

LONDON, August 4.
GENERAL SARRAZIN.

COPY OF A LETTER FROM GENERAL SARRAZIN TO HIS UNCLE, MR. FISCHER, A MERCHANT IN LEEDS.

"MOST HONOURED UNCLE:"

"As the letter attributed to Madame Sarrazin must have alarmed you, I hasten to write to you, in order to tranquilize you with regard to the fate of my spouse.

"Previous to my departure from Boulogne, I took care to make a solid provision for her support, and remitted her a year's allowance in advance. I cannot give you farther information on this head at the present moment.

"Madame Sarrazin is in possession of her family property, which I never touched. A well-furnished house and wardrobe, a number of jewels, and other valuables, completely attest the sincerity of my intentions, and my attachment for her and my son.

"Bonaparte may confiscate what I have left at Boulogne; Madame Sarrazin, I assure you, does not stand in need of it.

"I challenge Bonaparte to publish the letters written to my son. Bonaparte wishes to get that child within his grasp. This is the object of the letter, which was either fabricated or extorted by the violence of his agents from Madame Sarrazin; an excellent, but delicate and timid woman.

"Bonaparte makes my wife say, that I have been degraded these seven years. He represents her as a native of Switzerland, though he perfectly well knows that she is an English woman, having been born at Exeter.

"My reply to Bonaparte will not appear until the 6th of August, in consequence of a delay in the printing. I shall take care to send you a copy of it. The following fact, which is not stated in it, will furnish you with a key to the hatred which Bonaparte bears towards me.

"Ten years ago, Madame Murat proposed to me to do as so many other Generals had done, who had dismissed the wives they had married in foreign countries, for the purpose of espousing French ladies. This was at a grand dinner which she gave, followed by a ball. Madame Campan, according to public rumour, Bonaparte's mistress of the revels, was there, with a number of the most fascinating of her nymphs. I answered that I was an honest man, and would keep my wife. On my return from St. Domingo, whither I was sent only in the expectation that I should there find my grave, I was coldly received, and given to understand, that the religion, as well as the education of Madame Sarrazin, prevented her being received at Court. Madame Murat also refused to receive her. My spouse signified a wish to visit her parents, who reside in Switzerland; and Bonaparte having ordered me to set off, to take the command in the Isle of Cadix—to direct her to join me, would have been to sacrifice both her and my son to a climate much more pestilential than that of the Isle of Walcheren. From that moment I adopted the resolution to quit the service of Bonaparte, and formed such arrangements as to make their fate independent of mine. But for my wishes to accomplish this object, I should have been in England upwards of a year ago.

"What enrages Bonaparte against me is, that he cannot tell the public that I am a coward, a plunderer, or a blockhead. My remarks will prove to him that I am neither a madman, nor a bad husband.

"Though my father-in-law, in consequence of his losses in trade, has been able to give me only half the dowry promised me, I am not, on that account, the less faithful to my engagements.

"Neither policy, nor the desire of riches, shall ever make me seek for a divorce.

"As Bonaparte causes all letters to be opened, it was requisite that my correspondence should, in every respect, be so conducted, as not only to occasion no suspicions, but also to dissipate such as might be occasioned by malice or indiscretion. I know that Bonaparte is no less cunning than he is wicked. I had to regulate my actions and my writings accordingly. He has been my dupe; and it is the mortification he feels on that score, no less than his fear of seeing himself completely exposed, in consequence of the knowledge which I have had these fifteen years of all that has passed in the interior of his family, which has been the cause of the ridiculous reports he has published respecting me.

"Until I can have the pleasure of seeing you and your family, I beg you will accept the homage of my sincere devotion.—I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed)

"SARRAZIN."

REPLY OF GENERAL SARRAZIN

TO THE NARRATIVE MADE BY GEN. CLARKE, MINISTER OF WAR, TO GEN. BONAPARTE.

LONDON, JULY 21, 1810.

