

struction as well as interest. The war in La Vendée was the war of the peasants, and a war chiefly for the freedom of religion. For the freedom of religion, the freedom of conscience, the freedom to have their own priests, and to worship God according to their own faith, they took up arms, and they did not lay them down till they had secured it. They were the true French patriots in the time of the Republic; the men who preserved fresh and living the France of St. Louis and the Crusaders, historical and traditional France, and it is not too much to say that they saved France in her darkest days, and prevented the continuity of her life from being broken by the madness and excesses of the revolution. They prove how much religion warms and strengthens patriotism, and that it can make undisciplined peasants able to cope successfully with the best drilled and appointed armies. When fighting for their religion, these half-unarmed peasants were invincible, and almost always victorious. When from a Catholic army they became a Royalist army, and acted under the direction of chiefs, who thought only of restoring fallen monarchy, they melted away before their enemies, as wax at the touch of fire, or were scattered as the morning mist before the rising sun.—*Brownson's Review*.

The period of the war was from '91 to '97, from the first proclamation of "the Civil Constitution of the Clergy" to the pacification, and consequent restoration of public worship under the Consulate. The scene of the war was the most Celtic region in the west of France, on both banks of the great Celtic river, the Loire. All Bretagne, parts of Maine, Anjou and Poitou, were engaged at various periods of the struggle, the largest number in arms being not less than 100,000 in every quarter of this country, while against them were sent in succession the armies of Generals Kleber, Westerman, and Hoche. On the side of the insurgents, the successive commanders were Cathelineau, D'Elbee, Henri de Larochejacquelein, Charette, and Stofflet; St. Malo, Quiberon, Nantes, Laval, Moulins, Fontenay, Thouars, and Angers, were the towns and cities lost and taken on both sides, but the citadel and nursery of the war was La Vendée.—*American Celt*.

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