

News by the English Mail

COMMERCIAL.

The large influx of gold, both from the Australian colonies and the United States, has caused an improved feeling to prevail in commercial circles, and it could not have arrived at a more opportune time. The total imports of gold in previous months, and the week amount to over a million and a half sterling. It is expected that some portion of this vast amount will be secured for the Bank of England; but the gold brought by the James Baines has been already sold to the Bank of France, and it is probable, that some of the other arrivals will attract buyers from the same quarter, as the demand for gold on Continental account is no yet satisfied.

Much satisfaction is felt at the arrival of the James Baines, and, although the voyage was a protracted one; no amount of alarm was felt in Liverpool regarding her safety. Anxiety to a certain extent did prevail, but not at all like the feeling entertained in London, where many underwriters and insurance offices made pretty considerable profits.

The Australian advices to hand by the Lightning extend to the 18th of August, and are of a satisfactory character. From the gold fields the accounts are, on the whole, favourable—the escort from the diggings being much above the average, and the prospects of the ensuing summer encouraging. New gold fields have been discovered in New South Wales, and had attracted many persons from the Victoria diggings; but the soil not proving so auriferous as expected, numbers of them had returned. The labor market, however, still though we were fully sustained. Good English female servants were scarce. The demand for gold had been considerable, at 75s 6d per ounce. Wool is in active request, and in some instances an advance had been obtained.

The Money Market has presented a rather easier position, but the maximum rate of the Bank of England are maintained. First class short bills are at 7 per cent, and higher rates are exacted. In Lombard street and in the Stock Exchange, the supply of money has improved, owing to the steady investments of the public. It was thought by many parties that the Bank of England directors would have made a further change in the rate of discount, especially on long bills, but the expectation proved unfounded. The exports of specie to the East Indies amounted to the value of £90,000, of which only about £27,000 was in gold.

In the Grain-growing countries, with favourable weather, wheat sowing may be considered as almost concluded in most of the important sections of the kingdom, and the winter wheat has commenced the condition of what is being brought to market, so that with fair supplies of home grown there is rather less dependence than of late upon foreign draws from the outports. The wheat of the East Indies is in the market, but disposition existed to purchase rather more freely at the reduction.

In the Provision market, some excitement has prevailed, prices of Irish Butter having advanced 2s to 2s per cwt, owing to needy buyers. The fullest prices offered for southern brands were 115s to 118s per cwt. The stock of old Bacon is now nearly cleared out. Inquiries for new are numerous, and, as English and Irish continue to rule high, some arrivals of American will find their way to a good market. Lard having run very scarce, an advance of 2s 3s per cwt has been paid by needy buyers. American Beef and Pork for ships' stores are dull and without any improvement.

The *Chronicle* chronicle gives the following account of a dreadful railway catastrophe which took place on Wednesday—This evening at about two o'clock, a train took place on the Waterford and Kilkenny Railway near Dunkitt, about two miles from the former city, by which the lives of five persons have been forfeited. It appears that a ballast train left Waterford to "shift" at Dunkitt, in

order to allow the Dublin train to pass; but the railway policeman, instead of changing the points so as to allow the ballast train to run into the "siding," permitted it to proceed along the line, to a sand pit on its way, to be filled, thinking, probably, that it would reach its destination before the arrival of the passenger train. Unfortunately, before many moments had elapsed, the Dublin train came up and ran into it, completely smashing both itself and the ballast train.

The catastrophe is described as being of fearful extent, and our informant has ascertained the number of the passengers ascertained the number killed and wounded was then not exactly known. Up to that time, however, the bodies of five persons had been found quite lifeless.—Among the wounded passengers is Dr. White of Dublin, Inspector of Lunatic Asylums, who lies in a precarious state in Waterford.

