

A NATION OF PEACE.

An instructive and significant document is the annual report of the Secretary of War which has just been submitted to the President. It declares that any increase in the numerical force of the army would not meet with popular favor, and is not suggested by any contingency immediate or remote. The Secretary assumes that Indian warfare is practically at an end in the United States, and that the call for the employment of arms to preserve order within the states must become infrequent, as state authority, upon which that obligation properly rests, is fully equal to this task.

The total strength of the United States army on September 30, 1893, was 2,144 officers and 25,779 enlisted men. This little handful of soldiers is all the military force that is required for the defense and protection of a nation of more than 60 millions of people. The cost of maintaining this army barely exceeds, all told, the sum of 50 million dollars a year. The comparative insignificance of this expenditure and the almost infinitesimal proportions of our army do not appear until they are compared with the military equipment of Europe and the vast outlay of treasure which is required to maintain it. The mobilizing strength of the German soldiery is, in round numbers, 5 millions. France comes next with nearly 4½ millions; Russia, 4 millions; Italy, nearly 2½ millions; Austria, nearly 2 millions, and even the "Sick Man of the East" can muster, in a pinch, an army of 1,150,000 fighters. The armed forces of Europe make a grand aggregate of 22 millions of men, and this enormous body of non-producers, representing the youth and the strength of the continent, are maintained in idleness to gratify the ambition of the rulers under whom they serve and to preserve the "political equilibrium" of Europe.

This contrast is, indeed, an eloquent testimonial to the strength and security of a republican form of government. There is not a power in Europe which would be secure for twenty-four hours against enemies without or

secret foes within with an army such as is entirely sufficient for the protection of the United States. In this land, where the people rule themselves, there is no call for an expensive military equipment. Every citizen is, practically speaking, a conservator of order and an agent for the preservation of constitutional authority. There is no need of taxing the people for the support of a costly standing army to meet the contingency of foreign invasion, for American patriotism has demonstrated to all the world that no emergency can arise in this country to which the people are not equal, even in the line of warfare, though we are a people who love and practice peace.

The army which the Government maintains, insignificant as it may appear in contrast with the enormous military equipment of Europe, is, nevertheless, quite sufficient to uphold the dignity of the nation and to impress the Kingdoms of the earth with the full idea of power which this little body of soldiery represents and symbolizes.