

The War Cloud in England.

The problem in European affairs just now seems to be whether France is arming for another war with Germany, in the hope of restoring her lost military prestige, or Germany is seizing upon the efforts of France to restore her army to its ordinary footing, as a pretext for another war to be inaugurated for the purpose of completely subjugating the French. Many of the official statements that come to us have the air of diplomatic untruthfulness, while the rumors that are caught up by travelers and occasional correspondents, are probably unreliable by reason of their being the expression of individual private opinion within a very limited circle. The Louisville Courier-Journal thinks nothing is more natural than that the hot-blooded young soldiers of France, lounging in the cafes or sauntering along the boulevards, should loudly proclaim their desire to wipe off the stain upon the French army. Nothing is more natural than that unmilitary tourists, not familiar with the spectacle of military organization, should mistake repair for construction, remodeling for development. And nothing, again, is more natural than that the rumors of these sights and sounds should occasion gossip in the outside world, and cause suspicion among the people of Germany. But of all gossip, the gossip of impending war is the least trustworthy, simply for the reasons that causes of complaint are subjects of confidential communications between governments, and the methods of war demand secrecy in its preparation. This secrecy extends even to collateral correspondence, as was illustrated in the British House of Lords last Monday, when the curiosity of the public culminated in a resolution offered by Earl Russell, asking that the correspondence between Great Britain and the continental powers, arising out of the recent war alarm, should be laid before the House. In response, the Earl of Derby, Minister of State for the Foreign Department, replied that he sympathized with the curiosity of those who had watched the course of foreign affairs during the last few weeks, but it would be impossible to give a fair account, without largely using confidential communications relating to the policy and opinions of other governments, who would object to such disclosures. This declaration of the British Government to furnish the House of Lords with authenticated information on the subject would seem to leave little for reliable information from private sources. But the next day an unsigned letter in the London Times declared that a few weeks ago the German representatives at the various European courts officially complained that France was arming with a view to the early re-umption of war, and that General von Schweinitz, the German Minister in Vienna, had stated it was only owing to Germany's long suffering that war had not yet broken out. This statement was, in a measure, corroborated by Lord Derby's remarks on the previous evening; for after declining to produce the official correspondence, he stated that persons highest in authority in Berlin of late openly declared that the French army had become a source of danger to Germany, because its magnitude showed a determination on the part of France to renew the war; that Germany in self-defence might feel impelled to strike the first blow to secure peace, and that it was necessary that the French army should be considerably reduced. If these reports had not official shape, they at least bear the impress of German sanction. They seem to have been thrown by Germany into the current of war gossip to elicit expression of opinion. They are not authoritative because they are rumors, but, as repeated by Lord Derby, they show what is, or may be, the attitude of Germany, and Lord Derby said they had passed extreme uneasiness in France. The situation as thus semi-officially revealed to the House of Lords presents the question whether Germany or France is seeking war. Whatever disinclination the British Government may have to making an official revelation of the actual situation, it seems to have no hesitation in exposing its opinions on the situation inferred from the rumors repeated by its Foreign Minister. Lord Derby declared to the Lords that he accepted as entirely sincere the disclaimer of the French Government of all warlike intentions. He believed no statesman in France contemplated a renewal of the war, and in behalf of France he said that naturally, after her humiliation, she desired to have an army which would give her the influence to which she considered herself entitled, and that the French Government was unable to conceive that German apprehensions were genuine. In a word, while attributing the sentiment to the French, Lord Derby made it quite apparent that it is the opinion of the Government of Great Britain that the representations ascribed to Germany could be interpreted only as a pretext for war. The force of this opinion is, however, somewhat impaired by the fact that in the Franco-German controversy Great Britain leans toward France, not that she has forgotten her old scores with the French, but that she has present apprehensions of Germany. Her Majesty's Government perceived in the existence of this mutual distrust between France and Germany a good opportunity to offer the friendly offices of England, and the Russian Government, which

would also prefer that Germany and France should give their exclusive attention to watching each other for the remainder of the present century, rather than that one should triumph over the other and then be ready to survey the field of Europe, was quite willing to cooperate with England in her benevolent design. Lord Derby is not willing to tell all he knows, because "the causes of dispute are liable to recur." Neither is he willing to tell what England might do when she has exhausted her friendly offices. But, while he takes occasion to renew to all the parties interested the assurances of his most distinguished consideration, he significantly remarks in reference to the liability to recurrence of the causes of dispute, that England's policy of non-intervention does not mean isolation or indifference to the peace of Europe.

