

need at the close of the Napoleonic campaigns. But the Alliance did not last long. It was shattered by dynastic quarrels and rival commercial interests, and its fine-spun hopes were torn to pieces before Sebastopol, in the campaigns of Schleswig-Holstein and Denmark, and on the battle-fields of Puebla, Magenta, Sadowa, Gravelotte, and Plevna.

Its place in European politics was taken by the Triple Alliance on the one hand, and its counterpoise on the other—the *entente* or treaty between France and Russia. These served, after a fashion, to keep the peace. But it was a cumbrous ‘armed peace’ that was only a little less burdensome and costly than actual war. These alliances were based on considerations of mere self-interest. And therein lies the death of the hope that they will long survive or effect much or any lasting good. Of the members of the Triple Alliance, Germany has to keep her grip on Alsace and Lorraine; Italy has an old grudge against France for having seized Nice and Savoy in requital for services rendered at Magenta and Villafranca; and Austria claims a free hand a wider field of influence in the Balkan States. Besides their more immediate and pressing domestic concerns, Russia and France are looking abroad and seeking feverishly to extend their sphere of commercial influence—the one in Equatorial and Western Africa, Tunis, Tonquin, Siam, and China; the other in Turkestan, Persia, India, China, and Japan. Both these alliances have been ostensibly formed to preserve the peace, ‘but their real purpose,’ says LEIBBRAND, ‘is more than ever conquest and power.’ Their mutual distrusts and conflicting interests have paralysed their hands at a time when they might have to some extent justified their existence and won a shred of decent renown by striking a much-needed blow for the cause of outraged humanity in the Ottoman Empire. The chance came when the Armenian Christians were being robbed and massacred by the brutalised soldiery of the ‘unspeakable Turk.’ Any two of the six great European Powers had at hand the means to effectually force the Turk to relinquish his cruel persecution of the Armenians, to punish the delinquents, and to compel the payment of indemnities to the families of the victims. One or two of the Powers were, in fact, favourable to intervention over the Armenian horrors. But mutual distrust stood in the way, and the helpless excuse was sent forth to the world: ‘Isolated action against Turkey would bring on a European war.’ This poor plea was, in the words of RUSSELL WALLACE, ‘a worse condemnation of the Powers than their mere failure to act.’

The Austro-Prussian conflict of 1866, the Mexican campaign, and the gigantic Franco-German struggle were all dynastic wars. They had no sufficient cause, and neither secured, nor were they intended to secure, the well-being of the States engaged in them. But by far the greater number of the wars of the past one hundred and thirty years were wars of commerce. Once on a time kings used to declare war; then cabinets; now it is the Chamber of Commerce and the Stock Exchange. There was a time, as in the Crusading days, when nations fought for a sentiment. But the days of wars of sentiment have passed away. Nowadays the nations are jealously elbowing and jostling each other to secure themselves in their old markets, and to stretch out their hands to set a grip upon the new. For this we have an Eastern Question, and boundary disputes in Alaska and Venezuela, and trouble with Russia on the Persian Gulf, and a Fashoda incident, and a tangle of conflicting ‘spheres of influence’ on the African Continent, and a Samoan imbroglio, and a war with the Transvaal and Free State Boers. For this European peoples are burdened with the maintenance of colossal fleets and armies which afford no hopes of disarmament in our day. Russia’s people die by thousands of famine. But her great military railways and her troop-massing go steadily on. Italy has been driven to the farthest verge of national bankruptcy. But she faces revolution rather than reduce her armaments. France’s war-budget is £35,600,000; Germany’s £44,000,000. The mere armies of the six great European Powers count, on a peace-footing, close on three million men. If we include those permanently attached to the several fleets, the number would considerably exceed three millions. The annual expenditure of the six Powers on and in connection with

war exceeds £180,000,000. ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE has the following comment on these figures in his most recent work, *The Wonderful Century*:—

Now, as the average wages of a working man (or his annual expenditure), considering the low wages and the mode of living in Russia, Italy, Austria, and the other Continental States, cannot be more than, say, twelve shillings a week, or £30 a year, an expenditure of £180,000,000 implies the constant labour of at least six million other men in supporting this monstrous and utterly barbarous system of national armaments. If to this number we add those employed in making good the public or private property destroyed in every war, or in smaller military or naval operations in Europe, we shall have a grand total of about ten million men withdrawn from all useful or reproductive work, their lives devoted directly or indirectly to the Moloch of war, and who must therefore be supported by the remainder of the working community.

