

novels. The *Daily Chronicle* says that in taking Gorizia the modern Italians have succeeded where the ancient forerunners of the Austrians—the barbarians—for centuries failed. What we know, for the moment ironically, as the Nice of Austria, represented to the Romans a formidable barrier against their savage enemies. Around Gorizia in the Middle Ages the great battles for the mastery of Venetia raged. The Austrians, it must be noted in estimating the achievements of our Ally, at the very beginning of the war added to the natural strength of their camp among the hills by letting loose the waters of the Isonzo from canal and river, so as to form a widespread morass to defend the city. Although twelve months ago we were all expecting the imminent fall of Gorizia, and suffered disappointment, it is good to remember that our Italian friends never for a moment doubted.

ORIGIN OF THE RED CROSS.

In these days of war we hear and see so much of the useful deeds wrought by the wearers of the Red Cross that it is interesting to learn from a writer in *La Croix* that the founder of the Knight Templars, the first wearer of the Red Cross, was Hugh de Pagan, who was born on June 2, 1070, in the feudal Castle of Mahun, which was situated amidst the mountains of Haut Viverais, close to Annonay, France. He was the son of William de Pagan, Baron de Mahun, Lord of Argental and of other places, and of Marie de Montchal. The French chronicler, Odon de Gisey, wrote in 1862 that at the time that Baldwin reigned as third King of Jerusalem, in the year 1118, two French gentlemen and soldiers, who were called Templars, having no fixed residence or domicile at the commencement of their foundation, were permitted by the King of Jerusalem to dwell in his palace, close to the Temple. One of the gentlemen was Hugh de Pagan. The ancient Castle of Mahun is thus united to the Temple in Jerusalem by the chivalrous and brilliant apparition of the two knights clad in armor, wearing white mantles, which were decorated with the Red Cross.

The Marquis de la Tourette, who lived in the eighteenth century, has left a very interesting memoir on Hugh de Pagan, in which he states that the latter was born in the ancient Castle of Mahun. A contemporary archaeologist, Canon Fraisse, Cure of Monistrol-sur-Loire, who died about fifty years ago, also published a learned treatise on Hugh de Pagan and the Order of Templars affirming the same statement, and dwelling on the fact that the first foundations of Knight Templars were all made in localities close to the birthplace of Hugh de Pagan. A Jesuit who was a moralist, historian, and learned archaeologist, Father F. de Curley (1837-1909), likewise refers in his work, entitled *Le Tombeau de Saint Regis at Louvesse* (1886), to the birthplace of Hugh de Pagan as being at Mahun. Louvesse is not far from Mahun. The ancient Castle of Mahun has been a ruin for centuries; there only remains to-day a piece of the old wall on a high rock—in a few years no traces of it will probably remain. About twenty-five years ago a large wooden cross was erected close to the ruins to perpetuate the memory of the founder of the Order of Templars, Hugh de Pagan, born 800 years ago.

HOW WARS FINISH: ABRUPT AND SURPRISING ENDINGS.

Perhaps no war of modern or any times (says an exchange) has been the subject of such a state of prophecy regarding its duration as the present one. Most of the predictions have already been proved wrong, and the struggle still proceeds apparently as virile as ever. But this confusing of the prophets is no new thing. There has hardly ever been a great war which did not at some time, long prior to the actual finish, exhibit signs of collapse.

The sharpest of all nineteenth century conflicts, the Franco-German war of 1870, was only six weeks old when the staggering tragedy of Sedan happened, removing in one blow from the scene of activities the

two finest Marshals in France, her Emperor, and the entire Army of the North. Many experts committed themselves at the time to the view that this disaster must prove quickly fatal. It did not, as we know; but when the great French Army of the Rhine fell into German hands eight weeks later it seemed the certain herald of an impending end to hostilities. Yet the war dragged on more or less fiercely for three months longer. Its demise was due to no lack of fighting will and courage, but to a sheer attrition of French fighting men. The same might be said of the terrible four years' struggle between the Confederate and Federal States of America, only there the vanquished side had defeat forced down its throat by a fatal paralysis produced by a complete Federal predominance on the sea.

Many notable wars, however, have collapsed dramatically in the heyday of their youth. The Serbo-Bulgarian struggle of 1885 had just reached an exceedingly interesting stage, though the Bulgars looked certain winners, when it was abruptly snuffed out by what seemed uncommonly like diplomatic interference.

The Russo-Turkish Surprise.

A war which saw armchair experts badly at sea was that between the Russians and Turks forty years ago. The first shot was fired in the spring of 1877, and right away the Russians won victory after victory; and if ever an opponent seemed absolutely squashed it was the Turks just then. But neither the military experts nor the Russians had reckoned with the magnificent defence fated to be set up at Plevna. For nine months the latter tried every means in their power to lower its flag, and only succeeded after sustaining 80,000 casualties, and even then Osman Pasha nearly cheated them of the main prize by making a promising attempt to cut his way out.

When war broke out between Japan and China in the year 1894 most people anticipated a long, ding-dong struggle, but one sledge-hammer blow from the former removed all semblance of a contest, and the war fizzled out ingloriously. Then, ten years later, when the victorious side faced the Russians, the general feeling in this country seemed to be that Russia would either quickly confound her pigmy rival, or the war would be very protracted. It proved to be one which amply fulfilled all the horrors expected of it, but the end came soon, and it came abruptly. The unrest of Russian people at home, allied to the growing desperate position of the main Russian army, which only the craft of a Kuropatkin kept from being surrounded, proved irresistible factors towards accepting peace and swallowing defeat. The Japs were reasonable, even generous, victors, and exacted no indemnity.

Short and Sharp.

What promised to be a mighty duel and one that might easily endure for a year or two was that between Austria and Prussia, in 1866. Armies totalling a million strong, and faultlessly equipped, as German armies usually are, took the field. But within six weeks from the declaration of war 450,000 fighting men met face to face one day and decided not merely a battle but the whole campaign—one of the fiercest fights of the century, resulting in an overwhelming Prussian victory.

Another European war which belied its promise was when Serbia, aided by Russia, threw down the gauntlet to Turkey in 1876, and a great surprise was in store for the prophets. The struggle opened on the first day of July, and on the last day of the following October the Turks, heavily reinforced, stormed the Russo-Serbian camp, and the campaign came to a graphic end.

The ability of a country to sustain war for an indefinite period was given signal exemplification by France at the beginning of last century. From 1802 to 1815 her armies, practically unaided, wrestled almost incessantly with as many as six foes at a time. Yet their last essay in this amazing vista of sanguinary fighting seemed more than once likely to end in victory.

For washing lace curtains NO RUBBING LAUNDRY HELP is best.