

1169. The rates of interest allowed by building societies on moneys left with them for a period of twelve months generally ranged, in 1880, from 5 to 7½ per cent., in 1881 and 1882 from 3 to 6½ per cent., in 1883 from 5 to 7 per cent., and in 1884 from 5½ to 7 per cent. Some societies allow as much as 5 per cent. on deposits at call.

Rates of interest in building societies.

1170. The sums deposited with building societies at the end of 1884 amounted in the aggregate to £1,793,992, or nearly half a million more than was on deposit at the end of 1883. These deposits exceeded the advances during the year by nearly £325,000.

Deposits with building societies.

1171. The following is a statement of the total amount of moneys on deposit at or about the end of each of the last five years with banks of issue, savings banks, and building societies. Other institutions, such as deposit banks, and some of the insurance companies, also receive deposits, but of these no returns are furnished:—

Total moneys on deposit.

MONEYS ON DEPOSIT AT END OF YEARS 1880 TO 1884.

Amount deposited with—	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
	£	£	£	£	£
Banks	17,972,703	21,151,910	23,625,093	24,059,169	28,417,044
Savings banks ...	1,661,409	2,569,438	3,121,246	2,818,122	2,981,083
Building societies	829,941	836,327	1,038,034	1,336,956	1,793,992
Total	20,464,053	24,557,675	27,784,373	28,214,247	33,192,119

1172. It will be observed that the moneys known to be on deposit about the close of the last year amounted in the aggregate to over thirty-three millions sterling, or nearly five millions more than in the previous year, and nearly thirteen millions more than in 1880, four years previously.

Moneys on deposit, 1884.

PART VIII.—LAW, CRIME, ETC.

1173. The system whereby persons acquiring possession of land, either by transfer, inheritance, or other means, may receive a title thereto direct from the Crown, was introduced into Victoria in the year 1862, and continues in force to the present period.*

Transfer of Land Statute.

1174. All lands alienated from the Crown since the introduction of the system have come at once under its provisions; and lands alienated

Lands under the Statute.

* This system was originated by the late Sir R. R. Torrens, whence it is commonly known as "Torrens's system." He first introduced it into South Australia, but it has since been adopted by all the Australasian colonies.

prior to its inauguration can be brought under them by application, provided a clear title be produced, or a title containing only a slight imperfection. In the latter case, the title is given subject to such imperfection, which is noted on the deed.

Assurance fund.

1175. The assurance and indemnity fund established under the Transfer of Land Statute, to secure the Government against possible losses, is formed chiefly by the payment of an amount equal to one halfpenny in the pound of the value of all lands which become subject to its operation. The balance to the credit of this fund on the 30th June, 1884, was £88,166, of which £57,140 had been invested in Government stock. Six claims upon the fund, of which 2 were in 1883-4, have been substantiated since its first formation, and £1,285 has been paid to claimants.

Transactions under the Land Statute, 1883 and 1884.

1176. An increase took place in the extent of land brought under the Transfer of Land Statute (29 Vict. No. 301), and a large increase in the fees received and in most of the other business transacted, in 1884 as compared with 1883. The following were the transactions in the two years :—

TRANSFER OF LAND STATUTE, 1883 AND 1884.

		1883.	1884.
Applications to bring land under the Act	... number	1,356	1,393
Extent of land included	... acres	46,158	99,722
Land brought under the Statute—			
By application	... acres	68,884	74,775
" " "	... value	£1,420,232	1,337,862
By grant and purchase from the Crown	... acres	472,536	469,482
" " "	... value	£564,504	585,099
Certificates of title issued	... number	16,478	19,021
Transfers, mortgages, leases, releases, surrenders, &c.	"	24,331	28,241
Registering proprietors	"	5	33
Other transactions*	"	25,626	29,561
Forms sold	"	414	319
Fees received	"	£37,599	42,129

Proportion of land under the Statute.

1177. The total quantity of land under the Transfer of Land Statute at the end of 1884 was 10,134,611 acres, the declared value of which, at the time it was placed under the Act, was £28,244,789. The land granted and sold up to the end of 1884 was 13,998,518 acres. It, therefore, follows that at that period nearly three-fourths of the alienated land in the colony was subject to the provisions of this Statute.

Land under Act by application and otherwise.

1178. Of the whole extent of land under the Statute, 906,387 acres, valued at about 16½ millions sterling, were brought thereunder by application, and the remainder, amounting to 9,228,224 acres, valued at nearly 12 millions sterling, came under its provisions by virtue of its

* Not including copies of documents supplied.

having been purchased from or granted by the Crown since the Act was passed.*

1179. In 1884 a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into the "amendment required in the Transfer of Land Statute, the working of the Titles Office, and the state of the Surveys," and their Report, dated the 10th June, 1885,† contains a number of recommendations for the amendment of the Act. One of the most important of these is to abolish the practice of issuing a fresh certificate of title on the transfer of an entire block or parcel of land, and, instead, for the Registrar to endorse the Crown grant or certificate to the new proprietor. Such transfers, it is stated, "might easily be registered within 24 hours, and the fee of £1 for every certificate, now payable, be saved to the public." Another important recommendation is, that power be given to the Registrar to adjust boundaries, overlaps, &c.; any person injured to have his remedy against the assurance fund. For the improved working of the Titles Office, and obviating the delays complained of as occurring therein, several practical suggestions are made. With regard to the state of the territorial surveys, the Commissioners found that "the surveys made in the early days of the colony were, for the most part, extremely faulty and unreliable, and that, as a rule, the dimensions of allotments as marked out by the surveyors on the ground differ from the dimensions of the same as given in the grants," the effect of which has been "the creation or development of endless complications and difficulties from the apparent overlapping of boundaries," &c. With a view of remedying these defects, it is, amongst other things, suggested, "that an Act should be passed declaring that the boundaries as originally set out on the ground, and that are represented by the original marks, buildings, fences, or other improvements, are the true boundaries of allotments, notwithstanding any discrepancies in the measurements that may be found to exist between the boundaries so marked and the description of same in the titles"; also, that a skeleton survey, establishing permanent marks near the corners of all public streets and roads in Melbourne and suburbs, should be undertaken forthwith, so as to supply data for the accurate definition of properties, and for the preparation of proper record plans for the use of the Titles Office, as well as for the alignment of streets"; the cost to be defrayed out of the interest on the accumulated assurance fund, which fund now amounts to nearly £90,000.

Royal Commission on Land, Titles, and Surveys

1180. The business in Equity was much lighter in 1884 than in the previous year, as will be seen by the following figures:—

Transactions in Equity.

* See paragraph 1174 *ante*.

† Parliamentary Paper No. 18, Session 1885.

TRANSACTIONS IN EQUITY, 1883 AND 1884.

	1883.	1884.
Suits by bill number	81	38
Petitions filed "	15	8
Commissions issued "	4	4
Decrees issued "	38	37
Orders issued "	132	106
Reports issued "	20	20
Writs of injunction issued ... .. "	...	...
Writs of <i>ne exeat coloniâ</i> issued ... .. "	...	...
Conveyances settled by Master ... .. "	...	...
Recognizances entered into "	5	2
Rolls filed "	40	29

Probates and letters of administration.

1181. In 1884, as compared with 1883, there was a large increase in the number of probates and letters of administration issued, and in the value of property bequeathed. The average value of each estate in 1883 was £2,089, and in 1884, £2,706. The following are the figures for those years :—

PROBATES AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, 1883 AND 1884.

Year.	Probates.		Letters of Administration.*		Both.	
	Number.	Property sworn under— £	Number.	Property sworn under— £	Number.	Property sworn under— £
1883 ...	1,038	3,152,386	756	595,958	1,794	3,748,344
1884 ...	1,160	4,507,609	730	606,078	1,890	5,113,687
Increase	122	1,355,223	...	10,120	96	1,365,343
Decrease	...	...	26	...	...	...

Value of property bequeathed.

1182. During the twenty years ended with 1884, the value of the property respecting which probates and letters of administration were issued amounted to nearly forty-four millions sterling (£43,742,208).

Scale of probate, &c., duties.

1183. According to the present law,† duties are levied in Victoria on the net value of real and personal estates of deceased persons within the colony upon the following scale (half duty only being paid by widows, children, or grandchildren) :—

SCALE OF DUTIES ON ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS.

Estates of less than £1,000 in value	...	1 per cent.
" £1,000 to £5,000	"	2 "
" £5,000 to £10,000	"	3 "
" £10,000 to £20,000	"	4 "
" £20,000 to £30,000	"	5 "
" £30,000 to £40,000	"	6 "
" £40,000 to £60,000	"	7 "
" £60,000 to £80,000	"	8 "
" £80,000 to £100,000	"	9 "
" £100,000 and upwards	"	10 "

* Including those granted to the Curator of Intestate Estates.

† The Acts relating to estates of deceased persons are 34 Vict. No. 388, 35 Vict. No. 403, 36 Vict. No. 427, and 39 Vict. No. 523.

1184. The amount realized by the State in 1884 from duties on estates of deceased persons exceeded that in 1883 by £29,270, and was far higher than that in any of the previous thirteen years. The amounts fluctuate considerably from year to year, as will be observed by the following figures for the last fourteen years:—

Amount of probate, &c., duties.

DUTIES ON ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS, 1871 TO 1884.

			£				£
1871	...	...	17,069	1878	...	...	45,470
1872	...	...	37,643	1879	...	...	47,607
1873	...	...	39,026	1880	...	...	48,697
1874	...	...	67,998	1881	...	...	78,914
1875	...	...	50,057	1882	...	...	78,547
1876	...	...	33,638	1883	...	...	96,427
1877	...	...	82,201	1884	...	...	125,697

1185. The intestate estates, respecting which administration was granted to the Curator in 1883, numbered 238; those in 1884 numbered 212. The estimated value of such estates amounted to £34,589 in the former and to £36,048 in the latter year.* The sums received by the Curator on these estates and on others remaining from former years were £38,625 in 1883 and £50,333 in 1884. In the fourteen years ended with 1884, the number of intestate estates dealt with was 3,100, and their estimated value £572,182. The amount received by the Curator in respect to these estates during the fourteen years was £577,789.

Intestate estates.

1186. Under the head of Divorce and Matrimonial Causes there were only 10 decrees for dissolution of marriage in 1884 as against as many as 25 in 1883. There were also 2 decrees for judicial separation in both years. The following was the business done in the two years:—

Divorce and matrimonial.

DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL, 1883 AND 1884.

		1883.	1884.
Petitions for dissolution of marriage	... number	37	25
„ judicial separation	... „	7	11
„ alimony	... „	5	9
Decrees for dissolution of marriage	... „	25	10
„ judicial separation	... „	2	2
„ alimony	... „	3	5

1187. Since the Act 25 Vict. No. 125—which first conferred upon the Supreme Court of Victoria jurisdiction in matters matrimonial—came into operation in 1861, 187 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 42 decrees for judicial separation have been made.

Divorces in twenty-three years.

1188. In proportion to the number of marriages, the petitions for dissolution of marriage are about twice as numerous in Victoria as in England and Wales, the annual average per 1,000 marriages being 3.74

Divorces in Victoria and England.

* These numbers and values are included in those given in the table following paragraph 1181 ante.

petitions in the former and 1·88 in the latter. The decrees for the dissolution of marriage are also, in proportion to the number of marriages, more numerous in Victoria, the number per 10,000 being 16·1 as against 9·5 in England and Wales. The proportion of decrees to petitions is, however, higher in England and Wales than in Victoria, being about one-half in the former, but only about three-sevenths in the latter.

Fees in
Equity, &c.

1189. The fees in Equity amounted in the aggregate to £1,014 in 1883, and to £797 in 1884; those on Probates amounted to £1,454 in 1883, and to £1,554 in 1884; those in Divorce amounted to £175 in 1883, and to £191 in 1884.

Collections
in Lunacy.

1190. The moneys collected and appropriated in the department of the Master-in-Lunacy, on behalf of patients (including "percentage" and fees) increased from £9,055 in 1883 to £10,928 in 1884.*

Insolvencies.

1191. In the seventeen years ended with 1884, over twelve and a half thousand insolvencies took place in Victoria, with liabilities amounting to over 10½ millions sterling, as against which assets were declared amounting to nearly 5½ millions sterling. The following is a statement of the number of insolvencies in each year, also of the declared liabilities and assets of the estates, and of the amounts by which the latter were exceeded by the former:—

INSOLVENCIES, 1868 TO 1884.

