

THE "STRICKEN NATION."

"THE Stricken Nation" is the title of a pamphlet lately published by Charles T. Baker, of New York. It is written by a person who calls himself "Stochastic." It shows a thorough intimacy with current issues. It is making quite a sensation in Washington and in all the sea coast cities of the United States. It purports to be a history of the years 1890, 91 and 92, and of the relations between this country and England during these years. Owing to the vividness of its style, and to the minuteness of detail which it embraces, it has all the appearance of realism. That is why, perhaps, it is creating so much comment.

The first chapter is headed "The Dream of Security." The peaceful condition of the United States is pictured in chaste language. The foreign relations of our country were not disturbed by any symptoms of displeasure abroad. The Canadian fisheries caused some diplomatic correspondence, but the mass of the people regarded this question without the slightest concern. The domestic issues were mainly on revenue, but were all satisfactorily settled. The national treasury was full to overflowing; prosperity abounded; capital and labor were at peace; trade, industry and commerce flourished; the past was looked at with pride and complacency, while the future was viewed with hopeful confidence. This was 1890 as portrayed by Stochastic.

The administration of President Harrison is next touched on. During 1891 all the domestic issues relating to tariff, finance and the political rights of the negro were settled. In this year James G. Blaine carries his pet project Pan-American reciprocity, into practical force. This latter scheme arouses the jealousy of France, Germany and England. The commercial supremacy of the United States, not alone in continental America but in other climes, is looked upon with dread by Great Britain.

The second chapter is headed "Portents of the Storm." It opens with a sketch of the rise of British influence in Mexico and other of the Latin American countries, especially Paraguay and Honduras. It next touches on Canada and its contempt for the United States. It dwells on the enthusiasm manifested by Canadians in their welcome to Britain's young princes. In Canada during 1891 new steamship lines were established by means of liberal subsidies, waterways and railroads were opened up with a view to strategic purposes in war. At Halifax and Quebec great fortifications were

built. At Victoria, Vancouver Island, a vast fortress was built capable of dominating the Northern Pacific. This was equipped with the heaviest artillery that Woolwich could produce, and by the close of 1891 Canada was as impregnable as England. Thirty-six powerful gunboats were secretly built in England. They were constructed in sections and shipped to Canada as ordinary merchandise, and stored away "till wanted."

The course pursued by Canada towards American fishermen is sketched in a manner which shows that the former was arrogant and aggressive; and that the statesmen of the latter country were weak and indecisive. But James G. Blaine came upon the board, and then the whole British policy is changed. Britain and Canada both prepare for war, knowing that Blaine won't take taffy.

When England and Canada found themselves in a position to be aggressive with safety, Canada demands dominion over the seas in accordance with headline limits. That is, she wants control of the seas to the extent of the furthest limit of her headlands into the sea. A direct line drawn from the extreme headland limit north and south to be Canadian territory. In the Behring Sea, Canadian sealers demanded full right to fish. In this manner matters go on until June, 1892, when a Yankee schooner, the *Monroe*, was captured by a Canadian cruiser, the *Middleton*, and the Yankee captain placed in irons. Just at this point the American man-of-war *Bennington* steamed on the scene and captured the *Middleton* and her prize, taking them into Portland. This was the beginning of the war.

The third chapter is headed "The Declaration of War." It describes the state of feeling in both countries. England demands an apology. She does not get it. The British minister is recalled. Orator and minstrel are employed to arouse American feeling. The antipathy towards England intensifies with every allusion to American liberty and honor.

A verse from one of the popular ditties runs as follows:

The British boast they'll scourge our coast
From Northern Maine to Texas,
And give us hell with shot and shell,
And otherwise will vex us.
The boasting knave! They're sorry slaves
From Land's End to Northumbria!
Our Yankee steel again they'll feel —
We'll give 'em hell Columbia.

On the 22nd of June, 1892, England declared war.

Chapter the fourth is headed "The Terrible Awakening," and shows how the Americans now realize their defenseless situation.

The gunboats sent to Canada in sec-

tions were now constructed and placed in the lakes. Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland and Erie were at the mercy of the British ships.

Chapter the fifth is headed "Preparations for National Defence." The harbor and port of New York is surrounded by British ironclads. It is found that New York City is wholly at the mercy of the British Navy. At the same time news reaches Washington that San Francisco, Portland, Boston, Charleston, Savannah and other cities of the coast were confronted with British ships of war. British cannon, some of them, sixty-seven-ton guns, capable of throwing a 1250-pound shell a distance of ten miles, were trained on New York City. On July 3rd the British Admiral summoned the Mayors of New York and Brooklyn, as well as all the leading merchants to meet him. They were told that unless New York City surrendered completely to British authority and paid a sum of \$500,000,000, the city would be destroyed before 24 hours. This extraordinary demand could not be complied with and New York was doomed to destruction.

The sixth chapter is headed "The Destruction of New York." It reads as follows:

"Reddened by the glare of flames from hundreds of its buildings; its streets drenched with the blood of thousands of its people slain; a mob of ten thousand of the scum of its population delirious with drink and despair, pillaging the palaces of its millionaires, and committing the most fiendish outrages upon the weak and helpless; its splendid buildings crumbling beneath terrible missiles; the crash of solid shot spreading ruin on every side; the shriek of shells leaving in their track death and destruction; the hoarse shouts of a noble band who tried to save the city; the cries and moans of the wounded; the yells and screams of frenzied fugitives; the roar of the conflagration which now raged from Chambers Street to Madison Square, such was the terrible tableau presented by New York City on the night of July 4th, 1892."

"The British admiral gave orders for a simultaneous attack, and the dread havoc began. The booming of the great guns of such terrible monsters as the Black Prince and the *Tenieraire* was followed by a combined roar of cannon from the entire fleet; and then there rained upon the hapless, helpless, defenseless city such destruction as had not been seen on earth since Almighty God visited his terrible wrath upon the fire-swept Cities of the Plain. There was no waste of shot or shell. From the first the distance had been as accurately judged as if the gunners were at practice on a stationary bulk in Portsmouth harbor. It had been confidently believed that the guns of the fleet would be of insufficient power to reach New York City, and that Brooklyn would be the first to suffer. But this proved to be a mistake. At the beginning of the bombardment, Brooklyn escaped comparatively uninjured, the elevation of the guns enabling New York to be reached at every point from Canal Street down to the Battery. St Paul's Church, the Astor House and the City Hall were among the first buildings to be struck,