

receive the richly emblazoned missive; the Patriarch of Alexandria gave three reasons why he could not receive it; the Metropolitan of Chalcedon cried "Epistrephete" or "Avaunt;" the Bishop of Varna objected to it on account of the Pope's wearing a sword, in doing which, it seemed to him he might follow Peter but not Peter's Master, and for four other reasons; and the good old Bishop of Trebizond was quite overcome, received the letter with profound emotion, pressed it to his forehead, then to his bosom, looked at it from all sides, for alas! he knew not the mystery of Latin characters, and exclaimed from time to time—"Oh Rome, Oh Rome! Oh holy Peter, Oh holy Peter!" The envoy could get no more out of him than this, and especially could not extract from him any intimation whether he would attend or not.

There is to be an Ecumenical Conference of Protestants next year in Geneva, says Merle D' Aubigne, which will doubtless have a great deal to talk about, although it is a difficult matter to say what it will find to do.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

JANUARY 2—9, 1870.

Beloved Brethren united in the faith of the Gospel in all countries.—It is now nine years since the Evangelical Alliance issued their first invitation to Christians throughout the world to set apart the first week of the new year for united prayer on agreed subjects. The invitation met with cordial and general acceptance, and the January week of universal prayer has become an institution honoured and devoutly observed in the different capitals and principal towns and villages of Protestant countries, and of all other lands in which there are Christians. Each year has shown an increase in the number of those who, with "one accord make common supplication," and has also furnished evidence that God still graciously hears the prayers of his suppliants, and sends answers in manifold forms of blessing.

Fellow Christians.—The commencement of another year approaches. To those of us who name the name of Christ, and who may be spared to welcome its advent, solemn duties and responsibilities belong. The Church and the world remain as ever in direct antagonism, and the voice of the Captain of our salvation will call us to the field of service and of conflict for the defence and extension of His kingdom. Prayer—united prayer—is one of our mightiest weapons; and mindful of the "times of refreshing," so often enjoyed, and in so many places throughout the earth during the Week of Prayer, and remembering the sure promise of God's Word, we earnestly invite you to renew fervent and united supplication before the mercy-seat of our reconciled God and Father in Christ Jesus, during the first week of the ensuing new year.

"I will that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands without wrath and doubting." (1 Tim. ii. 8.)

The following topics are suggested as suitable for exhortation and intercession on the successive days of meeting:

Sunday, Jan. 2.—Sermons. Person and work of the Holy Spirit, (Gal. v. 22, 23.)

Monday, Jan. 3.—Humiliation and thanksgiving. Prayer for Personal Holiness and more entire Consecration to God's Service. (Luke i. 74, 75; Rom. xii. 1.)