

in addition to the vast sums now annually expended for the increase of the navy, until some surer conclusions shall have been reached with regard to the form that the naval warfare of the future will probably take. At the present, after all the experimenting, inventing, and building of iron-clads, any further expenditure on a vast scale would, manifestly, be a leap in the dark—a possible throwing of the money into the sea. In the absence of any great naval engagements, the questions between long-range ordnance and defensive armour, between torpedoes and torpedo-catchers, between gun powder and dynamite, and, above all, between size and speed, cannot be considered to be by any means authoritatively settled. Amongst other complications affecting the last named question, is that of the inviolability of the international compact by which it was a few years since decreed that the neutral flag should protect the commerce. As was pointed out in a recent debate in Parliament, the observance of this rule would mean for Great Britain, in case of war, an immediate transference of the nation's mighty and indispensable commerce to foreigners, with very dubious prospects of its recovery at any early day. This would be, of course, well-nigh equivalent to national ruin. Other speakers insisted, not without good show of reason, that such an agreement is all very well in time of peace, but that a way would quickly be found or made to evade it or break it, in time of war. The view taken of the matter by the United States may be inferred from the fact that the seven war-ships Congress has just empowered the Government to build at a maximum cost of nearly \$10,000,000, are all without exception to be fast cruisers, speeding from seventeen to twenty knots an hour, and evidently adapted not so much for close engagements, or coast defence, as for operating against the commerce of an enemy.

A NEW YORK correspondent sends us some sensible comments on the injudicious wedding of social and political reforms. He says: On the side of Free Trade, there is no American writer more clear and forcible than Henry George. Yet his hearing is extremely limited through his better known advocacy of 'the single tax.' His following consists only of men who believe in both articles of his creed, and is, therefore, much smaller than if he preached up either one or the other of his reforms. A similar fate has befallen Dr. McGlynn. While sharing Mr. George's convictions regarding land-ownership, he leads the attack on the temporal power of the Roman Catholic Church. Many who hold to the first position, dislike the second, and *vice versa*, so that the poor Doctor has only for disciples the few who would abolish 'unearned increment,' and keep priests strictly within their church walls. A case parallel with these two is the marriage of Woman Suffrage to the Prohibition Movement. It has alienated many from the prohibitionist ranks, who are opposed to giving women votes. While the party's expectation is that women would use their votes to suppress the liquor traffic, these objectors say, 'Well and good, but what warrant is there that they may be always as wise?' The moral of all which is that when a second 'reform' is added to a first, it acts as a subtractor. A reformer possessed by one idea may be a narrow man, but he will be all the more successful for fighting under a single banner with a zeal undivided.

THE Presidential campaign in the United States is evidently effecting, to a considerable extent, a reconstruction of parties. The newspapers are constantly heralding the transit of men of greater or less local prominence from the camp of the Democrats to that of the Republicans, or *vice versa*. The accessions to the Republican ranks are principally manufacturers whose interests are, or are supposed to be, at stake on the tariff issue. The Democratic recruits, on the other hand, are largely composed of those who have either changed their views in regard to the theory of protection, or who, while still holding the protectionist faith, think it absurd and dangerous to keep up a war tariff and collect a war revenue in time of peace. There is also, no doubt, a good deal of crossing of the lines in both directions amongst the industrial classes, whose changes of view, though they may attract less attention, are no less potent in affecting the result. A good many of those employed in manufacturing establishments will follow their employers, in some cases under a kind of veiled compulsion, in others because persuaded that reduction of tariff means diminution of the employers' ability to pay high wages. *Per contra*, a considerable number of farmers and labourers who have hitherto voted the Republican ticket will change sides under the impression that the Democratic policy will tend to lessen the cost of the necessities of life, and so benefit the consumer. There is a third movement, moreover, from both camps to that of the Prohibition party, which is now said by journals not favourable to that party to be larger than either of the above. Men of considerable influence, such as Bishop Hurst, of the Episcopal Methodists, and Dr. Ward, of the *Independent*, are among the more recent converts.

