

THE DOME OF THE INVALIDES

To Parisians the most sacred shrine of all

Josephine. You meet it in every souvenir booth and antique shop in Paris and throughout the length and breadth with you if you drive inland from a holiday near Cannes on the Mediterranean coast, because then you will almost certainly find yourself following the Route Napoleon which the Emperor took on his escape from Elba for the Hundred Days. If you are a collector of almost anything, even of model soldiers, it is much easier for you if you concentrate on the First Empire, because the glamour of that age has attracted so many collectors before you. In a thousand street and place-names you hear the echoes of the legendnames that to a Frenchman particularly but even to an imaginative foreigner seem to carry the sound of a roll of drums or the call of a bugle: Avenue de la Grande Armée, Place d'Iéna, Avenue Wagram, Quai d'Austerlitz, Oudinot, Friedland, Kléber, Murat.

THE OTHER SIDE

THROUGH their unhealthy preoccupation with Napoleonic glory, the French tend inevitably to ignore the other side of the picture—indeed, to omit that picture altogether. This struck me forcibly in the gallery at Versailles where the walls are plastered with huge paintings celebrating French

is specially dedicated to the memory of Josephine. You meet it in every souvenir booth and antique shop in Paris and throughout the length and breadth of France; it catches up and travels with you if you drive inland from a holiday near Cannes on the Mediteranean coast, because then you will almost certainly find yourself following

There are, of course, many intelligent Frenchmen to-day not under the influence of the Napoleonic myth who are prepared to concede the tragedy and the folly of Bonaparte's policy of conquest; but even here they show a tendency to quote in extenuation his positive achievements, such as the Code Napoleon.

Equally disturbing are the signs that the French, partly through their nostalgia for the Empire, are at present in process of forgetting their Revolution. They have not yet gone to the absurd extremes of some sections in the U.S.A. who, in their abhorrence of all radicalism, no longer remember that their own nation was born out of insurrection against legal authority. All the same, one gains the impression that in France the French Revolution is no longer quite respectable.

The relics of the years 1789-94 are there, of course, but you have to look (continued on next page)

Well-known society leader reveals beauty
"pick-up" for special occasions



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