THE GREAT ARMADA OF 1898.

A PAGE FROM HISTORY NOT YET WRITTEN.

QN. B .- "The Great Armada of 1898" Is an imaginative anticipation of history not yet made. But the rouder need not regard it as altogether fanciful, because the strange things herein narrated might actually oc-No less an authority than Rear Admiral Gherardi, after having the story submitted to him, says:

one and as a dernier recort for defense would be worth consideration. The use of vast quantities of blazing oil in a place where a trong current or tide would carry it in a desired direction, in a contracted channel, where vessels could not get away, would probably be disastrous to the most powerful

Rear Admiral Erben endorses this state-ment and Rear Admiral Luce has already been quoted as saying that the plan afforded an excellent means of protection to cities located as are New York and Philadelphia.)

The work of the diplomats was ended. More than four months had elapsed eince the destruction of a United States ship of war in a Spanish harbor. For over a month representatives of the two governments had been in Paris engaged in an attempt to set-tle by peaceful means the differences grow-ing out of that fateful event and the more recent occurrences which had added to the long-existing bitterness between the two nations. The American commissioners had steadily pressed their claims for full reparation for the injury upon their nation. These demands had been met by postponements, excuses and vague promises from the representatives of Spain.

It was evident that the latter were de-

pending on the policy of delay which had in the past been the chief reliance of Spanish diplomacy. At last the attempt to reach a peaceful settlement was seen to be hopeless. On the morning of June 23 newspapers printed the information that the representatives of the United States had quitted Paris for London. They had presented Spain the ultimatum that unless the government at Washington was informed within a week that its terms had been acceded to peaceful relations between the two nations come to an end.

The news was received with estisfaction in the United States. The American people, with more than ordinary patience, had listened to the repeated pleadings of their leaders to wait. But there was in every patriot heart a stern determination that the deaths of the blue jackets who had perished in the turgid water of Havana bay should

not go unavenged. Now that every peaceful resource had been exhausted the president and his advisers felt that the only dignified and honorable course was to compel by armed force the reparation which patient negotiations had failed to secure. Had this not been their determination they would have been driven to it by the temper of the people, which would brook no further delay. For fou-centuries Spain had typunnized over som part of the western continent. At last she that hemisphere, and its citizens felt the ever from the new world.

result of the expected host les was

The result of the expected host les was awaited with confidence by the copie of the United States. Thanks to the timely warning of events, it had been saible to prepare, in a measure, at least or the struggle. The land forces of the country had been concentrated at liant, within striking distance of the Spanish possessions in Cuba. Mt Key West Admiral Sicard had collected a feat remposed of the finest depting ves-

One thing only marred the serenity with which the Americans viewed the impending conflict. It was known that Spain had been desperately seeking the aid of other Utaropean powers. Now, it was rumored that France, yielding to the moneyed influence by which she was dominated, and which, having made large loans to Spain on the security of her Cuban revenues, was whalk interested in the maintenance of Spain's hower, had consented to an alliance. This report was vehemently denied by the French minister of foreign affairs, but it found color in the fact that the French fleet was congregated at Toulon, while most of Spain's available war vessels had assembled at Barcelona, within a day's sail of the former place.

of Spain's available war vessels had assembled at Barcelona, within a day's sail of the former place.

War with Spain might give no occasion for serious concern. At best she could not muster more than twenty vessels in fighting trim. But it would become another and much more serious matter for the United States if the second naval power in the world was to be arrayed against her.

On June 23 the Spanish fleet sailed out of the Mediterranean, and it was announced that it had departed for Cuba. On the next day it was followed by thirty battle-ships and cruisers of the French navy. In Paris the destination of this fleet was announced to be the cruising grounds off the western coast of Africa, where, it was said, certain evolutions were to be held. It was denied that its departure was in any way connected with the sailing of the Spanish war ships. But the two events were immediately joined in the opinion of the world at large, and it was generally believed that the French fleet was also destined for Cuban waters. As yet war had not been declared, but the vesels under Admiral Sicard's command lay at Key West, with steam up, eight and day, ready to move at a moment's notice.

