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of impending disputes emanated from Samoa, where the difficulties were long since adjusted in the tripartite convention, a form of settlement which had previously been employed successfully with reference to Borneo, New Guinea, the Hebrides, and the Solomon Islands. But as German aggressiveness and German determination to expand trade caused the trouble in Samoa, so the question of harbors and trade dominance gradually asserted itself, only waiting for the Spanish war to bring it to issue.

America's difficulties with Spain changed the question of trade dominance for the moment to the question of naval position, and the nations began a struggle for naval and coaling stations. When the United States, hitherto the most peaceful of all nations, jumped into the arena and acquired authority and the direction of commerce by military force, the other nations had no alternative but to scramble for strategic posts. A period of fortification, mercantile diplomacy, and remodeling of tariff sheets and of political relations thus set in, whose importance cannot easily be measured.

When Uncle Sam took Manila, Emperor William wanted—and now has—the Carolines. When Uncle Sam began to talk of his cables to Guam and Manila, France made talk of independent wires to all her colonies. Then the British scheme for cable connection between the Australian federation and the extreme end of the British North American possessions received an extraordinary stimulus.

To protect his route to Manila, Uncle Sam wanted a naval station at Guam; he revived his claims to Midway, and he planned elaborately for protection of Hawaii. Then he went in for the Nicaraguan Canal, that he might transmit his ships the more easily from New York to defend his new dependencies. Britian, far-sighted and masterful, has -required the United States to pledge the neutrality of the canal, and thus has opened the way for the nations of the earth to enjoy common facilities with the United States for reaching their dependencies. Since Uncle Sam may not fortify the canal, Germany and England and France and Holland are brought almost as near to their Pacific possessions as is the United States. The United States is placed directly in the path between the nations of Europe and the nations of Europe as they are repeated on the continent of Asia and in the waters of the Pacific. It is impossible not to see that Uncle Sam is in the cauldron.

> "Double, double, toil and trouble. Fire burn and cauldron bubble."

## WAR

## BY ARTHUR STRINGER

From hill to hill he harried me; He stalked me day and night. He neither knew nor hated me; Not his nor mine the fight.

He killed the man who stood by me, For such they made his law. Then foot by foot I fought to him,

Who neither knew nor saw.

I trained my rifle on his heart; He leapt up in the air.

My screaming ball tore thro' his breast, And lay embedded there.

It lay embedded there, and yet Hissed home o'er hill and sea, Straight to the aching heart of her Who ne'er did wrong to me.