RE-UNION OF THE HAMPTON LEGION—ARTILLERY, INFANTRY AND CAVALRY.—Mr. Frank E. Taylor, Secretary, has furnished us with a copy of the following circular, which we publish for the benefit of those interested:

At a meeting of the Hampton Legion Survivors, held in the city of Charleston, S. C., February 24, 1875, Gen. James Conner presiding, it was unanimously resolved, That a re-union of the Legion be held in the city of Columbia, S. C., on the fourteenth anniversary of the first battle of Manassas, the 21st of July next.

The undersigned were then appointed a committee to forward a circular to all surviving members of the Legion, and to make the other necessary arrangements for the re-union. The objects of the re-union will be: 1. To collect the necessary records for compiling a complete history of that command and its offshoots, from its organization in 1861 to the close of the war, in April, 1865; and with this view, officers and men are earnestly requested to prepare complete rolls of their companies, with full lists of the killed and wounded in all the engagements in which the Legion and its members took part; also, of those who died from disease; and to furnish copies of all official reports or other documents, concerning the Legion, that they may be able to obtain. 2. To take the initiative steps towards erecting a suitable monument to all our dead. 3. To form an association for the purpose of carrying out the ends above indicated.

Lieutenant-General Wade Hampton will preside. Gen. F. M. Logan will deliver an oration. Addresses may be expected from other prominent officers, who were officers of the old command. The committee consists of Theo. G. Barker, Field and Staff; F. L. Parker, M. D., Field and Staff; Jas. McElroy, Company A, Infantry; G. T. Whilden, Company A, Infantry; T. S. Inglesby, Company A, Infantry; C. P. Poppenheim, Company A, Infantry; S. E. Welch, Company H, Infantry; Jas. Simons, Bachman's Battery; Rudolph Siegling, Bachman's Battery; E. L. Halsey, Hart's Battery; Louis Sherfesse, Hart's Battery; John S. Fairly, Beaufort District Troop; W. R. Bull, Beaufort District Troop; Rev. O. F. Gregory, Company H, Infantry. JAMES CONNER, Chairman. FRANK E. TAYLOR, Secretary.

THE FIRST REPORT.—Mr. J. M. Crawford has exhibited to us a bundle of oats, grown from some of the seed furnished by Senator Robertson, from the Agricultural Department at Washington, last fall. Mr. C. planted in rows ten inches wide, dropped one seed in the hill, six inches apart; plowed with a bull-tongue twice and hoed twice. From a quart of the seed cats he will make at least three bushels—about forty bushels per acre. The sample has been greatly admired by all who have seen it—it is considered the finest ever raised in this section.

The Washington Republican is in a very bad humor with the hotel-keepers of that city, because they allow Spotted Tail and his select company of savages to sit at the table with white people. These red brethren are undeniably a little dirty, a little uncouth and ill-mannered, but they are "brethren," nevertheless, if their skins are red. Why should the Radical Republican have such an antipathy to color and even dirt? It is really depressing to observe it, after all the lessons of equality that paper has given its readers.

The Indian negotiations at Washington will result, probably, in the vacation of the Nebraska hunting district by the Sioux, without the expenditure by the Government of the \$25,000, which they refuse to take until they can go home and consult with the tribe. The Sherman-Augur treaty of 1868 cedes the Nebraska district to them as long as buffalo are to be found there, and the Government, it is said, can prove by admission of the Indians themselves that buffalo are rarely seen there. The trip of the Indians to Washington has been both expensive and useless.

HOTEL ARRIVALS, June 8, 1865.—Mansion House—J. M. Brown, Md.; R. M. Davis, S. C.; Levi Slawson, Orangeburg; N. A. Peay, Fairfield; J. R. Slawson, city; J. L. Black, S. C. Hendrix House—R. W. Steele, Augusta; E. J. Gage, Charleston; W. M. Crookshanks, Atlanta; J. D. Witherspoon, York; J. W. Cooper, city.

