

THE NORTH WESTERN FREEDMEN'S AID COMMISSION.

The undersigned, recognizing the great and pressing needs of the freedmen, have, upon the consultation, designated themselves, under the corporate title above named, and offer to the people of the North-West to become the donors of such as have gifts to transmit to the long down-trodden and bitterly oppressed people, now at length, by the good providence of God, inspired with the hopes of individuality and manhood.

Assured by the experience of organizations earlier in the field, that the people universally desire to do all in their power for the relief of these sufferers, the Commission congratulate themselves upon the opportunity afforded them of facilitating a charity so eminently wise and just.

The basis of the organization is such as to make the managers directly amenable to the donors, under constitutional limitations, and every endeavor will be used to conduct the enterprise efficiently, economically and acceptably. The Commission finds its origin and constituency within the North-West, and is responsible to no foreign body. It succeeds to the work vigorously inaugurated by the North-Western Freedmen's Aid Committee, whose members, it will be seen, have all been included in the new Commission.

The Western Freedmen's Aid Commission, heretofore represented on this field by the Rev. H. W. Cobb, has in a handsome manner signified its readiness to yield the territory to home culture, and has withdrawn its agent. And the Rev. R. F. Markham, heretofore representing the American Missionary Association, has united his interests with those of the new organization. It is now hoped that the entire North-West will unite upon the catholic platform offered, and that the results will be found to justify a wise and economical concentration of power.

It is the purpose of the Commission to aid in relieving the pressing physical wants of the freedmen; and in addition, to do what may be found wise and practicable for their social, intellectual, moral and spiritual welfare, leaving the formation of churches entirely to separate ecclesiastical action.

The character of the contributions most needed, may be described as follows: MONEY: which will be required in generous sums, to carry out so extensive a work, to establish and sustain the necessary agencies, to purchase many things not contributed in sufficient quantities, and to provide as far as practicable, schools and teachers in localities where large numbers of freed people are congregated.

CLOTHING: Second-hand garments for women and children, and, which is preferable, materials for clothing—chiefly, coarse blankets, linseys, jeans and heavy osanburgs, coarse woolen socks and stockings or yarn, and shoes. COOKING UTENSILS: Pots, pails, basins, tin cups and plates, knives, spoons, &c.

MEDICINES: Cough and diarrhoea medicines are needed in large quantities. FOOD: Farina, &c., for the sick. TEACHERS: Male or female; competent, having strength, courage, fortitude, and a heart for this work, willing to go for small salaries, and able to endure hardships as good soldiers of Christ.

There are probably not less than forty thousand, chiefly women and children, now within our lines, between Cairo and New Orleans, for whom no adequate provision has been made. The majority of them have no shelter but what they call "bush tents," fit for nothing but to protect them from night dews. They are very poorly clad, many of them half naked, and almost destitute of beds and bedding, thousands of them sleeping on the bare ground. The Government supplies them with rations, but many unavoidable delays arise in the distribution, so that frequent instances of great destitution occur. The army rations, beef and crackers, are also a kind of diet they are not used to, they have no facilities for cooking, and are almost ignorant of the use of wheat flour; and even where provisions in abundance are supplied, they are so spoiled in cooking, as to be neither eatable nor wholesome. Add to these difficulties, the helplessness and improvidence of those who have always been slaves, together with their forlorn and jaded condition when they reach our lines, and we can easily account for the fact that sickness and death prevail to a fearful extent. No language can describe the suffering, destitution and neglect which prevail in some of their "camps."

Contributions should be sent to John V. Farwell, Esq., (of Cooley, Farwell & Co.), and will be acknowledged monthly in the Chicago Tribune.

Boxes of clothing, etc., should be marked "North Western Freedmen's Aid Commission, care of Col. R. B. Mason, Chicago Ill." The residence of the donors should also be plainly marked upon the box, and duplicate invoices of contents made, one to be placed in the box, and the other sent by mail to "Rev. C. H. Fowler, Box 3795, Chicago, Ill." All communications upon the general business of the Commission, should be addressed to Rev. Mr. Fowler.

