

**THE BOY LIFE OF  
NAPOLEON: AFTERWARDS  
EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH**

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The boy life of Napoleon: afterwards emperor of the French by Elbridge S. Brooks

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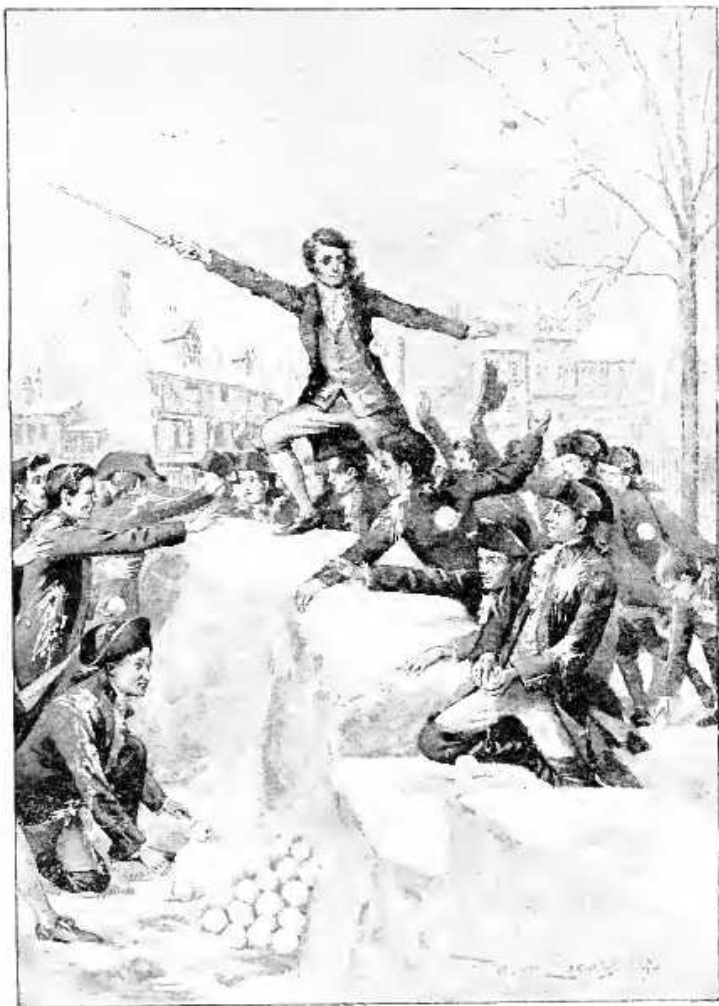
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**ELBRIDGE S. BROOKS**

**THE BOY LIFE OF  
NAPOLEON: AFTERWARDS  
EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH**





*The Snow-ball Fight at Brienne School.*

THE  
BOY LIFE OF NAPOLEON

AFTERWARDS EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH

*ADAPTED AND EXTENDED FOR AMERICAN BOYS AND GIRLS  
FROM THE FRENCH OF*

MADAME EUGÉNIE FOA

AUTHOR OF "LITTLE PRINCES AND PRINCESSSES," "YOUNG WARRIORS," "LITTLE ROBINSON," ETC.

BY

ELBRIDGE S. BROOKS

AUTHOR OF "HISTORIC BOYS," "CHILDREN'S LIVES OF GREAT MEN" SERIES,  
"A BOY OF THE FIRST EMPIRE," ETC.

NEW YORK  
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## PREFACE.

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THE name of Madame Eugénie Foa has been a familiar one in French homes for more than a generation. Forty years ago she was the most popular writer of historical stories and sketches, especially designed for the boys and girls of France. Her tone is pure, her morals are high, her teachings are direct and effective. She has, besides, historical accuracy and dramatic action; and her twenty books for children have found welcome and entrance into the most exclusive of French homes. The publishers of this American adaptation take pleasure in introducing Madame Foa's work to American boys and girls, and in this Napoleonic renaissance are particularly favored in being able to reproduce her excellent story of the boy Napoleon.

The French original has been adapted and enlarged in the light of recent research, and all possible sources

have been drawn upon to make a complete and rounded story of Napoleon's boyhood upon the basis furnished by Madame Foa's sketch. If this glimpse of the boy Napoleon shall lead young readers to the study of the later career of this marvellous man, unbiased by partisanship, and swayed neither by hatred nor hero-worship, the publishers will feel that this presentation of the opening chapters of his life will not have been in vain.



## CONTENTS.

CHAPTER ONE.	PAGE
<i>In Napoleon's Grotto</i> . . . . .	9
CHAPTER TWO.	
<i>The Canon's Pears</i> . . . . .	27
CHAPTER THREE.	
<i>The Accusation</i> . . . . .	43
CHAPTER FOUR.	
<i>Bread and Water</i> . . . . .	52
CHAPTER FIVE.	
<i>A Wrong Righted</i> . . . . .	64
CHAPTER SIX.	
<i>The Battle with the Shepherd Boys</i> . . . . .	73
CHAPTER SEVEN.	
<i>Good-bye to Corsica</i> . . . . .	81
CHAPTER EIGHT.	
<i>At the Preparatory School</i> . . . . .	88
CHAPTER NINE.	
<i>The Lonely School-Boy</i> . . . . .	95
CHAPTER TEN.	
<i>In Napoleon's Garden</i> . . . . .	102
CHAPTER ELEVEN.	
<i>Friends and Foes</i> . . . . .	113

CHAPTER	PAGE
CHAPTER TWELVE. <i>The Great Snow-ball Fight at Brienne School</i>	126
CHAPTER THIRTEEN <i>Recommended for Promotion</i>	141
CHAPTER FOURTEEN <i>Napoleon goes to Paris</i>	153
CHAPTER FIFTEEN. <i>A Trouble over Pocket Money</i>	163
CHAPTER SIXTEEN. <i>Lieutenant Puss-in-Boots</i>	178
CHAPTER SEVENTEEN. <i>Dark Days</i>	189
CHAPTER EIGHTEEN <i>By the Wall of the Soldiers' Home</i>	205
CHAPTER NINETEEN. <i>The Little Corporal</i>	223
CHAPTER TWENTY. <i>"Long Live the Emperor!"</i>	235

# THE BOY LIFE OF NAPOLEON.

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## CHAPTER ONE.

### IN NAPOLEON'S GROTTA.

ON a certain August day, in the year 1776, two little girls were strolling hand in hand along the pleasant promenade that leads from the queer little town of Ajaccio out into the open country.

The town of Ajaccio is on the western side of the beautiful island of Corsica, in the Mediterranean Sea. Back of it rise the great mountains, white with snowy tops; below it sparkles the Mediterranean, bluest of blue water. There are trees everywhere; there are flowers all about; the air is fragrant with the odor of fruit and foliage; and it was through this scented air, and amid these beautiful flowers, that these two little girls were wandering idly, picking here and there to