Year.	Number of Insolvencies.	As shown by the Insolvents' Schedules.		
		Liabilities.	Assets.	Deficiency.
		£	£	£
1868	863	617,764	167,226	450,538
1869	818	653,614	194,251	459,363
1870	996	479,491	150,170	329,321
1871	631	444,117	217,841	226,276
1872	804	696,868	222,770	474,098
1873	672	330,337	188,351	141,986
1874	776	543,157	269,130	274,027
1875	773	641,390	389,330	252,060
1876	712	551,814	280,962	270,852
1877	715	462,651	272,720	189,931
1878	781	677,364	408,677	268,687
1879	1,007	1,655,485	1,204,051	451,434
1880	768	526,130	298,384	227,746
1881	620	303,892	161,386	142,506
1882	500	536,194	311,186	225,008
1883	603	782,116	423,528	358,588
1884	495	479,700	264,286	215,014
Total	12,534	10,382,084	5,424,249	4,957,435

* The corresponding amounts in previous issues of this work were incorrect, the moneys paid direct into the Treasury having been entered twice over. The mistake did not occur in the office of the Government Statist.

1192. The proportion of the assets to the liabilities, as shown by the insolvents' schedules, fluctuates considerably from year to year. In the year under review, the former amounted to 55 per cent. of the latter ; in 1883 to 54 per cent., 1882 to 58 per cent., in 1881 to 53 per cent., in 1880 to 57 per cent., in 1879 to 70 per cent., in 1878 to 60 per cent., in 1877 to 59 per cent., and in 1876 to 51 per cent. In the whole period of seventeen years, the declared assets were in the proportion of about 52 per cent. to the declared liabilities.

1193. According to statistics issued by Mr. Richard Seyd, F.G.S.,* the following are the number of failures in the United Kingdom during the six and a half years ended June, 1885 :—

FAILURES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1879-1885.

Year.	Number of Failures.		
	In Wholesale Trades.†	In Retail Trades.‡	Total.
1879	2,546	14,091	16,637
1880	1,478	11,669	13,147
1881	1,325	10,680	12,005
1882	1,314	9,705	11,019
1883	1,361	9,238	10,599
1884	607	3,787	4,394
1885 (6 months)	299	2,300	2,599
Total	8,930	61,470	70,400

1194. It will be noticed that by far the largest number of failures occurred in 1879, but since then a considerable falling-off has taken place in each year, but most especially in 1884, when the number was fewer by over 50 per cent. than that in any of the five preceding years. This experience was very similar to that recorded in Victoria, for during the last seventeen years the maximum number of insolvencies occurred in 1879 ; and in 1884, notwithstanding the increase of population, the number was absolutely the lowest in seventeen years.

1195. Important duties in connexion with the registration of deeds and other documents, public companies, bills and contracts for sale ; births, deaths, and marriages ; and patents, copyrights, and trade-marks, are performed by the Registrar-General. Under most of these heads more business was done in 1884 than in 1883, as will be seen by the

* See *The Statist*, 18th July, 1885, page 61.

† Embraces the "financial, wholesale, and manufacturing branches of trade."

‡ Consisting of "retail traders, professional men, builders, publicans, the working classes, &c."

following table, which shows the number of transactions and the amount of fees received in the last two years:—

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S TRANSACTIONS AND FEES, 1883 AND 1884.

Nature of Transaction.	Transactions.		Fees.	
	1883.	1884.	1883.	1884.
Registry	16,300	16,632	£ 4,859	£ 5,106
Companies Statute	3,475	3,914	946	1,060
Bills and contracts of sale	6,695	6,620	335	331
Births, deaths, and marriages certificates	1,800	2,178	445	535
Patents	525	708	1,892	2,218
Copyrights	491	528	56	68
Trade-marks	529	547	643	699
Searches in connexion with the above	17,124	16,647	1,294	1,330
Miscellaneous fees ... ..	...	...	59	109
Total	46,939	47,774	10,529	11,456

Offences reported.

1196. The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during 1883 and 1884 is given in the following table; those offences being distinguished:—1. In respect to which persons were brought before magistrates on summons, but were never in custody. 2. In respect to which arrests were made by the police. 3. In respect to which no person had been arrested or brought before magistrates* up to the end of the month of March of the year following that in which the offence was reported. An increase will be observed under all the heads, the total number of offences being 2 per cent. more in 1884 than in 1883:—

OFFENCES REPORTED, 1883 AND 1884.

Offences in respect to which—	1883.	1884.	Increase.	Decrease.
1. Persons were brought before magistrates on summons	21,900	23,894	1,994	...
2. „ „ apprehended by the police	27,074	27,503	429	...
3. The offenders were still at large † ...	5,389	4,049	...	1,340
Total	54,363	55,446	1,083 ‡	...

Summons cases.

1197. Over two-fifths of the total number of offences consist of those in respect to which persons are brought before magistrates on summons

* It does not follow that in the remaining instances the offender escaped altogether. He may have been arrested after the date at which the returns were made up, or on other charges, even prior to that period.

† It should be pointed out that the offences for which arrests have and have not been made are not strictly comparable. They are reckoned in the former case according to the individual arrests effected, in the latter according to the offences reported, although in the perpetration of many of these more than one person may have been concerned.

‡ Net figures.

but are not taken into custody. These must obviously be of a lighter character than those for which arrests are made, and therefore do not demand lengthened consideration. The offences in this category classed as against the person are principally assault cases resulting from petty quarrels; those against property are chiefly cases of wilful damage to or illegal detention of property; and the remainder consist for the most part of breaches of the Education Act, the clause in the Public Works Statute relating to railways and water supply, the Local Government Act or municipal by-laws, the Masters and Servants or Wines and Spirits Statutes, &c. The following are the particulars given respecting those which were dealt with in 1883 and 1884:—

OFFENCES DEALT WITH BY SUMMONS,* 1883 AND 1884.

	1883.	1884.	Increase.	Decrease.
Offences against the person	1,792	1,549	...	243
" " property	1,116	948	...	168
Other offences	18,992	21,397	2,405	...
Total	21,900	23,894	1,994†	...
Cases dismissed by magistrates	6,175	7,346	1,171	...
Offender summarily convicted or held to bail	15,725	16,548	823	...

1198. Very full details are given of the offences which gave occasion for the apprehensions made by the police; but, in making up the returns, a person arrested more than once during the year, or arrested at one time on several charges, is counted as a separate individual in respect to each arrest or charge, and this, except where the contrary is stated, must be borne in mind by those consulting the following paragraphs and tables. Charges counted as persons.

1199. The persons † who were taken in charge by the Victorian police in 1884, and in the first year of each of the two previous quinquennia, were as follow:— Arrests, 1874, 1879, and 1884.

PERSONS † ARRESTED, 1874, 1879, AND 1884. §

Number of Persons—	1874.	1879.	1884.
Taken into custody	23,856	24,625	27,503
Discharged by magistrates... ..	6,929	7,227	8,900
Summarily convicted or held to bail	16,233	16,770	17,908
Committed for trial	694	628	695

* This table does not embrace cases in which the offender was sentenced to imprisonment or was committed for trial. Although he might in the first instance have appeared before the magistrates on summons, such disposal would place him in custody of the police, and he would therefore be included in subsequent tables.

† Net figures.

‡ See preceding paragraph.

§ A statement showing, during a series of years, the numbers taken into custody, the numbers committed for trial, and the numbers convicted after commitment, will be found in the Statistical Summary of Victoria (first folding sheet) ante.

Arrests :
proportion
to popula-
tion.

1200. At the last period, it will be observed, arrests were much more numerous than at either of the former periods; but, if the numbers of the population be taken into account, the arrests at the last period will be found to have been about the same as at the middle period, but lower than at the first period. The estimated average population in 1874 was 777,656; in 1879, 834,030; and in 1884, 946,100. The arrests were, therefore, in the proportion of 1 to every 32 persons living at the first period, of 1 to every 34 persons living at the second period, and of 1 to every 34 persons living at the third period.

Proportion
of times
charge was
sustained.

1201. The persons summarily convicted, held to bail, or committed for trial, were, to the whole number arrested, in the proportion of 71 per cent. at the first and second periods, and of 68 per cent. at the third period.

Serious
offences.

1202. The diminution in the number of serious offences is strikingly shown by the decreased number of commitments for trial at the last two periods as compared with the first period. These were in the proportion of 1 to every 34 arrests at the first period, of 1 to every 39 arrests at the middle period, and of 1 to every 40 arrests at the third period.

Males and
females
arrested.

1203. The sexes of the persons arrested, and of such of them as were discharged by magistrates, summarily dealt with, or sent for trial, were as follow at the same three periods :—

MALES AND FEMALES* ARRESTED, 1874, 1879, AND 1884.

	1874.		1879.		1884.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Taken into custody	19,049	4,807	19,162	5,463	21,908	5,595
Discharged by magistrates ...	5,452	1,477	5,521	1,706	7,024	1,876
Summarily convicted or held to bail	12,978	3,255	13,061	3,709	14,284	3,624
Committed for trial	619	75	580	48	600	95

Cases in
which
charge was
sustained.

1204. The males and females summarily convicted, held to bail, or committed for trial, were, to the whole numbers of the same sexes arrested, in the proportions respectively of 71 per cent. and 69 per cent. in 1874; of 71 per cent. and 69 per cent. in 1879; and of 68 per cent. and 66 per cent. in 1884.

Relative pro-
portions of
male and
female
criminals.

1205. The next table shows the relative proportions of males and females arrested, and of those of them who were discharged, summarily dealt with, or committed for trial at the same three periods :—

* See paragraph 1198 *ante*.

MALES AND FEMALES.—RELATIVE PROPORTIONS ARRESTED,
1874, 1879, AND 1884.

	Number of Females to 100 Males.		
	1874.	1879.	1884.
Taken into custody	25·24	28·51	25·54
Discharged by magistrates	27·09	30·90	26·70
Summarily convicted or held to bail	25·08	28·40	25·37
Committed for trial	12·12	8·28	15·83

1206. It will be observed that, relatively to the males taken into custody or summarily convicted, the proportion of females similarly dealt with was at the last lower than at the middle period, but somewhat higher than at the first period. The proportion of females committed for trial, however, was much higher at the last than at either of the former periods. At all the periods, the proportion of female to male criminals was much lower than the proportion that females bore to males in the total population; at the first period the females in the colony were in the proportion of 87, and at the second and third periods of about 89, to every 100 males.

Relative proportions of male and female criminals at three periods.

1207. A condensed statement of the offences for which arrests were made in the same three years, together with the numbers arrested for each offence, will be found in the following table:—

Causes of arrest.

. CAUSES OF ARREST, 1874, 1879, AND 1884.

Offence.	1874.	1879.	1884.
Murder and attempt at murder	10	15	23
Manslaughter	28	14	16
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm	73	46	71
Assault	1,653	1,682	1,809
Rape and indecent assault on females	49	60	70
Unnatural offence, and assault with intent to commit	11	8	17
Other offences against the person	108	140	93
Robbery with violence, burglary, &c.	179	203	205
Horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, &c.	189	154	130
Other offences against property	3,370	3,508	3,090
Forgery and offences against the currency	91	100	74
Drunkenness	10,983	10,861	12,938
Other offences against good order	5,056	6,041	7,330
Offences relating to carrying out laws	473	420	228
Smuggling and other offences against the revenue	84	129	80
Offences against public welfare	1,499	1,244	1,329
Total	23,856	24,625	27,503

Offences at
last period.

1208. The causes in respect to which more arrests were made at the last period than at either of the former ones were homicide, assaults, sexual offences, robbery with violence or burglary, drunkenness, and other offences against good order. But, for miscellaneous offences against the person and against property, horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, forgery, offences relating to carrying out laws, and smuggling and other offences against the revenue, there were fewer arrests at the last than at either of the former periods. Most arrests for miscellaneous offences against the person and against property, forgery and offences against the currency, and smuggling and other offences against the revenue, occurred at the middle period, and most arrests for shooting at or wounding, horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, offences relating to carrying out laws, and offences against public welfare, at the first period.