On June 30 the time silotted to Spain by moment's notice. On June 30 the time ellotted to Spain by

a moment's notice.
On June 30 the time allotted to Spain by the American government expired and the Atlantic squadron was directed to move forward and capture Havana.
Cn July 1 a lively little steamer came puffing up New York bay, under full head. She appeared to have an important mission, for she belied but a moment at quarantine and then sped on toward her destination. Many glasses were turned on the little boat, and those who were familiar with the regular visitors to the harbor recognized in her the Madcap, the property of a New York newapaper, and one of the fasiest little cruisers ever built. A few of those who saw her remembered that she had gone out cleven days before to watch the great naval maneuvers on the other sids of the Atlantic, and wondered why she had returned so suddenly. Within an hour their curiosity was satisfied.

When the Madcap tied up at her pier, and her single passenger, halling a cab, went dashing up Broadway to a big newspaper office, New York was as quiet as usual. It was about 3 in the afternoon, and men were thurrying about to finish up their day's work. A few business men had already started for home.

An hour afterward the scene was year

the country in a tumult on that quiet July day. It caused the people to leave their shops, their fields and their homes, to gather in excited and gesticulating groups; it caused President McKinley and his cabinet at Washington to hurry into secret conference and Governor Black at Albany to issue a special proclamation to the state militin directing its members to report to their commanding officers and to be ready for marching orders at any moment.

At first it was thought that the news could not be true, it was such a high-handed step and there had been no whisper of it beforehand. But no sooner had one man raised this objection than a dozen others were ready to explain it away.

Thus it was argued back and forth until almost every one was convinced before the sun went down that one of the strongest fiects ever gathered was planning to sieze the grantest eith.

fleets ever gathered was planning to sieze the greatest city in the country—that in-comparable city which lay apparently us defenseless as a rich field of grain before

They affected to make light of the whole matter, saying that perhaps it was not so serious as had at first been imagined.

It was naturally conjectured that this change of ione was connected with the visit of the two men from New York, although in exactly what way it was impossible to guess. It was riggested by one that perhaps they had come to offer a loan to the government, though the necessity for that could not be seen; by another that possibly the engineer had some new scheme of defense calculated to bring confusion on the hostile invaders, but none knew the exact truth of the matter except the ten men who had gathered round the table in the president's council chamber, and their lips were sealed.

Just before dusk on the evening of the 3d, two days after the arrival of the Madeap with the first tidings of the approaching invasion, a message from Sandy Hook announced that the vanguard of the alien fleet had been sighted by a patrol boat fifty miles at sea. It had been impossible to determine the exact strength or numbers of the ininvading fleet, but enough had been ascertained to verify in every detail the report given out on the afternoon of the 1st. That a powerful fleet of the strongest battleships of Europe would within twenty-four hours, unless stopped by the guns at Sandy Hook, be throwing their shells into the heart of the metropolis, became at once a fact instead of the hurricane.

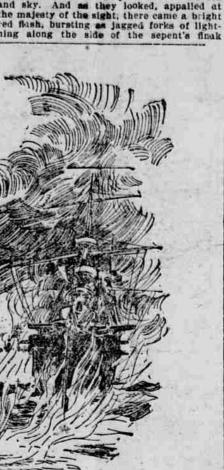
The people were convinced. They knew that these nations had resented what they considered the interference of the United States in their affairs and had been burning

was, and no murmur of impatience came from the eilent thousands as they stood and listened to its awful tower while the sun climbed up the easters heavens, and, passing the meridian, began to sink again. But then the standy cour which had shaken the great city and its environs since daybreak began to lose in volume, the heavy boom of cannon behind the randhills became less frequent. What could it mean? Were the asrullants so soon defeated, had they aiready turned back? Or had the huge guns behind the embankment been hurled from their places and so rendered power-less to speak for the defense of the land? And at the sickening fear which clutched each heart at the thought of this possibility the silence which held the throng became absolutely painful in its tendency.

