



Preparing for Baby's Christmas Morning

Pure Food Inspector Joe Johnson is making a whirlwind finish of his official term by increasing the vigilance of his inspectors and pushing the work. Butcher shops have come in for close scrutiny and the inspectors have found some highly objectionable conditions in Lincoln Omaha and South Omaha.

Governor Sheldon has been unusually careful and conservative in the exercise of the pardoning power, and it is doubtful if the many applications pending at this time will add materially to the number of pardons issued by the Sheldon administration.

Senator Besse of Red Cloud was in Lincoln this week, making his personal arrangements for

the approaching session of the senate. Senator Besse was a member of the 1907 house of representatives.

Lieutenant Governor Hopewell of Tekama came to Lincoln Saturday to preside over the destinies of Nebraska during the absence of Governor Sheldon in the South.

Among the specific items which at this time are demanding a considerable portion of the governor's time is the hearing of applications for executive clemency, of which there are many pending, and to which the governor must listen.

The winter term at Custer College will begin January 4th. 27tf.

A Christmas Day with Napoleon

By D. E. HENRY



NAPOLEON BONAAPARTE, the "Child of Destiny," as he called himself, had yet a good deal of his destiny uncompleted when, on Christmas eve, in the year 1800, he sent messengers forth to announce his intention of paying a visit to the Paris opera house that night.

He was now first consul, to which position he had been elected in November, 1799. "My reign began from the day I was made consul," he declared years afterwards, and in that phrase he accurately described his power.

Installed already at the Tuilleries with his beloved Josephine, he lived in regal state and exercised little less than despotic sway. Seven years before he was an unknown artillery officer. Now he was the most prominent man in Europe, proclaimed the savior of his country, and practically dictator. What events he had crowded into those seven years! The English had been driven from Toulon in 1793; he had suppressed the Paris insurrection of 1795; he had gone through his first victorious campaign in Italy, in 1796; had made his vigorous attempt to conquer Egypt, in 1798-9; and now was back again in France.

It was Christmas eve, however; the time when pleasures are expected to be indulged in, and Napoleon liked to show himself to the people in public places, for popularity was ever dear to him. So he would go to the opera that night.

He sat in an apartment overlooking the Tuilleries gardens awaiting the arrival of Fouché, the minister of police, who had been sent for to take his instructions. Josephine, to whom he had been married since 1796, had just left him, and he was alone when Fouché was announced.

"You have nothing further to report," said Napoleon, his keen gaze fixed on the minister.

"Nothing."

"No new conspiracies?"

"None."

"And the old ones?"

"Well under surveillance. I am ready to strike at the necessary moment."

"Ah, M. le Ministre, your waiting gives them the opportunity of striking the first blow. This is not a soldier's way. You are only clever in watching plots; I want a man who can crush them at their inception. Fouché, you must strike now. Every suspect must go to prison. My death is desired by all the fanatical Royalists, Vendéans and Chouans in Paris, and Fouché has to stamp these conspiracies out. If Fouché does not, Napoleon will."

"First consul, you are safe," was all that Fouché replied.

"Safe or not," said Napoleon, impatiently, "I look to you to guard my life, and with that life the destinies of France. I shall visit the opera within an hour. You know your duty."

"Consider it done," and with that the famous police functionary departed.

Napoleon, who had been working hard all day and was tired, now fell asleep. When Josephine came in, dressed for the opera, she had the greatest difficulty in rousing him from the sound sleep into which he had fallen.

"Come, the carriage is waiting," she said.

"Let it be sent back," he said, drowsily. "I have changed my mind; I had rather not go to the opera tonight."

But in the end Josephine prevailed, and they went to the carriage, accompanied by Lannes and Bessières.

In the carriage Napoleon fell asleep again, and, as he afterwards related, began to dream of the danger he had run years before in crossing the Tagliamento during a flood by torchlight.

No attempt was made to awaken him, but just as they reached the corner of the Rue Nicaise a loud explosion was heard, and the first consul awoke with a sudden start.

"We are blown up!" he cried. But death by assassination was not to be his destiny. An infernal machine of a most destructive character, prepared by St. Regent, had exploded, just a second too late to effect its deadly purpose. Although Napoleon escaped, 20 persons were killed and 53 wounded.

He ordered the coachman to drive on, and a few minutes later he and Josephine entered the opera and proceeded to their box. The house cheered again and again. Napoleon howling in apparent calm. But he did not remain in the theater long. After an anxious look around at the audience, he turned to reassure Josephine, who was almost fainting with terror, and they returned to the Tuilleries.

Here he was met by Fouché, upon whom he turned with a fierce and contemptuous anger.

"I will see to this business myself," he cried with bitterness. "France shall be purged of these ruffians. It is not a question of my life, but of social order and public morality."

Within a few weeks all the leading conspirators were executed, and 133 other persons were seized, and, without trial, transported to French Guiana.

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