

upon the political, the social, the intellectual, and the material progress and development of the European nations.

In regard to the political effects, the Crusades helped to break down the power of feudal aristocracy, and to give prominence to the kings and people.

Their effects upon the social life of the western nations were marked and important. Given opportunity for romantic adventure, they were one of the principal fostering influences of chivalry.

The benefits of the Crusades to the intellectual development can hardly be overestimated. The knowledge and science, and the learning of the east gained by these expeditions stimulated the Latin intellects and resulted in a great revival of learning.

Among the benefits of this war upon the material development of Europe must be mentioned the great spur they gave to trade and commerce. The east was opened up. Many arts and manufactures and inventions were introduced from Asia. Lastly, an incentive was given to geographical discovery, inspiring later on the voyages of Columbus and others.

Take Spain, for example. When was she a great and prosperous nation? When were her people happy and united? Was it not when her army and navy were carrying on war? And what is she to-day? She has not a great army—she is at peace with nations. But is there not internal dissensions, anarchy and revolt against lawful authority? Only the other day the world was shocked by the cruel assassination of the King and the Crown Prince of Portugal. This was in a country where war is practically unknown, at least to the present generation. What do we find there to-day? Strife, anarchy and commercial inactivity.

In the more recent wars, as the great civil war in the United States, the Rebellion of 1837 in Canada, etc., everybody knows that great and lasting benefits have resulted from them.

The very necessity of war makes it beneficial for the prosperity of a nation. It is true that peace would be the ideal, but is the ideal found anywhere beyond the kingdom of the skies?

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