

A sketch of men who have borne the title of GREAT.

IT is not a little remarkable that among all the men in the world, whose names, by common consent, are honored with the addition of the term *Great*, scarcely any of them have been benefactors to the human race; generally speaking, they have been murderers on a large scale, the cut-throats & butchers of their own species. It may be worth your while to call to mind some half a dozen of these *honorable of the earth*, and to notice how divine providence brought them down to the dust, and crushed their ambitious projects at last.

1. Alexander the *Great*. He was the *begot*, described in the 8th chapter of the prophecy of Daniel. The vast extent and the astonishing rapidity of his conquests, the torrents of blood he shed, and the immense desolations he wrought in the world, gave him an undisputed right to be called *great*.

2. Pompey the *Great*. He spread the terror of the Roman arms, east and west, and north and south. He took Jerusalem, and despoiled the holy temple. Asia and Africa, as well as Europe, trembled at his name;—and such was his power over the republic of Rome, that he used to boast that he could call up legions by the stamp of his foot.

3. The *great* Julius Cæsar. He was contemporary with Pompey, and exceeded him, and every man else, who then was, or ever had been, in shedding blood. According to his own confession, the conquest of Gaul, by him, occasioned the loss of *one million two hundred thousand lives*; and it was thought that the cruel wars in which he was engaged, destroyed an equal number. *Two millions four hundred thousand destroyed by one man!* It were impossible the world should be so ungrateful as to grudge him the title of *great*.

4. Herod the *Great*. He had the title, rather from his well-known disposition to deluge the world with blood, than from any considerable achievements of that nature; for, confined to the little province of Judea, he could manifest his greatness only by his cruelties at home. It was he who murdered the infants in and about Bethlehem. In point of morals, he was a contemner of all laws, human and divine. A sect took his name, *Herodians*, who were the fashionable infidels of those times; holding, with Epicurus, the origin of the world from chance, the mortality of the soul, and that pleasure was the ultimate end of man. His temper was gloomy, suspicious, and cruel above measure, and he exceeded almost all men in the greatness of his vices. His government was a yoke of the most intolerable kind; and he drew upon himself the aversion of all, not excepting his nearest relations—some of whom, particularly his wife, Mariamne, and several of his own sons, he put to death. All this, tho' he was no conqueror, was enough, surely, to give him the title of *great*.

5. Frederick the *Great*. I confess he ought to be put in better company. He was a consummate statesman as well as soldier; and notwithstanding his temper was cruel and vindictive, yet, in most instances, he governed the nation, over which he held the royal sceptre, with much wisdom and equity. The following maxims are extracted from an essay, written by old Frederick, on the forms of government, and the duties of kings.—“The first magistrate ought to have a constant attention to agriculture, to promote plenty, to encourage industry and commerce.”—“The magistrate is the servant of the state; it is expected of him that his foresight and prudence should form connections, and choose allies, most conducive to the interests of his people. There should be joined to this a due application to the peculiar situation of the country he is to govern, and a thorough knowledge of the genius of the nation.”—“The prince should be constantly on his guard, not to distinguish any but men of merit.”—These were some of Frederick's wife and *practical* maxims; in pursuance of which, he raised Prussia to signal honor and prosperity among the nations.

I might here just mention that Louis 14th of France strove *bloody* hard to get the title of *great*, and even to gain a sort of universal empire. Without provocation, he laid waste whole countries with fire and sword; and at one time, standing on the top of a lofty building, he had the supreme delight of beholding about seventy cities and villages (if I remember right) all in flames. These were glorious doings. But at the very nick of time when his expectations were at the highest, all his conquests slipped out of his hands—and he ended his life in disgrace and in mental misery, equally detested and detesting. Therefore his name has not been enrolled in the catalogue of worthies.

6. Napoleon the *Great*. Here I am lost

in astonishment. It is far beyond the power of language to describe this “*prodigy of human nature*.” To borrow the best language for it I can find:—“*his equal is not to be found in the annals of man. Other monarchs have been styled great; but as a statesman and warrior, he is super-eminent.*”—Yes this same Napoleon unites in his individual character the qualities of most of the worthies I have mentioned; that is to say, he possesses their talents, their ambition, their good fortune, all their vices, but none of their virtues. Like Alexander (except in Spain and Portugal, where he has proceeded with *slow haste*) his conquests have been made with astonishing rapidity. Like Pompey he can call up legions by the stamp of his foot—not upon the continent of Europe only, but possibly too on the western side of the Atlantic. Like Cæsar, he was once a flaming republican, and then a usurper. And like Cæsar, he will at last, if his friends at home and abroad can have their wish, he will at last make out the full complement of twenty-four hundred thousand bloody victims to his own ambition.—Finally, in point of temper, and all the ferocious qualities of the heart, he can “*out herod*” Herod himself.

