

**OUR COMMERCE  
IN WAR AND HOW  
TO PROTECT IT**

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Our Commerce in War and How to Protect It by John Towne Danson

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**JOHN TOWNE DANSON**

**OUR COMMERCE  
IN WAR AND HOW  
TO PROTECT IT**



*Our Commerce, in War;*  
*and how to protect it.*

*By the author of*  
*"Our Next War, in its Commercial Aspect; with some account*  
*of the Premiums paid at 'Lloyd's' from 1805 to 1816."*

**In sea-fighting, we lead the rest.**



*London :*  
*Blades, East and Blades, 23, Abchurch Lane, E.C.*  
*1897.*



To the President of  
The Chamber of Commerce of  
Liverpool.

SIR,

To you, as presiding over a body whose high office it is to give a watchful regard to the interests of one of the largest shipping ports of the world, I may, perhaps, most fitly address a work, designed to draw public attention to the present expediency of a step, in our national policy, which has long been deemed desirable; and which may, now fairly be deemed practicable. Experience assures me that, in your City, it will receive all the consideration and the support it deserves.

I am, SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. D.





## P R E F A C E .

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In a small book, published in 1894, entitled "Our Next War," the Author endeavoured to make known, from accounts kept at "Lloyd's," previously unavailable, the course of marine insurance to which our Commerce was submitted during our last great naval war, closed in 1815. The chief use of that work was to suggest that any future naval war, in which we should be engaged, would, under existing circumstances, have a most disastrous effect upon our commercial prosperity; and that it was extremely doubtful whether we had adequate means of protecting ourselves, under the old system.

The purpose of the present work is to suggest a new, and better, method of conducting naval hostilities; without making them, in any degree, more costly—a method open to immediate adoption; and calculated to effect a material advance in civilization.



## “Our Commerce in War.”

As the *Times*, and subsequently the *Daily Post* (of Liverpool), have urged, against the leading proposal of this work, the assumption (well founded on *past* experience) that, in a future naval war, we should have, as we now stand, in the right to capture the private property of an enemy at sea, a *powerful weapon of offence*, it may be well to call attention to the particular facts at present bearing on this assumption.

These facts will be found succinctly stated at pages 54-58 of the work ; and their application is indicated in the following passage from a letter which appeared in the *Daily Post* of the 21st inst. :—

“It is supposed that we should thus give up a formidable weapon of attack. Not so. As about seven-eighths of the ocean traffic is already under our own flag, we could attack only the rest—even were we at war with the whole maritime world. And any *part* of that would (under the Declaration of Paris) find a ready refuge under the neutral flag.”

*And this must gather strength with the lapse of time.*

23rd April, 1897.

J. T. D.