Drunken-
ness.

1209. The number of arrests for drunkenness affords ample evidence that the efforts of those who are seeking to suppress or mitigate the evil are not uncalled for. In many cases, no doubt, the same individual was arrested over and over again; but, supposing each arrest had represented a distinct individual, there would have been taken into custody for drunkenness—

In 1874,	one person in every	71	living in	Victoria.
„ 1875,	„	68	„	„
„ 1876,	„	69	„	„
„ 1877,	„	65	„	„
„ 1878,	„	69	„	„
„ 1879,	„	77	„	„
„ 1880,	„	85	„	„
„ 1881,	„	79	„	„
„ 1882,	„	76	„	„
„ 1883,	„	74	„	„
„ 1884,	„	73	„	„

Minor
offences.

1210. Drunkenness, “other offences against property,” “other offences against good order,” and “offences against public welfare,” may be considered as, comparatively speaking, minor offences, hardly amounting to crimes. Arrests for these numbered 20,908 in 1874, 21,654 in 1879, and 24,687 in 1884; and to the whole number of arrests were in the proportion of 88 per cent. at the first and second periods, and 90 per cent. at the third period. Thus only 12 per cent. of the arrests at the first and middle periods, and 10 per cent. at the last period, were for crimes in the strict sense of the word.

Smuggling
and other
offences
against
revenue.

1211. It is worthy of remark that, notwithstanding the inducement which high import duties might be supposed to offer to smugglers, offences against the revenue have never led to many arrests in Victoria. Only 80 persons were taken into custody for such offences in 1884, which is somewhat less than the number in 1879, or in 1874.

1212. The ages of those taken into custody in 1884, and the degree of instruction possessed by them, are shown in the following table :—

Age and education of arrested persons.

DEGREE OF INSTRUCTION AND AGE OF PERSONS* ARRESTED, 1884.

Ages.	Superior Instruction.	Read and Write well.	Read only, or Read and Write imperfectly.	Unable to Read.	Total.
Under 10 years ...	...	3	70	304	377
10 " 15 " ...	...	36	436	102	574
15 " 20 " ...	3	307	1,380	122	1,812
20 " 25 " ...	16	812	3,140	233	4,201
25 " 30 " ...	26	690	2,546	244	3,506
30 " 40 " ...	55	972	3,931	483	5,441
40 " 50 " ...	38	879	3,909	727	5,553
50 " 60 " ...	34	546	2,697	485	3,762
60 years and upwards	8	234	1,655	380	2,277
Total ...	180	4,479	19,764	3,080	27,503

1213. The returns of those under 15 years of age taken in charge by the police embrace neglected and deserted children as well as criminals. The whole number in 1884, according to the table, was 951, and of these not one was possessed of superior instruction; only 39, or 1 in 24, could read and write well; and 406, or about three-sevenths, were unable to read. The number of children under 15 committed for trial was 7—all males—all of whom could read, but not one could write.

Education of children arrested.

1214. Those over 15 years arrested numbered 26,552, and of these, 4,620, or rather more than a sixth (including those possessed of superior instruction), could read and write well, and 2,674, or about a tenth, could not read. Those over 15 years of age committed for trial numbered 688, of whom 202, or 29 per cent., could read and write well, or were possessed of superior instruction, and 52, or a fourteenth, were unable to read. According to these figures, the persons charged with offences serious enough to call for their commitment for trial were somewhat better educated than the other arrested persons. Those arrested, whether committed for trial or otherwise dealt with, were on the average not nearly so well educated as the general population, for at the last census all over 15 years of age, except about a tenth, were returned as being able to read and write, and only an eighteenth were returned as entirely illiterate.

Education of adults.

1215. The following table shows the birthplaces and religions of the persons taken into custody and of those committed for trial in 1884, also the ratio of those of each country and sect to the estimated numbers of the same country and sect in the population :—

Birthplace and religions of criminals.

* See paragraph 1198 ante.

BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS OF PERSONS * ARRESTED AND
COMMITTED FOR TRIAL, 1884.

Birthplace and Religion.	Persons Arrested.		Persons Committed for Trial.	
	Number.	Proportion per 1,000 in the Population. †	Number.	Proportion per 1,000 in the Population. †
BIRTHPLACE.				
Victoria ‡	7,386	13·50	232	·42
Other Australasian colonies ‡	1,386	31·73	80	1·83
Australian Aborigines ...	55	...	...	...
England and Wales ...	6,726	41·52	161	·99
Scotland	2,607	49·32	42	·80
Ireland	7,538	79·31	94	·99
China	195	14·89	11	·84
Other countries	1,610	...	75	...
Total	27,503	29·07	695	·73
RELIGION.				
Protestants	15,341	22·61	467	·69
Roman Catholics	11,454	51·34	193	·87
Jews	107	22·51	8	1·68
Pagans	190	15·35	11	·88
Others	411	...	16	...

Relative numbers of each birth-place.

1216. It is always found that fewer Victorians are arrested, and fewer are committed for trial, in proportion to their numbers in the population, than persons of any other nationality. This, without doubt, is mainly due to the fact of a very large proportion of children being embraced within their numbers. With the increasing ages of the Victorian-born population, however, the number arrested is increasing. In 1874, only 2,903, and in 1879, 5,390 persons of Victorian birth were taken into custody, whereas in the year under review the number had risen to 7,386. The country which supplies the largest number of arrested persons is Ireland. In 1884, those arrested of this nationality exceeded the English and Welsh arrested by 812, and this although natives of England and Wales in the population outnumbered the Irish by 66,942, or 70 per cent. The offences with which the Irish were charged, however, could not have been of a more serious nature than those in respect to which the English and Welsh were arrested, as in both cases the number committed for trial bore the same proportion to the numbers in the population, the Scotch arrested were slightly above the English, but those committed for trial were below any others except Victorians. The proportion of Chinese arrested was below that of persons of any other nationality except Victorians; and the proportion committed for trial was lower than that of any except the Scotch and Victorians. Arrests of natives of other Australasian colonies were, in proportion to

* See paragraph 1198 *ante*.

† The estimated population of each birthplace and religion with which these calculations have been made will be found in the tables following paragraphs 83 and 89 *ante*.

‡ Exclusive of Aborigines.

their numbers, the least numerous after those of Chinese and Victorians, but their commitments for trial were much more numerous than those of persons of any other nationality.

1217. In proportion to their numbers in the community, the Roman Catholics supplied nearly two and a half times as many arrested persons as the Protestants or the Jews, and about three and a half times as many as the Pagans. In view of a similar proportion, the Roman Catholics committed for trial were a fourth more numerous than the Protestants, slightly less numerous than the Pagans, but not nearly so numerous as the Jews. A statement of the offences which formed the grounds for arrest will be found in the next table but one.

Relative numbers of each religion.

1218. It is generally assumed that nearly every person sent to trial is guilty of the offence for which he was committed, and, although he may subsequently be acquitted, the probability is that a conviction would have been obtained if sufficient evidence had been available. On the other hand, it is maintained by some that many of those discharged had been unjustly apprehended, and should not be classed as criminals. If the latter assumption be correct, it would appear by the following table—which shows the number of the various religions committed for trial and the number convicted together with the percentage of convictions obtained—that in 1884 a larger proportion of Protestants were unjustly committed than of Roman Catholics; which, moreover, accords with the average experience of the previous five years. Also that, according to the average, a smaller proportion of Jews, but a larger proportion of Pagans, were unjustly accused than in the case of either Protestants or Roman Catholics. It should, however, be pointed out that the number of Jews and Pagans committed for trial was so small that any proportions based thereon are but of little value:—

Religions of persons convicted and sentenced.

RELIGIONS OF PERSONS* CONVICTED AND SENTENCED, 1884.

Religions.	Number Tried.†	Convictions and Sentences in 1884.		Percentage in 5 Years, 1879-1883.
		Total Number.	Percentage of Commitments.	
Protestants ...	456	267	58·6	59·2
Roman Catholics...	189	123	65·0	62·6
Jews ...	7	4	57·1	72·6
Pagans ...	9	3	33·3	52·3
Others ...	11	10	...	...
Total ...	672	407	60·6	60·4

* See paragraph 1198 *ante*.

† Including 69 persons who were awaiting trial at the end of 1883 and 39 who were not prosecuted. The persons awaiting trial at the end of 1884 numbered 92.

Causes of
arrest, and
religions.

1219. The religions of the persons* taken into custody in 1884 are given in the following table in connexion with their offences:—

CAUSES OF ARREST AND RELIGIONS, 1884.

Offence.	Religions.					Total.
	Protestants.	Roman Catholics.	Jews.	Pagans.	Others.	
Murder and attempt at murder	12	10	...	1	...	23
Manslaughter	6	10	...	...	...	16
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm	37	27	...	5	2	71
Assault	935	810	11	29	24	1,809
Rape and indecent assault on females	45	25	...	...	...	70
Unnatural offence, and assault with intent to commit	12	4	...	...	1	17
Other offences against the person	58	35	...	...	...	93
Robbery with violence, burglary, &c.	116	76	2	6	5	205
Horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, &c.	85	44	...	...	1	130
Other offences against property	1,788	1,186	25	43	48	3,090
Forgery and offences against the currency	55	12	2	...	5	74
Drunkenness	7,278	5,423	17	10	210	12,938
Other offences against good order	3,921	3,218	35	66	90	7,330
Offences relating to the carrying out of laws	143	77	3	1	4	228
Smuggling and other offences against the revenue	32	23	...	24	1	80
Offences against public welfare	818	474	12	5	20	1,329
Total	15,341	11,454	107	190	411	27,503

Causes of
arrest of
each sect
compared.

1220. It will be observed that 12 Protestants, 10 Roman Catholics, and 1 Pagan, were arrested for murder and attempt at murder; 43 Protestants, 37 Roman Catholics, and 5 Pagans were arrested for manslaughter, shooting, or serious wounding; 57 Protestants and 29 Roman Catholics were arrested for sexual offences. Nearly 7,300 Protestants, nearly 5,400 Roman Catholics, 17 Jews, and 10 Pagans were arrested for drunkenness. No Jew was arrested during the year for murder, manslaughter, or a sexual offence.

Religions of
drunkards.

1221. Arrests for drunkenness and other offences against good order were in the proportion of 73 per cent. of the total arrests of Protestants, of 75 per cent. of those of Roman Catholics, of 48 per cent. of those of Jews, of 40 per cent. of those of Pagans, and of 73 per cent. of those of

* See paragraph 1198 *ante*.

persons of other beliefs. These proportions vary but little from year to year.

1222. The next table shows the occupations of the males and females taken into custody in 1884:—

Occupations of persons arrested.

OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES* ARRESTED, 1884.

Occupations.	Males.	Females.
CLASS I.—GOVERNMENTAL AND PROFESSIONAL.		
Government officer ...	15	1
Police, penal officer ...	6	...
Officer of local body ...	1	...
Army, navy—officer, man ...	6	...
Clergyman ...	1	...
Lawyer ...	20	...
Medical man, student ...	53	...
Dentist ...	9	...
Chemist and druggist ...	22	...
Midwife ...	...	1
Others connected with medicine ...	5	...
Author, editor, reporter ...	14	...
Science, connected with ...	7	...
Education, engaged in ...	37	1
Fine arts, engaged in ...	24	...
Photographer ...	8	...
Music, teacher of, musician ...	41	3
Theatres and exhibitions, connected with ...	22	...
CLASS II.—ENGAGED IN ENTERTAINING AND SERVING.		
Hotelkeeper ...	55	2
Board and lodging, connected with ...	6	...
Domestic servant, cook ...	240	590
Hotel, boarding-house, &c., servant ...	70	6
Charitable institution servant ...	2	...
Nurse (not servant) ...	...	12
Attendance, engaged in ...	6	22
CLASS III.—COMMERCIAL PURSUITS.		
Merchant, capitalist ...	4	...
Auctioneer, &c. ...	12	...
Broker, agent, &c. ...	85	...
Commercial clerk, &c. ...	377	...
Commercial traveller, salesman ...	75	...
Other mercantile persons ...	17	...
Shopkeeper ...	30	1
Pawnbroker ...	1	...
Hawker, pedlar ...	247	5
General dealer ...	233	10
Railway service ...	9	...
Omnibus, cab—driver, owner ...	250	...
Draymen, carter, carrier ...	321	...
Others connected with conveyance ...	7	...
Harbour, pier, pilot, lighthouse—service ...	2	...
Ship—owner, master, officer, seaman (not navy) ...	1,092	...
Steamship—engineer ...	1	...
Ship—servant, steward, &c. ...	46	...

