

NEWS BY THE MAIL.

We take the following telegram from the daily press:—

LONDON, November 2.

President Grant has sent a note to Madrid, urging the settlement of the Cuban question, and recommending Cuban independence.

America and Spain are strengthening their fleets.

A memorial to the late Commodore Goodenough is proposed.

The Prince of Wales landed in Bombay amid thundering salutes from the squadron and shore batteries. He was brilliantly received on landing by the Governor-General and highest officials, and upwards of seventy Native princes and chiefs. After addresses by the Municipality, a grand procession was formed to the Government House. The inhabitants received the Prince loyally and enthusiastically. There was intense excitement the whole route. There were immense crowds of all castes, and splendid decorations throughout the city. There are to be general illuminations to-morrow.

MELBOURNE, November 11.

Sir James M'Culloch enunciated the policy of his Ministry, at Warrnambool, last Saturday week. He estimates the deficiency in revenue to be £340,000, and proposes to meet this by the imposition of a land-tax, and to tax bank stock, shares, and other property. Small landholders to be exempted. Duties of Customs to the extent of £10,000 to be swept away, but those imposed for protective purposes to remain untouched. Only such duties to be removed as are vexatious and injurious to trade. To meet the deficiency thus caused an income-tax is to be levied, which, however, is not to touch moderate incomes. The Government propose to borrow a million and a-half to carry out existing engagements, and introduce an amending land bill to extend the period of license and increase assessment on stock.

The Opposition, led by members of the late Government, organised an opposition to four of the Ministers. Mr. M'Culloch was opposed by Mr. B. Douglas; Mr. Madden, Minister of Justice, by Mr. M. L. King; Mr. Ramsay, Minister of Education, by Mr. Mirams; and Mr. Jones, Minister of Railways, by Mr. Finehan. At Ballarat the feeling was very strong on both sides, and the greatest excitement prevailed in the contested districts. The elections for Warrnambool and Ballarat took place last Saturday, when M'Culloch was returned by over 200 of a majority; and Jones was defeated by 971 of a majority on Monday. Madden was also rejected by over 200 of a majority; and Ramsay was returned by 311 of a majority. Two of the Ministers out of nine have thus been deprived of their seats in Parliament, and the Opposition have gained two votes. Berry, who was in Warrnambool previous to and during the elections, repeated the threat that the Opposition would not permit public business to be proceeded with until a dissolution was granted. What the intentions of the Government are has not yet been made known.

The racing has divided public interest with the elections. The city never was so full of strangers; every hotel is crowded, and the places of public entertainment are well patronised.

The weather, for the season of the year, has been most unfavourable, and in the middle of spring cold winter weather, with rain-storms, has been experienced.

Mr. William M'Culloch's shorthorn stock and brood mares were sold on Monday, and the total sum realised was £19,041. The stock brought very low prices, £660 being the highest price for a bull, and £775 for a cow.

The agricultural show now on is the best, as regards cattle, ever been in the Colonies.

Mr. A. K. Smith was formally installed as Mayor yesterday. He gave an in ugural banquet, 4000 persons being present, including the Ministry.

There was a very large attendance at the races. The weather was very unfavourable; heavy rain on both Derby and Cup days. Twenty horses started for the Cup. For the Derby 11 started.

THE DERBY.

Mr. De Mestre's Sylvia colt	1
Richmond	2
Sour Grapes	3

Time, 2min. 48sec.

MELBOURNE CUP.

A sweepstake of 20 sovs. each, 10ft., or 5 if declared, with 330 sovs. added. The winner of any handicap race of the value of 200 sovs. after the declaration of the weights to carry 5lb. extra; of two or more such races, 8lb extra; of any such race of the value of 100 sovs., 3lb extra; of two or more such races, 5lb extra. The second horse to receive 50 sovs., and the third 20 sovs. out of the stake. Two miles.

Wollomai	1
Richmond	2
Goldsbrough	3

The all-absorbing topic is of course the Melbourne Cup, which, for 1875, is now lost and won. Over 70,000 people took "the road" to the course, while 37,000 went by rail. The former route exhibited hundreds of stylish equipages, and eight "four-in-hands," in leading that of Sir Hercules Robinson. Sir Hercules, in good old English style, drove his own hrouche, drawn by four cream-coloured ponies. The toilettes of the ladies were of the most gorgeous and extravagant character, and the costumes on the course presented a scene of unparalleled luxury and magnificence.

The Runarooma, with the supplementary mail from New Zealand, just caught the Pera at the Heads as she was leaving. The mail steamer awaited her arrival.

The scarlet fever epidemic continues, and an increasing number of deaths is reported, principally among children.

COMMERCIAL.