LETTER FROM MR. JEFFERSON DAVIS.—The St. Louis Times publishes the following letter from Mr. Jefferson Davis, addressed to Col. W. F. Mellen, a former Confederate officer, in which he repels with warmth the broad intimation contained in Gen. Sherman's "Memoirs," that he (Davis) was connected with the plot which resulted in the assassination of President Lincoln; whilst the story that when captured he "was traveling with wagon transportation and had a few thousand dollars of specie in a valise," is thoroughly exploded. Acting on the principle that blows should be given as well as received, Mr. Davis administers a severe castigation to Gen. Sherman, charging him with a violation of the terms of surrender accorded to Gen. Johnston, and with the display of an ineradicable malignity:

MEMPHIS, TENN., May 27, 1875.—My Dear Sir: Please accept my thanks for your kind letter of the 19th instant, and the accompanying copy of a St. Louis paper, containing an extract from the forthcoming work of Gen. W. T. Sherman. My absence delayed the receipt of your letter and this reply to it. The malice that seeks to revive the nefarious concocted and long since exploded slander which connected my name with the assassination of President Lincoln, is quite in character with the man who so conducted his invasion of the South as to render "Sherman's bummers" the synonym of pillage, arson, cruelty to the helpless and murder of non-combatants, and who closed his career of arson with a false accusation against Gen. Hampton in regard to the burning of Columbia, South Carolina. But the question arises, why did Gen. Sherman, at the date of his reported conversation with Gen. J. E. Johnston, suppose me capable of complicity in the assassination of President Lincoln?

General Sherman never was personally acquainted with me, and from those who knew me, either in the United States army or in civil life, surely learned nothing to justify such suspicion. In the conduct of the war between the States, despite of many baseless accusations, we can proudly point to a record which shows a strict adherence to the usages of war between civilized nations. On what, then, did the suspicion of Gen. Sherman rest? Was it not that, proceeding on the rule of judging others by oneself, he ascribed to me the murderous and malicious traits of his own nature?

He reports a conversation with President Lincoln, from which it is to be inferred a desire to have authority for departing from the course which, as a soldier, he must have known was usual and proper towards prisoners of war. Did he hope to get instructions for the slaughter of the Confederacy's President and cabinet officers, as set forth in the orders of Col. Dahlgren, when he made his raid against Richmond? If the good-natured, characteristic reply of President Lincoln taught him that murder was not the approved measure, it seems to have failed to inspire him with the generosity and charity which is ever found in noble minds, or with the chivalry which ever adorns the character of the true soldier and gentleman.

Among the articles of the surrender of General J. E. Johnston, there was one prohibiting military expeditions in the country East of the Chattahoochee River. That was the best consideration obtained for the surrender of armies, arms, munitions and manufactories in that section, and it was in violation of that article that the brigade of cavalry, by which I was captured, was scouring the country and freely taking from the unprotected people the little which was left to them for their future subsistence. From the statement of Gen. Sherman, we learn that a story had been told, to the effect that I was carrying in wagons millions of specie to the South, and, therefore, we are left to conclude, was made that expedition in violation of the agreement of surrender. Though the story of the millions of specie is now admitted by Gen. Sherman to have been a fiction, the admission is made in such terms as would lead the reader to suppose I had been traveling with wagon transportation, and had a few thousand dollars of specie in a valise. But neither supposition would be true. I had recently joined the wagon train, and was about to leave it when captured; my only baggage was a valise, which was packed on a mule, and it contained no specie. The few thousand dollars of specie were in a pair of saddle-bags belonging to Secretary Reagan. Whether that money ever reached the United States Treasury, Mr. Reagan, from whom it was taken, may be able to learn after he shall have assumed his functions as a Representative in the United States Congress.

Should the course of the commanding general of the army, in attempting at this late day to resuscitate a defunct slander against the President of the late Confederacy, and to which slander not even suborned witnesses could give the semblance of truth, be taken as the exponent of the feeling of the army, that arm of the General Government would seem to be ill-suited to the task, of late so largely assigned to it, of preserving civil order and of restoring harmony among the people of the United States. For public considerations it is to be hoped that the ineradicable malignity of Sherman may be an exception to the prevailing sentiment of the United States army. Again thanking you for your friendly consideration, I am very truly yours, JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Gen. Augur, of the United States army, who has been making a tour of inspection through Louisiana, expresses himself as much gratified with the condition of affairs throughout the State.

CITY MATTERS.—Where, oh! where, is the diamond breast-pin?

Strawberries are playing out and blackberries playing in.