* See paragraph 1198 ante.

OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES* ARRESTED, 1884—*continued.*

Occupations.	Males.	Females.
CLASS III.—COMMERCIAL PURSUITS— <i>continued.</i>		
Boatman, waterman, &c.	11	...
Stevedore and others connected with ships	11	...
Storage, engaged in	2	...
Messenger, porter, errand boy	8	...
Telegraph service	7	...
CLASS IV.—AGRICULTURAL, PASTORAL, ETC.		
Farmer, market gardener, farm servant, labourer, &c. ...	784	1
Squatter, grazier, station servant, labourer, &c. ...	76	...
Land surveyor and assistants	3	...
Horse dealer, proprietor, &c.	4	...
Veterinary surgeon, farrier	1	...
Horse-breaker, groom, jockey	246	...
Live stock salesman	2	...
Game, rabbit catcher	6	...
Fisherman	30	...
Drover and others engaged about animals	75	...
CLASS V.—INDUSTRIAL.		
Bookseller, newsvendor, &c.	28	1
Bookbinder	4	...
Printer	129	...
Musical instrument tuner	2	...
Prints and pictures, connected with	11	...
Carving and figures, connected with	4	...
Designs and medals, connected with	1	...
Watch and clock maker, dealer	19	...
Philosophical instrument maker, dealer	4	...
Optician	1	...
Gunsmith, &c.	6	...
Mechanical or undefined engineer	159	...
Toolmaker, cutler, &c.	14	...
Carriagemaker, wheelwright	70	...
Saddle, harness, and whip maker, dealer	108	...
Shipwright, rigger, boatbuilder	30	...
Sailmaker, shipchandler, &c.	24	...
Builder, contractor, architect	27	...
Carpenter, joiner	536	...
Bricklayer, mason, plasterer, shingler, slater	448	...
Painter, paperhanger, plumber, &c.	325	...
Others connected with buildings	41	...
Cabinet, &c., maker, dealer	76	...
Chemicals, working or dealing in	7	...
Draper and assistants	58	1
Wool-classer	17	...
Textile fabrics, manufacturer of, weaver	21	...
Hairdresser, wigmaker, &c.	41	...
Hat and cap maker	15	1
Tailor, tailoress, dealer in clothing	194	32
Milliner, dressmaker ... ..	...	39
Clothing manufacture, engaged in	3	25
Boot and shoe maker	602	...
Shoeblick	1	...
Umbrella—maker, mender	12	2

* See paragraph 1198 *ante.*

OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES* ARRESTED, 1884—*continued.*

Occupations.	Males.	Females.
CLASS V.—INDUSTRIAL— <i>continued.</i>		
Laundryman	1	...
Rope, mat, sack, maker	10	2
Tent, tarpaulin, maker, canvas dealer ...	7	...
Cowkeeper, dairyman, woman	13	2
Butcher, &c.	259	...
Poulterer, fishmonger	21	3
Other dealers in animal food... .. .	2	...
Miller, grain and flour dealer, and assistants ...	15	...
Baker, confectioner	214	3
Greengrocer, fruiterer	3	...
Others dealing in vegetable food	2	1
Brewing, connected with	14	...
Gingerbeer and sodawater maker	7	...
Grocer and assistants	42	2
Tobacco manufacture, engaged in	40	8
Tobacconist	3	...
Soapboiler, candlemaker, tallowmelter	11	...
Tanner, fellmonger, currier	61	...
Leather articles, maker of	3	...
Brush and broom maker	3	...
Animal matters, working or dealing in	4	...
Japanner, french polisher	39	...
Firewood—dealer, chopper, splitter, fencer	44	1
Cooper, turner	50	...
Sawyer, sawmill owner, worker	36	...
Basketmaker	18	...
Chaffcutter	1	...
Papermaker	1	...
Rag and bottle gatherer	45	...
Billsticker	1	...
Vegetable matters, others working or dealing in	9	...
Mining, engaged in	657	...
Coal and charcoal, working or dealing in	7	...
Chimney sweep	8	...
Quarryman, limeburner, &c.	25	...
Brickmaker, potter	62	...
China, glass, &c., maker, dealer	3	...
Navy, platelayer	10	...
Nightman, scavenger	12	...
Earth, stone, glass, &c., others working or dealing in	49	...
Goldsmith, silversmith, jeweller	15	...
Ironfounder, blacksmith, locksmith	403	...
Ironmonger	17	...
Brassfounder, finisher, gasfitter	5	...
Other metals, working or dealing in	182	...
CLASS VI.—INDEFINITE AND NON-PRODUCTIVE.		
Labourer	9,896	...
Indefinite—Mechanic, manager, apprentice, &c. ...	174	...
Engine-driver, undescribed	78	...
Prostitute, brothel-keeper .. .. .	...	1,453
No stated occupation, over 15 years of age	902	3,129
” ” under ” ”	641	235
Total	21,908	5,595

* See paragraph 1198 *ante.*

Chief occupations of persons arrested.

1223. It will be observed that, of the males arrested, nearly half were labourers, and that of other occupations those most frequently arrested were sailors, farmers or farm labourers, miners, shoemakers, and carpenters, in the order named. No occupation was returned in 1,543 cases, and it is probable that many of these belonged to the criminal classes. Of the females arrested, more than a fourth were set down as prostitutes or brothel-keepers. Nearly three-fifths were of no specified occupation; and of the few returned as following regular occupations more than four-fifths were domestic servants, and the bulk of the remainder were dressmakers and tailoresses.

Results of summary disposal.

1224. The results of summary disposal of cases by magistrates in the year 1884 were as follow :—

SUMMARY DISPOSAL BY MAGISTRATES OF ARRESTED PERSONS,* 1884.

Sentence.				Males.	Females.
Imprisonment for 2 years	...	...	...	15	...
„ 1 year and under 2 years	...	...	...	159	103
„ 6 months and under 1 year	...	...	...	237	115
„ 5 months	...	...	...	1	...
„ 4 months	...	...	...	17	8
„ 3 months	...	...	...	818	353
„ 2 months and under 3 months	...	...	...	178	63
„ 1 month and under 2 months	...	...	...	967	387
„ 15 days and under 1 month	...	...	...	53	17
„ 8 days and under 15 days	...	...	...	538	244
„ 7 days and under	...	...	...	3,805	1,197
Fined	...	...	...	6,630	764
Ordered to find bail	...	...	...	291	40
Sent to lunatic asylum	...	...	...	243	179
Sent to industrial school or reformatory	...	...	...	279	151
Otherwise dealt with	...	...	...	53	3
Total sentenced	...	...	...	14,284	3,624
Discharged	...	...	...	7,024	1,876
Total summarily disposed of	...	...	...	21,308	5,500

Sentences by magistrates.

1225. Of the persons sentenced by magistrates during 1884, 46 per cent. of the males, and 21 per cent. of the females, were fined; 31 per cent. of the former, and 40 per cent. of the latter, were sentenced to imprisonment for various terms under a month, and 16 and 26 per cent., respectively, for periods varying from 1 to 12 months; about 1 per cent. of the males, and 3 per cent. of the females, were sentenced to more than 1 year's imprisonment; the balance, or 6 per cent. of the males and 10 per cent. of the females, were sent to Lunatic Asylums, Industrial and Reformatory Schools, or were otherwise disposed of.

* See paragraph 1198 *ante*.

1226. Corporal punishment to males may be ordered by magistrates for certain offences. In such cases the offender may be sentenced to be whipped once, twice, or thrice, at the discretion of the bench. No offenders were so sentenced in 1884; but in the previous year two offenders were so sentenced, one of whom was to receive one whipping of fourteen lashes, and the other two whippings of twenty-five lashes each. These were the only occasions during the last five years that whipping was ordered by magistrates.

Whipping ordered by magistrates.

1227. The results of the commitments for trial at the three periods already referred to were as follow :—

Results of committals for trial.

RESULTS OF COMMITMENTS FOR TRIAL, 1874, 1879, AND 1884.*

	1874.	1879.	1884.
Number for trial	694	630	672
Convicted and sentenced...	436	397	407
Acquitted	194	180	226
Not prosecuted	64	53	39

1228. Of those committed for trial, 630 were eventually tried in 1874, 577 in 1879, and 633 in 1884. At the first and second periods 69 per cent., and at the third period 64 per cent., of the trials resulted in convictions.

Proportion of convictions obtained.

1229. The following are the sentences of the prisoners tried and convicted in superior courts during the year under review :—

Sentences in superior courts.

SENTENCES OF PERSONS TRIED AND CONVICTED, 1884.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.
Death	4	2
Hard labour on roads or public works for 15 years ...	2	...
" " " 10 years and under 15 years	2	...
" " " 7 years and under 10 years	1	...
" " " 4 years and under 7 years	25	...
Imprisonment for 2 years and under 4 years	80	3
" 1 year and under 2 years	98	15
" 6 months and under 1 year	100	7
" 1 month and under 6 months	31	13
" under 1 month	6	4
Fined	6	1
Recognizances estreated	1	...
To find bail to appear when called upon	6	...
Total tried and convicted	362	45

* The figures for 1879 and 1884 include those who were remaining for trial from the previous year, but exclude those awaiting trial at the end of the year. In 1874, the returns were not made up until the result of the commitments for trial was known, so that none were shown as remaining for trial at the beginning of the year or awaiting trial at its close.

Length of sentences in superior courts.

1230. Of males convicted in superior courts, 4 were sentenced to death, and all but 13 of the remainder to terms of imprisonment, with or without hard labour; of those imprisoned, more than two-thirds were sentenced for periods of less than two years, and only one-eleventh to more than four years. Of the females, 18 were sentenced to over one, and 20 to under one year's imprisonment. Four males were sentenced to be imprisoned for a longer period than ten years, two of whom were sentenced to fifteen years. No female was sentenced to a longer period than four years.

Solitary confinement ordered by superior courts.

1231. In addition to terms of imprisonment named in the foregoing table, 88 persons were ordered to be kept in solitary confinement for periods varying from a few days to 12 weeks in the year. Seven of these had been convicted of murder, attempt to murder, or manslaughter, &c.; 5 of assault; 6 of rape; 1 of an unnatural offence; 20 of robbery under arms, burglary, &c.; 6 of sheep or cattle stealing, &c.; 28 of other offences against property; 13 of forgery, &c.; and 2 of offences relating to carrying out laws. The most severe sentences of this kind were given for rape; thus, one offender, sentenced to between 7 and 10 years' imprisonment, was ordered to be placed into solitary confinement for 18 periods of 3 weeks each; and another, sentenced to between 2 and 3 years' imprisonment, was ordered to be kept in solitary confinement for 1 week in each month, and to receive 3 whippings besides.

Whippings ordered by superior courts.

1232. The total number of offenders sentenced to be whipped was 17. Rape or indecent assaults on females were the crimes of three of these, for one of whom 3 whippings, for another 2 whippings, of 10 lashes each, were ordered; whilst the third was to receive 3 whippings of 5 lashes on each occasion. Unnatural offence was the crime of nine, three of whom were ordered 3 whippings of 10 lashes each, three were ordered 2 whippings of 15 lashes each, one was ordered 2 whippings of 10 lashes each, and the other two 1 whipping of 15 lashes each. Robbery with violence was the crime of the five remaining offenders, three of whom were sentenced to receive 3 whippings of 15 lashes on each occasion, and two 1 whipping of 10 lashes. Judges of the Supreme Court and Courts of General Sessions can sentence males to receive corporal punishment, under Act 27 Vict. No. 233, for unnatural offences, attempts to choke in order to commit an offence, for robbery under arms, and, in the case of youths under sixteen, for several other offences; also, under Act 35 Vict. No. 399, for attempts to commit rape, or for rape itself where sentence of death is commuted. The greatest number of whippings an individual can be sentenced to receive for one offence is three, and the greatest number of lashes at each whipping is 50.

