

	Army, peace footing.	Army, war footing.	Navy, tons.
Russia (European).....	800,000	1,000,000	80,000
Germany.....	800,000	1,400,000	85,000
Franco.....	750,000	1,300,000	100,000
Austria.....	400,000	800,000	55,000
Italy.....	200,000	450,000	100,000
Great Britain.....	150,000	400,000	200,000

It will be seen that the total strength of the regularly trained soldiers of Europe amounts to nearly 6,000,000; or having regard to the fact that the whole adult population of the nations of Europe, except Great Britain, is liable to be called to take arms, the total military force may be estimated at from six millions to ten millions. The lesser number equals the whole of the adult and efficient population of the British Islands. It is here pointed out that if only one-half of the present excessive armies of Europe were disbanded at least three million men of from 20 to 35 years would be restored to productive labor, and 500,000,000 dollars of money saved from oppressive taxation. The tract before us contains a table enumerating the wars between 1853 and 1877 and the loss of life they occasioned. There were killed in battle, or died of wounds and disease, 750,000 men in the Crimean war, 45,000 in the Italian war of 1859, 3,000 in the war of Schleswig-Holstein, 800,000 in the American civil war, 45,000 in the Prussian war of 1866, 150,000 on the French side and 60,000 on the German in the Franco-German war of 1870-71, which, with other and smaller affairs, brings the total slain to 1,948,000 during twenty-five years. These wars are not less costly in money than they are in lives, as the following figures will show: Crimean war, \$1,700,000,000; Italian war of 1859, \$300,000,000; American civil war, the North, \$4,700,000,000; the South, \$2,000,000,000; Schleswig-Holstein war, \$35,000,000; Austrian and Prussian war, 1866, \$330,000,000; Franco-Prussian war, \$2,500,000,000; other wars, expenditures, etc., \$200,000,000, making a total of twelve billion sixty-five million dollars. This calculation excludes the allied expedition against China, the Indian mutiny, and the Abyssinian and Ashantee campaigns. These items may be included in the general expenditure of Great Britain upon war, debt, and warlike preparations since 1851, which amounts to the large sum of \$6,528,163,958. It is estimated that the enormous sum given in the foregoing table would, if divided, allow about \$10 for every man, woman, and child on the habitable globe. It would make two railways round the world, at the rate of \$250,000 a mile. It would provide a freehold farm of 100 acres in this country to each of the 50,000,000 of adult males in Europe. Let our rulers count the cost of their disturbances with those of the ruled and note the differences, and their judgment will be seasoned with mercy.

W. B. C.

CHRISTIAN ASSUMPTION.

We will not, at present, discuss the utility or the justice of sumptuary laws generally, but as Liberals we earnestly protest against the *spirit* which the Christian supporters of the Dunkin act have shown in their advocacy of that measure in Toronto and elsewhere. That same spirit, to gain possession of a mythical tomb, urged millions to meet death on the plains of Palestine, the same spirit actuated the Spanish inquisitors in their fiendish work, Puritan intolerance was imbued with it, the churches are rampant with it to-day. Ministers of various churches combine, and in spite of the opinions of well-known political economists and eminent sociologists, arrogantly decide that a certain law will benefit

the people, will repress an evil, and forthwith they command their servile followers to support it.

They arrogate to themselves all the knowledge, all the honesty, all the virtue, all the goodness in the community, and expect to believe that only the "rowdy element" of the people are opposed to them. Verily the "Judges in Israel" do not lack egotism.

The Rev. Mr. Potts, at one of the late "Dunkin meetings," said: "We are right, and God is on our side, therefore we will surely triumph in this contest." The defeat of that measure has put that reverend gentleman into a rather uncomfortable position. Either God was *not* on their side or the "Spirit of Evil" and the tavern-keepers have proved themselves too strong for God and the churches. Would it not have been well for that gentleman to have first demonstrated the *existence* of such a being as God? Had he made the attempt we would probably have been spared the infliction of such assumptions. The result of the contest in Toronto has shown that even in this stronghold of orthodox superstition the influence of the churches is perceptibly waning.

W. J. R. H.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Want of space compels us to hold over for a future number several very excellent papers. One especially good, from the pen of the well known thinker and able writer, W. B. Cooke, on "Heat as a Mode of Motion," will appear in our next issue.

Will our friend J. G. W. Martin kindly act as our agent in procuring subscribers for the JOURNAL retaining usual commission and remitting us balance? Our friends will also please note that we will be responsible for money paid Mr. Martin on our account.

We beg to call the attention of our readers to catalogue of Liberal and Scientific works on our last page. Mr. Piddington is, we believe, the only bookseller in Canada who is prepared to supply a full assortment of such books, and our friends should send their orders to him instead of to New York or Boston. Any book procurable in the United States or Great Britain, which he may not have in stock, will be supplied by him at short notice and at publishers' prices.

We reproduce from that earnest and able paper, the Boston *Index*, of July 12, a translation from Ernest Renan's "Dialogues et Fragments Philosophiques," by J. L. Goddard. We believe the work has never been translated into English. Anent the subject of prayer, we in Toronto have been amused by the result of a test case. Not only in most of the churches has prayer been offered for the success of the Dunkin act, but some persons with apparently more faith in prayer than in work met every day during the contest and prayed unceasingly from ten o'clock till five in the evening, the burden of their prayer being: "O Lord, send us a majority." Not result, 1,116 *against* the act.

A very large and successful meeting of Freethinkers was held at Wolcott Grove, New York, on the 17th, 18th, and 19th of last month. The meeting was addressed by several able speakers of both sexes. Want of space prevents us giving a lengthened account of the meeting, but we take this occasion to congratulate our friends across the lake, and heartily welcome the "Freethinkers'