

Cost of War in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries.

The Pall Mall Gazette has the following observations:—An exhaustive comparison of the cost of war now and formerly would be a most instructive and somewhat appalling document. It would be impossible to draw out such a contrast with complete accuracy; but it might be done approximately. The expenses of war in a country comprise many items:—The size of armies and navies; the cost of transport; the price of arms and ammunition; the slaughter directly or indirectly caused; the extent and complication of the fortifications constructed and destroyed; and the waste of civilization of the district which is the seat of war. Some of these can be ascertained or estimated; others can only be guessed at. Thus the siege and destruction of a fortress, the capture of a city, the transport of troops, materials and the commissariat, Railways do now, and do far more rapidly and cheaply, what bullocks and wagons did for Frederick the Great and the Duke of Wellington. In the campaigns of the last century, in all the chief theatres of the Seven Years' War, the Prussians never had more than seventy thousand men in the field, and very rarely half that number. In only two or three cases did the aggregate of the combatants on both sides reach one hundred thousand. Even in the early battles of Napoleon, the forces engaged were what would now be considered small. Before Waterloo he never had more than one hundred thousand men in the field, and seldom nearly as many. At Marengo he had only thirty thousand. It was not on the day of his downfall approached that he began to deal with corps d'armee as numerous and colossal as those with which the wars of our days are making us familiar. At Borodino and Dresden a quarter of a million were engaged, and at Leipzig a hundred and thirty thousand. In the Peninsular wars, the British force with which our great Duke won his Peninsular victories never once, we believe—at least not more than once—reached fifty thousand; and his army, even reckoning the Spaniards and Portuguese, seldom more exceeded that number. At the crowning victory of Waterloo the forces on both sides were under one hundred and forty thousand, and of these not one-third were English. Compare these armies with the three hundred thousand who fought at Solferino, the four hundred and twenty thousand at Sadowna, and the multitudes, often exceeding a quarter of a million, with which the Americans tried the terrible issues of their civil controversy, and the advances made in recent times, if it be an advance, will be obvious at once.

"It is some comfort to know that the slaughter in our days, in spite of our mightier artillery and our more accurate projectiles, is not proportioned to the number engaged. Why this should be so we are not prepared to say, and we are aware that the popular impression is a different one; but we believe the facts would be found to bear out. In Frederick's wars the proportion of killed and wounded on both sides to the force in the field ranged from one-sixth to one-tenth, and at the peculiar battle of Zorndorf far exceeded this ratio. In Napoleon's campaigns it was still higher, often exceeding a fifth; and in the Eylau and Borodino it is said to have reached a third. In some of the cases, perhaps, the 'missing' may have been included, but not usually. Alison's calculation is, that from 1792 to 1816, three millions of French soldiers perished in the field or in the hospitals; and at least an equal number out of the ranks of their antagonists. The proportion of the slain and disabled in the American battles is not known with any accuracy, but probably no one would place it higher than one-tenth; while in the Italian battles of 1859 it is estimated at scarcely more than a twelfth, and at Sadowna about a thirtieth. Still, though the proportion is less than it used to be, the positive number who fall is even greater, and the cost in life therefore heavier. If we compare the cost of the arms and artillery now in use, and their suitable ammunition, with the rude and cheaper weapons which contented us in the last war, some of the figures are very startling. The cost of ammunition for a man-of-war used to be roughly \$1000 per gun; a three-decker cost, therefore, \$100,000 or \$120,000. A first-rate iron-plated vessel cannot, we believe, be completed under half a million, and some of our experimental ships are understood to have cost nearly twice that sum. A Mine or an Eclair rifle, with its cartridge, is nearly five times as expensive as the old Brown Bess. Even before conversion into a breech-loader, an Enfield (complete) cost upwards of £5. We doubt if we doubt the fact that the manufactured wholesale costs much above £1. The rifled twelve-pounder now in favor for field batteries cost £20, and each shell it fires four shillings. The brass nine-pounder, which it superseded, cost £20, and its shell £3. But as this would be worth as old metal £50, while the iron gun would scarcely sell for anything, the true comparative figures would be £90 against £50. Lastly, the 68-pounder, formerly in use for fortifications and shore batteries, cost £100, its carriage and slide another £100, and its shot £5. The Armstrong nine-inch twelve-ton gun, with which we should now arm our forts, costs one thousand two hundred pounds, and its iron carriage and slide three hundred pounds more, while the steel shells it fires cost, as we stated a few weeks since, nine pounds each. The Palliser shell, which will probably supersede these, can be made for forty-five shillings. If the more costly missile be used, every shot we fire in the next war from our great embrasures will be worth a ten-pound note."

Josh Billings on Mosquitoes. Mr. Billings thus expresses himself on the mosquitoes:—"We are told that there want anything more in this world, than to sum up what have thought the time spent in manufacturing musketoze must have been wasted. If the musketoze would how they were ever put together I never could tell; and there is one common-sense peculiarity about the musketoze trade, and that is, the supply exceeds the demand, and yet the production is not diminished. They are born of poor but industrious parents, and are brought up with great care under the auspices of some of our best families. They have great impudence, and don't hesitate to stick their best friends with a bad bill. They have consummate courage. I have known a single musketoze to fly a man and his wife and child long, and draw the best blood. It is very easy to kill musketoze—when you can get them. When they are very apt to hit the exact place where they recently was. They are cheerful little creatures, singing as they toil."

The thirty remaining copies of Mr. Halliwell's large folio edition of Shakespeare have been bought for the American market at one hundred pounds each. A copy of this great work was sold in this city a few years since, at the sale of the library of the late William E. Burton. We forget the price it brought, but it was purchased, we understand at the time, for Mr. Halliwell himself. —Le Feu Tranquille, a periodical of Marcelles, has lately been suppressed for "having discussed, without authority, subjects of political economy, and outraged the Catholic religion." The editor, M. Boyennoz, was condemned at the same time to pay a fine of four hundred francs, and to undergo three months' imprisonment, while the printer had four months' imprisonment, and the fine of four hundred francs.

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