

MODERN WARS ARE SHORT

BUT THE CONFLICTS ARE SEVERE WHILE THEY LAST.

The Trend of Things and the Spirit of the Age Enable Armed Conflicts to be Decided Sharply.

The only exception to the rule of short wars prevalent in this century have been civil conflicts waged among the people of the same country. A civil differs in many important respects from a conflict between independent states. It is characterized by greater bitterness, and, being carried on by the people rather than by the armies, rages in every country town and neighborhood and is protracted by the personal animosities of the people themselves. The American civil war lasted four years, the last insurrection in Cuba

CONTINUED TEN YEARS.

the last Carlist war in Spain was carried on for a period of four years, a previous insurrection among the Basques continued from 1830 to 1840, while the civil strife in the same region, following the pacification elsewhere after the downfall of Napoleon, continued seven years. These are the longest wars of this century; the remainder were seldom protracted beyond the second campaign.

The war between China and Japan lasted less than a year, for the signal success of the Japanese on sea and land resulted in the complete collapse of the Chinese military system, and overtures of peace were made as soon as the fact was clearly apprehended in Peking. The next serious conflict before that was the war between Turkey and Russia, which began early in the spring of 1877 and lasted through the summer. Military operations were suspended during the winter, and in the following spring peace was concluded before the season for campaigning began. The passage of the Danube, the heroic defence of Plevna, the bloody struggles for the Shipka passes, the naval operations on the Black Sea, the sieges of Batoum and Kars, the Bulgarian massacres, the complete defeat and dispersal of the army of Suleiman Pasha, the interference of the British Government, the passage of the Dardanelles by the ironclads, all were crowded into a period of less than a year.

The tremendous war between France and Prussia lasted only one year. War was declared in midsummer, and before the following spring the conflict was over, Gravelotte and Sedan, the sieges of Metz and Paris, the occupation of all northern and central France

BY THE GERMAN HOSTS.

the horrors of the commune and the suppressions of the insurrection by the troops of the line in the streets of Paris, crowded upon each side like the incidents of a melodrama, and before the astonished world fully realized the actual state of the case, France was prostrated and united Germany, consolidated into an empire, was the leading State of Central Europe.

The war of 1866 between Austria and Prussia is known in history as the Seven Weeks' War. The war was proclaimed June 18, the battle of Koeniggratz followed in a few days, and the decisive overthrow of the Austrian arms on that memorable field led the Government at Vienna to ask for peace at once. The petition was granted, and on August 23 the treaty was concluded by which peaceful relations were resumed. The Schleswig-Holstein war lasted but a few days, all the active campaigning being over in a week; but then this conflict was not really a war at all, for the helplessness of Denmark against the two powerful robbers which despoiled their territory led the Government of Denmark to conserve the lives of its men, and only a show of resistance was made.

The war which freed northern Italy from the dominion of the Austrians, and made the peninsular kingdom a possibility, was waged between May 12 and July 12, sixty days covering not only the preliminary operations of the war, but also the negotiations of peace. All the actual campaigning was done in three weeks, Magneta being fought on June 4, and the battle of Solferino on June 24. The latter virtually concluded the war by satisfying the Austrians that there was no hope of ultimate success.

The last war between England and Russia, commonly known as the Crimean war, lasted about two years, being declared on March 28, 1854, and peace being proclaimed March 30, 1856. The Crimean war originated in a dispute between France, Russia and Turkey as to the guardianship of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Russia claimed the honor, of controlling the holy places by virtue of the fact that they were nominally under the rule of Greek ecclesiastics, while the Sultan, as lord of the land declared that

