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THURSDAY, FEB. 17, 1870.

PETROLEUM at Antwerp, 60½f.

U. S. BONDS at Frankfort, 92¾.

GOLD closed in New York yesterday at 119¾.

TEXAS has ratified the XVth Article, and her approval of the XIVth is also certain. She will elect her Senators on the 22nd.

AN ITALIAN NOBLEMAN, who spent two years in Boston, says in his book that the Boston women are the prettiest in this country.

NEBRASKA ratifies the XVth Article to-day, or to-morrow at the latest. With this vote, and that of Texas, which was also affirmative, on the 15th, we count thirty, of the thirty-seven, States concurring in their approval of the doctrine of Republican Equality. If the certificate of Nebraska shall reach Washington seasonably, the final adoption of the Article will be officially proclaimed by the 22d—next Tuesday.

GEORGIA has at last made a legal choice of her United States Senators—the first for nine years. As the country anticipated, the long term has been given to BLODGETT, and the shorter to Col. H. P. FARROW, while the vacancy for this winter only is filled with a third name. Neither Gen. Terry nor Gov. Bullock were candidates. The nominees are citizens of high character, and Republicans of the radical stamp. They will be recognized at Washington on or before the 22nd inst.

GEN. M. T. MCMAHON, late Minister to Paraguay, in a lecture recently delivered in Cooper Institute, New York, speaks in high terms of Lopez, the President of Paraguay, who was finally driven by the Allies from his capital and is now entrenched in a stronghold in the Cordilleras, at the head of a small but determined band of followers. Gen. M. speaks of the Paraguayan soldiers as the best he ever saw, and of the women assisting in battle to move the artillery, while their husbands and brothers were charging in front. He says Lopez is a gentleman of courteous manners, and most winning address, and denied the oft repeated charges of barbarity. The five years' struggle which he has maintained, to defend his country against the overwhelming forces of Brazil and her allies, was among the most desperate on record, and Gen. McMahon predicts that he will yet triumph. It may be that the man has been grossly slandered.

THE Naturalization bill has been further amended in the Judiciary Committee. The period of probationary residence is reduced to three years and a half, applications being permitted at the end of three years, but the suffrage not to be exercised until after the lapse of six months after the date of the certificate. Members of the Committee feel no doubt that Congress and the country will sustain their more mature judgment approval of the two salient features of the proposed change—first, the requirement for the lapse of a fixed period between the act of naturalization and the act of suffrage, and second, the absolute withdrawal of all jurisdiction in the premises from the State courts. All the minor details the bill is to be so perfected as to deny no reasonable facilities for the *bona fide* acquisition of civil rights by alien, immigrants. Especially, the inchoate rights of all who have filed their intentions under the previous law, should be carefully preserved. And the Federal jurisdiction in the premises should be so popularized as to obviate any danger of unreasonable delays, expenses or other inconvenience to applications.

ROBBING POOR JOHN.

Under pretence that a kind of secret government exists among the Chinese of California known as the "Six Companies," and operates, as is alleged, "wholly independent of, outside, and in derision of the authority of the State of California, as well as that of the government of the United States," a special committee has been appointed in the California House of Representatives, who have brought in a bill ostensibly to protect these people from the oppression of this alleged *imperium in imperio*, by the establishment of a special police empowered to impose fine and imprisonment on any person who shall endeavor by threats or by force to compel obedience to any coolie contract, "and which levies a special tax of five dollars a month on each Chinese male inhabitant, and three dollars a month on each Chinese female in the State to defray the cost of this police, and other expenses incident to the execution of the law."

A more bare-faced, rascally scheme of plunder was probably never before attempted; but the stupid Democrats who happen to control things there just now forget that such a game treaty will have their little game.

THE DIMINISHED DEBT.

We reprint the full text of a recent letter from the Secretary to a member of the Senate. There is not a superfluous word in this little document, but every word and letter and figure counts:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Feb 7, '70.
SIR: I reply briefly to your letter of the 4th inst., in reference to the amount of public debt on the 1st of March, 1869, as compared with the 1st of February, 1870.

The net of the public debt on the 1st of March, including interest accrued and not paid, and excluding Pacific Railroad bonds, was $2,825,463,260 01. The principal of the bonds then issued to the Pacific Railroad Companies was $53,397,000, or, as aggregate liability and indebtedness of $2,878,860,260 01.

On the 1st of February, 1870, the net amount of the debt, excluding bonds issued to the Pacific Railroad Companies, and including interest accrued and not paid, was $2,414,813,268 92. The bonds issued to the Pacific Railroad Companies at the latter date amounted to $64,457,000, or an aggregate liability and indebtedness of $2,479,270,268 92.

