

**NAPOLEON, THE FIRST EMPEROR OF
FRANCE: FROM ST. HELENA TO
SANTIAGO DE CUBA.
BEING A SUMMARY OF FACTS
CONCERNING THE LATTER DAYS OF DR.
FRANCOIS ANATOMARCHI**

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Napoleon, the First Emperor of France: From St. Helena to Santiago de Cuba. Being a Summary of facts concerning the latter days of Dr. Francois Antomarchi by Henry D. Thomason

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HENRY D. THOMASON

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NAPOLEON I.
Emperor of France.

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Thompson, Henry D.

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From St. Helena to Santiago de Cuba.

Early in the days of a detail in Santiago de Cuba, during the last American occupation, we received a letter from our brother, in which he asked, as an especial favor, to pluck for him a few sprigs of something growing from the grave of Doctor Antomarchi, the last physician to the Emperor Napoleon on the island of St. Helena.

While we knew in a desultory way that a Doctor Antomarchi had been in attendance on the Emperor in his last days, we hardly knew any more than that. We certainly did not know that he had lived and died in Santiago de Cuba. So, accordingly, on one golden April afternoon, we drove to the cemetery, lying in all its white array of marbles across the still waters of the Bay of Santiago. We halted at the ruined portal and entered full of certainty. Finding the custodian, we asked for the grave of Doctor Antomarchi. He shook his head. We explained further: "The last physician to Napoleon, to Napole-

on the Great—*sabe* Napoleon?" "*Americano?*" was the questioning answer.

We could discover nothing further, and, after roaming around among the sadly neglected tombs, we drove back to the city. From that moment our search for Doctor Antomarchi in Santiago de Cuba began.

We found upon reliable authority, through the remembrances of several persons, and by searching local libraries and ponderous ecclesiastical and legal records, that a French doctor by the name of François Antomarchi was at one time a resident of Santiago de Cuba; but of his tomb, which the guide-books and M. Piron refer to, we could find nothing, though we had traced his place of burial from the records of the old parish church of San Tomas, the oldest church in the city (at least three hundred years old), to the old Santa Aña Cemetery, situated on the hill above Santa Aña Church, in the direction of El Caney, and at one time known as "The General Cemetery."

Indeed, Señor Bartolomé Portuondo, son of the Marquis de Tempu, a fine old gentleman, speaking perfect



DEATH MASK OF EMPEROR NAPOLEON I.

English, and with the manners of old Spanish times, went with us to Santa Aña. He told us what his father, the Marquis de Tempu, had told him: that at the time of Doctor Antomarchi's death he had no tomb, and, as is the custom in this country, his friends offered the remains a place in their family tombs, which were roomy and well built. Among many others, the offer of Señor Portuondo's father, the Marquis de Tempu, was accepted, and he pointed out to us what remained of the old tomb of his fathers in Santa Aña Cemetery.

About forty years ago this, "The General Cemetery," was removed to its present location, across the bay, and Señor Portuondo told us that he himself had superintended the removal of the remains of his family, of which nothing was found but a handful of dust and a few corroded gilt buttons, presumably from his father's court uniform.

The sky was radiant with the glow of a crimson sun setting across the bay, and a murmuring wind swept through the tangled grass, as the old man peered first from one deep vault to the other. "Here it is; here is