"GENERAL,

"I have perused, with equal astonishment and attention, a narrative respecting myself, which was given in the *Moniteur* of the 4th of this month. You quote only my memorial of the 13th or 23d *Frimaire*; but I have addressed no less than twenty to you; the last, dated from the camp at Boulogne, August 27th, 1809, which contains fourteen pages, whereas this which you have quoted, has only four pages. Since you broke me with the army of Italy, on being only suspected, why did you restore me with the army of Breff? If we would obtain credit, we must at least be consistent, and preserve an appearance of truth. Whoever shall read your narrative, and reflect upon what he has read, will discover, in the tone of indignation with which you speak, your mortification on my having had the good fortune to escape from your *Bastilles*. You have appealed to my twenty-first and last Memorial; I beg you to read it throughout.—Sooner or later truth, will get the better of impudence. On the 18th of June you had given General Clarke no orders to make any report to you respecting me; on the 2d of July you learned that I was in London, busy in unmasking your designs. You thereupon dictated to your Secretary, what you believed would do me injury,

and you made General Clarke sign it with his name. The whole world knows that your Ministers are only but so many puppets, not even excepting General Berthier himself. Having purchased my discharge from the regiment of the *Colonel General* of Dragoons, I was appointed governor to a young nobleman, the Count de Verdun, with whom I remained in that capacity for the space of three years. In 1790, I accepted the office of Mathematical Professor in the Royal Military School of Sorize, and had the care of three sons of the Prince de Bethune, as their private tutor.

Having joined the army of the North, in 1792, I acted as Volunteer in the first engagements. I was appointed to the Artillery School at Chalons, a candidate for promotion. The taking of Verdun, and the King of Prussia's approach, occasioned a battalion to be raised, to which I was appointed Adjutant-Major, and in which Mr. Demarvais, now a Colonel of Artillery, was obliged to serve as a volunteer. This officer will certify this fact, of which you seem to have your doubts. Independent companies have always been attached to the troops of the line; the officers were nominated by the Government, and not, as you say, by a majority of voices. General Houchard, commanding the army of the Moselle, had a nephew whom he wished to establish; my company was a fine one; the Nobles were dismissed from the army; Houchard would insist that I was the son of the Count de Sarrazin, an emigrant, who was his Colonel, and that I was very like my father. It was in vain that I declared myself to be a peasant's son; so I was obliged to serve as a private soldier in the army of La Vendee.

"Being appointed by General Marceau, in November, 1793, as his Secretary I put in order the notes of General Kleber, his particular friend, relating to the siege of Mentz, and the war of La Vendee. It was by the direction of these two Generals, that I first set about my work, intitled, "*Instructions for Troops during a Campaign*." Having followed General Marceau to the Army of Flanders, in April, 1794, I was present at the battle of Fleurus, which was gained, as I have proved in my Observations, by the resolution and foresight of General Soult. Being appointed to the Corps of Engineers, I was employed by General Jourdan to make the junction of the armies of the Sambre and Meuse, and the Moselle. In the attack of Coblenz, I succeeded in carrying the redoubts which covered the bridge of the Moselle. At the siege of Maestricht I was appointed Adjutant-General, Chief of Battalion, and Chief of Brigade at the blockade of Luxembourg. I was appointed to escort the garrison of this place, with Marshal Bender, who was 84 years of age, as far as the Rhine; and I have the Marshal's commendation of my attention to him. Employed on the left wing of General Kleber's army, I was engaged to make the preparations for the first crossing of the Rhine, which took place in September, 1795. The army bore upon the Maine, from whence it was driven by General Clairfait, who then forced the lines at Mentz. I was with the right wing of the army during the campaign of Hundsruck. I made the campaign of Germany with General Bernadotte, as the chief officer of his Staff, when Prince Charles defeated Jourdan, in August, 1796, and forced him to retreat to the Rhine. At this time it was that General Moreau effected the retreat so deservedly admired, and that you made your first campaign in Italy.—Bernadotte's division left Coblenz in December, 1796, and joined your army in March, 1797. Appointed Colonel of the 14th regiment of Light Dragoons, I made the campaign of Vienna in that capacity. Being recalled by General Bernadotte to my former situation at the head of his Staff, after the preliminaries of Leoben, you charged me with the commission of paying the honours due to the Count of Cobenzel, the Marquis de Gallo, the Count de Merfeldt, and General Clarke, as Plenipotentiaries for the treaty of Campo Formo.