There is an easy credulity in the public mind of England, says the *London Morning Advertiser*, which is often productive of incalculable mischief. We display a wonderful alacrity in believing what people say, and are too ready to accede to the party making the avowment, show that they have no right to expect that any avowment which they may make should be received as true. It is this with the assurances which the French government is now giving us of thoroughly friendly feelings towards this country, and of the consequent cordiality of the alliance.—We do not believe a word of it. There is no real friendship on the part of the head of that Government towards us. There is, on the contrary, a decided, though covert, hostility. He never yet said, or did a single thing, which could be regarded as calculated to promote his interests. And it is because he knows that, were the alliance with England to be broken up, he could not himself survive a month, that he keeps an outward appearance of friendship for this country, and for the sake of his credit goes for nothing. What can be the worth of the bare word of one who has again and again violated his most solemn oath?

Though in words the Emperor is with us, yet, at heart, he is with Russia. If it were otherwise, he could not have taken a most ungracious and insulting dismissal Count Walewski from his councils, after the fact had been made patent to all the world, that the latter is the veriest creature of Russia, and was doing the work of the Czar more effectually in the foreign office in Paris, than if he had been a Russian. It is not to be expected in the Chancery of St. Petersburg. Louis Napoleon can not pretend to be ignorant of the fact that Count Walewski was surely and systematically selling France to Russia.—Yet Louis Napoleon continues to repose the fullest confidence in him as being a man not only upright, but in a degree of at once dispensing with his services, he lavishes on him unmistakable proofs of undiminished friendship. So long as Count Walewski remains where he is, or occupies any post whatever in the Napoleonic Government, so long will we continue to maintain that the Chief Magistrate of France is playing false to us,—is, in reality with Russia, and only avails what he may regard as a favorable opportunity to appear in his local colours.

Even were Louis Napoleon now to dismiss Count Walewski, we should not regard the circumstance as any proof of the abjuration of his Muscovite predilections, or of his sincere friendship for England; we should look upon it only as a measure which he had adopted from considerations of sound policy. It is a fortunate circumstance that in times like the present—when efforts of the most ingenious and persevering nature are made by Russia, to overreach this country, and when our "August Ally" still con-

tinues to show the cloven foot by his retention of Count Walewski at the head of foreign affairs,—we should have such a man as Lord Palmerston at the head of the Government. He is too clear-sighted not to be cognisant of what is going on in the high consummate skill and sagacity of a diplomatist furnish us with an undoubted guarantee that he will not allow this country to be overmarched by Russian cunning, backed by the faithlessness of the French Ruler. What would have been the condition of England in this momentous crisis of her history had such a man as Lord Aberdeen been still at the head of affairs? Why, this country would, in that case, by the time have been, in effect, a province of Russia,—another addition to the overgrown dominions of the Czar.

Charley Napier, writing to the *Times*, says:—"The next time you honour me with one of your unprincipled attacks, it will be more credible to you if you will adhere to the truth."

We see that Kossuth is still lecturing in England on the present state and future prospects of Italy.

Colonel Gordon Drummond, of the Coldstream Guards, is dead. He proceeded to the Crimea in May, 1855, to command the first or Crimean Battalion. He was in his 48th year.

The *Arbroath* Gazette mentions, that a few days ago, farm labourers were carrying a stone, weighing about a few miles from Arbroath, with three inches of snow on the ground.

NEW FIELD-MARSHALS.—There is a rumour in London to the effect that four new field-marshal are about to be created, namely, the Duke of Cambridge, Lord Seaton, and Stratford, and the Duke of Devon. As for the Duke, his promotion is only a question of time, and the other three officers named have well earned the highest honours of their profession. The only additional evidence which would be in the case of the Duke of Cambridge, who, being on the staff, would gain additional pay to the amount of £3000 a year by the promotion. The other officers, not being actively employed at present, would merely receive their usual emoluments as colonels of regiments. Thus the King of the Belgians is a field-marshal, and he receives no pay; Prince Albert only that of Colonel of the Grenadier Guards; and Lord Combermere and Stratford that of the respective Guards and Coldstream Guards respectively.

