

of the ill-fated *Orient*. The battle lasted till midnight, and after a lull it was renewed in the morning. Its final issue was the annihilation of the French fleet. Eight ships of the line surrendered, two went on shore, one had been blown to atoms. Two managed to make a brief escape, but were captured before they were well out on the bosom of the Mediterranean. For this great victory Nelson received well-merited rewards. He was created a peer under the title of "Baron Nelson of the Nile," and had bestowed on him an income from the public treasury of £2,000 a-year.

38. After the destruction of his fleet at Aboukir, Buonaparte over-ran Syria, but encountered an unexpected repulse at Acre. His attempt to storm that important fortress was foiled by the bravery of Sir Sidney Smith, who aided the Turkish garrison with a small force of British seamen and marines. Buonaparte, after continuing his vain effort to capture Acre for sixty days, returned to France.

39. Thus far the French Republic had been under the control of a supreme council called the *Directory*. On his return from Acre, Buonaparte overthrew the Legislature and the Directory, and became himself real ruler of the country under the title of *First Consul*. During the ensuing year (1800) he pursued almost unchecked his career of European conquest, gaining himself the battles of *Montebello* and *Marengo* in Italy, while another army defeated the Germans at *Hohenlinden*. On the other hand, his troops were compelled in 1801 to evacuate Egypt by the successful efforts of the English generals Abercromby and Hutchinson.

40. During this war, England had claimed and exercised the *right of search*. By this it is meant that her cruisers stopped neutral vessels, and if, after search, these were found to be conveying warlike stores to any of her enemies, both the stores and the vessels were confiscated. A combination of Northern Powers, embracing Russia, Sweden, and Denmark, was now formed to resist the *right of search*. Prussia afterwards joined the *Armed Neutrality*, as the combination was called.

41. England responded to the *Armed Neutrality* by sending a fleet into the Baltic under the command of Sir Hyde Parker and Lord Nelson. The Danish fleet, which was drawn up in front of Copenhagen, was soon attacked, and every vessel in it was lost, either by burning, by sinking, or by capture. This victory was really gained by Lord Nelson, though he was only second in command. An armistice was at once concluded with Denmark, and the *Armed Neutrality* fell to pieces. The *Battle of the Baltic* was fought on April 2nd, 1801. Even before this the hostile combination of Northern Powers against England had come to an end