It thus appears that the liability of the United States on account of the Pacific Railroads has been increased during the eleven months, under acts of Congress previously passed, to the amount of $599,410,268.

During the same period of eleven months, the direct debt of the United States has been diminished $80,649,971. 39; and, if the increased liability of the United States on account of the Pacific Railroads be added, there still remains a total diminution of the total public debt of the United States, direct and contingent, during those eleven months, of $19,239,631 39.

These statements are based upon the books of the Treasury Department, and cannot be any way be impeached. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. S. BOUTWELL, Secretary.

THE CRISIS AT SALT LAKE.

The anti-polygamic legislation now proposed by Congress is especially shaped to supply the deficiencies of the present law. For example, under the existing situation, all the legislation of Utah Territory is absolutely controlled by Young. It is shaped to suit his purposes, while up to this hour Congress has utterly neglected to exercise, as it should have done, its Constitutional right to revise or amend such territorial Acts as have not conformed either to Federal obligations or to the demands of public morality. The impossibility of proving a marriage has hitherto been found the greatest difficulty in the way of enforcing existing laws against polygamous practices. The Mormons have adapted their system to these laws, so that no outside evidence could ever be had of the time or mode of this solemnization. All the rites have been shrouded in the darkest secrecy. The Cullom bill meets this difficulty, by the simple expedient of making the woman herself a competent witness. So, by the present Mormon control of the Probate Courts, no wronged woman can obtain justice. Even if a divorce be granted her, no alimony is allowed and she is turned out to starve. The cases have not been rare in which women have thus been compelled to return to the harems from which they would have escaped. The entire jurisdiction in these cases is now to be given to the Federal Courts. There is no doubt that, while some of the Mormon women may be found to defend polygamy, a vastly greater number of them will hail the enactment of the new law, as the declaration of their deliverance from a bondage more odious than death. Young has made a bold stroke in conferring the suffrage upon women, but when he finds, as he will, that he has reckoned too much upon the aid of *that* host, he will also discover that the step can not be withdrawn, and that the "institution" which has given him his power is doomed to destruction.

THE JAPANESE.

A few weeks ago two regularly accredited Ambassadors were presented to and received by the King of the Sandwich Islands, with all the diplomatic formalities usual at the courts of European sovereigns and at our own White House. The address on both sides were neat, terse and to the point, and perfectly free from Oriental and barbaric pomp and extravagance. The object of the embassy is to enter into a treaty mutually advantageous to the two high contracting parties, and His Hawaiian Majesty was pleased to assure the representatives of the Mikado that his subjects should be treated with all the justice and consideration extended to those of "the most favored nations." The Secretary of the American Legation resigned his post and became the Secretary of the Japanese Ambassadors.

When we think who these parties are who are thus seeking friendly commercial relations, it seems more like a phantasmagoria than a veritable fact which has transpired in the regular process of human events. Men yet in full vigor remember the time when the ancestors of this Sandwich Island king were savages and cannibals; now he reigns in peace over a gentle, educated, Christian people; while only a few years ago Japan was jealously shut against all Christian nations, except one Dutch ship once a year; now it is open, and its people are beginning to flow out, foreigners are permitted to enter freely, and Christian nations are represented at its Court.

The Japanese have been called the Yankees of Asia. In the arts, in domestic comfort, in shrewdness and quickness of perception, they are much in advance of their neighbors of China. They are beginning to emigrate, and form settlements and establish business houses in various parts of the world; and the diplomatic relations just established with the Sandwich Islands have been entered into with an eye to business. Many have settled in California, principally in the southern part, where they are engaged in the culture of semi-tropical fruits, the rearing of silk worms, in merchandising, and various other forms of industry. Unlike the Chinese, few if any of them engage as servants or laborers, but seem inclined to do business on their own account. In this trait their resemblance to the Yankees of New England is most strikingly manifested.

"HOEING A STUMPY ROW."

The Armstrong *Republican* prints the following letter which was written to its editor, some months since, by the very nice man who has just been chosen for State Treasurer. If his financial abilities be not superior to his grammar, or his personal morals higher than his notions of political expediency, there will be an ugly "vault account" when he goes out of the office. Let us wait and hope! In the meantime, read this bit of composition:

OAKLAND GROVE, BEAVER CO., PA.,
NEW BRIG. TUN, Nov. 23, 1869.