1233. The number of individuals sentenced to corporal punishment in 1874 was 11, viz., 6 by magistrates and 5 by superior courts; the number in 1875 was 5, viz., 2 by magistrates and 3 by superior courts; the number in 1876 was 11, viz., 1 by magistrates and 10 by superior courts; the number in 1877 was 11, viz., 5 by magistrates and 6 by superior courts; the number in 1878 was 17, viz., 2 by magistrates and 15 by superior courts; the number in 1879 was 9, viz., 4 by magistrates and 5 by superior courts; the number in 1880 was 5, 17 in 1881, 8 in 1882—all by superior courts; the number in 1883 was 14, viz., 2 by magistrates and 12 by superior courts; and the number in 1884 was 17, all by superior courts. The total number of whippings directed to be administered in the eleven years was 182, of which 27 were ordered by magistrates, and 155 by superior courts. The number of persons sentenced to be whipped in 1884 was thus equal to that in 1878, but larger than in any other year of the period. The average number of whippings per individual in the eleven years was 1.5.

Whippings ordered, 1874-1884.

1234. Three criminals, two of whom were Irish, and one a native of the Australian colonies other than Victoria, claiming to be members of the Church of England, the Roman Catholic Church, and the Presbyterian Church respectively, were executed in 1884 for murder. Since the first settlement of Port Phillip, 137 criminals have been executed within the colony, of whom only one was a female. No execution took place in 1882, or in 1878, 1874, 1850, 1849, 1846, 1845, 1844, 1843, or any year prior to 1842, but one or more executions took place in all the other years. The following table shows the birthplaces of the persons executed, the religions they professed, and the crimes they expiated on the scaffold:—

Executions.

CRIMINALS EXECUTED, 1842 TO 1884.

Birthplace, Religion, and Offence.								Number.
Total number executed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
Birthplace—Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other Australian colonies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
England	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ireland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Scotland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
West Indies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Belgium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
France	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Switzerland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Germany	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sweden	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sicily	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
United States of America	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
China	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
At sea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

CRIMINALS EXECUTED. 1842 TO 1884—*continued.*

Birthplace, Religion, and Offence.								Number.
Religion—Church of England...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
„ Presbyterian	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ Wesleyan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ Baptist	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ Lutheran	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ Protestant undefined	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
„ Roman Catholic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
„ Pagan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ No Religion	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5*
Offence—Murder	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	102
„ Attempt to murder	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
„ Rape	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
„ Unnatural offence on a child	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ Robbery with violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

Undetected
crime.

1235. The offences in respect to which no persons were apprehended numbered 4,049 in 1884; or 1,340 less than in the previous year. Those against the person decreased by 146, those against property by 960, and other offences by 234. The following are the undetected offences in the last ten years. It will be noticed that, whilst the total number in 1883 was higher, the number in 1884 was lower, than in any previous year :—

UNDETECTED CRIME, 1875 TO 1884.

Year.	Number of Offences.			
	Against the Person.	Against Property.	Other Offences.	Total.
1875	321	3,830	493	4,644
1876	381	3,968	378	4,727
1877*	457	4,431	463	5,351
1878	496	4,011	385	4,892
1879	503	3,763	364	4,630
1880	613	3,935	350	4,898
1881	461	3,770	400	4,631
1882	572	3,980	433	4,985
1883	596	4,209	584	5,389
1884	450	3,249	350	4,049

Offender
perhaps
arrested on
other
grounds.

1236. With reference to the offences set down as undetected, it should be remarked that in all probability the malefactors do not in all such cases escape entirely. The returns are made up in the month of April of the year following that in which the offence is reported, and he who committed it may be arrested after that date, or

* Aborigines.

may even before that date be arrested, and perhaps punished, for other misdeeds.

1237. The next four tables, giving details of crime in the various Australasian colonies, have been compiled in the office of the Government Statist, Melbourne, from their respective *Statistical Registers*. The first of these gives for each colony, and for the whole of Australasia, during each of the eight years 1876 to 1883, a statement of the number of offences for which persons were apprehended or summoned, were summarily convicted or held to bail, were committed for trial, and were convicted after commitment. In the returns of the number of cases in respect to which persons were summoned, those so dealt with on account of matters coming under the head of civil jurisdiction are omitted in all the colonies:—

CRIME IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1876 TO 1883.

Name of Colony.	Number of Offences for which Persons were—				
	Apprehended or Summoned.*	Summarily Convicted or held to Bail.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.	
Victoria ...	1876	42,297	27,505	680	384
	1877	45,844	29,528	594	340
	1878	44,742	29,452	658	458
	1879	43,936	28,266	628	397
	1880	41,778	26,950	680	398
	1881	44,730	29,131	591	332
	1882	47,234	31,542	616	402
	1883	48,974	33,480	606	350
New South Wales †	1876	45,105	30,404	1,391	822
	1877	47,739	33,003	1,517	829
	1878	53,325	37,924	1,803	959
	1879	53,870	38,828	1,743	1,090
	1880	57,784	42,205	1,717	1,148
	1881	66,600	51,130	1,626	1,058
	1882	65,936	50,126	1,724	1,065
	1883	72,231	55,463	1,606	1,008
Queensland †	1876	10,180	6,126	285	132
	1877	9,929	6,444	312	177
	1878	9,563	6,153	344	197
	1879	9,058	5,762	377	185
	1880	9,133	6,051	316	170
	1881	10,063	7,253	264	126
	1882	11,649	8,025	308	144
	1883	13,804	9,788	427	193

* Not including civil cases.

† Cases brought up for lunacy are not included in the returns of New South Wales and Queensland. In the former, 814 lunatics during 1876, 955 during 1877, 879 during 1878, 863 during 1879, 879 during 1880, 867 during 1881, 835 during 1882, and 647 during 1883; and in the latter, 320 during 1876, 288 during 1877, 334 during 1878, 317 during 1879, 337 during 1880, 357 during 1881, 434 during 1882, and 508 during 1883 were admitted to asylums. Probably four-fifths of these were apprehended by the police.

CRIME IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1876 TO 1883—*continued.*

Name of Colony.	Number of Offences for which Persons were—				
	Apprehended or Summoned.*	Summarily Convicted or held to Bail.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.	
South Australia ...	1876	9,375	7,929	239	129
	1877	10,314	8,696	240	156
	1878	13,682	11,685	369	229
	1879	12,843	10,970	384	223
	1880	15,063	12,814	353	199
	1881	15,347	13,258	342	213
	1882	14,672	12,634	339	211
Western Australia...	1876	7,509	5,847	95	47
	1877	6,855	5,272	83	27
	1878	6,126	4,552	102	45
	1879	6,471	4,853	85	53
	1880	5,577	4,221	50	25
	1881	5,460	4,134	109	61
	1882	5,089	3,683	90	46
Tasmania ...	1876	9,207	7,208	96	51
	1877	7,619	6,092	102	49
	1878	7,901	6,260	113	54
	1879	8,709	7,061	110	67
	1880	8,336	6,685	117	73
	1881	7,566	5,950	90	51
	1882	8,820	6,944	93	36
New Zealand † ...	1876	22,141	16,100	414	249
	1877	21,953	16,293	405	250
	1878	22,237	16,370	415	292
	1879	22,492	16,088	734‡	296
	1880	21,181	15,025	592	370
	1881	19,796	14,079	474	235
	1882	22,659	16,573	467	219
Australasia ...	1876	145,814	101,119	3,200	1,814
	1877	150,253	105,328	3,253	1,828
	1878	157,576	112,396	3,804	2,234
	1879	157,379	111,828	4,061	2,311
	1880	158,852	113,951	3,825	2,383
	1881	169,562	124,935	3,496	2,076
	1882	176,059	129,527	3,637	2,123
1883	185,003	137,824	3,563	2,027	

Large amount of crime in New South Wales.

1238. By this table it would appear that, notwithstanding the smaller population, crime is much more prevalent in New South Wales than in Victoria, there being, in every year, under all the heads, larger numbers in the former colony than in the latter. This is particularly observable

* Not including civil cases.

† Maoris are included. In 1883, the number of cases in which they were concerned was 579—in 354 of which summary convictions were obtained, in 175 cases the prisoner was discharged, and in 50 cases committed for trial, resulting in 41 convictions.

‡ This large increase appears to have been owing to Maori disturbances, as 202 of that race were committed for trial in 1879, as against only 18 in the previous year.

in regard to serious offences, the commitments for trial and convictions thereafter being in New South Wales considerably more than twice as numerous as in Victoria. In 1883, the apprehensions and summonses exceeded those in Victoria by 48 per cent., and the summary convictions by 66 per cent. It must, moreover, be remembered that the returns of Victoria are swelled by the apprehensions of lunatics, whilst these are not included in the returns of New South Wales.

1239. The position of the respective colonies in respect to crime will be better ascertained by means of the next table, which shows the proportion that the number of apprehensions and summons cases,* of summary convictions, of commitments for trial, and of convictions after commitment, occurring in each colony during the last eight years, bore to the average population of the same colony; also, the proportion in each colony of summary convictions to apprehensions and summons cases, and of convictions after commitment to commitments:—

Proportion of crime in each colony.

PROPORTION OF ARRESTS, COMMITMENTS, AND CONVICTIONS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES TO POPULATION, ETC., 1876 TO 1883.

Name of Colony.	Proportion per 1,000 of—		Proportion per 10,000 of—		Proportion per Cent. of—		
	Apprehensions and Summons Cases* to Population.	Summary Convictions to Population.	Commitments for Trial to Population.	Convictions after Commitment to Population.	Summary Convictions to Apprehensions and Summons Cases.*	Convictions after Commitment to Commitments.	
Victoria	1876	53·10	34·53	8·54	4·82	65·03	56·47
	1877	56·69	36·52	7·35	4·20	64·40	57·24
	1878	54·47	35·85	8·01	5·58	65·82	69·60
	1879	52·68	33·89	7·53	4·76	64·33	63·22
	1880	49·13	31·69	8·00	4·68	64·51	58·53
	1881	51·48	33·52	6·80	3·82	65·13	56·18
	1882	53·04	35·42	6·92	4·51	66·78	65·26
	1883	53·39	36·50	6·61	3·82	68·36	57·76
New South Wales	1876	72·96	49·18	22·50	13·30	67·40	59·10
	1877	73·90	51·09	23·48	12·83	69·13	54·65
	1878	78·65	55·94	26·59	14·15	71·12	53·19
	1879	75·45	54·38	24·41	15·27	72·08	62·54
	1880	80·11	58·52	23·81	15·92	73·04	66·86
	1881	87·29	67·01	21·31	13·87	76·77	65·07
	1882	82·49	62·71	21·57	13·32	76·02	61·77
	1883	85·64	65·76	19·04	11·95	76·79	62·76
Queensland	1876	55·27	33·26	15·47	7·17	60·18	46·32
	1877	50·89	33·03	15·99	9·07	64·90	56·73
	1878	46·24	29·75	16·63	9·53	64·34	57·27
	1879	42·29	26·90	17·60	8·64	63·61	49·07
	1880	41·15	27·26	14·24	7·66	66·25	53·80
	1881	45·53	32·82	11·95	5·70	72·08	47·73
	1882	49·03	33·77	12·96	6·06	68·89	46·75
	1883	51·53	36·54	15·94	7·20	70·90	45·20

* Not including civil cases.