Large sales New Zealand oats were made yesterday at 3s. 8½d. Large sales 11b salmon at extreme rates. Teas in very good demand. Devoe's kerosene oil, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 2d. Wheat a little easier, at 6s. 7½d. to 6s. 8d. Liquids dull. National Bank dividend, 10 per cent., and a bonus of 2 per cent.; Theatre Royal proprietary dividend, 10 per cent. Wheat dull; Adelaide, 53s to 55s. Flour, 33s. to 39s.

SYDNEY.

Captain Horne, the well-known explorer, is dead.

Lady Robinson presented to Mr. John Bennett, of the Victoria Theatre, the Humane Society's medal and a cheque for £800, representing a public testimonial.

Favourable news continues to be received from Cooktown. Promising reefs are discovered almost daily. The blacks are very troublesome.

THE CATHOLIC CONGRESS AT FREIBURG, BADEN.

This important Congress commenced its proceedings on the 1st instant, and has proved a great success. A large number of distinguished personages had arrived, and many eloquent speeches have been delivered. Amongst the chief orators were the Bishops of Mayence and Strasburg. All Germany was represented at the Congress, from the Metropolis of Berlin down to the smallest country town in the Duchy of Baden. At the opening session there were at least 5,000 persons present in the great room of the *Kuntshalle*, where the assemblies took place. The proceedings were opened by the Right Rev. Kubel, Bishop of Freiburg. The following summary of the resolutions was telegraphed on Saturday (September 4):—"The Congress protests against the refusal to the Holy See of the free exercise of its sacred *magisterium* or teaching office, and of the Church's jurisdiction, and also against the abolition of the Temporal power of the Pope; it asserts the Church's right to found places of education for the young; it denies that the State has the right to claim unlimited obedience to its laws; it expresses its admiration for the persecuted bishops and clergy; lastly, it declares that peace will only be possible when the Church's liberty shall have been reserved."

P O S E N .

A LETTER which appears in the 'Germania' gives a distressing picture of the religious condition of that diocese, in consequence of the persecution. All persons engaged in religious instruction in the Gymnasias (with the exception of a very few) have been dismissed for refusing to abjure their Bishop. The pupils of most of the gymnasia are without any Catholic religious instruction, in others it is given by unauthorised laymen. At the same time ample provision is made for Jewish religious instruction in the institutions frequented by young Jews. The ecclesiastical seminary at Posen, where there were 100 students, has been closed; the "practical" seminary at Gnesen is empty. The Catholic training college for masters has been transferred from Posen to Rawitsch. According to the Clerical Directory of 1874 there were 818 priests in the united dioceses; there are at present only 768. Of the fifty some have died, others have been banished. Within the last two years the Cardinal Archbishop has had his revenues confiscated, and has been shut up in prison for two years. The same fate has overtaken the two Vicars-General, one of whom died from the effect of his imprisonment. The two assistant Bishops, Mgri. Janiszewski and Cybichowski, have been banished—the former for having once administered the Sacrament of Confirmation; the latter for having blessed the holy oils on Maunday Thursday without having received permission from the Governor of the Province. The successor of the Vicar-General in Gnesen was imprisoned for nine months, and then banished. The Prelate von Kozmian, after having been for a long time in solitary confinement, has lately obtained a companion in imprisonment, Canon Kurowski, who is suspected of being the "secret delegate." Besides these, eighty-seven other priests have been for weeks and months long in prison, and some have been released only to be banished. How injurious their imprisonment has been to many others is attested by the fact of their disabled condition from rheumatism, &c. Scarcely a number of the official journal appears in which some priest is not declared an outlaw, although he will have been already judicially banished from the Province. Thirty-two parishes are without priests. Twenty-one other parishes were destitute of proper spiritual assistance (owing to the imprisonment of their clergymen) during the great festivals of Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, and during the time for the Paschal duty. The sick are borne in waggons to outlying churches in order to receive the consolations of religion; stealthily, and by night, priests are brought to the bedside of the dying. The dead are committed to the grave without any religious rite (*ohne Sang und Klang*), a pile of stones being erected to mark the place where they lie until a happier time when the blessing of the Church may hallow the spot. About 400 parish priests have had fines of various amounts inflicted on them. There is not a parochial residence in the two dioceses from which every article of furniture has not been carried off under legal process; and if anywhere anything is to be found it is sure to be the property of some private person. The usual objects which greet one on arriving at a parochial residence are summonses, Governmental notices, copies of decrees, &c. Almost all the members of the religious orders have been swept away. Their churches are administered by secular priests, who depend for subsistence on the charity of the people. And withal, thanks be to God, there is only one Kubecek among us; for Kiek is a stranger who has wandered hither from Silesia. To conclude, it is not the clergy only who have to suffer; the laity also have their fair share of persecution.