The first annual meeting of the Commission will be held in the City of Chicago, on the second Thursday of April next. Contributors of sums not less than five dollars will be electors. A contribution of twenty dollars, or upwards, at one time, constitutes a life elector. Persons wishing to act as elec-

tors, will please have their names enrolled when their contributions are made. Rev. R. F. Markham and Rev. H. W. Cobb, are our authorized agents. The Post Office address of the first is at Wheaton, Dupage Co., Ill., of the second, at Chicago, Ill.

Hon. John M. Wilson, President; Rev. R. W. Patterson, D. D., Vice President; Rev. C. H. Fowler, Cor. Secretary; Rev. J. R. Shipperd, Rec. Secretary; John V. Farwell, Esq., Treasurer. Rev. Joseph Haven, D. D.; Rev. Robert Patterson, D. D.; Rev. W. C. Jackson; Rev. John B. Stewart; Col. R. B. Mason; Rev. N. D. Williamson; Rev. Edw. A. Pierce; Rev. T. M. Eddy, D. D.; Rev. J. C. Burroughs, D. D.; Rev. N. Colver, D. D.; J. H. Muhle, Rev. H. N. Bishop, D. D.

Chicago, Ill., January 10th, 1864. [We learn that a fortnight ago, the N. W. Freedmen's Commission had four agents and ten teachers employed, and were increasing weekly. The Vice President, Rev. R. W. Patterson, D. D., was at that time on a visit to Washington to further the important objects of the Commission.]

DONATION VISIT IN THE WEST.

MR. EDITOR:—Now that you are in the way of chronicling ministerial remembrances, surprises, &c., will you please publish an "old fashioned donation visit" on the frontier? It was given by the people of Clermont and vicinity to the subscriber, on the 29th ult. The number in attendance was larger than we have ever before seen on such an occasion in this place. And, though this people have just completed their house of worship, and have been doing what they could to furnish it, the donations were more than on any similar occasion, amounting to \$155, mostly in cash.

This, though a large and liberal sum for this people, is but an item in the whole amount raised by them for benevolent objects since last October. It is an evidence of a disposition on the part of people at the West, as well as at the East, to "drive the wolf from the Study door." We think this disposition exists here, and only needs favoring circumstances to call it forth. Besides, we have not forgotten a very ancient saying, or exhortation of a wise and good man; "Trust in the Lord and do good: so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed."

For the very agreeable visit and the material aid rendered us, we are under great obligation. CHAS. R. FRENCH, Clermont, Fayette County, Iowa. February, 10th, 1864.

A NEW CHAPEL IN WILMINGTON.

Hanover St. Church, Wilmington, has just completed and dedicated a handsome and commodious edifice, called "Olivet Chapel," in the suburbs of the city. The services were held on Sabbath, Feb. 14th; a sermon was preached by the pastor, Rev. W. Aikman, and an address delivered by Thos. M. Cann, and the Scriptures were read and prayer offered by Rev. Mr. Dickerson, of the Baptist church. The cost was \$4000. A Wilmington paper says:

The chapel is situated upon a hill, commanding one of the prettiest views in the city, overlooking the town on the east and north, and the country to the south and west. It is built of brick, with projecting portico in front and recess for pulpit in the rear, and is surmounted by a tasteful bell tower. It presents with its pointed slate roof and ornamental style a very pretty appearance from every side. The audience room is a large room about thirty by fifty feet, no space being lost by doorway or pulpit, the ceiling being pointed though not framed against the roof. It is seated with pews, which while they present the usual appearance, are so arranged that each alternate seat can be divided in two portions, thrown around and turned into a square for the accommodation of a Sabbath school class. It is the best and most convenient arrangement that we have seen.

CHARACTER OF OUR SOLDIERS.