But although the breathless throng which

absolutely painful in its tendency.

But although the breathless throng which covered the shores, standing dark and silent under the shadow of an expected calamity, knew not the maning of this sudden lull in the terrific cannonading those who had gathered on the sandy shores beyond the Narrows, where the more open sea spread out to their view, comprehended that a critis was indeed at hand. As the clouds of smoke belched from the great guns behind the yellow embankments thinned and drifted away before the evening breeze the vanguard of the enemy's fleet arose out of the mist of the enemy's fleet arose out of the mist far out at sea. The distance was as yet too great to disinguish the number of the alien force, but those who turned their glosses toward the southeast made out a long black double line of giant cruisers lying like a great double-headed serpent atwist the rea considered the interference of the United States in their affairs and had been burning with the desire for vengtunce. It was all true. They had planned to make their re-



CAUGHT IN A SEA OF FLAME.

venge serve also as the occasion of the most | pedocs bitter humiliation of the great western re-public. The plan was such an unexpected pare, in a measure, at least for the struggle. The land forces of the fourty had been concentrated at Many within striking distance of the Spanish possessions in Cuba. All through the night of the 1st men held their breaths as in the presence of a great calamity. Morning brought little change. Telegrams from the capital reported that the president and his cabinet had been in sees of the American navy. In Asiatic waters a smaller fleet was gathered ready to pounce down upon the Philippines at the first aumnouncement of war. Spain had three war ships at Havana; the remainder of her fleet, which, as a whole, was inferior to that of the United States, was on the other side of the Atlantic. It seemed impossible that she could strike a single effective blow in the approaching contest.

One thing only marred the serenity with which the Americans viewed the impending conflict. It was known that the president and his cabinet held their breaths as in the presence of a great their breat yet such a simple and natural one.

that had been huriedly placed and from the low sandhills surmounted by beyond the carrows might prove an the culien guns of the defence arose a yellow obstacle to the progress of the fleet threw cloud as the great thirteen-inch shells hurled obstacle to the progress of the fleet threw obstacle to the progress of the grant progress of the fleet threw obstacle to the progress of the fleet threw out of every ten persons in the city believed as a mighty storm of hail across the interthrew obstacle to the progress of the grant progress of the progre

publication of an official proclamation by the president of the United States, accompanied by an official statement to the people, which was suplemented by reports from the secretaries of war and navy. The president's statement said that while the government was called upon to face a very grave crisis, every effort would be made to meet the impending danger by drawing upon every available resource. The secretary of war reported that the comforce invincible, impregnable.



"RENT APART AS THOUGH ITS PLATES WERE PASTEBOARD."

"All that night throngs of sober-faced men the strength of the department of the east had been ordered to collect all, or as many as here there is passed soberly from the city are about 3 in the atternoon, and men were thurrying about to finish up their day's work. As the work of the seven paper of the several pap

down on the evening of the following day, the proudest city on the western continent would be in ruins or suppliant at the feet of the foreign admirals. That the ships would not begin their attack until the following morning was probable; their commanders would scarce venture too near the land at nightfall. It was the morrow that the country dreaded, for if the fiet succeeded in passing the batteries at Sandy flook New York would lie at the mercy of the invaders.

On board the foreign fleet there was a feeling of confidence on that warm autumn evening. That there would be a battle in the morning was expected, for the guns eloquently had come? Five hours of day. eloquently had come? Five hours of day-light yet remained and in that time the ulien admirals could bring their ships be-yond the danger of the guns along the

yond the danger of the guns along the shore.