THE SHRINES OF THE HOLY CITY

were his own peculiar property. War between Russia and Turkey began, and was continued for a considerable time before the other powers of Europe participated in the struggle; but when the purpose of Russia to lay violent hands on as much of Asia Minor as could be appropriated became evident, England and France interfered, and Victor Emmanuel, then king of Sar-

dinia, sent a small contingent of troops to give his country a position among the European States. The allied forces—English, French, Sardinian and Turkish—landed at Eupatoria, in the Crimea, on September 14, 1854; the battle of the Alma was fought and the heights above the stream were carried by a desperate assault; the advance to Balaklava followed immediately, and on September 20, six days after the crossing of the Alma, the Russians were driven from their entrenchments and the allies moved on towards Sebastopol. The investment began on Oct. 17, 1854, and the siege continued until September 8, 1855, when a general assault was made, portions of the Russian line were taken, and that night the Russian army evacuated the city, the allies marching in on the following day. The siege was thus one of the longest of the century, lasting almost a year, its results were accepted by the Czar as conclusive and negotiations for peace at once began.

The wars resulting from the French revolution lasted, with short intervals of peace, from 1793 to 1815, but, through the whole period was virtually one protracted struggle, the individual wars of this time were short. Napoleon had the faculty of being able to overcome his enemy in a single campaign, and rarely were two necessary to accomplish his purpose. Napoleon's campaign in Italy in 1796 was enough for Austria, and a treaty followed. The battle of Marengo, in 1800, decided the fate of all North Italy, and was followed by peace; the campaign of Austerlitz resulted in the complete overthrow of the Austrian military power in 1805, and the Austrian Emperor was glad to make terms with the conqueror. Prussia was prostrated in a single campaign, which ended with the triumph at Jena in 1806. Napoleon subdued Spain in one summer, though the French did not count upon the guerilla warfare immediately inaugurated by the Spanish chiefs against the invaders, which ultimately brought assistance from England, and was one of the contributing causes of the downfall of the great empire.

The Russian army could not resist the advance of Napoleon, and the overwhelming defeat at Borodino, in 1812, gave him possession of the ancient capital of the Czars. The Emperor, however, could not overcome the elements. As Victor Hugo says: "Napoleon was conquered by God." He was not prepared for

THE TERRIBLE RUSSIAN WINTER and the arctic winds, snow and sleet accomplished what the arms of man had never been able to effect. The fall of the great Corsican was as swift as his rise to power. One campaign, ending at Leipsic, sent him to Elba; from Elba he returned, and with an expedition that seemed almost supernatural, prepared to take the field. The second empire lasted but 100 days, yet in this time were comprised the march from Paris into Belgium and the mighty struggle at Waterloo.

The shortness of the wars of recent times is not by any means accidental, but attributable entirely to the conditions which now prevail. In former centuries war was carried on by kings and noblemen, through personal motives to gain private ends or gratify individual piques, often petty slights or affronts such as are now regarded as unimportant. Monarchs and noblemen are now the servants instead of the masters of their people, and the restraint thrown about them by legislative bodies are such as often forbid their personal ambitions or animosities from involving a nation in war.

AN INTERESTING CLOCK.

Over 200 Years Old and Still Keeps Good Time.

A most interesting time-piece is the clock standing in William the Fourth's bedroom at Hampton Court, and which Messrs. Gaydon & Sons, of Kingston, were recently commissioned to repair, says the London Mail.

The clock was made by Dan Quare about the year 1660, and is one of the most remarkable pieces of automatic mechanism in existence. It is what is commonly known as a "grandfather clock," standing in a very tall oak case, with heavy ornate mounts. There are several particulars in which this clock is almost, if not quite unique. In the first place it goes for twelve months at a time without winding. But most remarkable than this is its ingenious mechanism. It is what is known as a "calendar" clock, and besides recording the days of the month, and the months of the year, it also automatically shows the time of sunrise and sunset.

The last time the clock was overhauled was early in the present century. For the last forty years, however, the clock had not been wound up. It speaks well for the splendid workmanship of our ancestors that, with slight exceptions, Messrs. Gaydon found the works in as perfect a condition as when the clock was originally made, and there is no reason why it should not last for another 200 years.

A HAPPY THOUGHT.

Treasurer Below Par Railroad—Let me help you to some more of the money.

First Director—No thank you, I have all I can spend without attracting attention.