Our correspondent writing from Camp Covalescent, adds the following eloquent tribute to the character of the defenders of Union:—

I have always had faith in our noble soldiers. God bless them! I always have wept for the quenching of so many bright young lives. Sublime and sacred are the bloody martyrdoms made by this cruel war. History will apotheosize the names of the fallen. But since I have been permitted a somewhat nearer and better insight of the devotion and heroism of our men, of their faith in the cause, of their astonishing patience, fortitude and courage in the hospital and on the dying bed, I love them better than ever. I am proud to receive their warm grasp, and hear them say, "God bless you, my brother!"

and I am proud to return that grasp and say, "God bless you, my brother!"

More intelligent and agreeable young men cannot be found than among our citizen soldiery now in service, having left in many instances good situations, and comfortable incomes for the maintenance of our national integrity and unity.

With such men in our cause, men who have carried into it so much principle, so much conscience, so much intelligent patriotism, so much calm devotion, so much moral harmony, and so much prayer and character, who can for an instant doubt, that "our quarrel is just," and who would not give them his sympathy and be willing to make any sacrifice to promote their physical comfort and their spiritual and eternal well-being?

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

THE REV. EPHER WHITAKER, OF SOUTHOLD, L. I., pastor of the Presbyterian church, acknowledges the receipt of a special donation, exceeding in value two hundred and twenty-five dollars, and including one hundred and two dollars, (192) in cash, with a complete set of Dr. Sprague's Annals.

SWEDEN.—Renan's Book has been issued in two separate translations in Sweden. The publisher of one of these translations announced that in the last number would be given a preface by a clergyman in Stockholm, well known for his advanced theology. Many were induced to subscribe for the work by the desire of possessing this imputed commendatory discourse. But to their sad disappointment, when the preface is published, it is found to contain a very severe and depreciatory critique on Renan's book, as paltry, and without any scientific foundation. Here, as elsewhere, Renan has become the instrument of causing men to read the Bible, and learn more concerning Jesus Christ.

DEATH OF A PIOUS OFFICER.—The Christian Chronicle, describing the death of Col. J. Richter Jones, who was recently killed near Newbern, says:

"A bullet went entirely through his body, and he died instantly, in the arms of his faithful body-servant, exclaiming, 'My God, my King.' In the last letter ever received from him he remarked, that each letter written he expected would be the last. 'But,' said he, 'to depart and be with Christ will be far better.' Col. Jones was baptized many years ago, by Rev. Dr. Gillette."

News of the Week.

Military movements of some importance have been made in the Southwest, during the past week. It is evidently the intention of Gen. Grant to give the rebels no rest until they throw down their arms and submit. The indications are that there will be a most vigorous campaign during the coming Spring, and that in the Southwest, at least, the rebellion will receive a fatal blow. We hope it may be vigorously pushed in the East, also. The new levies of troops which are pouring into the field, together with the old veterans who are re-enlisting, will be able, with judicious generalship, to do much towards crushing out whatever life yet remains in the slaveholders' rebellion.

CONGRESS.

SENATE, Feb. 15.—A bill defining the rank, duty and pay of Chaplains was referred; they are to have the pay of Major of Infantry, hold religious meetings twice a week, and keep the libraries for soldiers' use. The enrollment bill was called up, and the Senate, by a decisive vote, refused to recede from its position; a Committee of Conference must be had. The deficiency bill was taken up; it was voted to increase the salaries of all the Assistant Secretaries and First and Second Assistant Postmaster-Generals, after the close of this financial year to \$3,500 per annum; the House bill as amended was then agreed to.

HOUSE.—Mr. Stevens reported a bill granting public lands to the People's Pacific Railroad and Telegraph Company by the northern route. Mr. Windom offered a joint resolution, which was referred, proposing to amend the Constitution so as to prohibit Slavery throughout the United States and Territories. Mr. Arnold offered a resolution declaring "That the Constitution shall be so amended as to abolish and prohibit slavery wherever it exists." Mr. Holman moved to lay the resolution on the table. Motion disagreed to by Yeas 53, Nays 79. Mr. Arnold's resolution was adopted; Yeas 73, Nays 62. A bill for a ship canal around Niagara Falls, was reported. A bill for a Uniform System of Bankruptcy was also reported. The House then took up the Senate's amendment to the Internal Revenue bill. Mr. Stevens moved concurrence in the Senate's amendments, as to prohibiting a better revenue measure than the bill as it passed the House. He explained the amendments at length. Fernando Wood replied, and the debate was continued, without voting, until the hour of adjournment. Mr. Davis, from the Select Committee, reported a bill giving certain States, whose Governments have been usurped or overthrown, a Republican form of Government. It provides for the appointment of Provisional Governors, charged with civil administration, until, by means of elections, the State Governments can be re-established; all slaves in such territory are declared free, and any person hereafter in the Rebel public service is declared not to be a citizen of the United States.