AN exchange brings us particulars of the great scheme for the reconstruction of the Map of Europe, which, if the Paris journal *La France* may be taken as authority, has been wrought out by Prince Bismarck and his Italian counterpart Signor Crispi. The reconstruction is to be mainly at the expense of France, of course, and the Parisian journal goes so far as to publish a map "showing the dimensions and appearance of the country after it has been amputated on the northern, eastern, and southern sides. Germany, it appears, is to take the department of Meuse, Meurthe-et-Moselle, Vosges, Haute Saone, and Doubs as far as Montbeliard. Italy is to take the Var, the Alpes Maritimes, the Hautes Alpes, the Basses Alpes, and Upper and Lower Savoy. Belgium is to get the Nord, Pas-de-Calais, and a corner of the Aisne. Spain is to have the Ariège, part of the Haute Garonne, and the Hautes and Basses Pyrenées. A fragment of Central France, around Paris, will be left apparently to form a little principality or miniature republic, which will be allowed to remain a third or fourth rate power, as a surviving relic of the once glorious and pleasant land of France." The public are not informed of the manner in which *La France* became possessed of these startling details of a scheme which, if it existed at all, would naturally be shrouded in the darkest attainable secrecy. It is shrewdly suggested, however, that the object of *La France's* article may be sufficiently answered "if the requisite degree of irritation and indignation are excited against Signor Crispi." This result has, no doubt, been in a large measure attained.

ACCORDING to an article in the *Economiste Francais* of August 11th, by M. René Stourm, the national debt of France is the heaviest borne by any nation on the globe. M. Stourm's computation makes the total amount equivalent to \$5,902,800,000. This is from \$300,000,000 to \$500,000,000 less than the sum at which it has been placed by some other computations, but the discrepancy is explained by the omission from M. Stourm's figures of \$432,000,000 of life annuities, which are usually considered as a part of the debt. The annual charge for interest and sinking fund, on the entire debt, including the annuities, is \$258,167,083. Of the funded debt, \$2,900,000,000 are perpetual three per cents., \$1,357,600,000 perpetual four and a half per cents., and \$967,906,200 redeemable bonds of various descriptions. Annuities to divers companies and corporations of \$477,400,000, and \$200,000,000 of floating debt, make up the balance of M. Stourm's total. Next to France in the magnitude of their public debts come, according to M. Stourm's figures, Russia, with \$3,605,600,000; England, with \$3,565,800,000; Italy, with \$2,226,200,000; Austria, with \$1,857,600,000, not including Hungary which owes \$635,600,000; Spain, with \$1,208,400,000; and Prussia, with \$962,800,000. Of all these nations England and Prussia are the only two which have revenues sufficient to guarantee a permanent equilibrium of the budget. Not only is the debt of France the heaviest absolutely, but it has increased more rapidly in the past than that of any other, and is likely, M. Stourm thinks, to do so in the future. In presence of these enormous figures we can readily see one strong reason why French statesmen should have listened to the recent declarations of Emperor William with such unwonted placidity.

IF the Chinese, as a nation, have developed phlegm or "nervelessness" to anything like the extent described by the *North China Herald*, it seems almost a pity that any obstacles should be placed in the way of their free intercourse with the people of this continent. There might be some reason to hope that the silent influence and example of the members of such a race, if present in large numbers, would do much to correct the extreme nervousness, which is the bane and torture of so large a proportion of the people of the United States and Canada. It seems to be conceded in the article in question that the Chinese have nerves, but why the concession should be thought necessary is not apparent. The evidence of the habits and symptoms described would certainly go far to prove the contrary. The Chinaman, we are told, can write all day, work all day, stand in one position all day, weave, beat gold, carve ivory, do infinitely tedious jobs for ever and ever, and discover no more signs of weariness and irritation than if he were a machine. He can do without exercise, can sleep anywhere, under any circumstances, amidst any din; whether on the ground, a floor, a bed, or a chair, is a matter of comparative indifference. "It would be easy," says the *Herald*, "to raise in China an army of a million men—nay, of ten millions—tested by competitive examination as to their capacity to go to sleep across three wheelbarrows, head downwards like a spider, their mouths wide open, and a fly inside." All of which goes to show that the Chinaman possesses in abundance, is in fact compounded of, the very qualities a moderate infusion of which into the make-up of the average American or Canadian, would contribute immensely to the attainment of that repose which is so deplorably lacking in the new races which are in process of development on this continent.