

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

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EUROPEAN MATTERS.

Our European dates by telegraph from New York are up to the 21st of April, our newspaper files to the 21st of March. The fall of Duppe and with it the taking of Alaska is the latest and most important item of intelligence from the Danish seat of war. Nothing now remains in Schleswig of Danish sovereignty, and the advance of the allies into Denmark proper can progress without any danger of their lines of communication being cut off. Frederica will probably succumb, and as the appetite of war grows on what it feeds, the German troops may be expected to continue their operations and strike at the existence of the Danish Monarchy itself. Of course Sweden can not afford to look on passively at this consummation, whether the rest of Europe is inclined to accept Earl Russell's advice of "rest and be thankful" or not. The Conference which was to have taken place on the 12th of April, has evidently been, according to the last despatch, postponed to the 20th. On that day it is said that some members met but the representatives of the German side was absent. It is difficult to see what position England will take in the discussion. If, however, Lord Palmerston's opinion is the House of Commons be any guide, the influence of Great Britain is certain to go strenuously against the German powers. On the 17th of March, the Premier in reply to Mr. Bismarck said, "The view Her Majesty's Government takes of the conduct of the Allies is that the whole of the military operations beyond the Roder were an outrage on the independence of Denmark." Every effort, no doubt, will be made by the majority of the Conference to put a stop to the war, on stronger grounds than to simply patch up the Schleswig-Holstein difficulty. There are dangers to be dreaded by almost every continental power should the war continue—dangers that we pointed out several weeks ago, and which, we perceive, are being ascertained by the principal English journals. The London Times says—"The question is not of an easy triumph over the Prussian and Austrian fleets. It means the letting loose of discord over the whole of Europe, the stirring up of every revolutionary element, the arising anew of every discontented nationality."

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House of Commons on the important debate on the Oxford Tests Abolition Bill, took place on the 16th March. The result of the discussion is not so very important in itself—deciding merely whether graduates in Oxford shall be admitted to the highest Arts degree, that of M. A., without theological test; but it is indicative that the bigotry and narrow-mindedness of the Church party in the House of Commons are beginning to meet with an enlightened, powerful, and wholesome opposition. Hitherto every reform in matters pertaining to the Established Church, has been determined and frustrated by the influence which this party, with its antediluvian tendencies, has been able to wield in the Houses of Parliament. The vote, however, on the second reading of this bill, in a House of 486 members, points early to the dawn of a new influence on Church matters. Out of the 486 members but 400 voted, 64 having paired, and two members, Lord Palmerston and Lord Stanley, having refrained from taking any part whatever in the division. The majority in favor of the second reading was 22. The result is the more satisfactory, inasmuch as it was obtained in one of the largest Houses that have met for several years.

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The several amendments made recently by the Proprietor of the British Colonist, in relation to the House of Commons, are of great importance. The amendments are of great importance, and are of great importance.

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