

lowed, the British admiral gained an overwhelming victory. Thirteen French ships were either taken or sunk; only four ships escaped, and three of these were soon after captured. Napoleon was now cut off from communication with France, but, nothing daunted, he pushed eastwards into Syria, and laid siege to Acre, defended by Sir Sydney Smith and a garrison of British and Turks. Acre held out bravely, and Napoleon was compelled to retreat to Egypt. Soon after, he returned to France, and his army was defeated at Aboukir by Sir Ralph Abercromby. Later the whole French army of thirteen thousand men surrendered to the British. — *Nel*

A coalition, formed in 1798 between Great Britain, Russia, and Austria had not met with success. Both the Russians and the Austrians had suffered so many reverses that the former was persuaded to abandon the alliance, while the latter made peace with France at Luneville in 1801. Once more Britain stood alone.

To make matters worse for Britain, in this same year, Pitt, thwarted by the king in his plans for the government of Ireland, resigned his office, and was succeeded by Mr. Addington. Napoleon's plans were soon apparent.

By a league of the northern powers, Denmark, Sweden, and Russia, he hoped to ruin Great Britain by shutting out her vessels from these countries, and, by joining the navies of these three countries with those of France and Spain, to drive her from the seas. The agreement called the "Armed Neutrality" was made, and Napoleon instantly called upon the Danes to place their fleet at his disposal. Great Britain had



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