The remarkable fall of Greatness comes next under consideration.

Alexander, while yet the vast work projected by his ambition was not half done, died of intoxication; and all his family were murdered by the captains of his hosts, those infernal *bandits* who had been employed by him to subjugate the world.

Pompey, after all his splendid victories and proud triumphs, was “*a fugitive and a vagabond*” and, murdered by slaves, his headless trunk lay unburied on the shores of Africa.

Julius Cæsar, admirable for his talents and magnanimity, which, but for his exorbitant ambition, might have rendered him one of the best of rulers; Julius Cæsar, after the short reign of five months, was assassinated in the senate house, and by those too whom he thought to be his best friends.

“*O mighty Cæsar! Dost thou lie so low!
Ave all thy conquests, triumphs, spoils,
Shrunk to this little measure? Fare thee well!*”

Herod (bestrew his memory!) died most miserably, under tortures of body and mind, and under the bitter consciousness that there was not a human being, even of his own household, but detested him, and wished him dead.

Frederick, had he foreknown the speedy extinction of his royal house, and that all his immense hoards, all the fruits of his incessant toils and cares, would go to enrich a Corsican upstart; had the great Frederick foreknown this, he would have “*hated all his labor, which he had taken under the sun.*”

Lastly, Napoleon yet lives: what will be his exit, or the termination of his glory, as respects himself or his family, time will bring forth.

HISTORICAL.

* Governor Gerry's speech to the Legislature of Massachusetts, 1810.

OMISSIONS.

Cornwall, 9th October, 1811.

To his Excellency FRANCIS GORE, Esq. Lieutenant Governor of his Majesty's Province of Upper Canada.

We, the Inhabitants of the Eastern District of the Province of Upper Canada, having just learned that your Excellency is about to return home, hasten to express our sincere regret on the occasion, and to present our grateful acknowledgments for the many substantial benefits which we have derived from your short but wise administration.

During that period, we have seen, with the greatest satisfaction, the most flourishing settlements extending rapidly in all directions, and the general prosperity of the country increasing far beyond our most sanguine anticipations.

We have seen your Excellency most anxiously careful that the Loyalists and their children should obtain, with the least possible trouble, the very liberal bounty which His Most Excellent Majesty the King has graciously assigned them, and extending your benevolence, in the most delicate manner, to those who had fallen into difficulty in their land affairs, either from their ignorance or inadvertency, or the errors incident to the quick settlement of so populous and important a Colony.

Above all, we have seen provision made for giving the youth of the Province such a liberal education as may not only qualify them for the learned professions, but establish firmly in their minds, the purest moral and religious principles, principles which shall enable them to give the most salutary direction to the general manners of the Province, and revive that ardent patriotism for which their fathers have been so honorably

distinguished. The fruits of this noble measure patronized and sanctioned by your Excellency, we begin already to enjoy; as many of the young men have left the schools crowned with literary honors, and with the fairest promise of future worth.

With the greatest truth and propriety therefore, may the inhabitants of this District repeat what we had formerly the pleasure to state to your Excellency, “*that your Government has been only known to us by acts of the purest justice and the most pleasing condescension and benevolence.*”—Deeply impressed with these sentiments, your Excellency's administration will always be a subject of the most pleasing recollection.

Our best wishes for the happiness of your Excellency and your amiable Lady accompany you to England; may the approbation of our gracious Sovereign smile upon your return, and confer upon your Excellency a suitable reward for your meritorious services in this Province.

[Signed by 104 persons.]
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Quebec, October 24.

The Storm.—This city was visited on Saturday evening, the 19th inst. with the severest gales of Eastly wind which has been experienced here for many years. The weather in the course of the day on Saturday, had been unusually warm for the season, with the wind Westly, and some rain; towards evening, it became almost calm, and the surface of the ground was covered with a fog, apparently rising out of the earth; about dusk came suddenly from the north-east, and continued to blow with the greatest fury till late in the afternoon of the next day, when it changed to the west; from which quarter it blew very hard the whole of the night.

The damage ashore is but trifling; but in the harbor considerable. The following is as far as can be collected at present, a list of the large vessels which have suffered. Many of the small craft have also been injured or lost; but without any person on board, that we have heard of, having perished.

List of Square Rigged Vessels damaged.
Ship Winchester, stranded, and must be delivered to be repaired.—Ship Sir J. Henry Craig, much damaged.—Brig Minerva, lost both anchors and cables.—Brig Britannia, much damaged.—Brig Cangaroo, a total wreck.—Brig Jane, lost one anchor, cable, and otherwise much damaged.—Ship Three Brothers, not materially damaged.—Brig William, much damaged.—Brig Morton, keel broke and otherwise much damaged, must be delivered.—Brig James and David, slightly damaged.—Brig Concord, one cable broke & otherwise damaged.—Brig Catherine, much damaged in the bottom and rigging.—Brig Breduibane, stranded, and must be delivered to be repaired.—Ship Lord Middleton, lost both anchors and cables.—Brig Margaret, not materially damaged.—Ship Neptune, stranded, and must be delivered.—Brig Minerva, not materially damaged.