On the vessels of the foreign fleet the sailors were cheering till the echo of their shouts almost reached the ears of the waiting multitude four miles away. What if the passage to the city was lined with submerged torpedoes and all the obstacles of modern naval warfare? The great guns of the enemy had been silenced, and although the foremost slips perished, there were a score behind to press on over their shattered hulls. The great double-headed serpent began to move slowly forward, feeling its way carefully, yet pressing on as though urged by an irresistible force, and as each ship drew near the silenced forts each sent a storm of shot about the spangled flag; all the hate of a decade of bridled wrath was in the useless firing on an apparently defenseless foe.

The message that flashed over the wires to New York, Washington and loto the telegraph offices of every city in the land paled the cheeks of the millions who waited breathlessly for news from the scene of strife. The allen flash had never the secone of strife.

paied the cheeks of the millions who waited breathlessly for news from the scene of strife. The alien fleet had passed the guns at Sandy Hook; men had dreaded such news, but when it came there were few who comprehended it. At Washington a wild mob surged about the building of the chief executive; what would he do, what excuse had he and his cabinet to offer that they had allowed an enemy to force so easily the very gates of the nation? But within the room where the cabinet had gathered there was a calm that contrasted strangely with the tumult of the millions throughout with the tumult of the millions throughout the land; did not the president and those

the land; did not the president and those who served him comprehend that the honor of the nation was at stake?

It was a few minutes to 6 o'clock, just at the hour when the foreign fleet was drawing near to the jaws of the Narrows, that the president took out his watch.

"In half an hour," said he, calmly, turning to the secretary of war, "we will know the end. It was at 6 that—" He closed the case of the watch with a snap, and picked up an evening paper which lay on the table.

The end had come. The vanguard of the enemy were well in toward the mouth of the narrows, paying no heed to the fire of the forts that flanked the moving line on either side. Those who watched from the shore had seen one of the foremost ships suddenly dart back, had seen a great mass of seething water and spray rise from the surface of the sea and the iron sides of the cruiser rent apart as though its plates had been of pasteboard, but the rest of the line kept its course. There had come more convulsions from the deep, though its plates had been of pasteboard, but the rest of the line kept its course. There had come more convulsions from the deep, a second, a third ship had been rent by the great torpedoes, 300 sailors had been killed, but the line yet pressed on; as the admiral of the Frenchman had said to the head of the government at home: "What matters it if half the ships be blown up, if we gain the prize for which we seek?" And so, sullenly, their sides affame, the time of war ships, now stretched out in single file, moved onward. Between it and the prize hovered the little fleet of American vessels hastily gathered to oppose the invading host. The multitude gathered upon the surrounding heights watched the sdvance of the brilliant tri-color of France, and the proud standards of Castile and Arasse, with much the same feelings that the issuelites of old must have experienced when they saw the giant Goliath bearing down upon their youthful champion. But this modern Divid had no resources that were not because they have a spectacle which they had not the heart to look upon—that of their own fownfall and humiliation.

shore to shore. It was as though some giant hand had smoothed out the furrows of the angry deep and some omnipotent voice had said: "Peace, be still." But what did it all mean? Was it an omen of good for the defenders or a preparation for the triumphal entry of the fee? No man could answer that question, but in their interest in watching the strange phenomenon many of the on-lookers forgot that the destiny of a nation was likely to be decided within the next

was likely to be decided within the next few moments.

The line of caim crept on, turning the rurface of the waves into a glassy green, and borne outward toward the approaching fleet by the tide, which had begun to flow seaward again. Erom the flagships of the invading squadrons the foreign admirals saw and wondered at it, but no thought of staying their course crossed their mind. And still the lips of those frowning guns that looked from the bulwarks of the American vessels were bulwarks of the American vessels were sealed. A murmur that deepened into a roar went up from the watchers on the heigh's. It was the same sound that had been heard from the crowd before on that day—a growl of disapproval at the inaction of their defenders. As though in answer to it there fenders. As though in answer to it there came the first hostile demonstration from the American fleet. A puff of white emoke rose from the Destroyer, one of the dynamite cruisers, which was lying inshore across the bay, close to the huge black oil tanks on Constable Hook. From out this white cloud sped a black projectile, rising swiftly, but not too swiftly for the eye to follow, in a graceful curve high above the waters of the pay. From an almost perpendicular height it fell upon the forefront of that line of advancing caim, midway between the two grim forts which stand the silent guardians of the harbor, and in the very face of the advancing squadron. As it touched the glassy surface of the water there came a blinding fush, and a column of dashing spray arose 100 feet into the gir

190 feet into the uir.