Treasurer—Permit me—

Second Director—No, No! Thanks, no. I couldn't carry another cent. Pockets all bursting now. Same way with all the others.

Treasurer, in despair—What shall I do with all this pile? It's ten times too much for the sinking fund.

First Director after deep meditation—By Jove! I have it. Let's declare a dividend.

On the Farm.

MARKETING POTATOES.

Farmers remote from market or shipping stations should not try to grow extensively such bulky crops as the potato. Forty bushels to a load is about as much as most farmers will care to take to market, and if the roads be hilly, thirty-five bushels will make over a ton weight, which is enough for most teams to take over hilly roads to market. As a successful potato grower aims to secure two hundred bushels per acre, it will take five loads at forty bushels each to clear an acre. Whether these loads have to be carried one, two, three or four from that up to ten or twelve miles, becomes the all-important question when a farmer has many acres to market. Twelve miles will allow only one load to be carried per day, and return with the team at night. When a shipping station is from one to three miles distant several loads can be marketed per day and this cost can be reduced to the lowest amounts. It is usually the habit of large potato growers to send off most of their crop in the fall, even though the price be then low, as it usually is. Nine years out of ten the time when farmers are busily digging their potatoes is the best time to lay in a supply for the whole year. When the farmer is digging potatoes, if their skins have become hardened so that they will not easily peel, he can well afford to sell potatoes 5 cents a bushel cheaper than after he has been to the trouble to pit the potatoes, or to carry them to the barn basement or cellar.

Where there is a good crop of potatoes, it is easy to load up wagons from the field as the potatoes are dug, taking out only those of marketable size, and leaving the small and unmarketable ones to be picked up later. By picking up the potatoes, making a path wide enough for a wagon and far enough into the field to load it, a load of thirty-five or forty bushels may be very quickly gathered. This makes one handling of the potatoes, and any one who has been used to handling this bulky crop understands that farmers who have two thousand bushels or more to handle are glad to get rid of a large part of this burden, even if it is at a lower price. Besides, at potato-digging time the roads are better than they are likely to be later and it is easier work drawing off the crop, thus making an additional argument for early marketing. We have known farmers who lived several miles from the shipping station to either build storehouses there, where their potatoes could be kept, or to hire room of some shipper for this purpose. Then the potatoes can be drawn to the storehouse, which should have a coal stove in it, to secure protection against sudden cold spells. Here the potatoes may be kept all winter, ready to take advantage of any rise in the market. The trouble is, however, that if farmers generally do this no rise in price is apt to come. It sometimes happens that potatoes become suddenly scarce in some cities in very cold weather, because it is difficult and unsafe to move potatoes very far in such weather. Where the potato crop is grown largely, most railroads are willing to provide lined cars with stoves, in which potatoes may be carried even through zero temperatures without being touched by frost. All that is necessary is a space of confined air between the potatoes and the outside of the car, which when it cuts through air at zero temperature is very sure to be at the same temperature itself. Where there is snow enough for good sleighing, potatoes may be drawn on a sleigh several miles if the weather is not too cold and the potatoes are properly protected from exposure to the air. A team will draw, on the largest wagon box, all that can be put on it if the sleighing is good. We once drew a wagon box with thirty-five bushels of potatoes in it nearly four miles when the temperature was below freezing point. But we covered the top well with blankets and nailed cleats on the inside of the box, so as to keep the potatoes from coming in contact with it. Wood is a poor conductor of heat anyway, and possibly the potatoes would not have been frost bitten if we had not taken this precaution. Besides this, we put the potatoes in bags in the cellar, so that they were probably several degrees above freezing, as also the air in the bags, before we started with the load. Yet with all the trouble we took those potatoes brought no more per bushel than those potatoes we had marketed from the field when dug the fall before. Potatoes are often higher late in the spring than at any other time in the year. But the potato by this time has wasted from shrinkage if not from rot, and unless kept at very close to the freezing temperature it has had to be sprouted once or twice, thus still further lessening its weight, and also its nutritive value. The moral of all this is that it does not pay for ordinary farmers to keep potatoes for higher prices. Those who have the facilities for keeping potatoes at nearly freezing temperature may do it with less loss, but even they cannot make sure that it will pay. But for all others there is almost a certainty that there will be some loss and occasionally this loss will be a disastrous one. Every few years there is a great potato crop, which successively drags down the price from fall till winter, then on to spring, and finally in summer the potatoes can hardly be given away. It is a crop which cannot easily be kept, and, except in years of real scarcity there is rarely enough advance in

spring to pay the extra cost of keeping until that time.

