

**MEMOIRS OF BARON LEJEUNE,
AIDE-DE-CAMP TO MARSHALS
BERTHIER, DAVOUT, AND
OUDINOT, IN TWO VOLUMES,
VOL. II**

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**LOUIS FRANÇOIS LEJEUNE & MRS.
ARTHUR BELL (N. D'ANVERS) & MAURICE**

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H. M. Savelly

Toronto.

MEMOIRS
or
BARON LEJEUNE

VOL. II.

MEMOIRS
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BARON LEJEUNE



AIDE-DE-CAMP TO MARSHALS BERTHIER,
DAVOUT, AND OUDINOT

TRANSLATED AND EDITED FROM THE ORIGINAL FRENCH
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WITH AN INTRODUCTION
BY
MAJOR-GENERAL MAURICE, C.B.

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MEMOIRS
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CHAPTER I

RETURN TO VIENNA—CRACOW—THE REVIEW—RETURN TO
PARIS—THE DIVORCE—DECEMBER 31, 1809

I LEFT General Rusca at Klagenfurt, and set out once more for Vienna. The journey back was one long delight to me, for I was now able to examine at comparative leisure the interesting places I had had to hasten past all too rapidly on my way to the Tyrol. I had scarcely passed the quaint little town of Friesach, picturesquely situated at the foot of the lofty chain of mountains separating Carinthia from Styria, when I was overtaken by another of the storms of such frequent occurrence in these lofty districts. On August 15, the Emperor's birthday, which is generally oppressively hot, I was in such a deluge of rain that I thought I should be washed away. This was succeeded by a heavy fall of snow, which lasted several hours, but I at last reached and passed through the ugly little town of Leoben, where the preliminaries of peace were signed, which saved the town of Vienna from the

entry of the troops of General Bonaparte in 1797. Leoben is situated on the Mur, which winds backwards and forwards in a remarkable way, as if loth to leave the lovely valley it waters. At Burg, the Mur, the waters of which are as clear as crystal, widens out at the base of a huge rock, whose foundations it is gradually eating away. This isolated mass of stone, rising up like some defiant giant, is covered with venerable trees, the mighty, sombre-hued, drooping branches of which are reflected in the placid mirror of the waters beneath, as they gently lave the marble they are powerless to overturn.

At the Sommering pass a wall of rocks rising up into the clouds seems so completely to shut in the valley, here extremely narrow, as to leave absolutely no means of passing out of Styria into Austria. But for all that the traveller is able to reach the summit of the pass crowned by an ancient manor house, the walls and towers of which have been partly destroyed by the storms which have swept over them. The view from this point is magnificent, embracing as it does the rich plains of Austria and the banks of the Danube, with the towers and belfries of Vienna rising up against the horizon.

When I got back to the Emperor at Schönbrunn, I found him engaged in distributing rewards to those who had served him in the arduous campaigns just over. He could not without disorganising the whole army give promotion to all who deserved it; and, moreover, many of his bravest soldiers were illiterate men, whom it would not do to make officers. Anxious, however, to confer some real distinction on those brave fellows who had taken part in the actual defence of the flag, the eagle of their regiment, he conceived the idea of giving them a costume and equipment which should mark them out as specially

honoured, and at the same time be suitable to the duties they had to perform.

The Emperor, therefore, sent for me, and asked me to make a sketch of a costume such as he wished to give to what he called his Eagle Guard, or those non-commissioned officers whose office it was to surround and defend the actual standard bearer. The chief weapons of each one were to be a pistol, a sword, and a lance, so that in the heat of the battle they would never have to trouble themselves about loading a gun. There was to be gold on their epaulettes, sword belts, and helmets. I made a drawing and took it to the Emperor, and he sent it with his own instructions on the subject.

Napoleon then asked me to draw, under his own eye, a design for the new Order he intended to institute. 'The Order of the Golden Fleece,' he said, 'was typical of victory; my eagles have triumphed over the Golden Fleeces of the Kings of Spain and the Emperors of Germany, so I mean to create for the French Empire an Imperial Order of the Three Golden Fleeces. The sign of this Order shall be my own eagle with outspread wings, holding in each of its talons one of the ancient Golden Fleeces it has carried off, whilst hanging from its beak it will proudly display the Fleece I now institute.' He then took a pen and roughly marked out the size I was to make my drawing. He also said he wished the chain on which the Order would be hung round the neck to be of very rich workmanship, with martial designs. 'The chain of the ancient Orders,' he explained to me, 'consists of bits of flint which emit fire when they rub against each other; the new chain must be made of gleaming splinters of burning grenades.' I made the drawings as desired, and he issued his orders accordingly. The institution of the new

Order was duly announced in the 'Moniteur,' but the terms of the treaty of peace compelled him to suppress a distinction the chief aim of which had been to humiliate the conquered countries of Spain and Austria.

Peace had already been signed on the 14th, and the Emperor now returned to France.

Major-General Prince Berthier remained in Vienna at the head of the army. The important arrangements for the withdrawal of our troops, and the various precautions taken in case of any infringement of the conditions of the treaty, did not prevent us from devoting a good deal of time to amusement. The wives of several generals came to rejoin their husbands. The Countesses of Daru and Bertrand had also lately arrived in Vienna, charming every one about them with their grace and courtesy. Fêtes and balls succeeded each other rapidly, leaving us little time for repose. The young Viceroy, Prince Eugène, who was just at the age when pleasure is so fascinating, was not the least active in promoting the festivities.

Eight days had passed happily away in amusements when Prince Berthier sent me to Prince Poniatowski, at Cracow, to inform him of the additional clauses of the treaty of peace, to tell him where his future cantonments were to be, and to ascertain from him the condition of his troops, the state of his fortresses, and what his requirements were.

When the first news of the armistice of Znaim reached Prince Poniatowski, his army had already ascended the Vistula beyond Cracow, and he was master of the strongholds of Modlin, Sierosk, and Zamoski, which he had placed in a good state of defence. I went to Galicia by way of Brünn and Olmütz, the latter a strong fortress, where the Austrians put considerable difficulties in my way, detaining