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FOREIGN OFFICE, November 8, 1878.

CORRESPONDENCE with the Chinese Minister at this Court, respecting the recent famine:—

FAMINE IN NORTHERN PROVINCES OF CHINA.

No. 1.

Kuo-ta-jên to the Marquis of Salisbury.

Chinese Legation, 45 Portland Place,
October 14, 1878.

MY LORD,

I have been instructed by the Tsung-li Yamên and the Grand Secretary Li to request that your Lordship will have the goodness to present to the subscribers of the China Famine Fund the grateful acknowledgment of the Chinese Government for the generous alacrity with which, on hearing of the fearful calamity which had befallen the northern provinces of China, they hastened to the assistance of the suffering population.

The noble philanthropy which heard, in a far-distant country, the cry of suffering, and hastened to its assistance, is too signal a recognition of the common brotherhood of humanity ever to be forgotten, and is all the more worthy of being remembered because it was not a mere passing response to a generous emotion, but a continued effort, persevered in until, in sending the welcome rain, Heaven gave the assuring promise of returning plenty, and the sign that the brotherly succour was no longer required.

Coming from Englishmen residing in all parts of the world, this spontaneous act of generosity made a deep impression on the Government and

people of China, which cannot but have the effect of more closely cementing the friendly relations which now so happily exist between China and the Government and the people of this country. But the hand that gave also assumed the arduous duty of administering the relief; and here I would not forget to offer my grateful thanks and condolence to the families of those (and they are not a few) who nobly fell in distributing the fund.

To Englishmen in all parts of the world I beg to offer, through your Lordship, the thanks of the Government and people of China for the generous assistance afforded by them in a time of great calamity; but I more especially desire to thank his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sir Thomas Wade, Sir Rutherford Alcock, the Governor of Hong Kong, and the various missionary societies who inaugurated the China Famine Fund, supported it with their influence, and advanced it by their strenuous exertions.

Trusting that your Lordship will convey to them this acknowledgment of the Chinese Government, I beg, &c.

(Signed) KUO SUNG-TAO.

No. 2.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Kuo-ta-jên.

Foreign Office, October 25, 1878.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, conveying to me an expression of the grateful acknowledgments of the Chinese Government for the assistance rendered by Englishmen in all parts of the world