A. G. HENRY, ESQR—*My Dear Sir*:—Your Very welcome letter of 19 inst. was on My return home Saturday Evening I received & for the Kind Expressions therein Contained please accept My Very Kindest thanks. Also for Your Very Kind and *I am certain honest advice*, for you are I Suppose as well aware as any Man in the Commonwealth, of the hardships under which for Many years I have laboured, with neither rich father—fatherinlaw or Brother or Brotherinlaws, to assist, but have on all occasions hoed My own *Stumpy row*, & thank the lord I am Still able to hoe that Same *old row*, and you Know that *I Know you*, & you Know, *I never did nor never will go back on you*, for I am *Scotch Irish of the old School, once Your friend always Your friend, until you deceive Me*, & then the End of friendship Ceases, but I hope to God that will never be, *no never by My fault*, will you a *Journalist*, Stand by and raise the Beaver Radical Ticket, for Elect that wicked, unscrupulous Bill Kemble, & to Sacrifice me, go on now to defeat Me & not fight it. *No, I say No*, You Cannot do it. You wont do it, you Cannot if you would, it is not Your nature, you May be led astray but otherwise I Know you will not. Some people are afraid of the Editor of the radical, *but I am not one of that Kind*, *oh, no, nor, the Cameron there to back him*, if he did Sell Curtin and the instructions of the republican party to them, in the Year of our lord 1867. No Sir, & be that idea to this Man here-or Else where is doomed politically *Mark this*. I am neither a profit, nor the Son of a profit & if you tie to him for Either assistant Clerk, or post Master, You are this time *I give you lonely notice*, beaten for Either.

You Ask My assistance. You *Shall Have it*, providing you are not in the Cameron, Quay, Connection, if you are you Cannot, you Know, Me, I never deceived you, *I if living, Expect to be Elector, Quay never was honestly your friend, honesty is not his*. You have a news paper, he Expects to use you, had you any paper when I became your friend. *No Sir*, this Man is finding his level. only two years ago he was traveling *(at My Extraordinary Expense, & saying I was the best Man in the State for the office & now he Says I am not qualified*. My record in the Auditor Generals office and Auditor's office at Washington will Show this & if need be in Beaver Co. Court where I was never Called on any account Since I Moved from this office & gave room to Shff. Roberts.

Quay, is for Various Gentlemen for the position you desire. if you were in Philadelphia you would be so informed. You Know he Sold Curtin & you Know he Sold Me the two best friends he Ever had. but he May be *too true to you to Sell you*, as he is & always has been a true friend of the Henry family.

I Cannot Say truly with Certainty, but if Successful, which I Expect to be, I might be of Some use to Your. look out for the ring. Philadelphia will be uppermost. Quay has no power without Money, no U. S. Senator, this yor. he cant Influence a vote without *Some bodys money* you know it. I have Said Enough & too much, but I am not afraid to Say *More & will* Ere this Contest Ends. take your own Course, do as you think best. If you *tie to Quay & his ring of thieves this time, You go under*. You Must not think I under rate, the dishonesty, the ability, the Treachery or the Sagacity of My Enemies, for not for one moment do I Doubt. oh no, *who Knows them better than I*, this I have no doubt Makes you think I should draw off, but draw off this time. *No never*. not for the ring of thieves, *oh no never*.

I am for You Henry, for You. Honestly Fairly & Conscientously for you, if You are just So for Me, but if you are with Quay, I am decidedly fairly & squarely against You, because *you Know us both*. Choose Ye between the two. You Know I never did nor never will Sell any Man & *You do Know he has & will, that is all*. *I wont* go off the *track* & if living will hope to See You after the fight, as I always have been and am now your friend.

Yours truly,
W. W. LIWIN.

FASHIONS.

New Styles in Shawls.

[From the New York Post.]

Costumes for street wear are elegant, and those of velvet are trimmed with bands of fur or guipure lace. A new style, seen in the street very recently, is a dress of myrtle-green gros-grain silk, with narrow flounces on the skirt. There is no overskirt, and the corsage is plain and sleeves close. White linen collar and cuffs are worn with the dress. A black velvet basque, the skirt medium long, is trimmed with a wide band of fur that passes around the neck; and the silk lining is finished by a narrow fluting of satin that can be seen upon the edge of the fur. This fluting passes around the neck also, and rests upon the linen collar, the neck of the basque being low. The velvet sleeves, open to the shoulder, are long and wide, falling over the arm, and are trimmed with fur to match the skirt. A small bonnet, with a coronal of lace and green satin rolls, has a black ostrich plume crossing the top and drooping at one side. On the other side is an aigrette and a scarf of black lace, which, passing across the lower part of the chignon, is caught at each side by a bow of green satin ribbon. This bonnet completes the costume.

