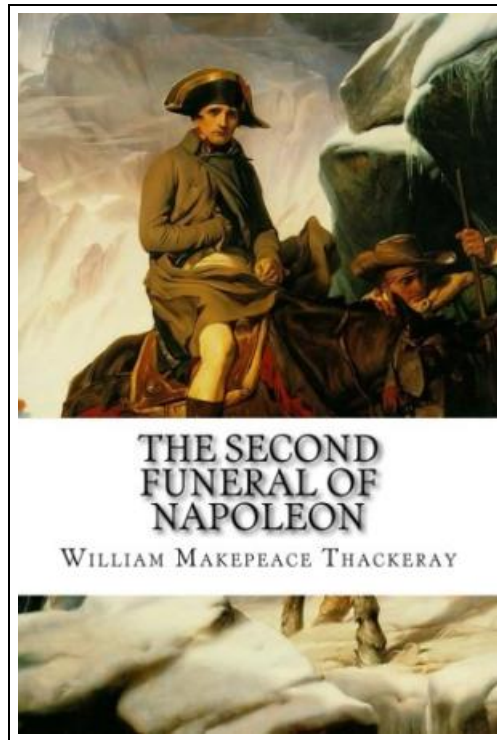


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## THE SECOND FUNERAL OF NAPOLEON (PAPERBACK)

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William Makepeace Thackeray (1811 - 1863) was an English novelist of the 19th century. He is famous for his satirical works, particularly *Vanity Fair*, a panoramic portrait of English society. Thackeray began as a satirist and parodist, writing works that displayed a sneaking fondness for roguish upstarts such as Becky Sharp in *Vanity Fair*, and the title characters of *The Luck of Barry Lyndon* and *Catherine*. In his earliest works, written under such pseudonyms as Charles James Yellowplush, Michael Angelo Titmarsh and George Savage Fitz-Boodle, he tended towards savagery in his attacks on high society, military prowess, the institution of marriage and hypocrisy. In *The Luck of Barry Lyndon*, a novel serialised in *Fraser's* in 1844, Thackeray explored the situation of an outsider trying to achieve status in high society, a theme he developed more successfully in *Vanity Fair* with the character of Becky Sharp, the artist's daughter who rises nearly to the heights by manipulating the other characters. Thackeray is probably best known now for *Vanity Fair*. In contrast, his large novels from the period after *Vanity Fair*, which were once described by Henry James as examples of loose baggy monsters, have largely faded from view, perhaps because they reflect a mellowing in Thackeray, who had become so successful with his satires on society that he seemed to lose his zest for attacking it. These later works include *Pendennis*, a Bildungsroman depicting the coming of age of Arthur Pendennis, an alter ego of Thackeray, who also features as the narrator of two later novels, *The Newcomes* and *The Adventures of Philip*. *The Newcomes* is noteworthy for its critical portrayal of the marriage market, while *Philip* is known for...

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