

The King's Highway.

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness.

And an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness.— . 35-8

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CONQUEROR CHRIST

By Professor E. Wayne Stahl

Among the wonders of history are the victories of Napoleon. The stupendous conquests of the little Corsican must ever dazzle us. Though we may abhor the heartless, selfish motives of the man, yet his career is full of fascination. He is one of the miracles of war. The story of his triumphs reads like a tale out of Grecian mythology. Marengo, Austerlitz, Jena, Ulm, Wagram, Friedland, these are names that might have been written on the shield of some victorious warrior god of the older world.

How did it come to pass that Napoleon was able to transform hordes of French peasants and artisans into invincible battalions? The answer is twofold: The genius of their leader for war; the devotion of his followers to him.

The world had never seen, and probably never will see again, one with the military abilities of Bonaparte, a man who could take myriads of fighting men and forge them into a thunderbolt that shook the world. Alexander and Caesar cannot equal him. Even Marlborough, the greatest general of England, is not his peer. With gunpowder he was what Raphael was with the brush, Shakespeare with the pen, Mozart with the piano. His mind "in moments of crisis almost excelled human comprehension. It seemed to have gathered to itself and summed up the balance of all human passions arrayed for and against him, and to have calculated with unerring exactitude the consequence of each decision."

The other secret of his marvelous success was the idolatrous enthusiasm which his soldiers had for him. Their love for "the little corporal" could not be expressed by words; only by deeds of valor could they testify to that devotion. So great was it that they achieved wonders in war. The words of one of his men express what all felt about him, "I should have followed him to the ends of the earth, and all the others would have been with me, because he was the great emperor."

Jesus is the Christian's Napoleon. What the Corsican was to his troops in leading them to splendid victories, that will the Nazarene be to those who follow him. In this glorious warfare of the soul the contenders do not use carnal weapons, but "the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."

As a spiritual captain Christ has gifts far excelling those of Napoleon, that victorious commander on fields of carnage. He is the Son of God, and his Father is the Lord of hosts, who "doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth." This paternal power and knowledge has been given to the Son, which means that there will

never be for him defeats like Bonaparte's at Leipsic or at Waterloo; no islands of banishment like Elba or St. Helena. He is the Celestial Emperor; the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Christ, and of that empire there shall be no end.

Napoleon's power to inspire zeal and affection for himself in the hearts of his soldiers is equalled or surpassed by the passionate devotion felt for the Saviour by those who say to him, "Lord, I will follow thee." This is the might of victory. "We love because he first loved us. "Love conquers all things." We can say, "We are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

It was estimated that the presence of Napoleon on the battlefield was equal to 40,000 men, such was the inspiration of his presence. His soldiers became intoxicated with valor, when they knew that his eye was upon them, that he was able to direct their movements and make them most effective.

The Christian has the promise from the captain of his salvation, "Lo, I am with you always." Realizing the presence of invincible Messiah, the soldiers of Immanuel can say, "Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies." In the triumph of their spirits they can sing,

*"Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side,
The man of God's own choosing.*

*"Doth ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth is his name;
From age to age the same;
And he must win the battle."*

One of the soldiers of Napoleon had been struck by a bullet and seriously injured. The surgeon had placed him on the operating table, and was probing for the ball. The wound was near the heart. As the probing went on, in the midst of his agony, the Frenchman looked up at the surgeon and said to him, "Sir, if you'll go a little deeper, you will find the emperor." With men such as he Bonaparte conquered Europe.

The Christian knows for himself and not for another the glorious words of the apostle, "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith," "Christ in you, the hope of glory." His Napoleon is the Nazarene. With men such as he, men whose hearts are filled with heavenly love, Christ will conquer the world.

Napoleon, addressing his troops before the Battle of the Pyramids, said, "Soldiers, forty centuries look down upon you." Christ, through

the writer of the book of Hebrews, exhorts his followers to remember that they are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, and that consequently they should run with patience the race set before them.

Napoleon said, "There are no Alps." Christ tells us that if we have faith as a grain of mustard seed, we shall be able to move mountains.

Napoleon said, "An army travels on its stomach." Christ says to those warriors who seek glory, honor, and immortality, whose reward will be eternal life, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you."

Napoleon said, "Impossible! a word found only in the vocabulary of fools." Christ says to his people, "Nothing shall be impossible unto you."

Napoleon said that every French soldier carried in his knapsack the baton of a marshal. He meant that it was possible for the lowliest to rise, by valorous service, to the highest rank. At the last day Christ will say to the faithful one, "Well, thou good servant; because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities."

Napoleon, through his domination of Europe, had the crowns of conquered nations at his disposal. Some of his faithful generals he placed on thrones, giving Murat a kingdom in Italy, and making Bernadotte king of Sweden. Christ said to his followers, "Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations. And I appoint upon you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me." And in the Revelation of Saint John, the Divine, we hear the Christ speaking words of transcendent majesty, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me on my throne."

What are three of the chief foes over which Christ will give victory? They are Appetite, Ambition, and Avarice, the love of pleasure, the love of fame and power, and the love of wealth and its vain glory. This is the unholy trinity of which John writes, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

In the Battle of the Wilderness Christ met these enemies, and vanquished them. Three thrusts of the sword of the Spirit, and he prevailed: "Man shall not live by bread alone"; "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God"; and "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." And to us he will impart his power for victory. He says to us, "You may have strength to conquer, even as I overcame." He is able to succor them that are tempted, having suffered himself, being tempted.

The Lord Jesus makes us victors over appe-

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