

## THE DESTROYERS.

RUDYARD KIPLING.

In a word, the torpedo has brought into the navy a fresh zest, a new romance, and possibilities more brilliant than were existent before its adoption.—Torpedoes and Torpedo Vessels: Lieut. G. E. Armstrong.

The strength of twice three thousand horse  
That seek the single goal—  
The line that holds the signalled course,  
The hate that swings the whole;  
The stripped hulls, sinking through the gloom  
Half guessed and gone again—  
The brides of death that wait the groom—  
The Choosers of the Slain!

Offshore where sea and sky line blend  
In rain, the daylight dies;  
The sulter, shouldering swells attend  
Night and our sacrifice.  
Adown the stricken capes no flare—  
No mark on spit or bar—  
Darkling and desperate we dare  
The blindfold game of war.

Nearer the wheeling beams that spell  
The counsel of our foes;  
Clearer the anxious guns that tell  
Their scattered flank to close.  
Sheer to the trap they crowd their way  
From ports for this unbarred.  
Quiet, and count our fatted prey,  
The Avoy and her guard!

On shoal with scarce a foot below,  
Where rock and islet throng,  
Hidden and hushed we watch them throw  
Their sweeping lights along.  
Not here, not here your danger lies—  
(Stare hard, O hooded eye!)  
Save where the dazed rock pigeons rise  
The lit cliffs give no sign.

Therefore, to break the rest ye seek  
The narrow seas to clear—  
Hark to the siren's whispering shriek—  
The driven death is here!  
Look to your van a league away—  
What midnight terror stays  
The bite that checks against the spray  
Her crackling tops ablaze?

Hit and hard hit! The blow went home;  
The muffled, knocking stroke—  
The stream that overturns the foam—  
The foam that thins to smoke—  
The smoke that cloaks the deep aboil—  
The deep that chokes her throes  
Till, streaked with ash and sleeked with oil  
The lukewarm whirlpools close!

A shadow down the sickened wave  
Long since her slayer fled;  
But hear their chattering quick-fires rave  
Astern, abeam, ahead!  
Panic that shells the drifting spar,  
Loud waste with none to check,  
Mad fear that rakes the low-hung star  
Or sweeps a consort's deck.

Now while their silly smoke hangs thick,  
Now ere their wits they find,  
Lay in and lance them to the quick—  
Our galled whales are blind.  
Good luck to those that see the end,  
Good-by to those that drown—  
For each his chance as chance shall send—  
And God for all! Shut down!

The strength of twice three thousand horse  
That serve the one command:  
The hand that heaves the headlong force,  
The hate that backs the hand;  
The doom-bolt in the darkness freed—  
The mine that splits the main—  
The white-hot wake, the 'wildering speed—  
The Choosers of the Slain!

## FORMER WARS OF

## THE UNITED STATES.

## Their Cost In Blood And In Treasure.

The revolution of 1776 in round numbers, according to the best estimate obtainable, cost \$135,193,703, and in this struggle, which lasted within eight days of eight years, there were employed, during the whole time, 294,791 men, divided as follows: Regulars, 130,711; militia and volunteers, 164,080. No accurate figures, as to the number of men lost can be obtained. The first battle was at Lexington and Concord, and the cessation of hostilities came April 11, 1783.

The next time that Brother Jonathan had

occasion to call upon his boys to show the stuff they were made of, came in 1812, war being declared by the President June 18 of that year. While there had been no battle fought previous to the declaration of hostilities, yet Great Britain had angered the young nation by insisting on its claimed right to impress into the British navy former subjects of Great Britain, wherever found. This war closed on February 17, 1815. There were engaged in the strife a total force of 471,622 men of whom only about 85,000 were regular soldiers and seamen, the rest being volunteers. This war of nearly three years cost in round numbers \$107,159,000.

The next could hardly be called a war, although it is designated in history as the Black Hawk war. There are no data preserved by which an accurate estimate could be given either as to the cost or the number of men engaged. The war lasted a little over a year, beginning in April, 1831, and ending September 30, 1832. The Seminole war is hardly worth the name of more than a series of scrimmages.

It was fifteen years after the outbreak with the Black Hawk Indians that the American eagle again became warlike and plumed itself for battle. President Polk notified Congress in May, 1846, that less than a month before a small detachment of United States troops had been captured by the Mexicans. Congress at once declared war, and authorized the President to raise an army of 50,000 men and to spread \$10,000,000. From the best records obtainable in the War Department, it is shown that the United States put into the field an army of 30,954 regular and 73,766 volunteers. This war which ended in 1848, cost about \$100,000,000.

