least extraordinary, even by our friends
 Thought himself eloquent when only insolent or impertinent
 Two hundred and twenty thousand prostitute licenses
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 Vices or virtues of all civilized nations are relatively the same
 Want is the parent of industry
 We are tired of everything, even of our existence
 Were my generals as great fools as some of my Ministers
 Which crime in power has interest to render impenetrable
 Who complains is shot as a conspirator
 With us, unfortunately, suspicion is the same as conviction
 Would cease to rule the day he became just

THE ENTIRE NAPOLEON MEMOIRS SERIES:

A sect cannot be destroyed by cannon-balls
 A stranger to remorse and repentance, as well as to honour
 A sad sort of consolation that is drawn from reprisals
 Accused of fanaticism, because she refused to cohabit with him

Act with our allies as if they were afterwards to be our enemies

Age in which one breathes well only after resting
All priests are to be proscribed as criminals
All his creditors, denounced and executed
All orders given by his Majesty were short, precise
Always proposing what he knew could not be honourably acceded to
As everywhere else, supported injustice by violence
As confident and obstinate as ignorant
As was his habit, criticised more than he praised
Bestowing on the Almighty the passions of mortals
Bonaparte and his wife go now every morning to hear Mass
Bonaparte dreads more the liberty of the Press than all other
Borrowing, which uses up the resources of the future
Bourrienne
Bow to their charlatanism as if it was sublimity
Cannot be expressed, and if expressed, would not be believed
Cause of war between the United States and England
Chevalier of the Guillotine: Toureaux
Complacency which may be felt, but ought never to be published
Conquest can only be regarded as the genius of destruction
Country where power forces the law to lie dormant
Death is only asleep without dreams
Demand everything, that you may obtain nothing
Distinguished for their piety or rewarded for their flattery
Easy to give places to men to whom Nature has refused parts
Encounter with dignity and self-command unbecoming provocations
Error to admit any neutrality at all
Every one cannot be an atheist who pleases
Every time we go to war with them we teach them how to beat us
Excessive desire to oblige
Expeditious justice, as it is called here
Extravagances of a head filled with paradoxes
Fear of being suspected of cowardice was beneath them
Feeling, however, the want of consolation in their misfortunes
For a retreating enemy it is necessary to make a bridge of gold
Forced military men to kneel before priests
Frederick the Great: "No man is a hero to his valet"
French Revolution was fostered by robbery and murder
Future effects dreaded from its past enormities
General who is too fond of his life ought never to enter a camp
Generals of Cabinets are often indifferent captains in the field
Go to England The English like wrangling politicians
God is only the invention of fear
God in his mercy has chosen Napoleon to be his representative on earth
Gold, changes black to white, guilt to innocence
Grew more angry as his anger was less regarded

Hail their sophistry and imposture as inspiration
 Hair, arranged with charming negligence
 He was too honest to judge soundly and to act rightly
 Her present Serene Idiot, as she styles the Prince Borghese
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 How many reputations are gained by an impudent assurance
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 I do not live—I merely exist
 I have made sovereigns, but have not wished to be one myself
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 Necessity is ever ready with inventions
 No man is, a hero to his valet
 Not suspected of any vices, but all his virtues are negative
 Not only portable guillotines, but portable Jacobin clubs
 Nothing was decided, though nothing was refused
 Now that she is old (as is generally the case), turned devotee
 One of the negative accomplices of the criminal
 Opinion almost constitutes half the strength of armies
 Paper money, which is the greatest enemy of social order
 Power of thus isolating one's self completely from all the world
 Prelate on whom Bonaparte intends to confer the Roman tiara
 Prepared to become your victim, but not your accomplice
 Presumptuous charlatan
 Pretensions or passions of upstart vanity

Pride of an insupportable and outrageous ambition

Procure him after a useless life, a glorious death
Promises of impostors or fools to delude the ignorant
Prudence without weakness, and with firmness without obstinacy
Rise and decline of stocks was with him the real thermometer
Rubbings with eau de Cologne, his favorite remedy
Saints supplied her with a finger, a toe, or some other parts
Salaries as the men, under the name of washerwomen
Satisfying himself with keeping three mistresses only
Self-appointed connoisseurs
She feared to be distracted from her grief
Should our system of cringing continue progressively
Sold cats' meat and tripe in the streets of Rome
Step is but short from superstition to infidelity
Strike their imaginations by absurdities than by rational ideas
Submit to events, that he might appear to command them
Sufferings of individuals, he said, are nothing
Suspicion is evidence
Suspicion and tyranny are inseparable companions
Tendency to sell the skin of the bear before killing him
The more I concede the more they demand
The wish and the reality were to him one and the same thing
The friendship of a great man is a gift from the gods
The pear was ripe; but who was to gather it?
There are saber strokes enough for every one
They ought to be just before they are generous
They will create some quarrel to destroy you
This is the age of upstarts," said Talleyrand
Those who are free from common prejudices acquire others
Thought at least extraordinary, even by our friends
Thought himself eloquent when only insolent or impertinent
Treaties of peace no less disastrous than the wars
Trying to alleviate her sorrow by sharing it
Two hundred and twenty thousand prostitute licenses
Under the notion of being frank, are rude
United States will be exposed to Napoleon's outrages
Usurped the easy direction of ignorance
Vices or virtues of all civilized nations are relatively the same
Want is the parent of industry
We are tired of everything, even of our existence
Were my generals as great fools as some of my Ministers
When a man has so much money he cannot have got it honestly
Which crime in power has interest to render impenetrable
Who complains is shot as a conspirator
With us, unfortunately, suspicion is the same as conviction
Would cease to rule the day he became just
Yield to illusion when the truth was not satisfactory
You have given me your long price, now give me your short one.
You were made to give lessons, not to take them.