"You expressed yourself well pleased with the manuscript copy of "*Instructions for Troops during a Campaign*," which I had sent you at Passeriano, in July, 1797.

"It being intended that I should make one to accompany the embassy to Vienna, and being come to Paris to proceed on my diplomatic mission, you gave me a good reception, and proposed to me to accompany you to Egypt; but on my refusal to leave Bernadotte, you insinuated to the Directory, that a Republic ought to have no gentlemen following their Ambassadors; and I was sent off to the army of England, commanded by General Desaix. Being returned to France, after having been taken prisoner in Ireland, I was employed with the army of Italy. General Joubert sent me with eight battalions to the army of Rome, commanded by Gen. Championnet, and afterwards by Gen. Macdonald. After the retreat of Naples, this army joined that of Italy at Genoa, then commanded by Gen. Moreau. Government sent me out letters of service for the army of Switzerland, commanded by Gen. Massena. At Paris, on my way, Gen. Bernadotte, then a Minister, gave me the office of the Marches of Troops in the War Department, and afterwards that of the Appointments. You were still in Egypt. It was at that time intended to overthrow the Directory, and appoint three Consuls. Jourdan, Augereau and Bernadotte were the Generals named; I was to have been appointed the War Minister. Acting upon the information I received from Bernadotte, and thinking that my obligations to him required of me to extricate him from so dangerous a step, I acquainted him with all that was doing by the Directors Sieyes and Barras, who set the machines of the Jacobins at work. In order to requite my zeal the Directory appointed me Ambassador to Holland, but I refused to accept of this embassy, being attached to the army by taste and inclination.

"On your return from Egypt, you received me with transports of joy. You advised me not to give in my resignation, and you told me you would in a little time appoint me General of Division. I was your fellow labourer on the 18th of Brumaire (November), 1799. Bernadotte, who had refused you his assistance, and was near running you through the body, when you first proposed your designs to him, had retired to my estate in the country, near Paris. You employed me to visit him, to pacify him, and to bring him back to his true interests. You may remember that it was at this very time that I presented you, and Madame

Bonaparte, as well as nearly the whole of your family, with some very valuable cameos, which were accepted, and gave great satisfaction. My delicacy would never have permitted me to have declared this circumstance, if you had not forced me, by your infamous narrative, to the necessity of shewing the footing of intimacy I was once upon with you. In December, 1799, being with the army of the Rhine, commanded by Gen. Moreau, I had the command of Gen. Ney's division, he being absent on leave.

