

MELBOURNE.

Messrs. Dalnaboy Campbell and Co. report :
Thirteen hundred cattle entered ; eleven
hundred sold to-day ; ten shillings per head
advance.

Twenty-two thousand sheep yarded, which
sold at last week's currencies.

The following selections have been made :
—Charles Edgehill, Mundewaddra, 40 acres ;
Andrew Mair, ditto, 40 acres.

THE Adelaide steamer "Wentworth" arrived on Thursday night, with a general cargo, consisting of sugar, salt, woolpacks, &c., &c., which, we believe, was disposed of yesterday, by Mr. Minchin. She is not expected to leave until Monday or Tuesday morning, her departure having been delayed awaiting the arrival of a quantity of Government stores, tools, &c., and also a number of workmen who have been at work on the Jugiong bridge, and are proceeding to Hay to commence the bridge over the river at that town. Mr. Maultby's little steamer the "Enterprise" also arrived during the week, and leaves this morning with a cargo for down river.

THE illustrious General Tom Thumb and gallant Commodore Nutt, with their amiable and most interesting *petites amies*, a little while ago, took the little world of Wagga, as it were, by storm. Resistance was out of the question, Lilliput was in the ascendant. There was nothing for it but to attend her ambassador's levees, pay tribute, and with the best grace we could, make our humble obeisance. So much for American littleness. Finding our Yankee cousins out of such small materials make so much capital, Australian caterers have resolved to do more with less. Accordingly, a Victorian Tom Thumb, smaller than the General, was lately introduced to an admiring public ; but his claims to distinction are now set aside by those of the South Australian manikin (Mr. Michael Pinn), who is proclaimed to be "the smallest human being in the world." He was born in Kapunda, first introduced to the public some ten or twelve months ago, and is now to be seen in Wagga. He is considerably smaller than Commodore Nutt, being only 32½ inches high. He is fairly proportioned, very prepossessing in appearance, and said to be 17 years old. He has not long been taken from school, it appears, and is receiving instruction in music, elocution, &c., to enable him shortly to make, as it is confidently expected he will, a great figure in the world. At present he assists M. Vertelli in an excellent entertainment, *à la* Wizard of the North, to describe which would occupy a column of space. Some of Mons. Vertelli's tricks of

space. Some of Mons. Vertelli's tricks of legerdemain are new and astonishing, and all his feats are cleverly and gracefully performed. The Japanese top-spinning especially was much admired. An afternoon exhibition, for children's sake, will take place in the Court-house to-day, and in the evening a final entertainment will be given. Before the arrival of the troupe, Mons. Vertelli made application for the use of the new hall of the Mechanics' Institute ; but, unfortunately, it could not be granted. The Court-house is not well adapted for such an entertainment, and Mons. Vertelli is obliged to dispense with much of the elegant furniture of his temple of magic ; still, from the ability he displays, a large attendance may be expected.

"It is calculated by a Sandhurst gentleman," says the *Bendigo Advertiser*, "that a comet, one of the points of whose orbit intersects the plane of the ecliptic at a distance from the earth's orbit less than the sum of the semi-diameters of the earth and the comet, will be at or near perihelion in November of this year of grace 1871. Notwithstanding some remarkable changes observed in the comet, its diameter may be set down in its original dimensions, viz., 21,000 miles, and, in consequence of these very changes, it is perhaps more than possible than the comet may arrive at its point of intersection just as the earth is in that part of her orbit nearest to it. The result would be, supposing the comet to be gaseous, that the earth would be enveloped to an extent of 6,400 miles, or to more than three-fourths of her diameter ; that, indeed, the enormous mass would attach itself permanently to our planet, so altering the physical constitution of the atmosphere as to cause instant death to all animal and vegetable life as at present existing. The possibility of such a catastrophe is, of course, dreadful to contemplate, and would no doubt be of considerable moment to many of our readers who are not sufficiently developed for the change. The astronomical skill of the gentleman referred to will not penetrate into Nature's secrets any further, and we therefore recommend the matter to the serious consideration of our friends the spiritists, who, we understand, deal with science when philosophers leave it."

"It is seldom," says the *Brisbane Courier*, "that a prisoner after effecting his escape from a penal establishment, and enjoying several years of freedom, is found to yield himself up to the authorities with the intention of performing the portion of his sentence which remained unexpired at the time of his escape, but a case of the kind has occurred here within the last few days. On the 4th August, 1866, a man named Charles Court, who was undergoing a sentence of five years' penal servitude at St. Helena,

of five years' penal servitude at St. Helena, for horse-stealing, contrived to escape in a boat with a fellow-prisoner, and get clear away. Court made his way to New South Wales, and from all accounts he appears to have behaved well during the last five years, and to so far raise himself in the estimation of a well-to-do relative that the latter promised to make him his heir on condition that he returned to Queensland and fulfilled his term of imprisonment. The wisdom of this proceeding is self-apparent, for should Court be discovered at any future time, his arrest would follow as a matter of course, and the disgrace might then be more severely felt. Acting, therefore, on the advice of his friends, he travelled overland to Warwick, and surrendered himself to the police there. He has four years and one month of his sentence to serve."

A MEETING of woolgrowers was held last week at Mudgee to consider a letter from Sir Daniel Cooper concerning the London wool sales. Resolutions were adopted to be forwarded to the Wool Association of New South Wales, making suggestions for more frequent sales, &c. The Mudgee Pastoral Association has initiated a testimonial from the woolgrowers of the colony to Sir Daniel Cooper for his services.