A street suit of purple velvet has a wide, flat plaited flounce around the edge of the skirt, and above this two rows of deep fringe, headed by silk folds. The tunic and pelerine cape are trimmed to match, and there are two silk bows on the back of the cape. The silk belt has large bows and loops. The sleeves are close, with wide cuffs, and the bonnet worn with this suit is of purple velvet, with scarlet roses and green leaves.

A suit of fine cloth, in the fashionable brown, has the gored skirt trimmed with two wide flounces (or what appears to be one) that is made of strips of the material, scolloped and bound with narrow velvet, and set on upright, with a band of velvet running around the skirt at the top. A scolloped band with velvet buttons is set on the front, and continued up the close corsage. The sleeves are trimmed at the hand by bands of velvet, scolloped on the edge, with buttons in the centre. There is a tunic and pelerine cape, both open in front and trimmed to correspond. The belt is of cloth, bound with velvet, and joined at the back beneath a large bow. The bonnet worn with this suit is of black velvet and lace, with a trailing spray of violet and golden pansies at the side.

Another elegant walking suit is of brown silk. The skirt has a deep flounce set on by a fluted heading in large scollops, with a black velvet bow in each scollop. Upon the plain, high corsage bretells are arranged so as to pass under the belt, and extending down upon the skirt, simulate a small mantle edged with narrow fluting and lace. The buttons of the corsage are velvet, and the sleeves are trimmed to correspond.

COIFFURES

And the arrangement of the hair are important on all dress occasions. A very pretty headdress, to be worn with a toilet of white, is formed of a wreath of white marguerites, crossing the hair in form of bands, and allowing a few trailing vines to droop among the curls falling at the back. The coiffure for matronly married ladies is composed of puffs of velvet, or lace with flowers of feathers and jewels; for the young lady, bands of pearls, or wreaths of flowers, and buds with half-grown leaves. With such a headdress, the hair is raised from off the forehead, and then falls in rippling waves or long curls over the neck and shoulders.

A prevailing style of arranging the hair is to wave it in front with papers, and comb that on the sides toward the top. The back hair is then combed high and formed in a plait, and the left side arranged in firm loops quite high but irregular in size; long curls at the back; and a flower, feather and an aigrette ornament the plait on the right side. A becoming way of arranging the hair, when the forehead is high, is with small curls in front that fall carelessly; large rolls upon the top of the head, and two loosely twisted rolls low at the back, with a clutter of roses at the crown.

SHAWLS

Are much used for street wraps and carriage wear, and often folded or draped in odd forms. The style introduced last autumn, of arranging the shawl to represent a mantle by plaits, back and front, that confined it at the belt, and, falling loosely over the arms, looked like one with points, front and back, became conspicuous for a brief time, and so was ruled out by the graceful burnous. Now some inventive Parisian genius has brought out a new style attractive for its novelty. In Paris the long India shawl is draped over the left arm in folds, where it is held by a band of velvet; it is then brought around in front and thrown over the right shoulder, where it is clasped by a bow of velvet.

The Chinese New Year.

If one would see the bright side of Celestial life, he should ramble among the habitations of the respectable Chinamen during the New Year's festivities. You can then get a good insight into their social ideas and witness rational enjoyment. In this city the fuss and flutter, crackers firing and paper-burning incident to the inauguration of the holidays, have passed away, but the remnants of the jubilee explosives scattered in front of the large stores, cause pangs of jealousy in the breast of Young America and give one some idea of the amount of powder burned on the occasion. The boxes and bales hoed My own *Stumpy row*, & thank the lord I am Still able to hoe that Same *old row*, and you Know that *I Know you*, & you Know, *I never did nor never will go back on you*, for I am *Scotch Irish of the old School, once Your friend always Your friend, until you deceive Me*, & then the End of friendship Ceases, but I hope to God that will never be, *no never by My fault*, will you a *Journalist*, Stand by and raise the Beaver Radical Ticket, for Elect that wicked, unscrupulous Bill Kemble, & to Sacrifice me, go on now to defeat Me & not fight it. *No, I say No*, You Cannot do it. You wont do it, you Cannot if you would, it is not Your nature, you May be led astray but otherwise I Know you will not. Some people are afraid of the Editor of the radical, *but I am not one of that Kind*, *oh, no, nor, the Cameron there to back him*, if he did Sell Curtin and the instructions of the republican party to them, in the Year of our lord 1867. No Sir, & be that idea to this Man here-or Else where is doomed politically *Mark this*. I am neither a profit, nor the Son of a profit & if you tie to him for Either assistant Clerk, or post Master, You are this time *I give you lonely notice*, beaten for Either.