SENATE, Feb. 16.—On motion of Mr. Lane, of Kansas, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill setting apart certain lands in Texas for the use of persons of African descent. Mr. Lane addressed the Senate at length on his bill. The bill to give all soldiers the same pay was then taken up. Mr. Wilson proposed that the bill should take effect from the 1st of March next. Mr. Garrett Davis proposed to amend by disbanding any negroes organized as soldiers, and if any shall hereafter be employed it shall only be as laborers and teamsters; and if they are slaves, their owners shall be paid just compensation for their services; and if any slave is lost in the service the full value of him shall be paid to the owner out of the United States Treasury. Mr. Davis advocated this foolish sentiment in a speech. HOUSE.—The Senate amendments to the Internal Revenue bill were taken up. That one refusing to put a tax on whiskey on hand (Fernando Wood's idea) was agreed to—Yeas, 73, Nays, 77. The sliding scale was also voted down, 165 to 141. This put 70 cents a gallon on liquor made up to July, and 80 cents thenceforward. The amendment striking out the additional 20 cents per gallon on adulterated spirits was agreed to. SENATE, Feb. 17.—Mr. Sumner presented the memorial of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church (O. S.) and of a mass convention of the Christian people of Allegheny city, Pa., praying for such amendments to the Constitution of the United States as may promote changes with respect to officers, slavery and other matters. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.—Mr. Brown offered a joint resolution for the immediate abolition of slavery. The Printing Committee reported back the bill authorizing the printing of 10,000 copies of the report of Gen. McClellan, with an amendment reducing the number to 5,000. Amendment adopted. Mr. Sumner offered amendments to the Constitution as substitutes for those reported from the Judiciary Committee. They are to extirpate Slavery, abolish the three-fifths slave representation and repeal the clause under which fugitives are caught. HOUSE.—Mr. Hooper asked leave to introduce a resolution authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to sell any surplus of gold in the Treasury. Mr. Cox objected. The resolution was read. It provides that the Secretary of the Treasury be authorized, from time to time, at his discretion, to sell any gold coin in the Treasury over the amount which, in his opinion, may be required by the Government to pay the interest on the public debt and for other purposes. Some debate occurred, and the resolution was finally stayed off by objections. Mr. Farnsworth proposed a joint resolution of thanks to re-enlisting soldiers. It was unanimously adopted. The House agreed to strike out the 20 cents additional tax on adulterated spirits, and also the proposed tax on spirits on hand for sale. The House disagreed to the Senate's amendment of the sliding scale on foreign spirits, retaining the additional tax of 50 cents. With these exceptions, all the amendments of the Senate were agreed to. The House has asked for a Conference Committee on the amendments disagreed to. The bill to establish a Bureau for Freedmen's Affairs was discussed. Mr. Cox opposed the bill. Mr. Washburne of Illinois replied. The Senate's resolution of thanks to Gen. Thomas was taken up, when Mr. Garfield moved to add the name of Gen. Rosecrans. The resolution was referred to the Military Committee. SENATE, Feb. 18.—Mr. Wilson, from the Committee of Conference on the part of the Senate on the Enrollment bill, made a report, which, after a partial reading, was ordered to be printed, and made the order for to-morrow. The House provision for the \$300 commutation is agreed to, with a proviso that it shall extend for one year, and that the period than one year, and that at the expiration of that time such persons shall again be liable to draft. The bill as reported also frees colored persons who may be drafted. It provides that such troops shall not be assigned as State troops, but shall be mustered into the service as United States volunteers. A joint resolution was passed authorizing the transfer from the land to the naval service of such soldiers qualified for seamen as the President may deem necessary. HOUSE.—The bill providing for the Government obtaining possession of Rock Island, Ill., on and after the 1st of March, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. Mr. Boutwell reported a bill, which passed, enabling commissioners or guardians of lunatics, appointed in the several States or foreign countries, to set within the District of Columbia. The proposal to authorize the sale of gold by the Secretary of the Treasury was taken up, and a long debate followed, after which the resolution and pending amendments were recommitted to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Tennessee.—A Chattanooga dispatch says the information from the Rebel army is contradictory. Some declare that Johnston's entire force is around Dalton; others say large portions, including the artillery at Kingston, having gone to reinforce Longstreet. John Morgan is said to be in the vicinity of Dalton, with a considerable cavalry force, preparing for a raid. General Watts, of Alabama, has telegraphed to the citizens of Selma to prepare to receive non-combatants from Mobile, as that place was soon to be attacked by the Unionists. Dispatches from Cumberland Gap report no new movements. Longstreet's army was at Strawberry Plains under marching orders. Deserter come in freely. A Memphis dispatch of the 12th says that Gen. Smith's cavalry expedition camped last night at Holly Springs, and will probably be next heard from through Rebel sources. We learn from South-east Tennessee that the refugees are leaving that State and Georgia by thousands. Many of them are in a starving condition. Large numbers of deserters from the Rebel army continue to arrive at Chattanooga daily.

