

MY NAPOLEON.

("Toujours lui! lui partout!")

[XL., December, 1828.]

Above all others, everywhere I see

His image cold or burning!

My brain it thrills, and oftentime sets free

The thoughts within me yearning.

My quivering lips pour forth the words

That cluster in his name of glory--

The star gigantic with its rays of swords

Whose gleams irradiate all modern story.

I see his finger pointing where the shell

Should fall to slay most rabble,

And save foul regicides; or strike the knell

Of weaklings 'mid the tribunes' babble.

A Consul then, o'er young but proud,

With midnight poring thinned, and sallow,

But dreams of Empire pierce the transient cloud,

And round pale face and lank locks form the halo.

And soon the Caesar, with an eye a-flame

Whole nations' contact urging
To gain his soldiers gold and fame
Oh, Sun on high emerging,
Whose dazzling lustre fired the hells
Embosomed in grim bronze, which, free, arose
To change five hundred thousand base-born Tells,
Into his host of half-a-million heroes!

What! next a captive? Yea, and caged apart.
No weight of arms enfolded
Can crush the turmoil in that seething heart
Which Nature--not her journeymen--self-moulded.
Let sordid jailers vex their prize;
But only bends that brow to lightning,
As gazing from the seaward rock, his sighs
Cleave through the storm and haste where France looms bright'ning.

Alone, but greater! Broke the sceptre, true!
Yet lingers still some power--
In tears of woe man's metal may renew
The temper of high hour;
For, bating breath, e'er list the kings
The pinions clipped may grow! the Eagle
May burst, in frantic thirst for home, the rings
And rend the Bulldog, Fox, and Bear, and Beagle!

And, lastly, grandest! 'tween dark sea and here
Eternal brightness coming!
The eye so weary's freshened with a tear
As rises distant drumming,
And wailing cheer--they pass the pale
His army mourns though still's the end hid;
And from his war-stained cloak, he answers "Hail!"
And spurns the bed of gloom for throne aye-splendid!

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LES FEUILLES D'AUTOMNE.--1831.