The Drama of a World Empire

By WILLIAM SHINNICK

One warm spring day in 1837 the day of Algiers began, because King Charles X. of France hadn't answered one of his letters. In a fit of temper he smashed M. Desvil's desk in the face with a

- M. Desvil was the Frenchman. He walked out with dignity. He wrote a letter that was answered. The king, the story went, all the Frenchmen in France were insulted. A fleet sailed and blockaded Algiers. An
expedionary army followed. Eventually France conquered and occupied the vast Algerian territory.

- That was the real beginning of the present French colonial empire, won by battle and blood and maintained whenever necessary by force of arms. That empire spreads over huge stretches of Africa and Asia; it takes in a bit of South America and many
strategic portions of Oceania. It contains 4,187,570 square miles and 70,000,000 inhabitants—hardly a poor's share of the world for a nation of 42,000,000 with a European homeland of 212,569 square miles.

- There used to be a primary history book that informed American youngsters that the (Continued on page next.)