Louisiana.—By the arrival of the steamer Creole, which left New Orleans on the 11th inst., we have four days later advices. There is no war news. The Era of the 11th contains a report of the largest gathering of the people that has been witnessed since the days of the last Presidential election, the evening previous, to ratify the nomination of Michael Hahn for Governor. The nominee was present and spoke at length. Resolutions in favor of a Free State were adopted.

Mississippi.—A private letter received at St. Louis, dated Vicksburg, 8th, from an eye witness says, that Gen. McPherson's Corps crossed the Big Black River, fifteen miles east of Vicksburg on the 7th. Hurlbut's Corps took a parallel route from Vicksburg, crossed at Messinger's Fork, five miles above McPherson's pontoons. Each column was fourteen miles long. The force sent up the Yazoo was to prevent a flank movement to cut off the "track." The iron-clads will try to reach Granada, to co-operate with Smith's cavalry, and drive Forrest's Rebel command toward Canton, where Bishop Polk's conscripts are said to be fortified with cotton bales.

A dispatch from Cairo gives further details concerning the advance of Gen. Sherman's army. It passed through Jackson, Miss., in two columns, driving the enemy so precipitately across Pearl River that he left his two pontoons and two pieces of artillery behind. Our forces seized provisions and supplies and swept on, reaching Meridian (140 miles) in the short space of ten days after leaving Vicksburg. Large numbers of deserters had come to our army from Tennessee, Kentucky, and Mississippi regiments. Refugees report that great fear is felt by the Mobilians at the threatened attack upon the city. The Rebels have there a garrison of 15,000 men.

Georgia.—A despatch from Chattanooga says that Gen. Brown of Georgia, has ordered all citizens, with their property to move to the east side of the Chattahoochee River, on pain of having their property confiscated. Gen. Sherman's troops have destroyed the bridge on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, thereby severing the connection between Gen. Polk's forces. Mobile rebel papers report a battle at Enterprise, Miss., with unknown results.

Florida.—Gen. Gillmore makes an official report to the War Department of the Florida expedition up to the 9th inst. The rebels fled from Jacksonville after sinking a steambot and burning 270 bales of cotton. Our forces had taken 100 prisoners, eight pieces of servicable artillery, and much property, without the loss of a man.

The steamship Arago has arrived with dates from Key West to the 15th, bringing intelligence of the capture of three blockade-runners, all flying the British flag, by the United States schooner Beauregard. They were all loaded with merchandise, cotton, and turpentine for Nassau. Two of them were sloops, and one is reported to be a craft of smaller dimensions. They had on board in all thirty-three bales of cotton and five barrels of turpentine.

