

war between Great Britain and France, though in the main it took that shape. In its origin, it was a struggle between the oppressed peoples of the old lands of the European continent and their oppressors, i. e. the monarchs and ruling classes of France and other nations. In one form or other the struggle has endured to the present day and is not yet ended. For the time it culminated in the excesses of the French Revolution and in the extraordinary successes which, on the Continent, attended the armies of the Republic, the Consulate, and the Empire.

It is outside the scope of this paper to refer further to these matters except to call attention to this well-known period, so that the drift of this article may the more readily be comprehended.

So far as the United Kingdoms were concerned, the struggle, during a great part of its continuance may, not ineptly, be called an almost single-handed contest, not only for their own existence but also for that of a thankless Europe. And Napoleon, at least up to 1812, meant France and, to a very large extent, the power and resources of Continental Europe as well. True it is that the different nations, Prussia, Austria, Russia, &c., sometimes kicked against their master, but the great commander usually kicked them back into his ranks and the brunt of the fight was borne by our mother-lands.

Had our forefathers failed in that conflict, not only would Great Britain have gone down, but the liberty and freedom, not only of our own people, but of the European world would have gone down with her. To borrow an expression I have somewhere seen,—“They would have been wrapped in her shroud and been buried in her grave.”

This fight for the liberties of Europe, this fight for the freedom and greatness of our mother-land, was waged by great men. They did a wonderful work. They were a grand generation. They conserved our rights and our freedom. They saved Europe. We read about Greece, we read about Rome and the wondrous performances of the great men of those old States. Can either parallel the struggle made by Great Britain in the early years of this century? Did the men of ancient days surpass the men of Talavera, Salamanca, Vittoria, the Nile, Copenhagen, Trafalgar,