

predations upon the Indians, but it would be no surprise to learn that some of the redmen are contemplating revenge upon the slayers of two of their number.

#### WARS OF A CENTURY.

In these days of wars and rumors of war, the statistics on martial subjects presented by an officer of the Austrian army are of special interest. He starts out with the surprising assertion that during the nineteenth century Europe has had only twenty-nine peaceful years. The most serious wars were fought in the first fifteen years. During that period at least three powers were constantly fighting, and in 1813 all the European states were involved.

The largest armies were in the field during the German-French engagement, and the next largest during the battles in 1813 with Napoleon. The armies were generally small till the end of the previous century, if the vast hordes that followed the Persian conquerors are not counted. At present the armed forces at the command of the great powers are enormous. Russia takes the lead with 2,500,000 soldiers; then comes Germany with 2,300,000; France, 2,200,000; Austria-Hungary, 1,300,000, and Italy 800,000. But these numbers do not include all the available forces which would be put into the field in case of an emergency. Statistics prove, however, that the numbers in the field are of less importance than the military training of the soldiers. In six wars of twenty, the numerically weaker power carried the victory by superior tactics.

As the greatest generals of the world the Austrian statistician classes Alexander, Hannibal, Caesar, Gustavus Adolphus, Napoleon, Turenne, Prince Eugene and Frederick the Great. The age in which great generals have achieved their victories is an interesting question. Alexander at 21 conquered the Balkan nations; Hannibal was 28 years old when he subdued Sagunt; Caesar was 42; Gustavus Adolphus 27; Turenne 33, and Napoleon 26 when they became famous; on the other hand Bluecher was a great general at the age of 70; Radetzky gained his greatest victories when 81 years old, and Moltke was 70 years old when conducting the campaign against France.

The losses of armies generally are greater from sickness than from wounds in battles. When Napoleon in 1812 marched into Russia he had 363,000 men. Five months later he returned with 8,000 men, and yet he had not had an opportunity to fight any considerable battle. In the Crimean war there were 11,000 men killed and 58,300 wounded, of which 6,200 died later. But 362,700 were sick, and of these, 69,000 died. While every fortieth soldier fell in battle, every sixth died of disease. In the Bohemian campaign, 59 per cent of the fatalities in the Prussian army were due to cholera, and during the siege of Metz, 40,000 German soldiers were stricken with various kinds of sickness.

It is believed that in the battles of the future vast numbers will be engaged, though statistics do not prove the superiority of numbers. It is also believed that the infantry will be more numerous in proportion to the cavalry than formerly. In the Schlesian campaign there were only two or three of the infantry to each horseman. In the Franco-German war there were fourteen. Attacks by cavalry have proved fatal. At Worth the French cuirassiers were almost annihilated; at Vionville a Prussian regiment of dragoons perished and at Sedan the African Chasseurs were sacrificed to no purpose. Emperor William during the last maneuvers ordered a cavalry attack, and this, it is claimed, was regarded as a

great military blunder. It is believed if the attack had taken place during an actual engagement, not a man or a horse would have escaped alive.

The author further points out that battles last longer now than formerly, although it would appear that the terrible effect of the modern arms would have a tendency to shorten them. It is believed that future battles not infrequently will last several days when opponents equally strong meet in combat. At the same time actual losses on the battlefield seem to be decreasing. The victorious general often counts heavier losses than the enemy. In the battle at Frautenau the imperial army had fourteen per cent dead and wounded but the Prussians only had lost four per cent, which, however, was sufficient to compel them to retreat. Another fact seems to be that death's harvest is greater, in proportion to numbers, among the officers than among the men.

With regard to the deadly effects of the rifle balls, it has been found that in the war between Prussia and Austria, every 70th missile found a victim. But this is regarded as exceptional. In the sanguinary battle at Gravelotte, every 400th shot hit, while at Mars la Tour only every 452nd performed its deadly mission. Everything considered, modern warfare is less deadly than the ancient combats in which foe met foe and fought at arms' length till one or both were no more.