Arkansas.—The St. Louis Democrat's Fort Smith special says: The coming State election will be held in about thirty-six counties. There will be no opposition to Judge Murphy. Arkansas will be represented at the Louisville Freedom Convention. Captain Durham of General Bank's staff has arrived at Little Rock with important dispatches, relating to future co-operations for the extinguishment of the Rebellion in the trans-Mississippi Department.

Intelligence from Fort Smith, Arkansas, announces the retirement of the Rebel Gen. Price to Mexico on a continuous forlough. The arrival of refugees from Texas has been numerous, but recently the Rebels have made it difficult for refugees to enter the Union lines in Arkansas.

Texas.—The George Washington brings advices from Indianola, Texas, to the 8th inst. Nearly all the troops there were re-enlisting. An expedition sent out in search of Rebels and lumber had returned. They found no signs of an enemy, but brought in a lot of lumber. Gen. Benton having gone North to testify in an important case at St. Louis, Gen. Fitz Henry Warren was in command of the division during his absence.

Important from Rebeldom.—Files of rebel papers have been received at Fortress Monroe. The Richmond Examiner of the 20th has the following. An official dispatch to the War Department of the 13th inst., announces Gen. Sherman's arrival at Paducah, on the Ohio and Mobile Railroad, without opposition, but he will not be allowed to take Mobile without a desperate battle. The enemy's advance was, without comparison, the boldest movement of the war. Sherman has from 25,000 to 30,000 men. They tear up the railroad and bridges in their rear. He meditates no step backward.

MOBILE, Feb. 19.—Farragut has not renewed his attack on Grant's Pass. His fleet lies in the Sound, the weather being too bad for action. No landing is reported yet in the direction of Pascagoula.

The Richmond Examiner of the 17th publishes the following: MONTE, Feb. 15.—Meridian was evacuated yesterday. The Government property was saved. Capt. Adair, of Forest's staff, has arrived. Forrest was at Oxford on the 9th. He was confronting a column of infantry 6,000 strong, from Memphis via Hernando, and twelve regiments of cavalry via Collierville. Sherman's forces, 35,000 strong, are marching in close order, with Lee's cavalry harassing their flanks, and picking up stragglers. PASCOUGOLA, Feb. 15.—The enemy's fleet including the flag-ship, have gone eastward, through the Sound, in the direction of Grant's Pass. Four more gunboats have just appeared steering the same course. MOBILE, Feb. 16.—Gov. Watts this morning issued a proclamation to the citizens of Mobile, that the city is about to be attacked, and exhorting non-combatants to leave.

GENERAL NEWS. Gov. Smith has officially informed the General Assembly of Rhode Island that the quota of that State, under every call of the President, is full.

With regard to the power of endurance of negro soldiers, the correspondent of the New York Tribune, at Fortress Monroe says that when the late expedition toward Richmond reached Bottom's Bridge, where they found their game blocked, roll was called and it was found that while nearly one-half the white infantry had fallen behind in the long and rapid march, every negro soldier was up to the mark and answered to his name. The Colorado Legislature on the 16th inst., passed resolutions recommending the re-election of President Lincoln.

The Post-Office Department of Canada having for the sake of uniformity consented to modify the postal arrangement between the United States and Canada of 1851, as to establish a uniform postage for letters of ten cents, the single rate between Canada and all parts of the United States, it is ordered by Postmaster-General Blair that in future the international postage charge upon all letters between Canada and any part of the United States shall be ten cents the single rate for half an ounce or under, prepayment optional, without regard to difference of distance or route of conveyance.

General Fremont writes to Major General Schenck, Chairman of the House Military Committee, that he requested to be relieved from the Army of Virginia, because he "regarded the order which reduced him to serve under Gen. Pope as an unmerited insult;" that since then he has been waiting orders; that he was once promised a command but did not get it; that he had kept part of his staff, to have their services when he should be called to active service; and that he has drawn his pay "since the last session of Congress, to be applied where it might alleviate distresses resulting from the war, and it has been used accordingly."

