

surrendered it to a branch of the French house of Bourbon in 1743. While Napoleon Bonaparte was re-making Europe, his elder brother Joseph sat for a time on the throne, and then General Joachim Murat, Napoleon's brother-in-law. After Napoleon's fall Naples returned to the Bourbon government until it was liberated by Garibaldi and became a part of United Italy in 1860.

Naples was long the home of an infamous secret organization known as the *Camorra*, which plied its trade of robbery, blackmail, and assassination for more than a century. At times the *Camorra* was so powerful that it was in full control of the city government; but in 1912, after a famous trial, 30 of its leaders were condemned to long terms of imprisonment, and its strength was greatly lessened. Population of the city, about 780,000 (approximately 100,000 more than the city of Rome).

NAPOLEON III, EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH (1808-73). Royal birth, a princely heritage, an imperial name, a cardinal to christen him, an emperor and empress to stand his sponsors, early exile, persecution, youthful wanderings in search of a home, reckless invasions, miraculous escapes, imprisonments, and flights in disguises—these were the circumstances in the life of Louis Napoleon which eventually led him to the throne of France as Napoleon III.

Early Life of Wandering

His first period of youthful magnificence made little impression on the boy, for he was only two years old when his father, Louis Bonaparte, stepped down from the throne of Holland. When he was seven his uncle Napoleon I fell from his proud position and was exiled to the lonely island of St. Helena. Then began a long period of wandering in search of a home, Switzerland, Germany, England, and America all sheltering him for a time.

But wherever he was and whatever he did, he was always planning for the restoration of the Bonaparte family to rule in France. This was especially true after 1832, when the son of

Napoleon I—the Duke of Reichstadt—died. This left Louis Napoleon as the next heir of the great conqueror.

So firm was his faith in his "star of destiny" that he twice made adventurous attempts to seize power in France, but these only brought ridicule upon himself. His opportunity came in 1848, when a revolution drove Louis Philippe from the throne, and a French republic was established. Among the names of the candi-

dates for the presidency of the new republic only one was known to the peasants—that of Louis Napoleon. They remembered only the glories of the rule of the first Napoleon, and forgot his costly wars and his despotism; so by an enormous majority they elected his nephew president.

Louis soon began to follow in the footsteps of his illustrious predecessor. In 1851 he overthrew the old constitution and made a new one giving him unlimited power for ten years. A year later he assumed the title of "Napoleon III, Emperor of the French," the son of Napoleon I being counted as Napoleon II.

All of these changes were submitted to the people for their approval in plebiscites, but the elections were carefully controlled so that the people would vote as Napoleon wished.

Liberty Sacrificed to Prosperity

Neither Napoleon I nor any Bourbon king could have been more absolute than was Napoleon III during the first eight years of the empire (1852-60). He muzzled the legislative body, he shackled the press, and he controlled the elections.

But the people were quite ready to give up their liberty in return for the prosperity they enjoyed. Napoleon organized banks, built railways, constructed canals, established hospitals, and gave the labouring men the right to strike. With England, Turkey, and Piedmont as allies, he also won a place among the nations by engaging in a successful war in the Crimea against Russia, in 1854-56. (See Crimea.)

"The Empire is peace," Napoleon had once

EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH



Napoleon III, called by Victor Hugo "Napoleon the Little." His belief in his "star of destiny" was pathetic. The only thing great about him was his name.