

Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1879.

AGENTS.

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THE WEEK.

THE war in Afghanistan appears to be in a fair way for terminating. It is announced that Yakoub Khan has accepted all the British proposals. The British are to have the Kojuk Pass, Pisheen Valley, Kurum Valley as far as the Shurtargasdan Pass, and the Khyber Pass as far as Loargi. They are also to have the right to keep an agent at Candahar. Major Cavagnari returns as envoy to Cabul with Yakoub.

The War Office in England has issued a circular asking for twelve hundred volunteers from the regular army for the Cape. The Government is also making arrangements for the transportation of five thousand men to Natal on short notice.

Among the experiments lately made with the electric light, that of the Metropolitan Board of Works, Eng. is remarkable as having led to the conclusion that electricity costs more than gas, and is not a success.

Considerable differences are reported to have arisen between the Marquis of Bute and Monsignor Capel, and it is thought likely that the Marquis will leave the Roman Church for the Holy Eastern or Greek Church. The dignitaries of the Papal Church have for some time had serious doubts about his entire sympathy with the dogmas of their communion.

There is being prepared for the basement of the old Castle of St. Louis, Quebec, a formidable concealed battery of the heaviest and most effective ordnance now in use. Besides the Armstrong rifled guns, given last year by the maker of them to the Dominion Government, and more than three hundred guns for heavier projectiles preparing in Montreal, a further supply of five twenty-ton guns is now in course of construction in England for the sea front of Canada.

Out of the two thousand persons arrested in Moscow during the winter, three hundred of them have started for Siberia. The nine thousand persons arrested in other towns will pass through Moscow during the summer.

The citizens of California have adopted a Constitution which confers upon the government larger powers over corporate and private enterprise than are exercised by any other State government or by any enlightened government of Europe. It is complained that under this enactment merchants and manufacturers lose the right to employ whom they please, and are deprived of the right to dispose of certain commodities and services at the highest figure they might command. The railroads, the gas companies, the telegraph

lines, the wharfs and the warehouses are all made subject to the legislature in the matter of charges. The man who has constructed a warehouse or built a wharf is no longer at liberty to make the losses of the dull season good by exacting large fees when trade is active and the use of his property in great demand. Every student of political economy will perceive the promise and potency of the most sweeping commercial changes in these restrictions.

The state of Russia, and the feeling with regard to the successor to the throne may be gathered from the fact that the Czarwitich has received anonymous letters advising him to leave the country if he wishes to maintain a neutral position in the "impending revolution."

A brother of the Zulu King Cetewayo, named Maynezu, with some followers, has surrendered to the British.

A majority of about twenty is expected for the protectionist tariff in the German Reichstag.

The Grand Trunk Railway Company contend, it is said, that their employes did not contribute in any way to the late accident at Stratford. They blame the manufacturers of the article which exploded. Doubtless something more definite will be known about the matter shortly. In the meantime it ought to be deeply impressed upon our legislature that it ought to be an offence of a grave character to send explosives of such a nature by any public conveyance. The substances from which they are made could be sent by rail without danger, and the explosives should be manufactured on the spot.

The President of the United States has sent his veto to the Military Interference Bill. He thinks the Bill not only unnecessary, but a dangerous departure from a long settled and important constitutional principle. In the House of Representatives there was considerable applause among the Republicans when the sentence was read, which insists that the power of the federal authority to employ troops when necessary should not be interfered with; and there was an incredulous sneer on the Democratic side at the President's assurance that he desired to act in harmony with Congress.

The British Ironclad, *Iron Duke*, which went ashore at Shanghai, has fortunately been floated off.

From Turkestan we learn that the Chinese troops have been twice successfully attacked by Khirgis tribes from the Andijan tribes, who now hold Cashgar. A Chinese army of twenty thousand is concentrated on the Ele River.

Texas is on the verge of bankruptcy, the Legislature having failed to provide for the payment on the interest of State bonds. The State Government is consequently unpopular.

Extensive preparations are being made for the reception of the Vice-Regal party in Kingston on the 29th. There are nine addresses to be presented. Arches, illuminations, various private

and public decorations, regattas, &c., &c., are to be attended to.

There had been no fresh fighting in South Africa up to April 28th. Lord Chelmsford and Prince Napoleon have gone to Kambuti. Ngunwanda, Cetewayo's youngest brother, has surrendered to the British. He reports that no Zulu force of any size exists at the present moment. The death of Mubelim, one of the King's brothers, is confirmed. The Boers in the Transvaal have broken up their camp and returned home.

Some slight differences have arisen in the French Cabinet on the question, should the Chambers return to Paris, of withdrawing the administration of the Prefecture of Police from the Municipal Council, and placing it in the hands of the Government. The moderate Republicans desire to put the project in execution; the advanced Republicans oppose it, and these are now in the majority.

On the 12th inst. the Pope at a Consistory appointed five Cardinal Priests and three Cardinal Deacons. Among the new Cardinals are the Rev. Dr. Newman and the Rev. Dr. Hevsemother. The Pope also made numerous appointments to bishoprics, among them those of Cardinal Hohenlohe to the bishopric of Albano; Rev. Dr. McCabe to that of Dublin, and Rev. Dr. Woodlock to that of Ardagh.

A great part of the town of Irbit, in Russia, has been burned down. It is at the confluence of the Irbit and Neiva Rivers, and in a place of considerable importance, being the seat of a fair which is largely attended by Europeans and Asiatics. The fire is supposed to have been the work of Nihilists. The cattle plague has appeared in St. Petersburg.

From Ottawa we learn that the amendment of Mr. Mackenzie in opposition to the Pacific Railway resolutions was defeated. The vote was 115 to 37, a majority of 78 for the Government.

A new English Dictionary has been in preparation since 1857 by the Philological Society of England. The material already accumulated for it is several tons in weight. Dr. J. A. H. Murray is to bring it out, with a staff of assistants. It will be more than four times the size of Webster. The first part of it is to be ready in 1882.

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER.

THE reason why prayer can prevail with Almighty God is because it is an arrangement that He Himself has instituted. It fulfils on the part of man a necessary moral condition; and that is the reason why God requires it. He needs no information; He needs no persuasion to induce Him to come to our assistance. But in order that He may rightly and properly grant us any of our requests, or if He see fit, may bless us in some other way, He has appointed prayer as the means of bringing us to a state of humility, faith, and love, as well as being the most fitting mode of giving expression to those features of the soul. And this is another proof among many of His wisdom as a moral ruler; for a great defect would have been manifest in His plan of discipline