"Gen. Bernadotte having the command of the Army of the Coasts, you gave me orders, in April, 1800, to repair to that General, who intrusted me with the command of the Camp of St. Renau, near Breff; I had with the troops under my command 2000 Spaniards, landed from the fleet under the command of Admiral Gravina, which lay in the Road of Breff. In August, 1800, Gen. Murat had the command of 10 000 grenadiers, part of the Camp of Amiens.—You ordered me to go there to discipline them, a duty which the General was incapable of performing. In October there was a plot to set the Opera House on fire, and to assassinate you in the midst of the confusion. In 30 hours, I marched 30 leagues with these grenadiers. You were as much astonished as you were pleased with this forced march: Murat was with you at Paris at the time. You reviewed these troops at Versailles; you overwhelmed me with compliments upon the occasion, and you had not less than 60 General Officers with you at that time. It is certain that the grenadiers belonging to the marine, who had been only 20 days on shore, exercised as well as if they had been veterans. During our stay at Versailles I often went and mounted guard at Malmaison. You cannot have forgot the circumstance of a ladder having been discovered, fixed up against one of the windows of your apartments.—The discovery is noted in my Observations. Having joined the Army of Italy with these grenadiers, it was a matter of astonishment to this Army to see my troops in such good order, after a march over the Alps in the middle of winter, for it happened in December 1800. They were exercised in presence of Gen. Murat in the great square of Milan. I frankly replied to the compliments paid me on the occasion, that the appearance of these men was the result of six months of labour and fatigue. Murat, animated by the meanest kind of jealousy, observed, with a frown of great spite, that he would furnish me with labour and fatigue for six months. Accordingly he took the grenadiers from me, and gave me two regiments of new raised men. I remonstrated against this arbitrary proceeding, but to no purpose. I spoke to him with the freedom of an old fellow collegian, in the presence of his two Aids de Camp, the Colonels Legrange and Beaumont. He turned a deaf ear to my complaints, which usage has been since returned to him in Egypt by General Lannes, to the knowledge of the whole army. I returned to France on account of my health; and had been at my country seat about a month, when General Berthier acquainted me that I might soon expect fresh orders.

"You broke me; and in so doing you did well; it was my duty to obey, to make my representations to you, and wait your determination. This error, the only one you can lay to my charge, as committed during the whole course of my military career, was occasioned by the persuasion you had wrought in me, that you gave me the preference to Murat, allowance being made for relationship. I have never solicited to resign; I have denounced no one person; my conduct has been generous and open, and by no means insidious and doubtful. You have endeavoured to excuse the daftardly and ungenerous behaviour of your brother-in-law; you have used means that were very base. If there had been any denunciation, you would not have failed to mention the date, and to name the persons so denounced.—Falsehood is a certain characteristic of decline;—you will find by my Observations that this is not your first attempt. I passed the time I was unemployed with the army, which continued for 16 months, in the perusal of my military books. I furnished many articles to the Editor of the "*Young Officers Guide*;" I signed the act of continuation for life of your consulship; I asked permission to go into the Dutch service; you consented to it; but when I wanted upon the Ambassador, Schimmelpenninck, at Paris, I discovered, from his embarrasment, that you had given him orders to make me this answer, that "*he would write to his Government, but that it would take a considerable time*." Gen. Bernadotte can relate to you a very delicate scene concerning you, which took place betwixt him and me respecting this license; you will, moreover, find it in my Observations.

"When I set off to join the army of St. Domingo, Gen. Berthier assured me that I should find my commission as General of Division with it. Gen. Rochambeau, of whom I enquired concerning it, laughed very much at my credulity. I signed your appointment as Emperor; I was one of the Generals present when Murat made his proclamation speech to you at the Thuilleries. I recollect well all that the Generals Massena, Augereau, Macdonald, Bernadotte, &c. said to you, as well as your answers. You will find them very exactly related in my Observations.—I never solicited to serve with Augereau; I had very good reason for despising that man, who disgraced the General's uniform, and whose stupidity and greediness for plunder, constitute him a true leader of banditti. Do you recollect that Gen. Bernadotte asked you to allow me to be at the head of his staff, with the army of Hanover, and that you replied to him in my presence—*Gen. Sarrazin has been in Ireland; I would have him return thither!* It is possible that I may return there! but it shall be to put the brave Irish on their guard against your perfidious insinuations; and to advise them to be faithful to their own Government, lest they meet with the same unhappy fate as has befallen France, which you have had the cruel address to form into one vast prison.

"What you say concerning my conduct with the army of Breff is of very little importance. What probability is there that you would have suffered me to be with that army if I had accused 40 Generals and 40 land and sea officers settled in that place? Gen. Lamarque, now with the army of Naples, will inform you whether I was deficient in point of courage, or the author of that false report which you