At Melbourne a trial of North's Vegetable Extract, for sheep-washing, was exceedingly successful. The wool was cleansed to a milk-white colour in two minutes, without injury to the yolk. At Geelong also, a trial of Lande's bleaching solution. The dirtiest sample of wool that could be procured to operate upon, was made snowy white in one minute and twenty seconds.

A SYDNEY correspondent writes:—Parliament will not, I believe, meet till about the 15th of October. It is prorogued now to the 12th September, but in a few weeks hence it will be further prorogued. Many of the notabilities already prophecy for the Government a stormy Session, and assert that on the Land Question—which the Administration are bound to deal with—the Ministry will be thrown out. In case they should, an appeal to the country will most assuredly follow; and I would advise all—especially the squatting interest—to keep in view these contingencies, and prepare for the struggle.

In connection with the fierce crusade that has been instituted against Sydney tradesmen under the provisions of the Stamp Act, a case has come under notice, in which the tables were completely turned upon a suspected informant. A party visited an establishment in George-street a day or two ago, and in the course of business made a payment to the firm by cheque. A receipt with-

ment to the firm by cheque. A receipt without a stamp was given, which the party most eagerly snatched at and secured, thereby and his subsequent action leading to the suspicion that he intended to move the stamp office authorities in the matter. Believing that a conviction would be imminent if an information was laid, one of the firm made the most of a bad job, and stealing a march on the enemy, proceeded to the Commissioner, and laid information against the house for using the unstamped receipt in question, thus securing his moiety of the £10 fine, and saving £5 by turning informer. Having arranged the business, he was retiring from the office, and met the party at the door who intended to inform. The feelings of the disappointed one may be imagined but not described.—*Empire*.

REFERRING to the new railway rates, the *Manero Mercury* says:—In corroboration of our remarks in last issue on the increased railway rates, we are informed by a business man of Cooma that he was enabled some time since to send wool from Cooma to Sydney at the rate of 6s. per cwt., and to receive back loading at that price without touching the train in either the up or down journey. No doubt, others have done likewise. Mr. H. Wallace, of Dargalong, recently sent two flocks of sheep from this district to Goulburn. Not finding a remunerative market there at the time, he trained one flock to Sydney at a cost of a little over £60. The second flock having arrived at Goulburn after the increased railway rates had come into operation, he forwarded the sheep to Sydney in the care of drovers, at an expense of £13, thereby saving nearly £50, a consideration in these dull times when graziers are obliged to make a market for their surplus stock. All the wool from Queanbeyan has hitherto gone by rail to Sydney; but Mr. Henry Wallace informs us that the wool-growers of that district have determined not to send a single bale by train under the present excessive railway charges. These facts do not say much in favour of the policy of the Government in increasing the rates for carriage of goods by railway.

THE following is an extract of a letter from Sir D. Cooper, dated June 6, 1871:—"I am writing to all the colonies by this mail, asking that the various chambers of commerce and pastoral associations will pass resolutions and forward them through friendly hands to the Committee of the New South Wales and V. D. L. Association and the Woolbrokers' Committee, requesting that there be six public sales of wool annually; that the deduction of 1 lb per cwt. for draft be abolished; that more care be exercised in sampling and lotting, and that too many bales be not put in any lot; that no broker be allowed to buy, either directly or indirectly, at his own sales; and that the 'advance bidding' for the

either directly or indirectly, at his own sales ; and that the "advance biddings" for low class and greasy wool be $\frac{1}{4}$ of a penny, or at most a $\frac{1}{2}$ of a penny, instead of one halfpenny as at present, which is often more than 10 per cent. on the value of the wool ; that the warehouse charges per bale be reduced, as with six sales the average time would be two months, now it is three months. I think all parties who have paid any attention to the questions would now have formed their own conclusions, and few will dissent from the above resolutions. I am anxious for a combined movement in all the colonies, for if I can only induce you all to act together, the same thing can be done another time, and it will make the colonies form themselves into a grand committee to rule any committee that may be acting in London. Such grand committees can be set in motion from here, or by any local association or person of sufficient influence in the colonies,

THE latest Victorian "notion" seems to be what, perhaps, may be called without offence the "new industry fake." The *Argus* says that a number of persons, who claim to have established new industries in the colony, recently waited upon the Treasurer to urge him to grant them each a bonus, as a substantial recognition of their efforts to advance the material prosperity of Victoria. Mr. Berry is said to have promised to give his best consideration to the matter.

"There was a sight to be witnessed in Sandhurst on Saturday," says the *Bendigo Advertiser*, "which we think has never been equalled in the city before. This was the exhibits of gold in the windows of the Union Bank. The huge lumps of gold lit up by gas formed the cynosure of many eyes until the bank closed, and were the cause of wondering conversation among those who were only divided from such wealth by a frail piece of glass. The following cakes were exhibited : —North Garden Gully Company, 1333 ozs. ; Carlisle Company, 717 ozs. ; Golden Fleece Tribute, 432 ozs. ; Central Garden Gully Tribute Company, 422 ozs. ; Victoria Gold Mines, 326 ozs. ; or a total of 2904 ozs., equal in value to £11,616. All of this gold was from the Garden Gully Reef, with the exception of the Victoria Gold Mines yield. The Union Bank has certainly earned the title of the Garden Gully Reef Bank, and has been the recipient of most of its riches."

THE *Argus* understands that the Government have resolved upon offering a bonus of £5000 for the discovery of a remunerative coalfield in Victoria.

THE same paper is informed that at a meeting of the leading iron and hardware firms, held yesterday, it was resolved that upon all goods upon which the new tariff has imposed a duty of 20 per cent., a corresponding advance should at once be made

ponding advance should at once be made upon the retail goods. Good news for the public this !