Old Sol. is above the horizon now for fourteen hours and sixteen minutes, giving daylight for sixteen hours.

The weather, Monday night and yesterday morning, was chilly, and extra covering was necessary for comfort.

The bed-room of Mrs. S. B. Peck, on Richland street, was entered a few nights ago, and a gold watch carried off.

And now for the missing diamond and cross. Will the citizens be forced to take up that matter? It begins to look so.

Give a man a light heart, a white hat and a new suit of linen, and for a day he is above the cares and depressions of this world.

The early closing movement is becoming popular, and very few business houses are now open after 7 o'clock in the evening.

Main street was thronged with people, yesterday afternoon, but whether for business or promenade, it is hard to say—more than likely the latter.

The Augusta Chronicle, we thought, was aware that this is the era of wonderful performances. The cutting off the remaining arm by an old Napoleonic soldier is one of these feats. Perhaps he will intimate that "it can't be did." The PHOENIX agrees with him. The subject was discussed at length, however, by some of our citizens. Another query excited discussion, whether or not a man could marry his widow's sister.

THE CITY FINANCES—PER CONTRA.—"At the request of a number of influential Republicans," another meeting of citizens was held, last evening—the Court House being designated; but as that building could not be obtained, Parker's Hall was occupied. General Stolbrand, Chairman of the Council Committee, was appointed Chairman of the meeting, and Messrs. Richard Jones and W. R. Jones (the present and the former Clerks) Secretaries.

The hall was about half full—the majority of the assemblage being colored citizens. Alderman Pugh asserted that, as many citizens were not allowed to express their views at the citizens' meeting, on Monday, he hoped such would not be the case here. Alderman Carroll contradicted the statement, and said that all had an opportunity of freely expressing their views. Several points of order were then raised, which were ruled down by the Chairman, and the following report was read and adopted:

To the Committee of Twenty appointed by His Honor the Mayor and the Honorable the City Council of Columbia.—GENTLEMEN: Your Sub-Committee of Five, after investigating the books, records and other papers belonging to the city, beg leave to present the following report: Beginning with the 18th day of April, 1865, we find for the period terminating with the month of June, 1868, that the receipts and expenditures cannot be verified in any satisfactory manner, for the want of vouchers which are not to be found. This part, therefore, of the city accounts, must be taken on trust. From the books, vouchers and papers of subsequent administrations, we have ascertained that on April 1, 1870, the bonded debt amounted to \$344,000; interest unpaid for previous years, \$70,000; city currency outstanding, (circulation,) \$20,000; miscellaneous debts unpaid, (circulation,) \$15,000—\$449,000. City administration inaugurated April 1, 1870.

Taxes for said year Collected and Spent previously by the out-going Council—New Administration Borrows Money for its first year's Current Expenses.—At this date, (1st April, 1870,) the first term of the present Mayor began. It was found that the bulk, if not all, the taxes for 1870 had been already collected and the money disposed of and spent, in addition to \$5,000 obtained by out-going Council for 2,500 shares Greenville and Columbia Railroad stock. The incoming government was reduced to the necessity of borrowing money for defraying current expenses.

Payment of non-bonded City Debt contracted prior to March 31, 1870.—The administration of 1870 and its successors have satisfied or paid debts and liabilities against the city incurred prior to March 31, 1870, of the following amounts: Interest on public debt due, \$70,000; outstanding city currency, (circulation,) \$20,000; miscellaneous debts, \$15,000; for provisions furnished in 1865, (Joe Crews,) \$11,108. \$116,108.

Expenses for Permanent Improvements. Some of the larger outlays for permanent improvements are as follows: Erection of City Hall, \$67,974; purchase of water pipe, \$22,000; new almshouse, city hospital, bell tower, engine houses, city bell, new market, \$14,000; two steam fire engines, street lamps and posts, \$6,000; compiling, printing, &c., city ordinances, \$1,500; total, \$111,470. The aggregate paid as above (\$116,108) and the permanent improvements (\$111,440) foot up the sum of \$227,548.

Assuming the present indebtedness, bonded and otherwise, as amounting to \$626,752, and deducting therefrom the above mentioned \$227,548, paid out liquidating old debts and for permanent improvements, leaves \$399,202 as the present debt, had the moneys been used for nothing but running expenses, ordinarily so-called, of the city. The Committee presents these state-

ments simply to show how the finances would have appeared at this date, had no debts been incurred prior to April 1, 1870, and if no permanent improvements had been ordered or undertaken by the city administration after said date.

