

THE
BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN FISHERIES.
REPORT OF THE
MANCHESTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS ASSOCIATION.

THE varied interests of England afford scope for the action of any power that may aim at her destruction, and this fact is sufficient to impose upon her people the necessity of watchfulness. If, then, instead of watchfulness, we have indifference, it cannot be surprising that the interests of England should be invariably giving way before the opposing interests of another power. If we compare the position of England now with the position she occupied a few years ago, the difference will be seen and felt by all. It will also be seen that this change has not been the result of accident—that there has existed a design to bring it about, and that in carrying it out some amongst those who have wielded the destinies of this empire must have taken part. We cannot suppose that this design could have existed, and the plans been arranged for carrying it into execution, and no one among the statesmen of England have seen this danger. On the contrary, we have seen this scheme exposed, and the danger pointed out, and yet instead of action, whereby we could check these designs, our every act has been of a character to serve the enemy, and assist in the scheme.

To secure the ruin of this country no step more certain could be taken than that of denuding her of her strength, thus producing insecurity and destroying confidence, and afterwards raising against her, not only the enmity of foreign nations, but that of her own subjects in various parts of the world. At the present moment, we find the subjects of England in the East in rebellion, and in speaking of this one of the present Ministry has said, “What has occurred in India has been produced by *those who had the Government of India.*” If insurrection, to quell which drains the resources of the Empire, can thus be produced, it is imperative upon us to be watchful that the West does not share the same fate, and to the study of our position in that quarter we are called even now by the appearance of danger. Murmurs of discontent have already reached us from across the Atlantic. Words the meaning of which cannot be mistaken have been uttered, not