And here the last and greatest wonder of this eventful day was unfolded to the on-lookers. As the column of foam hesitated for a moment, poised in midair, it turned sud-denly to a signific pillar of flame. An in-stant it trembled there and then descended in myriad jets of fire which were caught up on every side and rose as though fanned from some inferno, a wall of flame fifty feet high, extending from shore to shore and sweeping down like an averging demon on the hostile fleet which but a moment before had been eccure in its expected triumph. At the same instant, when the terrified spectators were drawing back from the awful heat which pressed upon them from the water's edge, the operator stationed at the instrument in the room at Washington in which the cabinet had assembled checked off the message which flashed from the little office hidden among the oil tanks at tidewater: "Harbor

affame; success ucured."
In ancinstant it was clear alike to friend and foe. The trap had been sprung, and the sod of fire had become the arbiter of the unequal contest. Then men unde stood what meant the silence of the gune at Sandy hook, the halding tack of the alien fleet until the outgoing lide chould aid in hurrying down upon the luvading force the secthing mass of burning oil, carried from the wells of Pennaylvania through the great pipes of the company which controlled the supply of the world to a point under the waters of the harbor. At the touch of the engineer who controlled the mighty flood of petroleum the dangerous liquid had asserted its ascendancy over water, and poured in a torrent to the surface, to be ignited by the shell fired from the gun of the little cruiser that lay in readiness for the signal flashed from the Jersey shore. Then men knew of the meaning of the visit to Washington of the capitalist and the engineer, and of the strange unconcern that marked the demeanor of the officials of the sport market. the officials of the government.

In an instant the triumphful advance of he alien fleet had been turued to consternation. Swept onward by the swiftly outgoing tide, the mighty street of flame, hotter and more fierce than a thousand gigantic fur-naces, bore down upon the ironclad vesters f France and Spain. To press onward in the face of such a demon meant death; no ships or men or courage could withstand the god of fire. In cauther ten minutes the heat of the burning oil would reach the magazines, and the ships would be blown to atoms by their own ammunition. Not sullenly now, but as one who flees panic-stricken before a supernatural power, the great crukers turned to fly, but the very narrowness of the course brought destruction. Huddled together, each striving to gain the shelter of the open sea beyond, the mighty fleet, the pride of two nations, became a spectacle of demoralization, at harvest ripe for the sickle. And now from the gues of Forts Wadeworth and Hamilthe face of such a demon meant death; no the guess of Forts Wadsworth and Hamil-ton, and from the low embankments at Sandy Hook, there finded the avenging fire Sandy Hook, there nathed the avenging fire of the hitherto apparently subdued defenders. No answering shots came from the fleet; it required every energy to escape the flery demon that like a race horse galloped madly in their rear. Torpedoes hitherto avoided first aid to the work of destruction. Here a noble ship arose in the air, plerced by the steel that had lain so tranquilly beneath the surface of the deep; here again the god of fire selzed upon its victim, turning the grim from to a ruddy glow, until in a majestic burst of brilliancy ship, guns and majestic burst of brilliancy ship, guns and majestic burst of brilliancy ship, guns and majestic burst of brilliancy ship.

and men cank housath the surface of the harbor, or were scattered like chaff to the four winds of heaven, in which still waved the crimson-barred banner, the emblem of the crimson-barred banner, the emblem of the greatest republic on earth.

