

NOTICE.

Correspondents are particularly requested to bear in mind that to insure publication in any particular issue of the paper communications must reach this Office not later than Tuesday morning.

Correspondents forwarding obituary and marriage notices are particularly requested to be as concise as possible.

All communications connected with the literary department, reports, correspondence, newspaper cuttings, etc., should be addressed to the Editor.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Complaints re irregular Delivery of Paper should be made without delay to the Manager.

All Communications with the Commercial Department of the 'N.Z. Tablet' Newspaper are to be addressed to John Murray, Secretary, to whom all Post Office Orders and Cheques are in all instances to be made payable.

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NOTE.—Our limit of Credit is Six Months.

DEATH.

On 19th November, 1900, at Prospect Hall, County Waterford, Ireland, Patrick Reilly, father of Patrick and John Reilly, of Timaru aged 75 years.—*R.I.P.*



'To promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.'

LEO XIII. to the N.Z. TABLET.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1901.

A CENTURY'S WARS.



T seems as if the civilised nations of the world are destined to be for ever class-ridden. At one time the nobility were in the saddle. They held the reins and plied whip and spur so long that they became known in history as 'the ruling class.' But the Great Revolution altered all that at one stroke in France; and the industrial revolution by slower degrees in England. The invention of the spinning jenny by HARGREAVES in 1770, of the water-frame by ARKWRIGHT in the following year, of the 'mule' (which superseded both) by CROMPTON in 1779, and of the power-loom by CARTWRIGHT in 1785, broke up the old domestic system of manufactures and ushered in the era of the crowded factory. The steam-engine completed the revolution. Dean SWIFT lived long enough to see the new order of things so far advanced that he could write: 'The power which used to follow land has gone over to money.' DEFOE and DR. JOHNSON made the amazing discovery that a man engaged in commerce—or at least his son or grandson—might be a gentleman. The capitalist manufacturer fast became a factor in the national life. He finally unseated the man of acres, and became himself the man on horseback. Towards the close of the eighteenth century—and long before the click-clack of the piston-rod replaced the hum and grind of the water-wheel—the capitalists were able to stand on equal terms with the land-owners as the ruling class of Great Britain. PITT was the great statesman of the moneyed manufacturers. In their interests he committed his country to that policy of commercial wars which formed one of the most curious and melancholy features of the international relations of the century which has just

departed. Hitherto men had slit each others' throats on the battlefield for a sentiment or in the interests of a dynasty. PITT made war for the more practical purpose of finding fresh markets for the iron pots, patent ovens, cotton goods, and crockeryware of SMITH, BROWN, JONES, and ROBINSON. The vanished century was conspicuously one of earth-hunger, of greed, of territorial expansion, and of brute force; and to some extent it justifies the words applied by WASHINGTON IRVING to history in general: that it is 'a Newgate calendar, a register of the crimes and miseries that man has inflicted on his fellow-man.'

The revolution wrought by the inventions of HARGREAVES and ARKWRIGHT led—as GIBBINS points out in his *Industrial History of England*—to PITT's endeavor, in 1793, to strike down France, and thus secure for his country 'control of the world's markets.' The introduction of the steam-engine fixed the policy of expansion and commercial war, extended it, and made it permanent. This policy has guided successive Governments from the day of Waterloo to the outbreak of that curious combination of comedy, farce, and tragedy—of King Henry V., Falstaff, and Bombastes Furioso—which is still trying in vain to disentangle itself in South Africa. In the great war of 1793 to 1815 England had one signal advantage over Continental nations. While they, with Britain's effective aid, were carving each other up on their own soil—to the hopeless ruin of their manufacturing industries—she was the only European country in which war was not actually carried on. Throughout, her manufactures were undisturbed, and at the close of the struggle the ocean-carrying trade was left secure to her by her undisputed supremacy at sea. The long bull-dog struggle cost the nations engaged in it no less than 1,900,000 lives. It cost England £831,446,449. But its chief purpose was effected. In 1793—the year in which the band began to play—her exports were officially valued at £17,000,000. In 1800 they had risen to £34,000,000; and in 1815, when Johnny came marching home after the battle of Waterloo, England's exports had an officially declared value of £58,000,000.

From the manufacturers' point of view the war had been a conspicuous success. It was regarded by those most interested in the war as a mere coincidence that all the profits went into the fobs of the capitalist manufacturers, and that the war tax fell with frightful severity on the poor, until rank starvation goaded the gaunt artisans and agricultural laborers into riot. But discontent, though not allayed, was driven beneath the surface by the Manchester Massacre of 1819. It was kept pinioned there by the tyrannous 'Six Acts' that followed. The celebrated statistic Mr. GIFFEN tells us that so recently as 1830-31 'pauperism was nearly breaking down the country.' Ten years later, in 1841, there were no fewer than 1200 articles on the tariff, chiefly to meet the enormous annual charge on Great Britain's first big capitalist war. And for almost the first half of the nineteenth century English artisans and agricultural laborers toiled on in a state of degradation and misery of which no other time or country has ever produced a parallel. But human flesh was cheap. The steam flew through the throttle-valves and the wheels whirled round only the faster. The commercial magnates rose and multiplied. They ruled the foreign policy of the country. Wealthy soap-men and kettle-founders and dish-makers mingled their plebeian red corpuscles with the 'blue blood' of old titled families, and swelled the depleted purses of the scions of the needy aristocracy with coins wrung from the rugged hands of the under-fed, ill-paid, overwrought white slaves of England.

After the war which closed so dramatically at Waterloo Great Britain's trade expanded at an unexampled rate. Continental nations were crippled by the long-drawn struggle that had been fought out on their soil. Their manufactures were ruined, and they were thus precluded from serious competition with British capitalists till close on the middle of the century. Then the Crimean War broke out. The author of the *Industrial History of England* says that it 'gave a great stimulus to our [British] agriculture, and had a similar affect upon our manufactures. The Indian Mutiny which followed it,' he continues,

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