

left of the French army on the retreat from Russia, yet History always puts it "Napoleon's Retreat From Moscow", and Ney is almost unheard of in it all except to students of that event. The same as Nelson is the central personal symbol of England on the sea, yet personally I doubt if his actual work equals Drake's at an earlier date in putting England in command of the waves. That item of personality cuts a huge figure in History, apparently--and as I said I do ~~know~~ not know just what History is, and cannot find out exactly. Numerous Chicago--New York gunman today exceed Jesse James as outlaws, but they lack the personality Jesse had, hence his fame, now gradually becoming heroic, and he will perhaps in time rank with Robin Hood, who in turn was no doubt far from being the worst outlaw of his own time. Crazy Horse was actually the best Indian general, apparently, but he seems to have lacked the personality that surrounds Red Cloud, and especially Sitting Bull. "Sheridan's Ride" is another sample--never occurred at all, he did it in an engine evidently--but now almost if not quite History--and in due time will be, probably--even though made of whole cloth, pure fiction. So just what History is please tell me, if you can? As near as I can estimate Herodotus is at least half fiction, for example, his figures do not check at all. In one place he has over two-million Persians, in another over five-million, and a clammy question "How did they eat?" renders his interesting accounts of that series of wars rather uncertain, to say the least. Also, I'd like to know how the Spartans in heavy armor could march 50 miles a day for three days to reach Marathon after the battle, and why the famous "Marathon Runner" travelled on foot when the Greeks had horses in the Olympic games? I read of how Cortez conquered Mexico, but today seldom mention even is made of the sick negro who spread smallpox among the Aztecs and probably caused a 1000 deaths to one who died from Spanish steel. So just who actually defeated the Aztecs I am in doubt, that sick nigger or Don Cortez? Yet such is History.