PARIS SWINDLERS.—The Paris swindlers or *cleverets d'industrie*, as they are whimsically termed, are certainly the most accomplished professors of the art of thieving to be found in any European capital. A case has just occurred, which, for its cleverness, address, and cunning of the class is a striking light. An old gentleman, stopping the other day on the Boulevards to examine the engravings displayed in a shop window, used a very handsome eye-glass to assist his vision. In a few moments, having ceased to employ the glass, and being about to do so again, he found that only the string to which it had been attached, was in his hand. He then appeared, abstracted by his misfortune. Upon discovering this loss, the old gentleman grew much excited, and drew upon himself the attention of the bystanders near by his agitated manner. A stranger among the crowd, seeing his embarrassment, politely offered him arm to the old gentleman until he had recovered himself. The offer was gratefully accepted, with all the unsuspiciousness of an old man who suddenly finds himself in a new and unexpected state of mind by an untoward occurrence, and the two walked away along the Boulevards. On the way the old gentleman grew confidential, charmed by the sympathy of his new acquaintance, and entered into details about his domestic matters; gave his address; described very minutely a service of plate that had been pre-

sented to him some time before; told the name of his servant; and stated, where and with whom he was going to dine that day. The stranger listened very attentively, and after seeing the gratuity of a man to the friend with whom he had engaged to dine, bade him adieu, and promised to call and see him in reply to the invitation of the other. He kept so firmly by his word that he immediately returned to the gentleman to whom he addressed the servant by her name; said he had been requested by her master to ask for several items of the service plate, which he minutely described, and as credentials for the same, he presented the servant. The servant imagining that everything was right, gave the articles required to the stranger, who carried them away. Almost directly after he had left the house, however, with his valuable parcel, he was accosted by an officer of justice, who was been watching his movements, and who recognised him as a man of good education and family, who had for some time become a well known member of the aristocracy, and a notorious swindler. The cleverer is, of course, safely lodged in prison, and awaits his condemnation.

AUSTRALIA.

Messrs. James Baines and Co.'s "Black Bull," bringing eighting arrived in the *Mersey* on Thursday morning, the 30th inst., bringing advices from Melbourne to the 28th August. From Melbourne to Cape Horn the run was made in 14 days 16 hours, Cape Horn to the Equator 19 days 10 hours, and the Equator to Sydney 19 days. Total, 52. The winds during the run were 31 days fair, 13 days light, 4 days calm, and 21 days head winds. There is not much important news. The requirements of the new Constitution have rendered it a difficult matter to obtain candidates professing the "property qualification." As to the ultimate result of these elections nothing definite is in the advertisement. It is stated, however, that it was suspected that the ministerial party in the new Legislative Council would find itself in a minority. Our Sydney advices inform us that a ministerial crisis is expected in the new Sydney Government. The correspondent writes:—"Ministers have announced a set of measures which are prepared to bring forward, but they have not yet laid their bills on the table, or even described them, so that we are not yet in possession of the full ministerial policy. Their scheme for the re-arrangement of the public offices has been grounded in order that they might get leave of absence, a new Government, and public works, and transform the Auditor General from a political into a judicial officer. The opposition, wishing to bring on a discussion on the general question of administration, objected to consider the bill, and the Ministers have agreed only to the one department, to be changed. Donaldson gave way and substituted a resolution declaring it expedient to have five departments as specified in their plan. The bill, however, is not yet introduced, and containing the scheme he propounded in the draft report brought up by himself as chairman of a select committee on the subject last year. The opposition, having no better ground for their attack on Mr. Martin's scheme, but after a long debate it was rejected, on a division, by 29 to 14. At the same time, ministers freely admitted that their own programme was by no means so liberal as the Ministers' scheme, and partly held in bondage by the Constitution Act. They agreed to the impropriety of having the Solicitor-General in the Cabinet, especially if that officer had to perform the duties of a crown prosecutor. They were, in opposition to Lord John Russell's express request, declared their desire to have the ministerial salaries subject to annual vote. Amongst the projects for departmental reform laid before the House of Commons, the following were by Sir George Grey, or by Sir William Denison, or by their appear to have been their heads together on the question of the proposed alterations determined upon the construction of a railway to the Murray. Meetings had