SECURING CLOVER SEED.

The second crop of common red clover may or may not produce an abundance of seeds. A few heads should be rubbed out and this fact determined before any labor is spent upon securing it as a seed crop.

There are two or three ways of cutting it. The common reaper with sweep-rake is often used—that is, it is cut just as a piece of oats or barley would be. Sometimes it is mowed, but this gets more of the stalks than is necessary to secure the seed. This is not objectionable, except that it takes a little longer to cure it and more labor to thresh it. The cut material is left in the field until it is well cured and usually quite black and the stems brittle. It is then raked up when it is a little damp and bunched. As soon as the material gets entirely dry, the bunches may be rolled over so that the lower part as well as the top, will be dry. The only question is as to getting the material into the barn dry. If it has been thrown off in bunches by an automatic rake, the bunches may be so large that they will have to be turned once in order to be fully cured.

Having it in the barn, it is usual to thresh it when the weather is cold and dry in mid-winter. Machines are now made for not only threshing the straw, but also for rubbing out the seeds from the hulls and cleaning them, all at one operation. If such a machine cannot be procured, then the material may be trampled by the horses, and after the barn floor is full of chaff—that is, four to six inches deep—the horses are put upon it and kept there until they have hulled the greater part of the chaff, which is then run through a common fan. That part of the chaff which falls nearest to the mill, of course, will still contain seeds. This is put back upon the floors and the horses put upon it again and the greater part of it again re-cleaned. In this way most of the seed which the chaff contains can be secured. Or, if the seed is wanted for home use, it may be sowed in the chaff. Unless clover seed yields two bushels to the acre, it will hardly pay for the labor of saving it.

MIXING FERTILIZERS WITH MANURE.

Farmers have not yet resorted to mixing the fertilizers with manure, such a course being extra labor, for which no corresponding benefit is derived; but it has been found an excellent plan to reinforce the manure with such ingredients as may be lacking in the heap. It would occasion a loss to add any kind of nitrogenous substance to the manure heap, as decomposition would cause the gaseous nitrogen to escape in the form of ammonia. The insoluble phosphates can, however be added to the manure with advantage, as chemical action will render the material soluble. A great many combinations occur in the manure heap, and the heat generated is evidence that all the substances composing the mass are breaking down and gradually changing, new forms coming out of the old, and plant food prepared that will be immediately available in the soil. Such material as ground bone, bone meal, and phosphate rock, are not proof against the destructive influences of the manure heap, and when combined with the manure in the fall become suitable for plants by the time spring opens, their decomposition however, being too slow to permit of any loss of consequences in the heap. Fertilizers may be mixed with manure also at time of applying the manure to the soil, and with advantage whether such work is performed at this season or in the spring. One point to observe with fertilizers is that the phosphates are not always soluble, and they are also liable to "revert" in the soil, even when the phosphoric acid is free, but the potash compounds are always soluble and may be carried off by rains, melting snows, or from the surface by being washed away. The nitrogenous fertilizers are nearly all soluble also, and the same risks as with the potash compounds are incurred, hence the time to apply fertilizers is when there will be less loss through the agency of water. Phosphates may therefore be applied in the fall and lime is never applied to manure in the heap, as it assists in liberating ammonia, but there are farmers who affirm that they have derived benefit from the addition of air-slacked lime to the manure just before spreading the manure on a field to be ploughed under, which is no doubt true where coarse manure was used.

A FAMILY AFFAIR.

Rich Uncle—You might as well stop moaning about Miss Beauty. She hasn't been in love with you, after all. She's been after the money she thought you would inherit from me.

