

CHAPTER I

ENGLAND'S FINANCIAL SUPREMACY

"ENGLAND'S predominance on the Money Market is shattered." We often hear that said to-day. And we believe it is true. Even the English themselves are afraid that it may be so. It is, then, a matter of the greatest possible importance to have a clear idea of the nature and extent of this predominance; of its origin; of its significance to England; of the degree to which it is threatened; of the possible heirs to this former monopoly; and, above all, of the share which can and should be claimed by Germany. Such an investigation can only be of value if it is completely free from exaggeration. To underrate one's opponent's strength and to exaggerate one's own, is just as dangerous in the economic war as on the field of battle. We limit ourselves, therefore, to a statement of simple facts.

§ 1. London—The World's Bank, Stock Exchange and Auction Room.

If—before the war—a Brazilian exporter sold coffee to an importer in Havre or Hamburg, he