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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1878.

AGENTS.

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THE WEEK.

THE Earl of Dufferin is spoken of as the probable Viceroy of India in the event of Lord Lytton's recall. The unfavorable criticisms on the present administration there by Lord Lawrence, Sir Henry Havelock, and others, have led to the supposition that the present Viceroy will probably be recalled.

The treatment of the Roman Catholics in Poland by the Government of Russia is the cause of much uneasiness in the Vatican; and it would appear that the attitude of Russia furnishes no reason to expect anything more satisfactory from that court. The negotiations between the two courts are consequently suspended; and His Holiness is expected shortly to issue a protest on the subject.

Advices from England on the 5th inst., state that in the mills at Wigan, 1,070 looms and 94,000 spindles have stopped, while 2,500 looms and 810,000 spindles are running on short time, being equivalent to 30 per cent. reduction in the operators' wages. Protectionists say this is all the result of free trade.

The North American Indians are giving considerable trouble in Nebraska. A large band of them have established themselves in the fastnesses of the hills, and are conducting marauding expeditions in different parts of the country. The United States troops are in pursuit of them, especially of Little Wolf and his well-organized band of two thousand men. Their location was discovered about forty miles from Camp Robinson. Determined resistance is expected, but it is believed that ultimately they will be completely routed and demoralized, or entirely captured.

Twenty white and sixty Chinese operatives in the woollen mills of Oregon city had a fight on the 5th inst. The former were the aggressors. Several were severely hurt on both sides, and one Chinaman was probably fatally shot. The authorities quelled the disturbance. A renewal of hostilities is feared. The fact is the white population fear that the labor market will soon be overstocked in consequence of so large an influx of the Celestials from the Middle Kingdom. It is true the Chinese are not very desirable citizens, if it were only because they cultivate no permanent attachment to any part of a foreign country. Their only object appears to be to amass riches as much as possible, and then return to their native country. However, it must be conceded that they have as much right to exist on the soil of America as any white man that ever landed on these shores; and if we could teach them a little Christianity, their sojourn might be attended with much benefit.

Those of us who are "getting up in years," can very well recollect the boast that was made a long time ago about the Republic south of us. It was to develop none of the abuses of the Mother Country. Not only were all men to be born equal, but they were to remain, in all social and political respects, exactly equal, throughout the course of their natural lives. There was to be no burdensome taxation to support "a bloated aristocracy." There were to be no poor, no rich among them. It has not, however, taken a generation to show the absurdity of such theoretic notions. As to the taxation, we may judge of that when we are informed that it has, of late years, not unfrequently happened that the taxation of land has amounted to more than the rent of it. And as to the amount of equality to be conceived possible, we may form some idea of that when we learn that in California, several men own hundreds of thousands of acres, and on the lands of one owner a straight journey of seventy-five miles can be taken. One of the remedies proposed for this state of things is that taxation in the State shall be on such a graduated scale that when a man owns more than a thousand acres of land, fifty per cent. shall be added to the valuation of his land for taxes. An additional 25 per cent. is to be added for the third and fourth thousand acres, an increased valuation of 150 per cent. for five thousand acres, and of 200 per cent. for eight thousand acres. The remedy is an artificial one, as all remedies in new countries are. It remains to be seen whether anything of the kind will ever be able to frustrate the invariable tendency of social and civil life.

It is very doubtful when we shall be privileged to hear the last of the results of the City of Glasgow Bank failure. It is now announced that Messrs. Matthew, Buchanan & Co., of Fore-street, Glasgow, have failed for a million and a quarter, but it is hoped that this will be the last great failure immediately in connection with the City of Glasgow Bank. Nothing can be more creditable than the conduct of the Scotch people at this crisis. There has been no run upon either of the Scotch banks as might have been expected—a course which would produce ruin wholesale throughout the land. But it is generally believed in Scotland that the City of Glasgow Bank was altogether an exception, and that other Scotch banking institutions are as well managed and as solvent as any banks in Europe.

Another letter from Lord Lawrence on the Afghan question, has appeared, in which he observes: It is said that Quettah is not in Afghanistan, and that we have acquired the right of occupying it by treaty with the ruler of Beloochistan. This I admit; the question, however, is not one of right, but of policy. In 1854, when the occupation of Quettah was advocated, it was done so openly, on the ground of its being a first step in advance to the occupation of Candahar and Herat; or, in other words, to the invasion of Afghanistan. He further remarks: I do not for one moment wish it to be inferred that I think even lightly of what the Ameer, Shere Ali, has done in allowing the Russians to have a mission in Cabul; I think he has acted very wrongly and very unwisely in this matter. What I wish especially to show is, that he has received much provocation from us.

A. T. Stewart's body was stolen from the vault in New York, where it was laid, on the 7th inst., doubtless for the purpose of blackmailing. Mr. Libbey, of the firm of A. T. Stewart & Co., states that a hundred thousand dollars will be given, if need be, for the detection and punishment of those who stole the body; but not one cent will be paid to the thief or thieves.

Before the plenipotentiaries left Berlin, Beaconsfield and Andrassy signed a treaty providing that if Russia should endeavor to remain on Turkish territory after May, 1879, England and Austria will insist on her complete withdrawal. If Russia should urge that Turkey is unable to protect the Christians, owing to the disturbed state of affairs in Roumelia, England and Austria will furnish a garrison to relieve the Russians. The purport of this treaty was communicated to Russia.

Discoveries of the celebrated asbestos have been made in Quebec, and what adds to their value is the fact that great advances have been made of late years in the art of spinning and weaving the material. A resident of Buffalo has succeeded in making asbestos cloth of remarkable qualities. Some perfectly woven gloves are mentioned, the wearer of which could handle red-hot iron or the strongest acids. It is proposed to make asbestos into sheets for the purpose of covering up a building that may be in proximity to a fire, and thus arrest the spread of the flames.

The Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise are expected in Ottawa about the 2nd of December. Great preparations are made for their reception, which promises to be of a most imposing character.

Subscriptions in Glasgow to the fund for the relief of the Glasgow Bank shareholders have reached £98,000, and in Edinburgh £27,000. A movement is on foot to induce the depositors of the City of Glasgow Bank to accept a composition of fifteen shillings in the pound, so as to relieve the shareholders. Some twenty-five firms—many of them first-class concerns—have already suspended in consequence of the bank crash. Probably, others have to follow. The report of the liquidators has naturally caused much consternation and indignation, not only among the unfortunate shareholders, but in all commercial circles. A loss of more than six millions sterling represents an amount of liability by the shareholders frightful to contemplate. There seems to be no doubt that a large proportion of the proprietors will be unable to meet even the first call, and thus heavier burdens will be thrown on the rest. It is estimated, indeed, that seven-eighths of the unhappy shareholders will lose their all; and the rest will be fearfully crippled.

The Earl of Beaconsfield in his speech at the Lord Mayor's dinner on the 9th, maintained that the rectification of the north-western frontier of India would increase England's power and prosperity, and he hinted that the possession of Cyprus was necessary to strengthen the hands of the Sultan in carrying out internal reforms, and equally important, in playing his part in regard to the "Eastern Question." The speech has created a favourable impression generally. It is considered pacific, although the *Golos* (Russian paper), says it shows that the basis of the Pre-