Large Outlays to Indigent Poor.—The expenses found upon the books for indigent poor were startling to your Committee. Upon close scrutiny, however, it was found that these outlays were caused by the large number of people who, terror-stricken during the great excitement in the up-country, flocked to and arrived in the city in a helpless and destitute condition. The excitement having been allayed, these people have gone back to their former homes and the City Council has altogether discontinued the said expenditures.

We record with pleasure that the alms house expenses of current year, under rigid economy, have been brought down to about one-half of last year's figures.

Summing up our report, your Committee feel called upon to state, as their opinion, that, whilst closer economy in the use of the means of the city could and should have been observed and enforced in former years, and as we perceive it is now, at least in some of the departments, being observed and enforced, we have failed to detect in any instance unlawful or dishonest use or appropriation of the funds or other means of the city.

C. J. STOLBRAND, Chairman Committee of Twenty.

After the reading of the report, Alderman Purvis and others addressed the meeting in defence of the present Council.

L. C. Northrop, Esq., after a sharp speech, in which he volunteered to defend the City Council in any action which may be brought against them, offered the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas a committee to investigate our municipal affairs, appointed by certain citizens of Columbia, have made and published a report, in which they allege that "incompetency and dishonesty" mark the management of our municipal interests; and whereas at a similar meeting of citizens, called to consider this report, certain resolutions were adopted requesting the Mayor and Aldermen to resign, and at the same time advising the commencement of legal proceedings against them; and whereas these meetings represent a small minority of the voting and tax-paying people of this municipal corporation, while the widespread publication of these matters tend to the detriment of our public honor and the injury of our public credit; and whereas we are animated by an entire devotion to the principle of a prompt and proper accountability in our public officers and a wise and economical discharge of their public duties; therefore, be it,

Resolved, That we deem it due to the honor, reputation and interests of our fair city, as well as to the character and responsibility of those whom we have elected to administer its public affairs, that our Mayor and Common Council should take such measures as they may deem necessary, to investigate the report of the said Committee, as published in the public press, and to examine, prove and publish a verification, explanation or denial of the charges and allegations of the said report, as well as to make public a full and minute statement of the public debt of the city of Columbia.

Resolved, That while it is the right of all classes of our people to have an honest and faithful administration of our municipal interests, it is also the undeniable right of our public officials to have fair play in accounting for their stewardship, and that, until they shall have been fully and fairly heard, they are entitled to our confidence in their integrity, and shall have our warm and cordial support in vindicating the honor of our city, in protecting the welfare of our people and in making straight their paths before the public eye.

Resolved, That we deprecate all passion and prejudice in asserting the right and redressing the wrong in all public affairs, and respectfully ask a suspension of the public judgment until the facts are clearly set forth upon which the honest verdict of the people may be rendered.

Ex-Alderman Carpenter, being called upon, responded in a somewhat lengthy speech. By this time, the hall was well filled, and much interest was manifested in the proceedings by the assemblage. Other speakers ventilated their ideas, and at a late hour the meeting adjourned.

If You WANT IT.—Everybody is purchasing the indelible transfer paper, and a trial is only necessary to prove its merits. A. H. Oliver, Glendining House, is the agent, and will call on you.

THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

The following gentlemen have been appointed on the above committee:

- E. J. Scott, Chairman; Dr. John Fisher, C. Bouknight, E. W. Seibels, John C. Seegers, E. W. Whetler, B. O'Neale, Jr., W. B. Nash, W. H. Gibbs, W. Lowry, W. C. Swaffield, J. H. Sawyer, W. B. Gulick, W. B. Stanley, F. W. McMaster, W. K. Greenfield, J. P. Southern, C. M. Wilder, C. F. Janney, Wm. Wallace, Israel Smith, W. D. Love, Dr. A. N. Talley, J. A. Hendrix, E. H. Heinitch.

SUPREME COURT DECISION, June 5, 1875.—*Ex parte* Thomas C. Dunn, Comptroller-General of South Carolina, in re Daniel Hand vs. the Savannah and Charleston Railroad Company et al. Judgment of Circuit Court dismissing the petition reversed and petition remanded to Circuit Court.

LIST OF NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. Columbia Chapter, No. 5. W. B. Burke—Hay, &c.