

## CHAPTER I

### THE RESTORATION

THE Grand Alliance was brought into existence to overthrow Napoleon, and bring to a close the revolutionary era of which he was at once the product and the representative. That task was finally achieved at Vienna and Waterloo, but although the immediate object of its existence was attained, the Alliance did not dissolve. On the contrary, it proceeded to inaugurate a political system which in spirit, though not in form, was to control European politics for a generation. That system received from contemporaries the name of the "Holy Alliance," and in spite of its inaccuracy, presently to be demonstrated, the use of the title has persisted to our times. The true "Holy Alliance" was, in fact, of a very different nature. On September 26, 1815, the Emperors of Austria and Russia, and the King of Prussia, affixed their signatures to a document which declared their intention "both in the administration of their respective States, and in their political relations with every other Government, to take for their sole guide the precepts of that Holy Religion, namely, the precepts of Justice, Christian Charity and Peace." The three sovereigns agreed further that they would "on all occasions and in all places lend each other aid and assistance," and finally recom-