Nephew—Impossible! Why do you think so?

Rich Uncle—I have proposed to her myself and been accepted.

HEARD ON DADDY.

My papa makes pictures and he's a painter, said one little tot proudly to another.

My papa, declared the other, as she swelled to the limits of her tiny proportions, makes busts and he's a—he's a—his a buster, that's what he is.

SNAKES AS DECORATIONS

Samoa Dancing Girls Wreath Themselves With Reptiles.

For the most part the Pacific islands are destitute of snakes. That is absolutely the case in Hawaii. In New Zealand, equally free of these reptiles, the only knowledge which the Maoris had of snakes may be found in a legend of a monster called the tanuiwa, concerning which authorities differ as to whether it is the ancestral and dim recollection of a snake or of an alligator. All the eastern islands of Polynesia between these two outposts are snakeless. Westward from Hawaii, down among the Gilberts and the Marshalls and the Carolines, the square-bodied water snake begins to make its appearance in the lagoons and harbors. By the time the Philippines are reached the water snakes become both common and deadly, and the jungles of those islands are abundantly supplied with snakes. From the Philippines, as one follows down the chains of islands, snakes are found both abundant and venomous. In the wild lands of the Western Pacific the reptiles are frequently objects of worship, and in some legends are credited with the creation of the world.

Samoa seems to lie just on the boundary line of snakes in the Pacific. In eastern islands of the archipelago no snakes are to be found. In Upolu a few are seen at rare intervals. Savaii, only a few miles to the westward, they are common and attain great size, in the case of some kinds at least. None of them are venomous, and the islanders neither fear them nor exhibit any of that repugnance to their presence which is commonly called instinctive.

This indifference to the reptiles is made most markedly manifest at the hamlet of Iva, on the northeast coast of Savaii. Here are to be found small snakes of a most brilliant red color. They are so common that a basketful may be easily picked up in any lagoon patch. The dancing girls of this town are in the habit of employing these gaudy snakes for personal adornment in their dances. They tie them about their necks, their ankles and their wrists, festoon them in their head-dresses and tuck a few extra ones in the belt in readiness to replace such as escape in the dance. At their best these sivas danced by the Samoans are either dull or revolting shows of snaggery. It can easily be imagined that they are made no more attractive when the taupou or village maid and her crew of attendant girls go caroling about with an assortment of writhing red snakes. Still the Samoans, who have no stock of snake prejudices, look upon this as one of the most successful and artistic dances in their islands.

"ALL ABOARD FOR CONGO!"

Rapid Progress of the World's Queerest Railway.

There's a four-spur terminal at the "Gare de Dolé" Stanley Pool; a spur to the Belgian headquarters, one to the workmen's camp, one to the English mission, one to the Dutch Company's compound, and one to the lower rapids. This is the end of the Congo railroad, the most picturesque in the world. Consider the varieties of queer people at work upon it—Monrovia Liberian negroes whose capital was named after President Monroe Sierra-Leones, Kru boys, Popos, Senegalis, Zanulars, Eriminas, Wydahs, Haussas, Zanzibarans, even Chinese—to do the hard work; Belgians, Swiss, Italians, Frenchmen, Dutch, Danes, Englishmen, Greeks and Luxemburgers as engineers and foremen. Ten European languages and twenty African dialects are spoken here. The Tower of Babel stands all right.

It was only last March that the "locomotive triomphant" reached Stanley Pool, over a way by no means finished. The black laborers are in number some 20,000. Officially they are designated by numbers hung about their necks. As all coons look alike to the bosses, it is impossible to pronounce them otherwise. The foremen of them, unable to pronounce the African names, call their men by humorous titles, such as "Bottled Beer," "Daily Telegraph," "Lazy Dog," "What your name?" an overseer will demand of a big, six-foot Kruology. "Scot" Wisky, sar," the laborer will eagerly respond. And "Scot" Wisky will be to his dying day.

