

## War Notes.

### THE ALLIES AND GERMAN PEACE PROPOSAL.

Perhaps the most important official document that has been issued since the declaration of war is the answer of the allied powers to the note delivered to them by the President of the United States in reference to the suggestions for peace (or peace proposals as the Germans would call them) of the central powers. Our readers will be glad to have this on record, and we therefore make no apology for publishing it.

"The allied Governments have received the note which was delivered to them in the name of the Government of the United States on the 19th of December, 1916. They have studied it with the care imposed upon them both by the exact realization which they have of the gravity of the hour and by the sincere friendship which attaches them to the American people.

"In a general way they desire to declare their respect for the lofty sentiments inspiring the American note and their whole-hearted agreement with the proposal to create a league of nations, which shall assure peace and justice throughout the world. They recognize all the advantages for the cause of humanity and civilization which the institution of international agreements, destined to avoid violent conflicts between nations, would prevent; agreements which must imply the sanctions necessary to insure their execution and thus to prevent an apparent security from only facilitating new aggression. But a discussion of future arrangements for assuring a durable peace pre-supposes a satisfactory settlement of the present conflict; the allies have as profound a desire as the Government of the United States to terminate as soon as possible a war for which the Central Empires are responsible, and which inflicts such cruel sufferings upon humanity. But in their judgment it is impossible to obtain at this moment such a peace as will not only secure to them the reparation, the restitution and the guarantees justly due them, by reason of the act of aggression, the guilt of which is fixed upon the Central Powers, while the very principle from which it sprang was undermining the safety of Europe; and at the same time such a peace as will enable future European nations to be established upon a sure foundation. The allied nations are conscious that they are not fighting for selfish interests, but, above all, to safeguard the independence of peoples, of right and of humanity

"The allies are fully aware of the losses and sufferings which