#### AMONG THE YOUNG MEN.

Prior to the commencement of the present winter, statistical reports had been rendered showing that from 8,000 to 10,000 young men, all or nearly all of whom have at least a nominal membership in the Church, are found in the various wards of the several Stakes of Zion, whose names did not appear on the membership rolls of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement association. Nearly all of them were sons of Latter-day Saint parents, yet were not manifesting, by any works of their own, active faith in the Gospel. They were rapidly approaching mature manhood without the taking place within them of any spiritual development.

It is wholly inconsistent with the genius of the Gospel to allow such a host of the "children of the kingdom" to grow to maturity in such a state; and during the fall a plan that had for its purpose their spiritual reclamation was matured by the proper authorities of the Church. The chief feature of this plan was the distribution, under proper organization, throughout the several Stakes, of a sufficient number of missionaries, whose special labor should be to search out and enlist within the ranks of the Y. M. M. I. A., the young men belonging to the class referred to.

Early in the winter these missionaries began to be distributed, until at the present time about one hundred and twenty of them are in active service. Some of them are laboring in every, or nearly every, organized Stake of Zion; and the reports they render show that the movement in which they are engaged is receiving the blessing of the Almighty and the co-operation of the heavens. In one Stake alone about seven hundred young men have been induced to join the "Mutual," and the winter's work of the missionaries in that Stake is by no means complete. In one town in another Stake, not a large town either, the Bishop jocosely said to the missionaries: "You will have to cease your labors here, or else we will have to build a larger building for the young men's meetings." The enrollment in that place was one hundred and sixty.

It is gratifying to the Saints generally to learn of the progress the work of the Lord is making among the nations of the earth, and to hear, from various parts of the world, the urgent and repeated calls for more missionaries, which reach the general authorities of the Church every day, but can be responded to only in part; in many instances not half as many missionaries can be furnished as are asked for. But it is far more gratifying to parents in Zion to witness the progress of a movement that is infusing their own sons with a lively faith in the Gospel; for this means that their sons are to be saved, and to become saviors of multitudes of the earth's inhabitants.

The Gospel harvest in many of the nations is very great, and the number of harvesters is inadequate. But God has His own methods of increasing the ranks of the workers in His cause. The young men, born among these mountains, under the covenant which makes them heirs of the blessings of the Gospel, are the instruments He has chosen in advance for the accomplishment of His purposes; and in His own time and way He will enlist them in His work, without, however, interfering with the exercise of their own agency. Enrollment into the Young Men's Mutual Improvement association means entrance into a school in which a young man will be instructed in the principles of life and salvation, and trained and equipped preparatory to becoming a messenger of those principles among the nations of the earth.

The young men who are being reached by the movement here described are not by any means depraved or abandoned. As a rule they are the reverse. Their moral character is good and their intellects are bright, while physically they are a superb race. By nature they are brave and resolute, and their chief need is an awakening in their hearts of an interest in spiritual things. When this awakening is fully accomplished, and is followed by proper instruction in the principles of the Gospel, and a testimony of the truth of the same, these young men become admirably adapted for the work they have been fore-chosen to do.

It is indeed gratifying beyond expression to witness the developments that are in progress among the young men of Zion, on the lines here indicated; and the local Priesthood in all the wards and Stakes, and especially the parents and friends of such young men as are being sought out for enlistment in Gospel work, should do all in their power to aid and advance the missionary movement now under way for this purpose.

"Ten plagues," says Dr. Wilbur F. Crofts, superintendent of the Reform Bureau, Washington, D. C., "are epidemic and increasing in our land, namely drink, divorce, murder, lynching, riot, municipal misrule, Sabbath breaking, impurity, corrupt journalism and pugilism." He believes they can be blotted out by a united campaign of moral sanitation.

The Idaho supreme court has handed down a decision in the consolidated case of Home Savings and Loan association vs Dewitt Stevens et al, from Latah county. In this case, the company, a Minnesota concern, had been given a judgment of foreclosure. That judgment is reversed by the supreme court because of violation of the usury law in the contract made between the parties. The usury arises through a payment exacted as a "premium for precedence." The court says: "Building and loan associations cannot collect usury under any guise or name or by any trick or artifice. Such associations stand upon the same footing as private individuals."