Chinese laborers, contrary to experience elsewhere, are not a success in the Congo. The climate knocks them out. Of 500 taken there 350 died in short time. The natives stand the climate well. All the laborers are free and are paid, fairly paid—from \$7 to \$8 a month and "found."

The carpenters and other mechanics are all black Mahometans at from 50 cents to \$2 a day.

Among 20,000 men some will be along the route it is a common thing to see the grave of a black laborer adorned by the loving care of his wife with a spread umbrella, a pair of boots, a cooking pot, a wooden dish and other aesthetic allurement.

Travel on the Congo railroad is exactly cheap. Fares for passengers have been fixed at 1 fr. 25c. per kilometre—about \$1 for each three miles.

HRR WORST FAULT.

Isn't it difficult, Mrs. Jones, to get along with a girl that uses such broken English?

Oh, I don't mind that so much, her broken China that sets me

DAWSON EXPECTS A B

THE OUTLOOK IS VERY BRIGHTER IN THE KLONDIKE

Gold on the Hillside—Believed to be the richest This Year Will be Found. Output This Year Will be \$15,000,000—No Doubt. Lack of Food—Supply is Abundant. Prices Considerably Lower Than Last Year.

The camp seems to me to be one of a boom, and one that is more good and productive of actual mining than the last one, a correspondent.

Dawson is in appearance dull and over and no business is being done. Money is very scarce and it is impossible to borrow on good terms at ten per cent per month.

But the creeks have a very good appearance from that of last year. It is there that the source of the big boom may be seen. There are probably nearly two thousand men on bench claims on Eldorado, Bonanza creeks, and a major part are taking out pay. Many are working rich ground. Of course the creek beds only by sluicing the ground be worked in summer on the hillsides and benches the is comparatively shallow and free water. Consequently it is worked.

The pay dirt is washed in a very little bench mining was except at French Hill and Skidoo Gulch, but as the laboring men work at the end of the drifting away who had staked on the hill began prospecting. Many new had located hill claims, because was nothing else open. It now out much to the surprise of even that the hillside pay dirt is along nearly the whole length of the Bonanza and Eldorado. Pay dirt has been found on Bear, Hunker and other creeks in the similar deposits.

RICHER THAN EXPECTED

Very few of the claim owners much about what they are taking for the royalty is still on, but that they are all working hard mining, and not simply prospecting the best proof that their claim paying well. These benches should produce this summer over more than \$1,000,000, and possibly that sum. Work will cease on them when cold weather comes many of the owners who take considerable sums will want to get this money in small sums with mining investments here in winter.

Owing to the enforcement of royalty but few creek claims were closed for summer sluicing, but those which are being worked considerable gold is being taken. In these cases the claim had been worked and were known to be they should yield nearly if not \$2,000,000. This, with the yield of the hill claims, will bring the for the year up to more than \$12,000,000, and probably to nearly \$15,000,000. However, no accurate estimate ever be made, for there can be no considerable was stolen, and not reported, and some of the mine are doubtless refrained from making all returns in order to avoid the law.

WAGES WILL BE LOWER.

Every one who owns a claim, and with a good reputation is important for lays, and many will especially on Dominion and other. However, wages promise to be lower than last year, and as for a number of mine owners preparing to hire men and board them will make a large saving. If they are early for predictions, but as if much more work will be done this coming winter than last, there are here many men representing capital, most of them from London, who will be divided into three classes, the men looking for property which to take in the public; those who are looking for legitimate investments. These last can find all the properties they want at very low prices provided they are willing to pay down some money to guarantee of good faith. Mine owners here will not give long opportunities of capital here, and there will be some time. To the outside taken out to enough money is this is not so, the bulk of it is run away each year by the traders and by those who are selling and leaving the camp for good.

PLENTY OF FOOD.

There shall be a great number of people coming in over the past now on without outfits, food and ready twenty-six steamer loads have been up, and many boats are on the river. A number of steamers are here and Munook. These are of considerable amount, and the steamers bound for Dawson bridge in tow part way down the river. Their last trips will stop at Dawson on the river below here.