And yet the ‘working community’ tosses its cap and huzzas for wars, the sole or principal object of which is to provide fresh markets or fields of investment for those who hold the money-bags. Verily, it is ‘a wonderful century.’

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

The last issue of the *Tasmanian Monitor* contains an interesting and very readable sketch of portions of the Diocese of Dunedin, from the pen of the Rev. T. Kelsh, of Westbury, Tasmania, who was here on a visit a few weeks ago.

Some time ago we mentioned that the Catholics of Middlemarch had purchased a section of land as a site for a church. We now understand that they intend to build a new church very soon, and with the object of assisting in the raising of the necessary funds a bazaar is to be held there on December 28, and continued on the two following days. The ladies of the congregation are now actively engaged in making preparations for this event, which promises, from the generous offers of support made to the Rev. Father Lynch and the committee, to be the best of its kind ever held in the district.

The bazaar in aid of the Catholic Church, Port Chalmers, was brought to a close on Saturday evening. A number of action-songs and dances were given by the children, and songs were contributed by Miss Swanson, Mr. and Mrs. Fillingham, and Mr. Fottrell, Miss Morkane acting as accompanist. Before the proceedings closed the Rev. Father McMullen took the opportunity of thanking his Worship the Mayor, the lady stallholders, especially Miss Staunton of Dunedin, who had furnished the Spanish stall at her own expense, the children who had contributed so much to the entertainment of the visitors, and the band. The cash results of the bazaar, he stated, exceeded £300, sufficient to pay off the parochial debt, and leaving a substantial sum on hand towards the erection of a new convent for the Sisters of St. Joseph. In the list of stallholders in our last issue the names of Mrs. Shaw and Miss Hungerford, who were connected with the refreshment stall, were inadvertently omitted.

WEDDING BELLS.

NYHON—HUTCHEON.

A pretty wedding took place recently at St. Patrick’s Basilica, South Dunedin, the contracting parties being Mr. Daniel Nyhon, eldest son of Mr. John Nyhon, Sandymount, and Miss Agnes Hutcheon, eldest daughter of Mr. George Hutcheon, Seal Point. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Father McMullen, of Port Chalmers. The bride, who was attired in a costume of cream brocade, trimmed with satin and chiffon, was given away by her father, and was attended by her three sisters, Misses Margaret, Catherine, and Jean Hutcheon, as bridesmaids. Mr. James Nyhon, brother of the bridegroom, acted as best man. A large number of friends witnessed the ceremony, after which the wedding party drove to the residence of the bride’s parents at Seal Point, where the breakfast was laid. The bridegroom’s gift to the bride was a gold brooch set with emeralds and sapphires, and to each of the bridesmaids a gold brooch. Several valuable wedding presents were received by the newly-wedded couple.

OBITUARY.

MISS MARIA M’NULTY, CROMWELL.

We regret to record the death of Miss Maria M’Nulty, second daughter of the late Mr. James M’Nulty, which occurred at Cromwell on the 20th inst, at the early age of 21 years. The funeral took place on November 22, and was the largest seen in the district for a number of years, showing the great respect in which the deceased was held. The Rev. Father Hunt conducted the burial service. At the cemetery six young ladies, former schoolmates of Miss M’Nulty, acted as bearers.—*R.I.P.*

Messrs. Louis Gille and Co., the well-known booksellers of Sydney, draw attention to their list of new books and annals. Among the latter is the *Catholic Home Annual* which contains 64 full-page and other illustrations and stories by the best authors, and for which orders are now being booked.—.

SCOTT, COMMIN & CO.,
Loans Negotiated. Rents Collected.

HOUSE, LAND, ESTATE, FINANCIAL AND COMMISSION AGENTS, AND
ACCOUNTANTS. DOWLING STREET, DUNEDIN.
Sub-Agents South British Insurance Co.