Two hours later there crept from the shores of America what remained of the proud fleet that had come to deal a blow to the pride of the United States, and throughout the land there arose a psaim of thanksgiving that echoed from the rocky walls of the Sierra Nevada mountains to the grean cad hills of Vermont. And in this chamber at Washington, surrounded by hell cabinet, the president of the United States of America turned to a gentleman in cierical attire who, bowing his head over the table whereon lay the message announcing the nation's triumph, said in the solemn ing the nation's triumph, said in the solemn voice of his order, "Let us pray."

Thirty-five years make a generation. That is how long Adoiph Fisher of Zanesville, O. suffered from piles. He was cured by using three boxes of DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. "THE YANKER KING."

General Daniel E. Sickles' Influence in Spanish Politics. General Daniel E. Sickles, who is now 75 years old and permanently retired from active life, has recently been reported as saying virtually that in his opinion there will be war between the United States and Spain unless it be prevented by the business influ-

ences of the civilized world, which are now stronger than they were in 1873, when they prevented war between the two countries over the Virginius affair. General Sickles should be well qualified to talk with intelligence concerning Spain, since as minister to Madrid from this country from

ular with all classes. ular with all classes.

His service there began soon after Spain had thrown over Queen Isabella to accept General Prim and the republic. Later Prim was dropped that an Italian prince might be made sovereign, but his reign was abortlived, and after its close Cantelar was placed at the head of the republican government. Castelar and Sickles were close friends, and the American general's advice to the Spanish statesman was of great value.

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It was followed so implicitly, in fact, that Sickies was long termed "The Yankee King" in Spain, and there is no doubt in the minds of some who are familiar with the facts and situation that the republic would have prevailed had he not been recalled at the time of the Virginius affair, through the influence of the late Hamilton Fish, then secretary of state.

of the late Hamilton Fish, then secretary of state.

Despite General Sickies' popularity in Spain and his sympathy with that country in many things, he was much averse to yielding a single point with regard to the Virginius, and this was the cause of his recall, since the business interests of this country, as well as the rest of the world believed the incident not of sufficient importance to cause war.

General Sickies had never met Isabella when he was recalled, but he met her soon afterward in Paris, where he spent some months before returning to this country. The meeting was in her apartments, where he called by special appointment, and the conversation was opened by the general, who stated that, atthough he had never seen his hostest before, he could not fall of recognising her anywhere, since he had become familiar with her features from her invitalt, which still adorned the walls of the royal palace in Madrid. This interest the throneless monarch at once.

"What!" she exclaimed, "do those edious rebels still tolerate the presence of my portrait in the palace?"

"Certainly, medam," replied the general;

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Comandata, Neb., March 10, 1898.

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"and the palace also contains many other souvenirs of your majesty."

It was with difficulty she could be made to believe this, and when she accepted the fact she fell into a soilloup, the burden of which ran: "In my palace! In my palace! It is unexplainable! Why are these things allowed to remain there when I have been driven out?"

General Sickles then assured her that he downfall was not so much due to personal unpopularity on her part as to the odious politics that had fourished under her reign. The Spanish people continued to love her, he said, in spite of all, and he had heard many expressions of tender feeling toward her, It was remembered that she had always been averse to signing death warrants, and that many a wretch condemned to the garrote had been pardoned through her influence. He concluded by the statement that, while in his opinion, she might never resume the throne, the Spaniards might some time be ready for monarchical rule again.

Later he received news through private sources that the republic was tottering to a fail, and, meeting her son, Alfonso, then only a lad of 16, the general communicated the news to him.

Alfonso stopped to adjust a skate strap before making reply. Then he straightened to plefor making reply. Then he straightened to making reply. Then he straightened to prove making reply. Then he straightened to prove making reply. Then he straightened the sail own. The sail of making reply. Then he straightened up.

The spanish people continued to the colours of his assumed nonchalance, Alfonso left off saxing a stating as soon as possible base and advised her to send for the source of his mother and advised her to send for the source of his mother and advised her to send for the source of his mother and advised her to send for the source of his mother and advised her to send for the source of his materials was exceedingly curious as to the source of his mother and advised her to send for the source of his mother and advised her to send for the many the mother and advised her to se