

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 the precious metal during the week amount to above 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 not 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 had 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 labour market was dull though wages 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 rates of the Bank of England are maintained. First class short date bills have been discounted at 7 per cent., but for longer bills 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 nearly £600,000, of which only about £27,000 was in gold.

In the Grain-growing counties, with favourable weather, wheat sowing may be considered as almost concluded in most of the important sections of the kingdom, and a colder temperature improves 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 drawn from the outports. The trade closed somewhat lower in price, but a 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 3s per cwt, owing to needy buyers. The fullest prices asked for southern brands were 115s to 118 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, early arrivals of American, if fine, will come to a good market. Lard having run very scarce, an advance of 2s to 3s per cwt has been paid by needy buyers. American Beef and Pork for ships' stores are dull and without any improvement.

The *Clonmel Chronicle* gives the following account of a dreadful railway catastrophe which took place on Wednesday—This evening at about two o'clock, a collision 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 "shoot" 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 mentioned that on leaving Waterford he 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, even where the antecedents of the party making the avowment, show that they have no right to expect that any asseveration which they may make should be received as true. It is thus with the assurances which the French government are now giving us of thoroughly friendly feeling 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 because he regarded it 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. With us his professions of friendship go 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 would not have lost a moment in ignominiously dismissing 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 the prime minister of Alexander in the Chancellery 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 same confidence in him as before.—And not only so, but instead 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 have we "confirmation strong," that the Chief Magistrate of France is playing false to us,—is, in reality with Russia, and only awaits what he may regard as a favorable opportunity to appear in his real colours.

Even were Louis Napoleon now to dismiss Count Walewski, we should not regard the circumstances 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 overspread 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; while his consummate skill and ability as a diplomatist furnish us with an undoubted guarantee that he will not allow this country to be overmatched 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 this 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 creditable 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 Guide* mentions, that a few days ago, farm labourers were carrying stocks of corn from a field 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-m Marshals are about to be created, namely, the Duke of Cambridge, Lord Seaton, Lord Gough, and Earl Cathcart. 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 expense caused 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 present 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 Lords Combermere and Strafford that of the 1st Life Guards and Coldstream Guards respectively.

PARIS SWINDLERS.—The Paris swindlers, or *chevaliers 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 shows the cleverness, address, and cunning of this class in 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 eyeglass 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 remained. The glass itself disappeared, abstracted by some skilful hand. 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 his arm to the old gentleman until he had recovered himself. The offer was gratefully accepted, with all the unsuspectingness of an old man who suddenly finds himself disturbed from his usual 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 sympathetic conduct of his companion. He entered into details about his domestic matters; gave his address; described very minutely a service of plate that had been pre-

sent 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 garrulous old man to the door of the house occupied by 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 to his word that he immediately went to the old gentleman's house, 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 showed the eye-glass of the old gentleman. 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 had been watching his movements, and who recognised him as a man of good education and family, who had for some time become a skilful member of the honorable fraternity swindlers. The chevalier is, of course, safely lodged in prison, and awaits his condemnation.

AUSTRALIA.

Messrs. James Baines and Co.'s "Black Ball" clipper Lightning arrived in the Mersey on Thursday morning, the 20th 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 8 hours, Equator to Pico, Western Islands, 19 days, Western Islands to Liverpool 11 days. Total, 84. The winds during the run were 31 days fair, 13 days light, 4 days calm, and 24 days head winds. There is not much important news. The requirements of the new Constitution Bill had rendered it a difficult matter to obtain candidates professing the "property qualification." As to the ultimate result of these elections nothing definite is said in the advices brought by the Lightning, although 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 was imminent. Upon this subject a Sydney correspondent writes:—"Ministers have announced a set of measures which they 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 propounded in order that they might get leave to create a new department of land 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 resolutions of the Ministers, which related 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. Mr. Martin brought forward an amendment, 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 to take, adopted 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 satisfactory to themselves, but they were 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 crown prosecutor. They also, 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 ministers, was one connected with the Surveyor-General of your colony, proposed by him and Sir William Denison, for they appear to have been heads together on the question. The inhabitants of South Australia are determined upon the construction of a railway to the Murray. Meetings had