

secret information of this plan, and Sir Hyde Parker was sent, in 1801, with Nelson as second in command, to demand the withdrawal of the Danes from the league. This demand was refused, and Parker immediately sent Nelson to enforce the request by the bombardment of Copenhagen. The battle was a desperate one, but the Danes were at last compelled to yield, after nearly all their fleet had been destroyed. Denmark was thus forced to conclude an armistice, which gave the British fleet entrance to the Baltic. A little later, the death of the Czar of Russia broke up the confederation.

This blow, together with the surrender of the French army in Egypt, which took place about this time, made Napoleon



MEDAL STRUCK BY NAPOLEON TO COMMEMORATE HIS  
PROPOSED INVASION OF ENGLAND

willing to conclude a peace. The treaty was signed at Amiens in 1802. Britain retained Ceylon, which had been captured during the war, and agreed to surrender Malta, while France on her part agreed to evacuate Egypt.

Napoleon, however, had agreed to the treaty of Amiens only that he might have time to build a new navy and to form his plans to strike a crushing blow at Great Britain. He had made himself emperor of the French, and now felt that he was in a position to carry out his cherished scheme of the invasion of England. For this purpose he mustered one hundred and thirty thousand men at Boulogne. "Let us be masters of the Channel for six hours," he said, "and