

Dominion Churchman.

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THE WEEK.

THE enthusiasm manifested by the troops from India, who have been ordered to Europe for military service, is quite as strong as it was expected it would be. It is said the native soldiers are completely captivated by the idea. It appears also that the native army is now composed of materials very different from those of which it was formed prior to the Mutiny. The old Bengal army was almost entirely recruited from high-caste men, who were forbidden by their religion to cross the sea, and who naturally, therefore, showed intense reluctance, if called upon, to fight out of India. The present army is, on the contrary, to a great extent recruited from the Sikhs, Pathans, and Punjab Mussulmans—all enlisted for general service and shackled by little or no caste prejudice. These are men to whom fighting is as the breath of their nostrils, and who have been for a long time chafing under the severe restraints imposed upon their bellicose instincts by protracted peace. The prospect, therefore, which has now been opened out to them of being employed in active service, under conditions of honour and confidence, to which the native soldier is keenly sensible, has awakened a spirit of emulous enthusiasm, showing that England possesses in India a reserve of military strength, of which, till now, she appeared hardly conscious. This reserve, if scientifically organised, is capable of raising England to a first-class military Power, were it only from strength of numbers. The enthusiasm is not confined to the Bengal army. Immediately the news of Indian troops being ordered to Malta became known at Mhow the native officers of the 23rd Regiment, after the roll was called, advanced to the colonel and expressed their eager desire to be engaged in active service. Shortly after, the men collected in crowds round the colonel's bungalow, and on his coming out with the native officers a scene of the wildest enthusiasm is said to have occurred, the private soldiers with loud cheers taking up the request of the native officers. A telegram from Madras states that when volunteers were asked for from the 15th Madras Native Infantry to join the 25th, under orders for Malta, the whole regiment came forward. This regiment returned only six weeks ago from three years' foreign service in Burmah, the men having been settled in lines for only fourteen days. Many out of the 100 who were selected have not even seen their families since their return. They marched away nevertheless in excellent spirits, elated with the prospect "of going" as they described it, "to some place near England to fight the Russians."

The *Morning Post* (not however the most reliable authority in the world) now states positively that Dr. Colenso has been invited to the Pan Anglican Synod! It also adds that he has accepted the invitation. If this

is true, the duty of every sound Church Bishop intending to be present is clear.

News from China respecting the famine continues to be of the most alarming character. The latest accounts state that fifty millions of people are suffering, while actual famine is pressing upon fifteen millions. The great want appears to be means of transportation into the stricken districts, which comprise the Provinces of Shansi, Chihli, Shantung, Shensi, Honan, Izhnew, and Kansu. The food can only be conveyed into the parts affected by the famine on waggons, or pack animals, so that a long time has to elapse before it can be taken there to be of any service. It is stated that the Chinese officials have been exceedingly energetic in doing all that can be done to save the famishing. The Chinese generally have been in the habit of classing opium and the missionaries together as the causes of all the evils to which the country has been lately subjected. The missionaries, however, are now winning favor in consequence of the help they have afforded. The accursed traffic in opium is no doubt one of the evils to be largely deplored, and for which, there is no doubt, the British Government is partly responsible. Numerous refugees from the famine district have found their way to Peking and Tientsin. In Tientsin, a house made with mats for the accommodation of suffering women and children, was recently burned, and a hundred and fifty lives lost.

Little appears to be known as yet as to the progress of the negotiations on the Eastern question—indeed the actual nature of them has been kept pretty nearly a profound secret. The rumors circulated a day or two ago about the failure of the negotiations and the certainty of war are now contradicted. At least they are shown to have been started without foundation; and all that is now supposed to be authentic is the current rumor that the two years' term of the occupation of Bulgaria may be shortened, the number of troops diminished, a European Commission instead of a Russian appointed, and a new scheme adopted for paying the indemnity. The warlike feeling has been steadily increasing in Constantinople for some time; although the feeling there is of very little consequence. The question will not be settled there. In Vienna, considerable uneasiness is manifested at the prospect of an agreement between England and Russia, and unfavorable rumors from that quarter are regarded as very natural. In Berlin, much incredulity is shown as to the success of Schouvaloff's mission; and notwithstanding the pretended attempts at mediation on the part of Germany, it is rather safely conjectured that a disagreement between England and Russia would not be regretted in Berlin. On the other hand, the facts that Schouvaloff had an interview with the Emperor of Germany and subsequently with Prince Bismarck, are con-

sidered to be favorable indications of the meeting of a Congress, which will doubtless settle the questions at issue without an appeal to the sword.

The First Encyclical of Leo the 13th was published on Easter Sunday. It is not so outspoken in style as those of the late Pius Nono. The Pope commences by deploring the accumulation of evils with which, from the first day of his Pontificate, he beheld mankind afflicted. The chief cause of so much evil lies, he is convinced, in the denial of the holy and august authority of the Church, and the contempt in which it is held. Hence the enemies of public order carry on a continued attack against the Church, and the dignity of the Roman Pontificate is especially assailed. Referring to the temporal power, the Pope says that in order to maintain above all, and to the best of his power, the rights and freedom of the Holy See, he will never cease to use every effort to preserve the obedience due to his authority, to remove the obstacles which interfere with the free exercise of his ministry and his power, and to obtain the reinstatement of that position of affairs in which the dictates of Divine wisdom had formerly placed the Roman Pontiffs. The Pope calls upon his venerable brethren to be earnest in spreading the holy light of religion among the flocks confided to them, and in instructing them to reject all opinions which might be contrary to the teaching of the Church. The condemnations and censures by his predecessors of current errors he confirms. The religious education of youth, he insists, should commence in earliest years, and he condemns civil marriages as a cause of marital infidelity and filial disobedience. There is no allusion to the Government of Italy.

Captain Burton, commanding the expedition for the survey of mines in the land of Midian, has returned to Cairo. He travelled five hundred miles by land, and brings back twenty-five tons of specimen ore, comprising gold, silver, copper, tin, and lead. He found three sulphur centres, three turquoise mines, extensive deposits of gypsum, saltpetre, and rock salt. He is going to England in order to arrange as to working the mines for the Khedive.

In a French comment on the Encyclical of Leo XIII, which demands the re-establishment of the temporal power, the writer speaks of it as "only a protest *pro forma*." The tone of the document is regarded as dignified and grave, and altogether different from "those outbursts which came from the inflamed and irritated mouth of Pius the Ninth." Leo the Thirteenth, on the contrary, "while maintaining the reserve which is imperative upon him, realizes the expectations which were based upon his reputation and moderation." The new Pope "must say" that the temporal sovereignty was necessary