PROPORTION OF ARRESTS, ETC., 1876 TO 1883—*continued.*

Name of Colony.	Proportion per 1,000 of—		Proportion per 10,000 of—		Proportion per Cent. of—		
	Apprehensions and Summons Cases* to Population.	Summary Convictions to Population.	Commitments for trial to Population.	Convictions after Commitment to Population.	Summary Convictions to Apprehensions and Summons Cases.*	Convictions after Commitment to Commitments.	
South Australia	1876	42·99	36·36	10·96	5·92	84·58	53·97
	1877	44·60	37·60	10·38	6·75	84·31	65·00
	1878	56·34	48·12	15·20	9·43	85·40	62·06
	1879	50·50	43·17	15·11	8·77	85·48	58·07
	1880	57·16	48·63	13·40	7·55	85·07	56·43
	1881	53·18	45·94	11·81	7·38	86·39	62·28
	1882	50·61	43·58	11·69	7·28	86·11	62·24
1883	43·82	38·05	10·20	5·55	86·82	54·43	
Western Australia	1876	277·95	216·43	35·17	17·40	77·87	49·47
	1877	248·55	191·16	30·09	9·79	76·90	32·53
	1878	218·77	162·56	36·43	16·07	74·31	44·11
	1879	227·72	170·78	29·91	18·65	75·00	62·35
	1880	193·35	146·34	17·33	8·67	75·69	50·00
	1881	182·93	138·50	36·52	20·44	75·71	55·96
	1882	167·46	121·19	29·62	15·14	72·37	51·11
1883	151·73	110·46	23·05	14·72	72·80	63·89	
Tasmania ...	1876	88·04	68·93	9·18	4·88	78·29	53·12
	1877	71·68	57·33	9·60	4·61	79·97	48·04
	1878	72·80	57·68	10·41	4·98	79·00	47·78
	1879	78·31	63·49	9·89	6·02	81·08	60·91
	1880	73·37	58·84	10·30	6·43	80·19	62·40
	1881	64·49	50·72	7·67	4·35	78·64	56·67
	1882	73·07	57·53	7·70	2·98†	78·73	38·71
1883	72·87	58·87	7·08	2·65†	80·80	37·50	
New Zealand ...	1876	57·14	41·55	10·68	6·43	72·72	60·14
	1877	53·76	39·90	9·92	6·12	74·22	61·73
	1878	52·74	38·82	9·84	6·92	73·62	70·36
	1879	50·19	35·90	16·38‡	6·61	71·53	40·33§
	1880	44·66	31·68	12·48	7·80	70·94	62·50
	1881	40·11	28·52	9·60	4·76	71·12	49·58
	1882	44·49	32·54	9·17	4·30	73·14	46·90
1883	43·62	32·01	8·67	4·36	73·38	50·33	
Total Australasia	1876	61·52	42·66	13·50	7·77	69·35	56·70
	1877	60·97	42·74	13·20	7·54	70·10	56·19
	1878	61·67	43·98	14·89	8·91	71·32	58·73
	1879	59·19	42·06	15·28	8·93	71·06	56·91
	1880	59·41	42·62	14·33	8·91	71·73	62·30
	1881	60·94	44·90	12·62	7·46	73·68	59·38
	1882	61·18	45·01	12·64	7·37	73·57	58·37
1883	61·41	45·75	11·83	6·73	74·50	56·80	

* Not including civil cases.

† This small proportion is in consequence of the large number of cases not prosecuted.

‡ See footnote (§) on page 564 *ante*.

§ This small proportion of convictions is owing to the fact that the Maoris committed for disturbances of a political nature were leniently dealt with.

1240. Judging from the number of offences for which apprehensions were made or summonses issued during the eight years named, as compared with the population, the three colonies to which criminals were formerly transported—viz., New South Wales, Tasmania, and Western Australia—are, as will readily be supposed, those in which crime is more rife than in the remainder, which have always been free from the convict taint. According to this standard, New Zealand would appear to be the colony in which the population is the least criminal of any in the group, as during the last three years of the period dealt with it was that in which, relatively to population, the fewest arrests were made or summonses issued. Over the eight years, Victoria occupied the fourth place. The following is the order of the various colonies in this respect in 1883, the colony with the highest proportion of persons apprehended or summoned on criminal charges being placed first, and that with the lowest last:—

Order of colonies in respect to apprehensions, &c.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO NUMBERS APPREHENDED OR SUMMONED IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1883.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Western Australia. | 5. Queensland. |
| 2. New South Wales. | 6. South Australia. |
| 3. Tasmania. | 7. New Zealand. |
| 4. Victoria. | |

1241. As regards the persons summarily convicted, in proportion to population, the three colonies which at one time received convicts are again at the top of the list. Victoria has generally occupied the fifth position, thus showing a smaller proportion of summary convictions than those three colonies or than South Australia; but in 1883, it also had a slightly lower proportion than Queensland. The following is the order in which the colonies stood in this particular, the colony with the highest proportion of summary convictions being placed first and the rest in succession:—

Order of colonies in respect to summary convictions.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO SUMMARY CONVICTIONS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1883.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Western Australia. | 5. Queensland. |
| 2. New South Wales. | 6. Victoria. |
| 3. Tasmania. | 7. New Zealand. |
| 4. South Australia. | |

1242. Victoria shows, relatively to population, a much smaller number of persons committed for trial than any other colony, and it may, therefore, be inferred that the proportion of serious offences perpetrated there is comparatively small. Western Australia and New South Wales

Order of colonies in respect to commitments for trial.

are still at the top of the list, the commitments for trial being proportionately more numerous in them than in any of the other colonies. Queensland rises to the next place below these, but Tasmania, in consequence of a large proportion of prosecutions falling through in that colony,* occupies a position just above Victoria :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO NUMBERS COMMITTED FOR TRIAL IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1883.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|
| 1. Western Australia. | \| | 5. New Zealand. |
| 2. New South Wales. | \| | 6. Tasmania. |
| 3. Queensland. | \| | 7. Victoria. |
| 4. South Australia. | \| |  |

Order of colonies in respect to convictions in superior courts.

1243. In respect to convictions in superior courts, the order usually varies but slightly from the foregoing, Victoria generally having the smallest number in proportion to population ; but, in 1883, Victoria rose above Tasmania—the relative positions of the other colonies remaining unaltered :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO CONVICTIONS IN SUPERIOR COURTS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1883.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|
| 1. Western Australia. | \| | 5. New Zealand. |
| 2. New South Wales. | \| | 6. Victoria. |
| 3. Queensland. | \| | 7. Tasmania. |
| 4. South Australia. | \| |  |

Order of colonies in respect to summary convictions obtained.

1244. Either more persons are apprehended unjustly in Victoria than in the other colonies, or punishment for minor offences does not follow their commission with such certainty in the former as in the latter, since the number of summary convictions obtained in proportion to the apprehensions is lower in this colony than in any of the others. The following is the order of the colonies in respect to convictions of this kind, the colony in which the rate of summary convictions to apprehensions is highest being placed first, and that in which it is lowest last :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO PROPORTION OF SUMMARY CONVICTIONS TO ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES, 1883.

- | | | |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1. South Australia. | \| | 5. Western Australia. |
| 2. Tasmania. | \| | 6. Queensland. |
| 3. New South Wales. | \| | 7. Victoria. |
| 4. New Zealand. | \| |  |

Order of colonies in respect to convictions obtained in superior courts.

1245. In regard to the proportion of convictions to commitments for trial, Victoria, which in 1882 was at the top of the list, fell in 1883 to the third place ; and Western Australia and New South Wales, where the proportions were nearly equal, rose to the head of the list ;

* See footnote (†) on page 566 *ante*.

whilst Tasmania, which in 1881 occupied the third place, was, in the two subsequent years—in consequence of the large number of cases which fell through for want of prosecution*—at the bottom of the list. This will be seen by the subjoined statement, in which the colonies are placed in order, the one in which the convictions bore the highest proportion to commitments being placed first :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO PROPORTION OF CONVICTIONS
IN SUPERIOR COURTS TO COMMITMENTS FOR TRIAL, 1883.

1. Western Australia.	5. New Zealand.
2. New South Wales.	6. Queensland.
3. Victoria.	7. Tasmania.
4. South Australia.	

1246. It is to be regretted that the information as to the offences for which persons are arrested or summoned is very incomplete in several of the colonies. In Queensland, the only specific offence mentioned in the returns is drunkenness, the balance being grouped as offences against the person, offences against property, or as other offences. This, except that drunkenness is not separated from “other offences,” is likewise the grouping adopted in Western Australia, as also in Victoria in respect to the summons cases where the offender is never in custody of the police, the exact offence being entered only when an arrest takes place.

Incomplete
returns in
some
colonies.

1247. Notwithstanding that New South Wales possesses a smaller population than Victoria, arrests for offences of all descriptions are much more numerous in the former colony than in the latter. Thus, in 1883, arrests for homicide in New South Wales numbered 76 against only 38 in Victoria; arrests for rape and other sexual offences numbered 109 against 52; arrests for other offences against the person numbered 10,484 against 3,785; arrests for horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, &c., numbered 348 against 158; arrests for other offences against property numbered 6,343 against 4,146; and arrests for drunkenness† numbered 23,178 against 12,408. A single exception occurred in that year in the case of arrests for robbery, burglary, &c., which numbered only 203 in New South Wales as against 262 in Victoria. The following table shows the offences for which apprehensions were made or summonses issued in the various Australasian colonies during the eight years 1876 to 1883, so far as the information can be gathered from their respective *Statistical Registers* :—

Arrests, &c.
for various
offences in
Austral-
asian
colonies.

* See footnote (†) on page 566 *ante*.

† Contrary to the generally received opinion, the law relating to drunkenness is the same in Victoria as in New South Wales. In both colonies a drunken person is liable to be arrested even although not guilty of disorderly conduct.

APPREHENSIONS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES IN THE
AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1876 TO 1883.

Colony.	Year.	Number of Arrests or Summonses for—							
		Murder, Attempts at Murder, and Manslaughter.	Rape, and other Offences against Females.	Other Offences against the Person.	Robbery with Violence, Burglary, &c.	Horse, Sheep, and Cattle Stealing, &c.	Other Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.*	Other Offences.
Victoria	1876	34	86	4,083	136	178	3,956	11,624	22,200
	1877	50	48	4,316	155	195	4,167	12,447	24,466
	1878	36	54	4,456	187	173	4,274	11,825	23,737
	1879	29	60	4,174	203	154	4,160	10,859	24,297
	1880	36	81	4,376	245	171	3,880	10,056	22,933
	1881	32	71	4,526	195	153	4,383	11,065	24,305
	1882	33	66	4,340	206	169	4,853	11,749	25,818
	1883	38	52	3,785	262	158	4,146	12,408	28,125
New South Wales	1876	7,578			5,898			16,171	15,458
	1877	8,539			6,130			16,696	16,374
	1878	9,398			6,807			17,224	19,896
	1879	63	85	9,102	266	472	6,126	17,713	20,043
	1880	75	95	9,364	245	469	6,154	18,777	22,605
	1881	68	104	9,031	231	465	6,237	22,560	27,904
	1882	54	110	9,080	274	529	6,643	22,280	26,966
	1883	76	109	10,484	203	348	6,343	23,178	31,490
Queensland	1876	1,226			1,238			3,679	4,037
	1877	1,550			1,201			3,019	4,159
	1878	1,273			1,191			3,215	3,884
	1879	1,238			1,175			2,997	3,648
	1880	1,320			1,186			2,867	3,760
	1881	1,304			1,146			3,275	4,338
	1882	1,532			1,140			3,771	5,206
	1883	2,369			1,327			4,505	5,603
South Australia	1876	5	19	735	30	27	544	2,837	5,178
	1877	11	31	810	24	31	636	2,890	5,881
	1878	10	32	941	50	12	824	4,166	7,647
	1879	5	29	857	46	15	890	3,840	7,161
	1880	13	37	1,026	52	51	971	4,325	8,588
	1881	7	33	862	45	23	1,009	5,298	8,070
	1882	5	16	934	55	19	963	4,713	7,967
	1883	5	17	767	61	15	652	4,533	7,054
Western Australia	1876	515			537			6,457	
	1877	470			493			5,892	
	1878	619			515			4,992	
	1879	462			387			5,622	
	1880	331			355			4,891	
	1881	418			354			4,688	
	1882	365			459			4,265	
	1883	455			372			3,912	

* See footnote (f) on previous page.

APPREHENSIONS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES IN THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1876 TO 1883—continued.

