

**THE
NATION AT WAR**

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The nation at war by James A. B. Scherer

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A WAR BOOK

"COTTON AS A WORLD POWER;
A STUDY IN THE ECONOMIC INTERPRETATION
OF HISTORY"

BY JAMES A. B. SCHERER

An expansion of Dr. Scherer's lectures at Oxford and Cambridge Universities on "Economic Causes in the American Civil War," which Dr. Holland Rose said should compel a re-writing of American history. This book not only treats of the fascinating rôle of "King Cotton" in the present War, but makes out a powerful case for the dominance of economic motives in almost all wars, and closes with a lucid philosophy of peace.

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THE NATION AT WAR

BY

JAMES A. B. SCHERER

FOR ONE YEAR CHIEF FIELD AGENT OF THE COUNCIL OF NATIONAL
DEFENSE, STATE COUNCILS SECTION; PRESIDENT OF THROOP
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TO
G. E. H.
IN SCIENCE—ILLUSTRIOUS AND CONSUMMATE;
IN FRIENDSHIP—NOBLE AND SINCERE.¹

¹Adapted from Browning.



PREFACE

The Council of National Defense is not responsible for this book, let me say in acknowledging the invaluable assistance derived from the use of its files and from suggestions furnished by its members. "The Nation at War" is the record of a personal experience, and should be accepted as such.

The book is not a history of State Councils, and far less does it pretend to be an account of all American war work. The treatment of the States is indeed deliberately uneven, certainly not from partiality or prejudice, but simply because, within the limits of a single handy volume, I have tried to give the casual reader some general idea of what the State Councils are doing as a whole. This I have thought could be more effectively done by "picking out the high lights" here and there rather than by covering my canvas with a flat uniformity of detail. Quite frankly, too, I have occasionally dwelt with emphasis on the less known parts of the country, and on parts that are misunderstood.

It has been the most interesting year of my life, and I hope I can impart to the reader some notion of the thrilling story of the States as this has unrolled