

A Manuscript of Charles Lucian Bonaparte

BY W. OTTO EMERSON

WHEN the Cooper homestead was vacated last summer I was permitted to look over a rubbish heap of catalogues, pamphlets, and odds and ends, such as are usually consigned to the fire on an occasion of this sort. Among a great variety of relics of past literary activity I came across a bundle of manuscript written by Prince Charles Lucian Bonaparte. Examination proved this to



CHARLES LUCIAN BONAPARTE

FROM A LITHOGRAPH LOANED BY MR. RUTHVEN DEANE

be the first draft of the well-known "American Ornithology."^a Volume I, which was published in 1825, was not in the bundle, volumes II to IV being represented. The fac-simile page here reproduced is natural size. Any doubts as to the authenticity of the manuscript were set at rest by a comparison of the writing with several signatures of Bonaparte, and also by a slip of paper, bearing in the hand-

^a. This "American Ornithology" is sometimes united with Wilson's. It is a district work, however, entitled: "American | Ornithology | or, | The Natural History | of | Birds inhabiting the United States | not given by Wilson. | With figures drawn, engraved and colored from Nature. | By Charles L[ucian] Bonaparte | [in MS—Prince of Musignano | A. M. F. M. L. S.—all titles dropped in third volume]. Vol. I [-IV] | Philadelphia | etc. | 1825[—1833.] The title page of volume II of the MS. has "Lucian" spelled out, and a list of ten titles of membership in American and European Societies follows the name.

writing of Dr. Cooper the following note: "Vol. 3, Am. Orn. Vol. III (Original MSS. of Prince Carlo Luciano Bonaparte) cousin of Napoleon 1st and uncle of Nap. III. (J. G. Cooper.)" Totally forgotten the old manuscript had lain hidden away for years. It had undoubtedly come to Dr. Cooper through his father who was a warm friend of Prince Bonaparte. In the same rubbish heap was an autograph copy, with annotations, of Bonaparte's "Specchio comparativo delle Ornitologie di Roma e di Filadelfia. 8vo. Pisa, Nistri, 1827.—Supplemento alla Specchio comparativo etc., 1832." Also, there was the first manuscript of Bonaparte's "Catalogue of the Birds of the United States, systematically arranged in Orders, Families, Genera, and Subgenera." (Contrib. Maclurian Lyc. Arts and Sci., 1, 1827, pp. 8-34.)

Prince Charles Lucian Bonaparte, cousin of Napoleon I and uncle of Napoleon III, was born in Paris, May 24, 1803, and died July 30, 1857. In his early youth he came to America, remaining some eight years. He was associated with such ornithologists as Alexander Wilson, John James Audubon, Thomas Say, William Cooper, and the bird delineator, Titian Peal.^b He mentions that Audubon, on his return from the far west, where he had been in search of novelties, showed him drawings of several new birds. A glance over Bonaparte's work reveals the touch of the master workmen.

It is with great pleasure that I am able to offer the first portrait of this eminent ornithologist. No doubt it is the only one, and it has probably never before been publicly exhibited in the United States. The plate has been made from a photograph of a lithograph, 9½ by 11½ inches, very kindly loaned me by Mr. Ruthven Deane of Chicago, who procured it in Europe. For this privilege THE CONDOR extends its best thanks to Mr. Deane.

In the preface, Bonaparte laments the fact that he is unable to portray the history of birds in a style equal to that of his predecessor, Wilson, because he is not writing in his native language. He has, however, shown himself to be a master of clear description in English and his writings are to the point. He was fortunate in having material fresh from the field of a little known country, then for the first time being adequately explored.

Haywards, California.

Summer Birds of the Papago Indian Reservation and of the Santa Rita Mountains, Arizona

BY HARRY S. SWARTH

(Continued from page 28)

Ornithion i. ridgwayi. Ridgway Flycatcher. On June 11, 1903, the last day spent in the mesquites, while walking through the forest, a strange note was heard, which Mr. Stevens said sounded much like that of the Ridgway flycatcher, which he had taken here years before. We, of course, started in pursuit instantly, but the bird led us a long, weary chase, being about as elusive as Will-o'-the-Wisp. The note would be heard in the tree tops a short distance ahead, but when the

^b. Titian Peal was artist to Major Long's Expedition to the Rocky Mountains and drew on the spot all the new birds contained in the first volume. [Preface to original edition.] He also went to Florida to draw for Bonaparte's second volume, devoted as he said to the water birds.