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THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1878.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

This month we are sending out our accounts, some of which are of rather long standing; and we earnestly request an immediate remittance from all—which is absolutely necessary; as it must be evident to every one that if a Church paper is to be regularly supplied, it must be paid for. We therefore trust that none of our friends will delay sending their subscriptions.

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THE WEEK.

EVERY mail from China brings fresh tidings of the dreadful famine which has visited that country. A gentleman, writing from Tai Yuen Fu, the provincial capital of Shansi, says he is immediately surrounded by more than a hundred thousand people who need relief. The suffering caused by the famine is believed to be far greater than than experienced by the famine in India. It is calculated that some ten millions of people are in absolute need, and are actually in a starving condition, while multitudes more are suffering a large amount of distress. There appear to be some contradictory statements as to the actual existence of food in that province; the latest accounts, however, appear to convey the impression that food can be obtained within a reasonable distance. Shansi is an inland province, and separated from the rest of China, and especially from the sources of supply, by high mountain ranges. The food sent for the relief of Shansi has to pass through Chihli, another of the famine stricken provinces. About three thousand pounds sterling have been raised in England for the relief of these poor people; some contributions have also been sent to China from the United States. Subscription lists have also been opened at the various commercial ports, to which European residents are expected to subscribe. Grants are also made by the Chinese government, and considerable subscriptions given by wealthy Chinese merchants; so that it is hoped these united efforts, made in so many places, will result in substantial benefit.

Some of the English papers have been circulating a paragraph containing a report that the Rev. John Athawes, in a sermon recently preached, alluded to "the virtues and general character of the late Pope in eulogistic terms," and "asked for the prayers of the congregation on behalf of the newly elected Pontiff, that he might inherit all the virtues of his predecessor, who had just passed away." The reverend gentleman has written to the *Times* to say that what he

really did was at the end of a sermon on St. Matthias, to allude very briefly to the election of the new Pope. He states that all he said about Pius IX, was to mention his death, and to express a prayer that his successor "might imitate his private virtues, but avoid his public errors." He says he did not ask his congregation to pray for the new Pope, but merely expressed his own sentiments—sentiments, he trusts, animated by nothing but the purest and truest Christian charity. Mr. Athawes piously remarks that he does not think either Pope, Czar or Sultan to be past praying for.

The new Pope is far more economical than his predecessor, who was remarkably liberal in regard to all money matters. In consequence of the change in this respect, the Vatican is daily besieged by an immense mob, clamoring in vain for alms. It appears to have been an immemorial custom for the Swiss Guard to receive three months salary after the death of a pope. On the present occasion, this has been denied them, and the consequence is that these loyal mercenaries have been acting uproariously, and even violently mutinous. Their commander arrested five of the ringleaders, but the Swiss broke into the prison, liberated the men, broke halberds and muskets, and at length the major domo had to pay them. Forty have been dismissed, and the Pope is conducting an inquiry into the causes of the misdemeanor. It is supposed by some that the mutiny was only one of a series of contrivances, the object of which was to constrain the Pope to leave Rome. The Guards will most likely be dismissed, and strong measures are to be taken against persons holding high official positions at the Vatican. The occurrence may possibly afford the King of Italy an excuse for his interference in the matter.

It is expected that the President of the United States will attempt to solve the difficulty about the Fisheries, by sending down a message to Congress recommending that the fishery award of five and a half millions be paid out of unexpended balance of the Geneva award, instead of applying to the Treasury for the amount. There appears to be no such exuberance of honesty in our neighbors to warrant the expectation they they will return England the excess of the Genevan award over and above the actual claims for compensation which that award undertook to satisfy. So that if the Fishery business is ever to be settled, it would appear probable that it will be by the payment of English money.

The news in reference to the Eastern question is still conflicting, and the subject of peace or war appears to be as undecided as ever. The defiant attitude of England and Russia towards each other wears the same complexion that it did some weeks ago. The situation is regarded as a serious one, inasmuch as the points of difference seem to

merge themselves entirely into questions of honor. Germany has been endeavouring in a quiet way to bring about amicable arrangements, but apparently without effect. It is not believed that the meeting of Congress will take place at an early date; although a Vienna paper threatens that the Congress will meet whether England enter into it or not. The *North German Gazette* appears to think that England's attitude of resistance does not necessarily mean actual war between that power and Russia. The Russian army remains at present a few miles distant from Constantinople. Its movements will depend entirely upon those of the British in the Sea of Marmora. Sir Stafford Northcote announced in the British House of Commons that Russia had communicated to the English Government the terms of the treaty of peace. A correspondent from Vienna, states that Russia's final answer to England is delayed, pending the efforts Russia is making, with the approval of Germany, to wean Austria from her last idea of an English alliance. The *Montags Review* declares that if England does not attend the congress, the three Emperors will have to come to a decision on Russia's demands. Bismark's views are believed to be that if England should then think it necessary to secure her interests in the Mediterranean, she will discover that the freedom of the seas is essentially a German interest. The Paris papers seem inclined to think that if England should not enter the Congress, France and Italy will not. Great dissatisfaction with Russia exists in Servia and in the other Christian provinces of the former Turkish Empire. They evidently want to be equally independent of Turkey and Russia; and Europe ought to have made them so, many years ago—the duty of moving in the matter especially devolving on England, on account of the support she has always given to the Empire of the Sultan. Russia would then have had no excuse for interfering; and a more effectual barrier against Russian aggression would have been raised than can be found in the effete government of "the sick man." Just now, the Porte is friendly to England, apparently on account of the intimate friendship between Mr. Layard and Vefyk Pasha, and the influence of the latter over the Sultan. This influence, however, is believed to be very temporary. The *Agence Russe* says that Russia having communicated the entire preliminaries to the Powers, having declared that no secret treaty exists, and having recognized in each member of the Congress a full right of discussing, proposing, and determining, the London Cabinet's conduct in insisting on imposing its formula upon Russia can only be regarded as an evasion, revealing an offensive intention.

The death is announced of the celebrated Egyptologist, Joseph Bonomi, aged eighty-two, and son of the architect of St. Peter's, Rome—of the same name. He was an early