

them and long before the Holy Land is reached many a soldier of the cross has fallen a victim to the cause he espoused. The number killed during the Crusades is undoubtedly something calculated to stagger humanity. As stated by Fredet it would attain the enormous total of two million men. To refer to this frightful cutting off of the flower of Europe's manhood, however, as an argument to prove the evil effects of the Crusades certain considerations must not be forgotten. Had there been only one state or nation, which in fifteen or twenty years lost two million subjects, as happened when Napoleon Bonaparte ruled the destinies of France, then certainly could we proclaim the war disastrous. But writing four nations instead of one, and one hundred and seventy-five years in the place of fifteen, is not the face of the problem changed? That which, if absolutely taken, looked startling, dwindles into mere insignificance when viewed in the light of accompanying circumstances. An arithmetical illustration may help to make this plain. In 175 years 2,000,000 lives were lost, what was the loss for one year? for one month? for one day? Eleven thousand, four hundred and twenty-nine would have fallen in one year, nine hundred and fifty-one in a month, and thirty-two in one day. Thus all Europe lost by this war thirty-two men in a day, or reckoning on an average of four nations each lost about 8 men a day. Quite an argument surely to prove that the Crusades were disastrous to Europe.

Of similar force and cogency, is the argument based on the vast sums of money required to meet the war expenses. Absolutely considered, the burden of taxation must have been very heavy, but taking into account the long intervals between the successive Crusades, and the number of nations among which the debt was parceled out, we should not hesitate to set aside this item as altogether insufficient and undemonstrative. But even allowing the supposition, who will undertake to show, that poverty, under Catholic rulers, with the inestimable blessing of freedom of conscience, is not a boon—a priceless boon—and much to be preferred to the insupportable lot of those who were mercilessly ground under the iron heel of Mahometan despotism? For, be it remembered, the sons of Islam, had they entered and overrun Europe, would have pillaged and ransacked it from pillar