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QUITO.

The authentic history of Quito goes back well nigh a thousand years, and is then lost in the night of fable. In 1475, when Columbus was dreaming of voyaging across the unknown ocean, Huayna-Capac, the great Inca of Peru, marched from Cuzco a thousand miles to the south, defeated the monarch of Quito, took the city, and made it the capital of his great empire. How this march could have been performed is hardly inconceivable, for there is no reason to suppose that a road of any kind existed. The Inca dominion lasted barely sixty years, when it was overthrown by the Spaniards. But in that brief period works were constructed which will rank among the most stupendous ever made by human hands. Quito grew into a magnificent city. In the words of Mr. Orton, "it was the worthy metropolis of a vast empire stretching from the equator to the desert of Atacama, and walled in by the grandest group of mountains in the world. On this lofty site, which amidst the Alps would be buried in an avalanche of snow, but within the tropics enjoys an eternal spring, palaces more beautiful than the Alhambra were erected glittering with the gold and jewels of the Andes. But most wonderful of all was the great military road, stretching along the flank of the eastern Cordillera, from above Quito to below Cuzco—well-nigh fifteen hundred miles. From the detached portions of it which Humboldt saw, he felt warranted in pronouncing that it vied with the famous Roman military roads. Mr. Orton, who traveled over a portion of this ancient road, says that it "is well paved with blocks of dark porphyry. It is not graded, but partakes of the irregularity of the country. Designed, not for carriages, but for troops and llamas, there are steps where the ascent is steep." We can not now learn that there now exist in Quito any remains of Inca architecture. "All its splendor," says Mr. Orton, "passed away with the scepter of Atapha-ualipa. Where the pavillion of the Inca once stood is now a gloomy convent, and a wheat field takes the place of the Temple of the Sun."

The Quito of to-day is a dull Spanish-American city of 80,000 inhabitants, three-forth of them Indians or mixed breed—Indian, Spanish, and negro. There are two or three rather imposing public buildings, the Government House and the Cathedral being the principal. The dwellings are low Indian huts and houses built of sun-dried brick, none of them more than two stories. "There is not" says Mr. Orton, "in Quito—and, for the matter of that, in all Ecuador—a single chimney." The bulk of the population consists of Cholos, the offspring of Spaniards and Indians, the Indian blood greatly predominating. Contrary to what is usually held to be the case, they are more enterprising and intelligent than their proprietors of either race. They are soldiers, artisans, and tradesmen who keep up the only signs of life in Quito. In contrast they are fully equal in all the qualities of Castilian.—From "The Andes and the Amazon," in *Harper's Magazine for February*.

The Oldest Families of England.

A glance at Debrett, the "Country Families," and other works of the same nature, will show the immense number of applicants for the coveted distinction of being among the first or best families of the United Kingdom, but, in spite of that fact, the number of those who can stand the three tests which settle the question is sifted down to four. Length of descent, ancient renown and political importance are the crucibles in which all pretensions must be tried. In them the Smythes and Brownes come utterly to an end, and even such distinguished names as Howard, Russel, Cecil, Seymour, Talbot and Stanley, none of which had risen above the middle ranks five hundred years ago, do not come up to this rigid standard. All the conditions are only fulfilled by only four families—those of Hastings, Fielding, Courtney and Nevil. The first has been more or less noble since the conquest. The second is descended from the Imperial Hapsburg race, and has been in England since Henry the Third's reign. The Courtneys are descended from Pharamond, the founder of the French monarchy who flourished in the middle of the fifth century; and from Atho, some of whose family were Counts of Edessa, Kings of Jerusalem, and Emperors of Constantinople. They are also of very ancient nobility in England and have maintained their historical and political importance down to our day. There is but one family which can compete with them in the race for distinction, and the claims of the rivel houses are very evenly balanced, unless the fact that the fame of the Courtneys is chiefly of ecclesiastics, while that of the Nevils is purely Anglo-Saxon, turns the scale. The Nevils were Earls of Northumberland, when we first hear of them, in Saxon times, nearly a thousand years ago, they were in the highest ranks of the nobles before the Conquest, and have been noble ever since. During the war of the roses they were powerful enough to furnish a king, which not of their family, cost them their possessions, and