The schooner Kent has been seized in the Chesapeake Bay, and a large mail taken from her. Beside the mail, a lot of goods was found on board for Dixie, among which was a small package for Gen. Winsler, Provost Marshal General, Richmond, with a number of excellent maps of the harbor of Charleston, and other important points of military interest. Beside the above, the captors discovered a deposit of gun caps, military braids, drugs, &c., which had been left on the roadside by a blockade runner. The lot of goods that were packed consisted of the Blue Book and a number of copies of The Army and Navy Gazette of the United States.

The Union National Convention for the nomination of a candidate for the Presidency, is to meet at Baltimore, on Tuesday, the 7th day of June next. Each State having a representative in Congress will be entitled to as many delegates as shall be equal to twice the number of electors to which such State is entitled in the Electoral College of the United States. A resolution was adopted inviting the Territories and the District of Columbia, to send delegates subject to the determination by the Convention of their right to vote.

The steamship Bohemian, from Liverpool for Portland, struck on Alder's Rock, the 22d inst., and was wrecked. Nineteen lives are reported as lost.

FOREIGN NEWS.

By the arrival of the steamships Manchester and Africa, we have European News to the 9th inst. The great war-cloud which has been hanging over Germany for some time, has burst at last, and a storm has commenced in which all Europe is likely to be enveloped. This will give our friends across the water something else to do besides busying themselves about our affairs.

Great Britain.—The English Parliament was opened on Feb. 4. The Queen's speech does not at all refer to American affairs, and announces with regard to the Schleswig-Holstein question that her Majesty will continue her efforts in the interest of peace.

The Tories in Parliament severely censured the Government for hesitating to aid Denmark. In reply, Earl Russell maintained that the English Government had never promised to aid the Danes. The judgment of the Exchequer Chambers in the Alexandria case was to be delivered on Feb. 8. The Government is said to be determined to take the case before the House of Lords.

France.—The Emperor of the French, on Feb. 1, received the deputation from the Corps Legislatif, which brought up the address in reply to the speech from the Throne. The Emperor, in reply, expressed his satisfaction at the general result of the debates on the Address, prolonged as they were, and remarked that they reduced to nothing accusations which had been skillfully spread abroad. He spoke emphatically of the importance of general agreement and the abandonment of chimerical hopes for an impossible future. For sixty years, he observed, liberty was but an arm in the hands of parties to overthrow the existing Government, and it was quite time that such an abuse should no longer exist.

The Emperor has declared in favor of non-intervention in the German difficulties. Germany.—The news from Schleswig is highly important. The long-threatened war may be said at last to have begun. On Sunday, Jan. 7, the ultimatum of the two German Powers being rejected, a general order to march was given, and the Austro-Prussian troops were in motion. On Monday the Prussian forces crossed the Eider and entered Schleswig in the direction of Gotthorp and Eckenforde. The Austrian forces entered the Kronenwerk at Rendsburg. The Danes retired, but not without firing a few shots. The whole of the Austro-Prussian cavalry continued to pour into Schleswig. On Feb. 2, the Prussians attacked the Danish forts at Misunde, a village on the Schley, and after six hours' hard fighting were repulsed. The Austrians, on Feb. 3, attacked Bastorf, a village one English mile south of the town of Schleswig. The Austrians, after a number of bloody engagements, continuing from Feb. 3 to Feb. 6, have forced them to evacuate the town of Schleswig and the Danevirke, their celebrated line of defense. The Danes were retreating to Fiensburg, pursued by the Austrians and Prussians. The towns of Schleswig, Eckernforde and Schwansen, have proclaimed the Prince of Augusten-burg as Duke of Schleswig-Holstein, notwithstanding the warning of the Prussian General Wrangel.

The Bavarian Government is taking steps to call together a conference of the German States favorable to its views, in order to come to some decision, as to the course which they should follow in the Schleswig-Holstein movement.

The Pirates.—The presence of Confederate cruisers off the Azores has led to the dispatch of a Portuguese steam-frigate to that quarter. A telegram from Lisbon states that the vessel was sent at the urgent request of the American Minister, on purpose to watch the movements of the Confederates.