

GREAT BRITAIN.

Unarmoured.

Cruisers, protected.....	59	33
Cruisers.....	85	15
Gun vessels.....	60	..
Torpedo vessels.....	34	..
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	238	48

FRANCE.

Cruisers, protected.....	16	14
Cruisers, protected.....	35	1
Gun vessels.....	80	5
Torpedo vessels.....	16	4
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	147	24

The relative strength of each cannot of course be measured by numbers. Even in assigning a ship to a particular class as above designated, the authorities are frequently accused of misleading the public, for instance in describing a vessel as armoured which has not a sufficiently armoured citadel to prevent her from capsizing or sinking if the unarmoured ends were shot away or filled with water. Heated controversies have waged from time to time between different naval experts in England, chiefly on the amount of thick armour belting just above and below the water line which a battleship should carry. Both navies as they exist to-day are made up in the aggregate of a number of successive experiments, and to-day we have on the list of armoured cruisers, for example, such ships as the *Black Prince*, which was one of the first iron armoured ships built in the Royal Navy, 30 years ago.

In the construction of battleships the French, up to about six years ago, at all events, had given heavy armour belting protection at the water line to a greater extent than had the English in their battleships; the latter had relied more upon the protective deck and subdivision of ends for stability, thus enabling the carrying of heavier armour and guns at the citadel. Nothing short of actual test in warfare can decide the relative merits of the two schools. Nor must the capsizing of the "*Victoria*" be relied upon to condemn the subdivision plan, inasmuch as the bulkheads were not closed, as they undoubtedly would have been before going into action. The following are the battleships at present building by Great Britain: The *Cæsar*, *Hannibal*, *Illustrious*, *Jupiter*, *Magnificent*, *Majestic*, *Mars*, *Prince George*, *Renown* and *Victorious*. These are firstclass battleships, having (except the *Renown*, which is somewhat smaller,) a displacement of 14,900, *I. H. P.* 10,000, *F. D.* 12,000.