

COMMERCIAL REVIEW.—The state of our Commercial and monetary affairs since the sailing of the last steamer has been one of extreme peculiarity and interest. The large drains upon the Bank of England to meet the demands caused by the extensive importations of Grain, Grain Produce, and all other sorts of provisions into these kingdoms, has induced the Governors to raise their rate of interest. This circumstance, combined with others, has caused business generally to be dull; but symptoms of improvement are beginning to manifest themselves, which lead to the expectation that ere long it may recover some of the ground lost, and once again assume a healthy and satisfactory position.

CULTIVATION OF EAST INDIA COTTON.—The efforts which have for several years past been made in order to ascertain whether a good supply of good Cotton cannot be produced in our East Indian territories, so as to make England less dependent upon one country, seem at last to have reached a point of success, which not only equals the most sanguine anticipations, but which promises to exceed all that has hitherto been deemed possible. There are at present on view, at the offices of the Manchester Commercial Association, in King Street, a variety of samples of East India Cotton; but those to which we wish more particularly to call attention are two samples, one of twenty four, and the other of four bales, which have been grown by Dr. Wight, at Coimbatore, from Mexican seed. This Cotton, whether as regards staple, colour or cleanliness, is decidedly the most beautiful that has yet been produced in India. It has already been inspected by a great number of spinners, brokers, &c., and the quality of the article may be estimated from the fact, that it is classed by most brokers as equal to fair New Orleans, the market price of which is $7\frac{1}{2}$ d per pound, whilst one gentleman, ignorant of the place of its growth, declared it to be worth 8d per lb. This indicates a marketable value of some 80 or 90 per cent. over that of native East India Cotton. The decided superiority of Dr. Wight's produce, not only over the native article, but over all that has hitherto been produced on the government farms, is attributed, and we believe is attributable, to the fact of this celebrated botanist having sown the seed several months earlier than is customary with the natives. The seed used on this occasion was Mexican; it had been acclimated for four years; and being an annual, the Doctor resolved upon trying what effect would result from sowing it at the period at which the annual plants, which are indigenous in India, shed their seed. This is shortly before the monsoon, whereas the natives do not sow their Cotton seed until after the rains are over. The result of experiment has been such as to confirm Dr. Wight in the conviction that the proper season for sowing the plant is much earlier than that which has been heretofore adopted. Not only was the staple of the Cotton wonderfully improved by this ante-monsoon sowing, but the yield per acre was vastly increased; the produce, we believe, having been at the rate of 700lbs. per acre. Some seed grown on the same land, (the common back land of India,) after the monsoon, yielded, in comparison, very triflingly. But Dr. Wight has a notion that the quality of the article may be yet further improved, and the yield, probably, be still further augmented. The experiment, of which we have been speaking, was made on the high lands of India—at, we believe, about 900 feet above the level of the sea; but the native home of the plant is now known to be the low lands of Mexico, and the Doctor thinks that by adopting another hint from nature, and sowing the seed in the low lands of India, a crop may be produced, which, whether as regards quality or quantity, will equal, if it do not exceed, anything that can be produced in the United States. It is estimated, that after the natives have been taught the mode of growing this fine Cotton, it may be purchased from them at 1d. per lb. ;

that the land-tax will amount to about $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb., and that the additional charges will be about $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. Supposing these experiments, therefore, when repeated on a large scale, to result in anything like the expected success, and supposing the calculations as to cost to be nearly correct, this Cotton, equal at least to fair New Orleans, could be sold in this market, at a rate much below that at which such an article has ever been sold in England. Some of the gentlemen who are at present deeply interesting themselves in this very important subject feel more confident than ever, that to India we may fairly look for supplying us, in the course of a very few years, with a large amount of this valuable and necessary staple. A deputation, having Mr. James Aspinall Turner at its head, has been appointed to wait upon the East India Company, in order to ascertain what facilities and privileges the Honorable Court will grant to any incorporation or body of individuals who may be prepared at once to adopt means for carrying out the cultivation on a large scale; and there can be little doubt, from the interest which the company has recently manifested in the subject, that they will agree to such conditions as will very shortly enable the movers in the matter to bring before the manufacturers of this district a matured scheme, well deserving of support and encouragement. The deputation was appointed on Saturday, and was to proceed to London yesterday. We may as well state that there are also in the rooms of the Commercial Association, two or three samples of Cotton grown on the Government farm at Dharwar, under the superintendence of Mr. Mercer. This gentleman, being of opinion that the home of the plant is on the high table lands of Mexico, has acted accordingly in his experiments. The Dharwar farm is about 2,000 feet above the level of the sea. It is also supposed that, as is the custom of the neighbourhood, he has sown the seed after the monsoon. But whether this be the case or not, the experiments have not been nearly so successful as those of Dr. Wight, although he has certainly produced an article much superior to the ordinary Surat.

THE GREAT BRITAIN.—We learn that our townsman Mr. Robert Talbot, ship builder, has made an offer to the directing proprietors of this yet fine ship, to get her off the strand in Dundrum Bay. The result of this application has not transpired; but from what we know of Mr. Talbot's talents and abilities in nautical matters, and his inventive powers, we should think that if the task were assigned to him he would be enabled to perform it with satisfaction to the owners and credit to himself. It is highly desirable, for the sake of the general steam navigation of the country, that the ship should be redeemed from durance vile, again to float gallantly on her destined element. The well-thinking public would, we feel assured, hail the day of her release; and so fine a vessel might, even if steam were hereafter dispensed with, be converted to most useful purposes, as a foreign trader. What a glorious cargo, in these times of destitution and want of shipping, might she not convey from the United States, to wit, of bread stuffs and other provisions.

NEW PLAN FOR EXTINGUISHING FIRES.—On Thursday, Mr. McDonald, the superintendent of the Harrington Water-works, tried an experiment in Exchange Street East, for the purpose of ascertaining how far the mains would be made available for extinguishing fires in the absence of fire engines. The main was charged from the works at Copperas-hill, and a usual stand cock, to which a length of hose was attached, was inserted in a fire plug. On the breach being pointed and the cock turned, a jet ascended in Dale Street as high as the Royal Bank Buildings, and sustained that height for a quarter of an hour, demonstrating as clearly as possible, that mains charged at high pressure are fully adequate to extinguish incipient fires before engines can