Colony.	Year.	Number of Arrests or Summonses for—							
		Murder, Attempts at Murder, and Manslaughter.	Rape, and other Offences against Females.	Other Offences against the Person.	Robbery with Violence, Burglary, &c.	Horse, Sheep, and Cattle Stealing, &c.	Other Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.*	Other Offences.
Tasmania	1876	13	11	876	61	18	903	1,807	5,518
	1877	25	16	636	58	26	854	1,345	4,659
	1878	6	30	693	60	35	862	1,374	4,821
	1879	2	54	616	45	35	998	1,504	5,455
	1880	2	14	651	103	37	723	1,543	5,263
	1881	5	8	528	35	17	691	1,446	4,836
	1882	5	20	621	36	27	842	1,827	5,442
	1883	2	17	701	25	28	702	1,890	5,696
New Zealand	1876	31	51	1,743	54	43	1,776	7,153	11,290
	1877	18	41	1,899	66	61	1,855	7,429	10,564
	1878	16	43	1,890	38	44	1,684	7,105	11,417
	1879	14	51	1,869	100	67	2,563	6,672	11,156
	1880	29	56	1,909	99	65	2,272	6,371	10,380
	1881	13	59	1,937	73	85	2,146	5,770	9,713
	1882	10	47	1,920	93	62	2,226	6,996	11,305
	1883	16	46	1,605	71	50	2,358	7,494	11,450

1248. Subjoined is a statement of the proportion of the various offences grouped under four heads to the population of each colony during the same eight years:—

Ratio of each group of offences to population of each colony.

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH AUSTRALASIAN COLONY, 1876 TO 1883.

Colony.	Year.	Arrests or Summonses per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.*	Other Offences.
Victoria	1876	5·28	5·36	14·60	27·87
	1877	5·46	5·59	15·39	30·26
	1878	5·53	5·64	14·40	28·90
	1879	5·11	5·42	13·02	29·13
	1880	5·28	5·05	11·83	26·97
	1881	5·33	5·44	12·73	27·97
	1882	4·99	5·87	13·19	28·99
	1883	4·22	4·97	13·53	30·66

* See footnote (†) on page 569 ante.

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH
AUSTRALASIAN COLONY, 1876 TO 1883—*continued.*

Colony.	Year.	Arrests or Summonses per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.*	Other Offences.
New South Wales ...	1876	12·26	9·54	26·16	25·00
	1877	13·21	9·50	25·84	25·35
	1878	13·86	10·04	25·40	29·35
	1879	12·95	9·61	24·80	28·07
	1880	13·22	9·52	26·03	31·34
	1881	11·99	9·09	29·57	36·57
	1882	11·56	9·31	27·87	33·73
	1883	12·65	8·17	27·48	37·34
Queensland ...	1876	6·66	6·72	19·97	21·92
	1877	7·94	6·16	15·47	21·32
	1878	6·16	5·76	15·55	18·78
	1879	5·78	5·49	13·99	17·03
	1880	5·95	5·34	12·92	16·94
	1881	5·90	5·19	14·82	19·63
	1882	6·45	4·80	15·87	21·91
	1883	8·84	4·95	16·81	20·92
South Australia ...	1876	3·48	2·76	13·01	23·75
	1877	3·68	2·99	12·50	25·43
	1878	4·05	3·65	17·16	31·49
	1879	3·54	3·74	15·11	28·14
	1880	4·08	4·08	16·41	32·59
	1881	3·12	3·66	18·36	27·97
	1882	3·29	3·58	16·26	27·48
	1883	2·64	2·44	15·16	23·59
Western Australia ...	1876	19·06	19·88	239·01	
	1877	17·04	17·87	213·63	
	1878	22·13	18·39	178·27	
	1879	16·26	13·62	197·84	
	1880	11·48	12·31	169·57	
	1881	14·00	11·86	157·06	
	1882	12·01	15·10	140·34	
	1883	14·57	11·91	125·25	
Tasmania ...	1876	8·60	9·39	17·28	52·77
	1877	6·37	8·82	12·65	43·83
	1878	6·72	9·00	12·66	40·39
	1879	6·04	9·69	13·52	49·05
	1880	5·87	7·60	13·58	46·32
	1881	4·61	6·33	12·32	41·21
	1882	5·35	7·50	15·14	45·09
	1883	5·79	6·07	15·20	45·81
New Zealand ...	1876	4·70	4·84	18·46	29·14
	1877	4·79	4·85	18·19	25·87
	1878	4·62	4·19	16·85	27·08
	1879	4·32	6·09	14·88	24·89
	1880	4·20	5·13	13·41	21·86
	1881	4·07	4·67	11·68	19·68
	1882	3·88	4·67	13·74	22·19
	1883	3·15	4·68	14·16	21·63

* See footnote (†) on page 569 *ante.*

1249. It will be observed that, according to population, arrests or summonses for offences against the person were, in all the years, much more numerous in Western Australia and New South Wales than in any other colony; in the former of which they were in the year 1883 nearly three and a half times, and in the latter three times, as numerous as in Victoria. The following is the order of the colonies in this respect during 1883, the colony in which the proportion was highest being placed first and that in which it was lowest last:—

Order of colonies as to offences against the person.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO ARRESTS OR SUMMONSES FOR OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON, 1883.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Western Australia. | 5. Victoria. |
| 2. New South Wales. | 6. New Zealand. |
| 3. Queensland. | 7. South Australia. |
| 4. Tasmania. | |

1250. In 1883, arrests for offences against property in Western Australia were nearly two and a half times as numerous, and in New South Wales more than half as numerous again, in proportion to population as they were in Victoria. In this respect, the order of the colonies was as follows, the colony with the largest proportion of such arrests being placed first, and the rest in succession:—

Order of colonies as to offences against property.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO ARRESTS OR SUMMONSES FOR OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY, 1883.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Western Australia. | 5. Queensland. |
| 2. New South Wales. | 6. New Zealand. |
| 3. Tasmania. | 7. South Australia. |
| 4. Victoria. | |

1251. In the matter of drunkenness, New South Wales far outstrips all the other colonies of the group in which the offence is distinguished—the arrests for drunkenness there in the last four years having been proportionately more than twice as numerous as in Victoria,* which, being at the bottom of the list, may be set down as the least inebriate of the Australasian colonies. South Australia had for some years prior to 1883 occupied the next highest position to New South Wales in regard to arrests for drunkenness; but, in 1883, this colony fell below Queensland and Tasmania. In the following list, the colony in which the largest number of inebriates was brought before magistrates is placed first and that in which the number was smallest last:—

Order of colonies as to drunkenness.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO APPREHENSIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1883.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. New South Wales. | 4. South Australia. |
| 2. Queensland. | 5. New Zealand. |
| 3. Tasmania. | 6. Victoria. |

* Both in Victoria and New South Wales a drunken person is liable to be arrested even although not disorderly.

Order of colonies as to "other offences."

1252. "Other offences," which embrace breaches of corporation by-laws, Wines and Spirits Statute, &c., are rather violations of good order than actual crimes, and are consequently generally dealt with by summons. Relatively to population, they are most numerous in Tasmania, and in recent years have been also much more numerous in New South Wales than in Victoria. In Western Australia, drunkenness is included with these offences, and, consequently, the figures are not comparable with those of the other colonies. Omitting Western Australia, therefore, the following is the order of the colonies in respect to irregularities of this description, the colony in which the proportion was highest being placed first and that in which it was lowest last :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO ARRESTS OR SUMMONSES FOR "OTHER OFFENCES," 1883.

- | | | |
|---------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1. Tasmania. | | 4. South Australia. |
| 2. New South Wales. | | 5. New Zealand. |
| 3. Victoria. | | 6. Queensland. |

Crime in United Kingdom.

1253. The statistics at hand relating to the United Kingdom give the commitments for trial and convictions in the superior courts, but do not afford any information respecting the cases dealt with in courts of petty sessions. The following table shows the number of commitments and convictions and their respective proportions to the population of each division of the United Kingdom, also the proportion of commitments to convictions, during the eight years ended with 1883 :—

CRIME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1876 TO 1883.

Country.	Estimated Population.	Commitments for Trial.	Convictions.	Proportion of—			
				Commitments to Population.	Convictions to Population.	Convictions to Commitments.	
England and Wales	1876	24,244,010	16,078	12,195	per 10,000. 6·63	per 10,000. 5·03	per cent. 75·85
	1877	24,547,309	15,890	11,942	6·47	4·86	75·15
	1878	24,854,397	16,372	12,473	6·59	5·02	76·18
	1879	25,165,336	16,388	12,525	6·51	4·98	76·43
	1880	25,480,161	14,770	11,214	5·80	4·40	75·92
	1881	26,055,406	14,786	11,353	5·67	4·36	76·78
	1882	26,406,820	15,260	11,699	5·78	4·43	76·66
	1883	26,770,744	14,659	11,347	5·49	4·24	77·41
Scotland	1876	3,527,811	2,716	2,051	7·70	5·81	75·51
	1877	3,560,715	2,684	2,009	7·54	5·64	74·85
	1878	3,593,929	2,922	2,273	8·13	6·32	77·79
	1879	3,627,453	2,700	2,091	7·44	5·76	77·44
	1880	3,661,292	2,583	2,046	7·05	5·59	79·21
	1881	3,744,323	2,444	1,832	6·53	4·89	74·96
	1882	3,785,400	2,469	1,943	6·52	5·13	78·70
	1883	3,825,744	2,563	1,914	6·70	5·00	74·68

CRIME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1876 TO 1883—*continued.*

Country.	Estimated Population.	Commitments for Trial.	Con- victions.	Proportion of—			
				Commitments to Population	Convictions to Population	Convictions to Commitments.	
Ireland ...	1876	5,321,618	4,146	2,343	per 10,000. 7·79	per 10,000. 4·40	per cent. 56·54
	1877	5,338,906	3,870	2,300	7·25	4·31	59·49
	1878	5,351,060	4,183	2,293	7·82	4·28	54·81
	1879	5,362,337	4,363	2,207	8·14	4·12	50·58
	1880	5,327,099	4,716	2,383	8·85	4·47	50·53
	1881	5,129,950	5,311	2,698	10·35	5·26	50·80
	1882	5,097,730	4,301	2,255	8·44	4·42	52·43
	1883	5,015,328	3,025	1,740	6·03	3·46	57·52
Total ...	1876	33,093,439	22,940	16,589	6·93	5·01	72·31
	1877	33,446,930	22,444	16,251	6·71	4·86	72·44
	1878	33,799,386	23,477	17,039	6·95	5·04	72·57
	1879	34,155,126	23,451	16,823	6·87	4·93	71·74
	1880	34,468,552	22,069	15,643	6·40	4·54	70·88
	1881	34,929,679	22,541	15,883	6·45	4·55	70·46
	1882	35,289,950	22,030	15,897	6·24	4·50	72·16
	1883	35,611,816	20,247	15,001	5·69	4·21	74·09

1254. Taking the mean of the eight years given in the table, it will be found that, in proportion to population, the commitments for trial in the United Kingdom, taken as a whole, are somewhat less than in Victoria, and considerably less than in any of the other Australasian colonies; also, that the same holds good for England and Scotland, except that the proportion in Victoria is about equal to that in the latter; but in Ireland the proportion is much higher than in Victoria. Convictions after commitment are, relatively to population, generally somewhat less numerous in Victoria than in the United Kingdom or any of its divisions, except Ireland.

Crime in United Kingdom and Australasia compared.

1255. The convictions obtained in proportion to the commitments are, according to the figures, more numerous in England and Scotland than in any of the Australasian colonies, but the proportion in Ireland in 1883 was exceeded in Victoria, New South Wales, and Western Australia during the same year.

Convictions in United Kingdom and Australasia compared.

1256. A phase of crime, respecting which it is difficult to obtain accurate information, is female prostitution. Mr. H. M. Chomley, the Chief Commissioner of the Victorian police, however, by means of the force at his disposal and by correspondence with the police authorities of the neighbouring colonies, has obtained some figures relating to the prostitution existing in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, and Adelaide, which will be found in the following table:—

Prostitution in Australasian capitals.

PROSTITUTION IN AUSTRALIAN CAPITALS.

Capital Cities.	Population (Census of 1881).	Number of Prostitutes.	Prostitutes per 10,000 of Population.
Melbourne	282,947	597*	21·10
Sydney	224,211	613	27·34
Brisbane	31,109	99	31·82
Adelaide	103,864	500	48·14

Results com-
pared.

1257. According to the figures in the last column, Melbourne is much freer from prostitution than any one of the metropolitan cities named. It will be observed that even in actual numbers the prostitutes in Melbourne are fewer than in Sydney, although the latter has the smaller population. A very large amount of prostitution appears to exist in Adelaide, but the figures being given in round numbers must be regarded with suspicion.

Police.

