he Directorate would consider the case of the customers having small current accounts under E(M, which were absolutely necessary to the carrying on of their business. The Precior, Mr. Patterson, when inter-

viewed to night said he had been completely unjustanced for the news of the test-porsty scapement of the Rank, which had only resolved him late that evening. So far as he had been able to gather the hemperary stoppage was in no respect attributable to local cause, but had been brought about local causes, but had been brought about satisfying by distrust absorbers. In Victoria public opinion had almost tenered its tone, Then was not tenered its tone, Then was not not highlant reason to appealment any small accurrence. Asked in the thought the stoppushes are not to the contraction of t of the Haglish Scottish, & Australian Bank would injuriously affect returning confidence Mr. Palismon replied-"No because the causes of suspension had been in no sense local As he understood it, the pressure had been office of the Government to reader assistance to the Associated Banks, Mr. Patterson said the effer was made under peculiar limitations and under the strictort public safeguards. In the first that the case was one in which assistance could be rendered with security, and the Govern-ment having, above all things, the mainte-

the promised to bot is the that wil not in the Mr. Alexander Urquhart, Second Maraner

in such a case it would be its duty to support the Associated Banks, and that it would run

no risk in any action that might be

de Alexander withdrawals during the last low says in these colonies had accented to ore gand, ooo. He could not account for the withdrawals, because the position of the Bink Melbourne about two years are to charge of the Bank here to over hanled the securities thoroughly and had them reduced or written down in rales to allow for shrinkage, which took place after the colleges of the land boom. The only thin he add attribute the withdrawals to was that she ar pension of the Commercial Bank created and among people when there was nothing

significant by the propose of the black methods and proposed of the proposed o

Provident Offices now are. These premises were in turn occupied by the Union, National, and Adelaide Banks. The E. S. and A. O. subsequently removed to more convenient premises on the site of the present handsome policy which were proposed only a few years. premies on the site of the present handsome buildings, which were ercoted only a few years ago, and while these were building, business was varried on in the premies wasted by the Bank of Adelaido, which had then moved into its new premises. About 1865, when Agra and Masterman's Bank failed in England, and Masterman's Bank failed in England, the Local Branch of the England and Scottish underswart a trying orders. The Scottish underswart a trying orders. The William of the Local Branch were also be in Local Branch were the Local beautiful and the Local Branch was the beautiful and the Local Branch and Local the Local Branch was the failure of the Local Branch and so the Court then Agent General, took alarm, and seat words to the Covernment here to withfree all to the Government here to withdraw all deposits. Mr. Duffield was Treasurer, and twithstanding the assurances of Mr. Spence be estabout with trawing the generated of Mr. Spence be estabout with trawing the Government busi-ness. The Bank promptly paid the Govern-ment deposits and handed over Government securities. The first batch of notes issued in April 1, 1864, to the amount of \$5,500, and the amount of notes issued to December 31 of the samount of notes issued to December of of the same year was £29,000. The aggregate note was 220,427, and the savances amounted to 270,439 According to the last quarterly isturn of the Bank, which we published a few days ago, the note circulation on March 31 last was 260,013; total deposits, 2700,921; coin and transferring 2200,000 from promises account to Conringent Fund has been a good deal criticised of late, but the Directors were supported by the Auditors of the Rault, who have always had the reputation of being secondingly critical and cautious.

The Bank has 88 branches in Australia, 33 being in Victoria, 35 in New South Wales, 1 in Queensland, and 18 in South Australia, bier, Palmerston (N.T.), Petersburg, Quora,

THE LAST HALF-YEARLY MEETING. THE LAST HALF YEARLY ABELITAN
The last half yearly meeting of the English,
Soltish, and Australian Charlered Bank was
held on January 23, 1833, at Winchester
House, Old Brandstreet, E.G. We have
compiled the following account from the
reports of the Figure 23 Acres and the Banking

Record:

Mr. Charles John Hegan presided, and in moving the adoption of the report said he was glad the time had come for explaining away the many misconceptions which had arisen, and for allaying the anxiety which was felt in

having aroses now was the time to make use of the and the control and that they had done wrong; the control and that they had done wrong; the out of any that they had done wrong; the time the angelow of the provided and the provided in the control and th

prosperity of the Bank and in Australia. beforence out the Tage. and in Australia. (Chern)

(Chern whown. The report was then put and carried unanimously. The retiring Directors and Auditors were then re-elected, after which a vote of thanks was given to the Chairman and

THE LAST QUARTERLY RETURNS. The condition of the Bank's business in South Australia, as shown by the last quarterly returns, was referred to in our commercial columns hat Saturday. The principal movements in comparison with those for the quarter ending December 31 were as follows:—

1897. £ £ Incr'se. 2,007 Notes in circulation ... 37,001 40,013 Beposits, a. Government ... Not bearing interest ... 8,031 12,217 Bearing interest ... 38,038 28,038 b. Public ... 177,933 129,229 554.910 548.912 7.998 Bearing interest ... Total deposits ... 2778,877 2790,921 £18,044 Coin and bullion £147,918 £103,655 £1

... £813,160 £760,030 £52,83

The branches in this colory would be opened at the usual hour on Thursday and would receive money on trust, and so far as he could see there was every reason to believe the suppression would be of very short duration.

