

	BRITISH NAVY.	AMERICAN NAVY.
Whole number of ships.....	763	188
Ships in commission.....	249	80
Seamen, boys, and marines.....	61,000	8,000
Ships to be built this year.	6	None.
Ships to be commenced this year. .	6	None.
Whole cost for this year, including new ships	\$46,250,000	\$21,000,000
Average cost per each vessel in com- mission	185,742	262,500
Average cost per each man in the service	758	2,625

A DISGRACEFUL CONTRAST.

Is it possible to conceive of a more startling, instructive, and, to Americans, humiliating contrast than this? There is no mistake about the figures. Those relating to the British navy I have taken from the statement made in the House of Commons by Mr. Childers, the First Lord of the admiralty, when submitting his report of the management of the navy during last year, and the naval estimates for the present year. The figures relating to the American navy I have taken from the report of the Secretary of the Navy and the "Naval Register." It is scarcely necessary to add a single word as to the comparative strength of the two navies, ship for ship. You have seen the *Monarch*, and she is only one of many; *Ex pede Herculem*; judge of the British navy by that ship, and you will not be wrong in the belief that in case of a conflict between the two nations your ships would be swept from the seas like leaves before a gale, and your coasts ravaged from Portland to San Francisco. Happily there is no danger of a row, unless the United States provokes one, but it may as well be understood that in the event of a war it would not be this country that would get the worst of it. This, however, is not the point to which I am anxious to direct the attention of the men at both ends of the avenue in Washington. This point is the amazing fact that the British navy is proportionately so very much cheaper than the American navy, and incomparably more efficient, ship for