

The European War Cloud.

We have news from London to the 19th February, and from Paris to the 17th:

The Minister of the Interior had addressed a confidential letter to the Prefects of Departments, conveying the official interpretation they are to give to the Emperor's speech on opening the Session, as it had become the subject of contradictory commentaries. The Minister says the Emperor's policy is, that while denouncing war without legitimate motive, as impossible, his Majesty "will not recoil from war if his honor commands it, or if there arises one of those causes for which in all times France has been enthusiastic, because war is then a necessity."

THE DANUBIAN QUESTION.

The *Times* says the cloud in the south of Europe is dark and threatening, but the clouds in the East are big with tempests. Unless Austria, who sends her caveat against discussion of Italian wrongs, be persuaded to hold her peace on Roumanian rights, it is not improbable that the solution of the Italian question may be transferred from Rome to Milan, to Jassy or Bucharest.

LA PRESSE ON THE WAR QUESTION.

Paris, Feb 15, 1859.

Nothing can, therefore, be accomplished in the Roman States, so long as Austria rules there, and the first condition of any reform in Central Italy (there is no two words to express it) is to put out Austria.

In order not to continue to spend our money as a pure loss, whilst Austria spends that of the Holy See, in order not to become ridiculous we are forced to evacuate Rome as early as possible; and as we cannot do this in the present state of things without delivering the Pope to the chances of a terrible revolution, it is clear that our government ought to employ every means for assuring the peace and happiness of that unfortunate State, and consequently to put outside Austria, which is the only obstacle to the peace of the country.

Who has riveted the Pope to his odious system, that is, the destruction of the Romans? Austria. Who instigates the King of Naples to his foolish resistance to the most legitimate wishes, and to unnamable persecutions? Austria. Who crushes under iron bondage Lombardy and Venice? Austria. Who enslaves Tuscany and Modena? Austria. Yes, Austria everywhere. Austria, therefore, expelled, the position of affairs is changed and order is established.

But does Italy count exclusively upon herself to throw off the yoke of her oppressor? No. The time has passed when in the frenzy of her patriotism she pronounced those bold words, *Italia fara da se!* On the contrary, she invokes the co operation of generous nations. Is not her cause that of justice and civilization? It is also ours. We do not fear intervention. Why? Ought we not rather to welcome with gratitude the opportunity of putting a termination to the anxiety which torments Europe? As we have already said, Austria does not only raise her head in Italy, but also elsewhere. Is it not Austria that has nullified the results of the treaty of Paris? Is it not Austria that inspires Turkey with her treason and treachery? Is it not Austria that troubled the alliance that united us with England? Would not a war which would deliver us from this nightmare be blessed above all other wars? Such is the war, we believe, preparing in Italy, and why we regard it with confidence and security.

The Vienna correspondent of the London *Times*, writing on the 15th of February, says:

"Three or four days ago, information was received from France which removed all doubt as to the intention of the Emperor Napoleon; and it would not be surprising suddenly to learn that the Austrian army is to be placed on a war footing. The military organization is so excellent that 650,000 men can be fully prepared for action within a month or six weeks."

The same authority says it is evident a mighty storm is brewing, and that the aim of Russia and France is to reduce Austria to the same level as Turkey.