THE SHARE BAROMETER. THE SHARE BAROMETER.

The following table shows how the prices of the shares in the English market have gradually gone down during the past three years:—

February 4, 1800 ... February 10, 1801 January 5, 1892 ... February 2, 1892 ... July 19, 1892 ... December 6, 1892 ...

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS.

EFFECT ON SILVER STOCKS. The news of the Bank suspension was re-ceived on the Stock Exchange last night, and sales of Broken Hill shares, which left off at to'clock at 6ks., went down to 9s. There is very little doing on the Exchange at night-

SHAREHOLDERS. Of about 1,900 shareholders who are liable to a call of 2890,600, and are mostly in a good position, there are but very few and the state of the control and the state of the control Australian-Mr. H. J. Richmond, beep farmer. Sir George Verdon and Mr. Gruf (Georga Manage in Brisbane) are among the colonial shareholders.

the solonist shareholders.

THE INSPICION AND GENERAL

Mr. A. UMMANABER.

Mr. A. UMMANABER.

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HEAVY BANKING MORTALITY. HEAVY BANKING MORTALITY.
During the last seven years the following
important Banks have occased to exist—Conmortial of South Australia, and
Pederal. The last year or two has wiped of
the roll quite a host of moor financial institutions which flourished during the "boom"
time in the other colonies.

GOVERNMENT DEPOSITS. GOVERNMENT DEPOSITS.

The Government had about £30,000 deposited in the English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered Bank, about £46,000 in the Commercial Bank, and about £44,000 in the commercial Bank, and about £44,000 in the Federal Bank—representing £140,000 for the present locked up. It is noteworthy that the Treasurer was a local Director of the Com-mercial Bank, and the Premier of the E.S. and A.C. Bank.

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS,
The business of the English, Scottish, and
Australian Chartered Bank in Australian is
indicated by the aggregate of advances, detion for the quarter sadding December 31, 1892;
-Victoria, 8,002,978; New South Wasses,
62,782,245; South Australia, £1,629,104;
Queensland, £129,262; total, £10,086,530. Arrence

Ti is orident that in Melbourne deposits the property of the party of the

THE BANK OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

acagon 1

MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS. PRESENT LIQUIDATION

London, April 13. A meeting of the shareholders in the Bank of South Australia was held yesterday, at which it was reported that the liquidation was proceeding as rapidly as circumstances would permit.

It was proposed that the liquidation should be continued under the supervision of the Court ; but the motion only received the support of a small minority of those present, the majority preferring that it should be carried out on the present lines.

SIR F. D. BELL,

Sir Francis Dillon Bell, K.C.M.G., C.B., formerly Agent-General for New Zealand, will sail for New Zealand by the Polynesien.

MR. J. SPENCER BALFOUR.

EXTRADITION REFUSED.

London, April 13. Mr. Jabez Spencer Balfour, formerly Gladstonian M.P. for Burnley, and the well-known Company Director, is in the Argentine Republic.

A warrant having been issued for his arrest in connection with the Liberator Building Society frauds, Mr. Balfour lovanted with, it is believed, some 15,000 notes. The British authorities have tried to extradite him, but the Argentine Republic Government refuse to accede to their request, because the British authorities refused to give up an Argentine Republic offender under an extradition order.

THE UNITED EMPIRE TRADE LEAGUE.

GLADSTONE REFUSES TO BE INTERVIEWED. London, April 13.

The United Empire Trade League has requested the Premier to receive a deputation from their Association to press upon him the importance of taking tion to promote closer commercial relations between the various parts of the Empire. Mr. Gladstone has replied. declining to grant the request on the ground that the scheme advocated by the League is unjust to the great mass of the community, and if brought into operation would have an unfavourable effect upon industry and enterprise.

SYRIAN MANUSCRIPT OF THE GOSPELS.

THE OLDEST EXTANT.

London, April 13.

A sensation has been caused in archaeological and theological circles by the discovery in a convent at Mount Sinai of a Syrian manuscript of the four Gospels in a fairly good state of preservation.

The precise date of the manuscript has not been established, but experts pronounce it to be the oldest copy of the Gospels extant

SILVER.

London, April 13. Silver is now quoted at 3s. 116d. per oz., showing a fall of Ad.

BRITISH SHIPPING. [Per the Marine Underwriters' Association of Victoria, Limited.]