A small sloop is ashore on the rocks opposite Three Rivers, with her stern beat in. She had come down as a lighter from the Lake St. Peter to the ship Glory.—Three of that ship's crew were unhappily on board of her when she drifted, who, with the master of the sloop, and his sailor, have all five been drowned.

Melancholy Accident.—On Friday last, in the Armoury shop of Mr. Gofelin, a laboring man by the name of Paitra, about 48 years of age, was mortally wounded from a pistol which was sent there for repair. The young man that carried it was showing one of the workmen what repair was wanting—mistook the pistol for its felw, snapped it, when it went off and shot Mr. P. a bystander, through the body. No criminality is attached to this accident, but it is hoped that a relation of it will create a caution in other people.
Canadian Courant.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Gibraltar, August 31.

Letters received at Algieras confirm the report in our last of a battle having been fought on the 10th, between Marshal Soult and Gen. Freyre, near the borders of Grenada. They acknowledge that the right wing (3000 strong) of the Spanish army, was pierced by the French; but such was the resistance of the Spaniards, that the enemy's loss was double theirs; and General Freyre having succeeded in uniting his routed wing with his left, the Spaniards retired without the least dispersion, to within three or four leagues of Grenada; where they offered Soult battle, but which he declined; and the Spanish cavalry made a charge on the French, and killed 300 of them. Another skirmish subsequently took place between Lorca and Las Ventanas, the result of which was, that the French abandoned the field, commenced a retreat, and the Span-

iards in turn became pursuers. Soult has from 16 to 20,000 men.—Freyre 28,000, including 2500 cavalry, the horses of which are in good condition.—Soult has lost in this march 5,000 men.

France and Prussia.

Bonaparte is said to have demanded of the King of Prussia the surrender of Silisia, or the fortress of Colberg and Grandentz. The demand was instantly and indignantly rejected; his Prussian Majesty replying, that he would sooner risk the consequences of a war, than give up Silisia, or his best strong holds. Couriers were, it is added, immediately sent off to St. Petersburg, and to the Russian General on the Polish frontiers, who had in consequence advanced with his army to cooperate with the Prussian troops. The King of Prussia conferred the command of his army on General Blucher, who distinguished himself so eminently in the last war.

This able General immediately issued orders to collect the Prussian army, strengthened Colberg and Grandentz, and enabled them to stand a long siege, while, with the rest of the troops he fell back towards the Russian army, in order to effect a junction with it more speedily.

Paris, August 19.

Yesterday Mr. Theotoki, and Duke de Loosz, Presidents of the Deputations from the Ionian Isles [in the Adriatic, of which Corfu is the principal] presented addresses of congratulation to his Majesty the Emperor; who was pleased to make the following

REPLY:

“*Gentlemen Deputies,*
“I have caused great works to be completed in you country. I have collected a great number of troops, and ammunition of all kinds. I do not regret the expences which Corfu has cost my treasury. It is the key of the Adriatic.

“I will never abandon the Islands which the superiority of the enemy by sea has placed in their power. In India, in America, in the Mediterranean, every thing that is and has been French shall always be so. Conquered by the enemy, by the vicissitudes of war, they shall return into the Empire by the other events of the war, or by the stipulations of peace. I should always consider it as an eternal blot upon my reign if I ever sanctioned the abandonment of a single Frenchman.”

An address was also presented by the Deputation from the new department of La Lippe (in Westphalia); to which his Majesty gave this

REPLY:

“*Gentlemen,*
The town of Munster belonged to an ecclesiastical sovereign;—deplorable effect of ignorance and superstition!! [Why so, any more than under a military sovereign?] You were without country. Providence, who willed that I should restore the throne of Charlemagne, has made you naturally enter, with Holland & the Hanse Towns, into the bosom of the Empire.—From the moment in which you became French, my heart made no difference between you and other parts of my states. As soon as circumstances shall permit me, I shall feel a lively satisfaction in being among you.

ENGLISH REMARKS ON THE ABOVE.

From the London Courier—Aug. 26.

Bonaparte, in his answer to the Ionian Deputies, has taken occasion to state to us the terms on which he expects to make peace.—He is to get back every one of the French colonies we have taken from him. But as he is not likely to retake them by “*the other events of war,*” what does he mean to give us as an equivalent for the cession of them? For he does not of course expect that we will cede them without an equivalent! He can give us back nothing that belonged to us, for he has taken nothing from us. Does he mean to make the Dutch make all the cession? for he observes he confines himself entirely to “*every thing that is, and has been*