

*“Rest assured, General, I am very pleased to see you near me; if I had been given the choice of an officer, I would have preferred you, since I have long known your loyalty” (Napoleon to Count Beker).*

Extremely rare first edition of this account of General Beker to whom Fouché had entrusted, in July 1815, the task of watching Napoleon at Malmaison and then accompanying him to Rochefort.

A precious copy dedicated by the author to Pierre-Léon de Chazelles, a politician who would protest the coup d'état of Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte on December 2nd, 1851.

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[**NAPOLEON**]. **BEKER**, Comte. RELATION DE LA MISSION DU LIEUTENANT-GENERAL COMTE BEKER AUPRES DE L'EMPEREUR NAPOLEON depuis la seconde abdication jusqu'au passage à bord du Bellérophon. Clermont-Ferrand, De Pérol, 1841.

8vo of 140 pp.

Contemporary half-calf, decorated ribbed spine,

202 x 128 mm.

**EXTREMELY RARE FIRST EDITION** (Tulard, 119, only quotes the reprint of the text in the biography of Félix-Victor Martha-Beker published in 1876).

General Beker (1770-1840) writes this text from his memories.

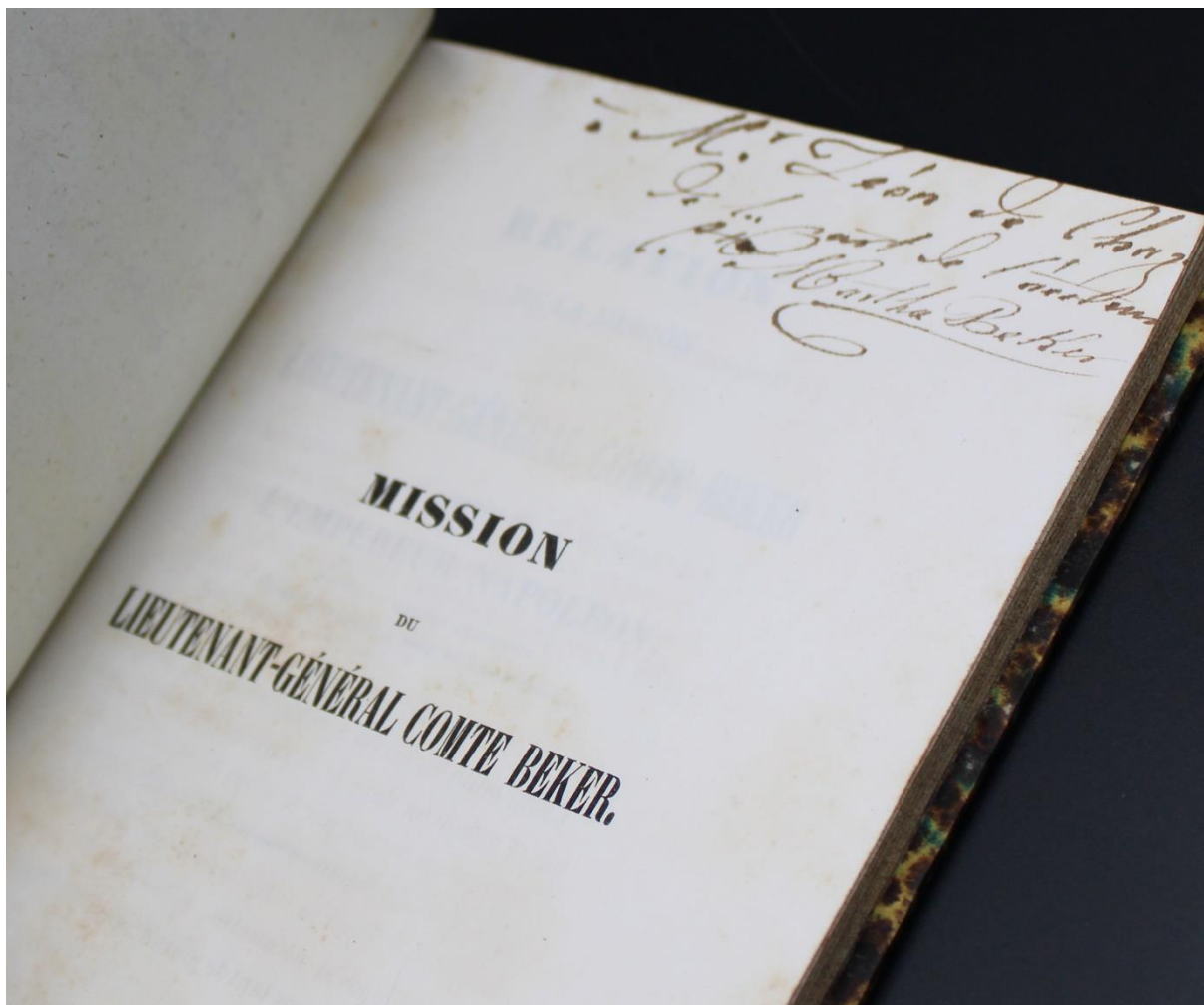
Fouché had in fact entrusted Count Beker, in July 1815, with the task of supervising Napoleon at Malmaison, then accompanying him to Rochefort.

From 1792 to 1797 General Beker campaigned with the armies of the North, in Valmy, Jemmapes, in Vendée, in the Alps, in Holland; he participated as battalion leader in the expedition of Saint-Domingue 1797. Wounded in Italy, he was taken prisoner in 1798. Brigadier-General in 1801 in the Army of the Rhine, he exercised a command in the Puy-de-Dôme. Major general, he was in Austerlitz, Prussia, Poland, Eylau, Essling. In 1808 he was disgraced by reckless remarks about the Spanish War. The Restoration recalled him. After Waterloo, he was in charge of the personal protection of Napoleon I of La Malmaison in Rochefort.

On June 22nd, 1815 Napoléon abdicates, the 29th he leaves Malmaison, on July 3rd he arrives at Rochefort, the 15th he surrenders to the English by boarding the Bellerophon. These dates mark the three weeks in which the fate of his last years and his legendary survival took place.

Fouché aimed for 4 objectives : to prevent Napoleon from regaining control by taking advantage of the demonstrations of the army and the people in his favor and for this distance him from the capital then from the French soil, to appear to be concerned with his security to appease his followers, to buy time to worry and reassure the allies with whom he was negotiating, and to achieve the definitive elimination of the sovereign and his dynasty from the political field.

In front of him, Napoleon seemed to oscillate according to the days and the hours between several intentions: reappearing as a simple saviour general at the head of the armies, disappearing anonymous in distant America, or asking for asylum in the near Great-Brittany to be ready for a possible return of situation.



**A PRECIOUS COPY DEDICATED BY THE AUTHOR TO PIERRE-LÉON BÉRARD DE CHAZELLES.**

A politician, Pierre-Léon Bérard de Chazelles ((1804 -1876) had, during the reign of Louis-Philippe, legitimate and Catholic opinions. He did not at first favour the personal plans of Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte and was one of the representatives who protested December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1851 against the coup d'état. He became mayor of Clermont-Ferrand.

**4 500 €**