

financial burdens of that war, and astonished the world by paying off the indemnity imposed by Germany in three years.

But until the present time France has never been able quite to recover her old self-respect; the knowledge that she had been forced to act under compulsion, and had been powerless to prevent the ravishing of Alsace and Lorraine, left her not perhaps embittered, but certainly with a sadness as a nation. Now she has again found her soul, and as a nation can meet any nation as an equal. Her soldiers have met the finest fighting machine in the world, and have shown not only the old Gallic fury of the charge, but an immovable firmness and steadfastness in the trying days of retreat and impending disaster. The devotion of the army to its best ideals, even when the prospects were most discouraging, was almost British in its doggedness.

France does not seek to gain much materially from this war; her great gain is the moral restoration of her self-respect. The only European territory which she will seek will be her own lost provinces; in money she will not get back more than what was taken from her in 1870 with interest and part of her present war costs; in foreign lands she may strengthen her colonial interests.