FOREIGN NEWS.

London, Jan. 29.—Information has just been received in this city of a terrible calamity overtaking the town of Schamachl, situated in Trans-Caucasia, a territory of Asiatic Russia, seventy miles west of Bakoo the capital. The town was visited by a series of violent shocks of earthquakes following each other in quick succession, causing the greatest consternation among the inhabitants. A panic seized the people, and a general exodes commenced. The shocks continued for some time, culminating in a concussion which shook the earth for miles around, involving the city in a mass of ruins. Scarcely a building was left standing; thousands are believed to have perished. The calamity causes a profound sensation throughout Eastern Russin.

England is actively intriguing against Russia in her encroachments on Central Asia. An envoy from Bokhara has arrived at Calcutta. It is understood that he is the bearer of important dispatches in relation to the situation of affairs in that section, and, in fact, that the greater portion of the Anglo-Indian army is moving northward. This gives color to the supposition that England is determined to oppose any further encroachments of Russia in that direction.

23" After a prolonged discussion in the Cabinet, the English Government has finally resolved to object to the consideration of the question of indirect damages by the American war, and limit the cases referred to the Geneva Conference entirely to direct terms.

Arrivals at Liverpool, report that the Ship Almora of St. Thomas N. B. was destroyed by fire at sea, and that probably all hands perished.

TW An Imperial decree appoints Baron Von Offenburg, late Consul General at Bucharest, Minister of Russia to the Government of the United States.

13" Madrid, Jan. 31 .- The Government has ordered further reinforcements of eight thousand troops to be dispatched to Cuba.

The Defense of Fisk's Murderer-A strange Story.

"Burleigh," the New York correspondent of the Boston Journal, gives the following outline of Stokes' defense;

"Stokes has been arraigned on an indictment found by the grand jury, but he has not yet pleaded. There are some interesting if not startling positions taken for the defense. The one is that Colonel Fisk was not only armed, but that the wound in his body was inflicted by himself-inflicted a la Vallandigham, in attempting to drawhis pistol from his pocket. That two pistols were used is very clear, from the fact that two bullets were found, one in Fisk's body and one on the marble pavement, the one bullet fitting the pistol found, and the other not. The bullet in the body fitting the pistol found, the bullet on the floor, which produced the wound in the arm, not fitting any pistol yet produced.

"The theory is that Fisk, coming in at the door, and seeing Stokes on the stairs, attempted to draw his pistol, when it accidentally discharged at the same time that he received Stokes' bullet in the arm. The parties who removed the outside clothing of the Colonel are yet to be produced in court. The woman who handed the pistol to the officer is yet to tell how it came to her hands, with other interesting testimony to show that Stokes did not fire on an unarmed man. But two persons witnessed the shooting. These were two hall boys of the Central Hotel, who were either so frightened that they did not know what was going ou, or deliberately perjured themselves, as they flatly contradicted each other and their own testimony on the stand."

Chicago, Feb. 1.—Reports now coming to hand from the Northwest show that the change in the temperature, Saturday night and Sunday, was much greater than first stated, and that there has been great suffering, and in some cases loss of life, on the plains. They could not reach a place of shelter, and three men, Hollanders, who are unknown, were frozen to death on Rock river in Sioux county on Sunday. Two boys were caught in a storm, and one was frozen to death, and the other had his arms and legs so badly frozen they will have to be amputated. Two men are reported dead from cold, on Turkey Creek, in Dakota, about fifteen miles from here, and several other deaths are reported the particulars of which have not been received.

SECRETARY ROBESON has sent a circular to his subordinates, directing that every man employed by the Government must, in all cases, be permitted to form his own opinions and to act as his own interest and judgment shall direct, and that any assumption or exercise of power, violation of the spirit of this circular, by any person in authority under the Department, will be punished by the removal of the persons offending.

Some roughs tried to break up a Methodist donation party at Denville, N. J., recently, but the brethren were on their musele, and they not only worsted their opponents in the fight, but lodged them all

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W. A. SPONSLER, President.

WILLIAM WILLIS, Cushler, New Bloomfield, 3 5 1y

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Pensions, Bounties, &c.

WIDOWS, Minor Children. Mothers, Fathers, &c., of Soldiers who were killed or died of disease contracted in the Service of the United States, can now make application for Fension.

Also Soldiers who contracted disease or were wounded, ruptured, or hi any way disabled in the war of 1861.

When widows die or re-marry, the child or children under sixteen years of age are entitled to a Pension.

a Pension.

The time for filing claims for additional bounty has been extended six months.

Particular attention given to old suspended case in the different departments at Washington, D. C. II you have, or think you have a claim against the Government, call on or address the undersigned. No charge for information.

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It is to be laid across the roof, shingle fashion, with a lap of two inches, and secured by nalling the edges with 3d nails and tin caps.

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