

Napoleon's Attempt at Suicide.

Since 1808 he had worn about his neck as a kind of amulet a little bag, said to contain deadly poison, one of the salts of prussic acid, says the Century. That night, when the terrors of a shaken reason overpowered him, it is believed that he swallowed the drug. Instead of oblivion came agony, and his valet rushing to his master's bedside at the sound of a bitter cry, claimed to catch the words: "Marmont has struck me the fatal blow! Unhappy man, I loved him! Berthier's desertion has broken my heart! My old friends, my comrades in arms!"

Ivan, the emperor's body physician, was summoned and administered an antidote. The spasm was allayed, and after a short sleep reason resumed her seat. It is related in the memoirs of Caulincourt, and probably with a sort of Homeric truth, that when the reputed writer was admitted in the early morning Napoleon's "wan and sunken eyes seemed struggling to recall the objects round about. A universe of torture was revealed in the vaguely desolate look." Napoleon is reported as saying:

"It is not the loss of the throne that makes existence unendurable. But military career suffices for the glory of a single man. Do you know what is more difficult to bear than the reverses of fortune? It is the baseness, the horrible ingratitude of men. Before such acts of cowardice, before the shamelessness of their egotism, I have turned away my head in disgust and taken my life in horror. What I have suffered for 20 days no one can understand."

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