The great struggle, which came in 1861-65, was the most expensive the United States ever saw, both from its cost in priceless human life and in the money spent. Reckoned as a whole, the country spent for this war no less than 7,400,000,000, of which the North expended 5,100,000,000, and the devoted people of the south the balance in upholding a hopeless cause. It is estimated that, during the whole of the war, Uncle Sam's boys numbered altogether 1,018,200 men, but the number of men which the south put into the field could only be estimated, at best. The losses sustained by the armies in the war of the rebellion have been stated as high as 600,000 men, but ex-Deputy Commissioner of Patents Bell states that this is greatly exaggerated, as the best figure obtainable show the total losses did not exceed 101,500. In citing instances of exaggeration he said it was claimed that at Gettysburg something like 40,000 men were lost, while, as a matter of fact, in that three days' fight the union forces had killed 2834 men and the Confederates 3500 men. The battle of the Wilderness, according to this authority, had much greater fatalities, as the Union loss then was 5587, and the Confederates loss about 2000. Thus it can be seen that the United States altogether had spent for wars \$7,742,352,703, and has put into the field in various ways a total of 2,986,168 men, armed and equipped for fighting, not counting the Indian affairs.

The cost to other nations of important wars has not been as large as this. The Franco-Prussian war was waged at a cost to France of about \$2,500,000,000, and the number of killed wounded and sick amount-

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WM. LEITH, Caledonia, Ont.

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EWEN McKINNON, Hampton, P.E.I.

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ed to 632,421 men. Germany's expense was much less, as the war cost her but 600,000,000, and the number of killed was 60,000.

The Russo-Turkish war was comparatively a cheap affair, costing but \$125,000,000, with a total number killed and disabled, as gleaned from semi-official sources, 250,000 men. Much more expensive in money was the war between Prussia and Austria, which cost \$330,000,000 and a loss of life of 45,000. The Servo-Bulgarian war cost \$176,000,000 with no approximate estimate of the number of men lost, the Afghanistan war \$18,250,000 and the African war about \$8,770,000, none of them appreciating in cost and fatalities to the civil war.

It may not be amiss to schedule the wars of the century beginning with that of the United States with Britain in 1812, the Grecian war of 1820-21, the French, Belgian and Poland revolts of 1810, the British-Chinese opium war of 1840-42, when Britain went to war because Sin, the great mogul of China, demanded the right of the Chinese to seize opium from the subjects of Great Britain without pay, the Mexican war of 1846, the Afghanistan wars of 1846, 79 and 1880, the French revolution of 1848, the Crimean war, the Italian trouble of 1859, the scrap between Russia and Austria against Denmark in 1846, the Russo-Turkish war of 1875, and the almost continual wars of Spain with her colonies and at home.

War, unfortunately, means battle, and battles mean death, and a comparison of the number killed and injured in the wars of the century would seem to show that, with all the improvements in arms, the death list has not greatly increased. Aside from Gettysburg, Antietam and Metz, the principal losses in the leading battles have been as follows:

Jena, 1806—Prussian loss, 21,000 out of 105,000; French loss, 18,000 out of 90,000.

Battle of Eylau, 1807—Russian loss, 25,000 out of 73,000 engaged; French loss 30,000 out of 85,000 engaged.

Wagram, 1809—Austrian loss, 25,000 out of 100,000; French loss, 23,000, with the same number engaged.

Aspern, May 21-22, 1809—Napoleon's first defeat. The Little Corporal lost 35,000 out of an army of 70,000, while the Austrians lost 20,000 out of a force of 80,000, Napoleon's loss being quite 50 per cent. of his army.

Boroblus-Moscow—French lost 50,000 out of 132,000, and the Russians 45,000 out of 135,000.

Koniggratz, 1866—End of the Prusso-Austrian war. About 400,000 men were engaged altogether, and in this battle Austria lost 40,000, while Prussia lost but one-quarter as many.

The battle of Leipzig was fearfully fatal to French arms, as out of 100,000 men they lost fully 60,000, while the allies lost but 42,000 out of an army of 288,000.

At Waterloo, last fateful act in the real drama of Napoleon's life, the French lost 30,000 out of a splendid army of 73,000, very nearly one-half, while the loss of the allies was 23,000 out of 83,000. This was the most destructive of any appearing on the record, as the loss on both sides was over 33 per cent.

At Sedan, before the terrible fire of the German guns, 30,000 Frenchmen out of an army of 150,000 were killed, while the German loss in killed and wounded was but 8931, and this out of an army of 250,000.

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"That missionary," said the cannibal king smacking his lips, "may not have been a diplomat, but all the same he was a prime minister."

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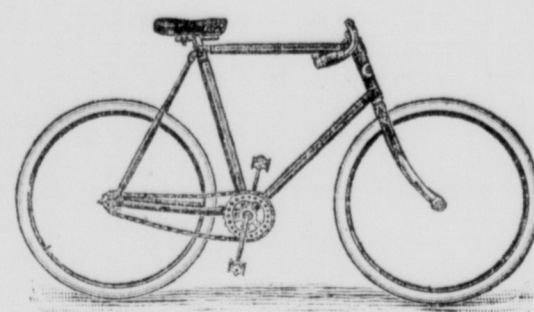
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