1258. The Victorian police force is an admirably organized body of men, and, although smaller in proportion to population than the police of any other of the Australian colonies, their efficiency, combined with the orderly character of the population, is such that serious offences, as has been already shown,† are much less rife in Victoria than in any of the other colonies. The total number of police of all ranks is 1,196, or one policeman to every 790 of the population. From a return kindly furnished by the Chief Commissioner of Police, it is found that there is one policeman to every 722 of the population of South Australia, one to every 644 of the population of New South Wales, and one to every 468 of the population of Queensland. Mr. Chomley also finds that one policeman keeps in order and protects as many as 675 persons in Melbourne, whilst there is one to every 566 in Sydney, one to every 375 in Adelaide, and one to every 253 in Brisbane.

Supreme
Court
Criminal
Sittings.

1259. The number of criminal cases tried in the Supreme Court at the various places throughout the colony where sittings were held in 1884 was 343, of which 219 were for felony, and 124 for misdemeanors. The convictions for felony numbered 245, and for misdemeanors 84. The number of places where sittings were held was 18, the number of sittings was 42, and the total duration of sittings was 153 days.

* Whilst these pages were passing through the press a statement was made publicly by a member of the Legislative Assembly—who said he had received the information from one of the officials of the Melbourne Corporation—to the effect that over 400 girls under 14 years of age were leading a life of prostitution in Melbourne and suburbs. In consequence of this, an inquiry was ordered by the Government, which resulted in a complete disproof of the statement; the police authorities having reported that such a state of things could not possibly exist without their knowledge, and that, after a most careful search, not a single instance could be discovered of any girl of 14 years of age or under who was leading a life of shame.

† See paragraph 1242 *ante*.

1260. Sittings may be held at the same number of places to try civil cases, but no causes were entered at 8 out of the 18 places in 1884. The number of causes entered for trial during the year was 283. The number of causes tried was 123, of which 89 were tried by juries of six, 23 by juries of twelve, and 11 by a judge alone. All these were defended. The damages laid in the declarations amounted in the aggregate to £194,184. Verdicts were returned in 121 instances, and there were 2 nonsuits. Of the verdicts, 96, or about 79 per cent., were for the plaintiff. The aggregate amount awarded by the juries was £29,176, or 15½ per cent. of the damages laid. In the ten years ended with 1883, the damages sued for in these or similar courts amounted to £1,996,363, and the sums awarded by juries to £448,553, or to about 22 per cent. of the damages sued for.

Supreme
Court civil
sittings.

1261. Courts of General Sessions have jurisdiction in criminal cases within certain limitations, and have also appellate jurisdiction in civil cases from petty sessions. The places at which such courts were held in 1884 numbered 32, and the number of courts held 83, extending over periods amounting in the aggregate to 130 days. The number of cases tried was 235, in 156 of which, or 66 per cent., convictions were obtained. The number of appeals heard was 76. In the ten years prior to 1884, 2,668 cases were tried in Courts of General Sessions, and 1,774 convictions were obtained; thus the latter were to the former in the proportion of 66 per cent.

Courts of
General
Sessions.

1262. County Courts have jurisdiction in civil cases up to £250. The number of places at which they were held in 1884 was 67, and the number of courts held was 205, extending over 491 days. The total number of causes tried was 10,287, the amount sued for was £245,401, and the amount recovered £86,837, or only 35 per cent. of the amount sued for. The costs awarded to the plaintiff amounted to £8,047, and the costs awarded to the defendant to £5,249. During the ten years prior to the year under review the aggregate amount sued for in County Courts was £2,928,539, and the aggregate amount awarded was £917,809, or 31 per cent. of the amount sued for.

County
Courts.

1263. Courts of Mines have jurisdiction concerning all questions or disputes which may arise out of mining on Crown lands. The places at which they were held in 1884 numbered 22, and the courts held numbered 64, occupying 54 days. The total number of suits was 15, and the aggregate amount or value of demand, £775. The amount of costs awarded to the plaintiff was £63, and to the defendant £87. These figures do not include all the mining disputes which took place during the year, as those of minor importance are adjudicated on by the

Courts of
Mines.

wardens of the gold-fields. In the ten years prior to 1884 the value sued for in Courts of Mines amounted in the aggregate to £42,345. The business has fallen off very considerably for several years past.

Courts of Petty Sessions: criminal cases.

1264. The cases of indictable offences heard at Petty Sessions during 1884 numbered 1,667, which resulted in 695 commitments for trial. Commitments were thus obtained in 41 per cent. of the cases. The offences summarily dealt with numbered 49,730, in 31,456 of which, or 69 per cent., the offender was convicted.

Courts of Petty Sessions: civil cases.

1265. Courts of Petty Sessions have jurisdiction in ordinary civil cases up to £20, and in master and servant cases up to £50. Such courts were held at 226 places during the year. The civil cases heard numbered 20,906, in which the total amount of debts or damages claimed was £58,443, and the total amount awarded was £37,093, or 63 per cent. of the amount claimed. In the ten years ended with 1883 the debts or damages claimed in these courts amounted in all to £863,940, and the sums awarded to £547,583, or to 63 per cent. of the amounts claimed.

Debts sued for and awarded.

1266. The net results of the civil cases tried in 1884 may be gathered from the following table, which shows the total amount of debts and damages sued for in the various courts, and the aggregate value of the awards, also the percentage of the latter to the former, in 1884 and the previous decennium. It will be noticed that the whole amount at stake was nearly half a million sterling, and that less than a third was recovered; also, that whilst the proportion recovered in the Supreme Court was a third less than the average, that in the Courts of Petty Sessions was exactly the average, and that in County Courts was somewhat above the average:—

DEBTS AND DAMAGES CLAIMED AND AWARDED.

Name of Court.	Amount of Debts and Damages, 1884.		Proportion of Debts and Damages recovered.	
	Claimed.	Awarded.	1884.	Average of Previous 10 Years.
	£	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Supreme Court	194,184	29,176	15	22
County Courts	245,401	86,837	35	31
Courts of Petty Sessions ...	58,443	37,093	63	63
Total	498,028	153,106	31	33

Writs.

1267. The number of writs issued in 1884 in the six bailiwicks into which the colony is divided was 1,116, of which 50 were Queen's writs

against both person and property, 35 were subjects' writs against the person alone, and 1,031 were subjects' writs against property alone. In the three years, 1878, 1879, and 1880, the writs issued were unusually numerous, but in the last four years they were less so than in any of the previous eleven years.

1268. Places for the reception of prisoners in Victoria are of three kinds: ordinary gaols, police gaols, and penal establishments. The ordinary gaols are both houses of correction and debtors' prisons;* the penal establishments are houses of correction only. The police gaols are used for the detention of prisoners sentenced to short periods of imprisonment, or awaiting trial or transfer to some other gaol or penal establishment, or to a lunatic asylum.

Gaols and penal establishments.

1269. The Inspector-General of Penal Establishments and Gaols describes as follows the system of penal discipline existing in this colony†:—

System of penal discipline in force.

“(a) To inflict upon the offender such an amount of punishment as would deter him from the repetition of his crimes, and also operate as a wholesome warning to others.

“(b) To endeavour to make his punishment the means by which the moral reformation of the prisoner himself may be attained.

“(c) To reduce the expense of maintaining him to the lowest possible limits consistent with the accomplishment of the objects mentioned.

“(d) Every effort to be made to render his labour as productive as possible, by full employment for mind and body in industrial pursuits.

“(e) A progressive stage system of classification, regulated by ‘marks,’ the attainment of a certain number of which causes advancement from a lower to a higher class, with increased advantages attached to each stage from one class to another, such as the removal of restraint, modification of irksome labour, increase of gratuity, &c., and associated labour under vigilant supervision.”

1270. The total and average number of males and females detained in each of these descriptions of prison during 1884 will be found in the following table:—

Gaols and prisoners.

GAOLS AND PENAL ESTABLISHMENTS, 1884.

Description of Prison.	Number of Institutions.	Prisoners detained during the Year.					
		Total Number.‡			Average at One Time.		
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Gaols	9	5,769	2,651	8,420	547	328	875
Police gaols	10	529	61	590	19	2	21
Penal establishments	2	1,220	...	1,220	557	...	557
Total	21	7,518	2,712	10,230	1,123	330	1,453

* Imprisonment for debt in Victoria, except in cases of fraud, was abolished by Act 29 Vict. No 284.

† See Inspector-General's Report, page 3; Parliamentary Paper No. 33, Session 1885.

‡ Exclusive of prisoners transferred from one institution to another. The numbers here given do not in every case represent distinct prisoners.

Proportion of
prisoners to
population.

1271. The mean population of the colony during 1884 was 946,100, consisting of 501,640 males and 444,460 females, which figures, being compared with those in the table showing the average number of prisoners, it follows that 1 person in every 650 persons living was constantly in prison during the year; or, distinguishing the sexes, that, during the same period, 1 male in every 446 males living, and 1 female in every 1,347 females living, were constantly in detention. By the following table, which gives the figures for the last nine years, it will be seen that the proportion of prisoners to the population decreases from year to year, the reason being the smaller amount of serious crime which exists in the community, in view of which the terms of imprisonment to which prisoners have been sentenced by the judges have been of diminished duration:—

PROPORTION OF PRISONERS TO POPULATION, 1876 TO 1884.

Year.	Of the Total Population One Person was constantly in Prison to every—		
	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.
1876	323	1,142	487
1877	345	1,183	518
1878	356	1,397	549
1879	351	1,267	534
1880	348	1,274	532
1881	353	1,349	543
1882	391	1,416	596
1883	429	1,346	633
1884	446	1,347	650

Distinct
prisoners,
1884.

1272. The number of prisoners detained in 1884, as shown in a previous table,* does not represent distinct individuals, as each person is counted afresh every time he is imprisoned. The actual number of distinct prisoners, however, received in 1884 in ordinary gaols and penal establishments is shown in the following table, also the number of times they were respectively imprisoned during the year. The information has been derived from the Inspector-General's Report† already alluded to:—

* See table following paragraph 1270 *ante*.

† Parliamentary Paper No. 33, Session 1885.

DISTINCT PRISONERS, 1884.
(Exclusive of those in Police Gaols.)

Number of Times Imprisoned during Year.	Distinct Prisoners, 1884.					
	Number.			Percentage.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Once	4,516	944	5,460	71·76	55·14	68·21
Twice	610	210	820	9·69	12·27	10·24
Three times	146	133	279	2·32	7·77	3·48
Four times	101	100	201	1·60	5·84	2·51
Five times	22	22	44	·35	1·28	·55
Six times and upwards	30*	27†	57	·48	1·58	·72
Total received	5,425	1,436	6,861	86·20	83·88	85·71
In detention at commencement of year ‡	868	276	1,144	13·80	16·12	14·29
Grand Total	6,293	1,712	8,005	100·00	100·00	100·00

1273. According to this table, the number of individual prisoners detained during some portion of 1884 in the ordinary gaols and penal establishments was 8,005, viz., 6,293 males and 1,712 females. If the number of individuals in police gaols, estimated to have amounted to 455—viz., 417 males and 38 females—be added to these, the sum amounting to 8,460—viz., 6,710 males and 1,750 females—will represent, approximately, the number of distinct prisoners detained in all the gaols and penal establishments in the colony during the whole or some part of the year. In 1879 (which is the most recent previous year for which similar reliable information is available), the number of distinct prisoners was 8,032—viz., 6,208 males and 1,824 females; thus showing an increase of 428 during the last five years, resulting from an increase of 502 in the male, but a decrease of 74 in the female prisoners.

Number of distinct prisoners.

1274. Comparing these figures with those showing the mean population, it appears that in 1884 1 person in every 112 persons in the colony, or 1 male in every 75 males, and 1 female in every 25½ females, passed some portion of the year in prison; whereas the proportion in 1879 was 1 person in every 104 persons in the colony, or 1 male in every 71 males, and 1 female in every 217 females. In these estimates no account is taken of persons lodged temporarily in watch-houses, &c., pending examination before magistrates, the prisoners here referred to being only those detained in regular gaols or penal establishments.

Proportion of distinct prisoners to population.

* Eight males admitted seven, 6 eight, and 3 nine times during the year.

† One female admitted eight, 3 nine, 1 ten, and 1 eleven times during the year.

‡ Exclusive of those who were discharged and re-admitted during the year—they being included with the figures in the previous line.

Persons
imprisoned
more than
once.

1275. Adding the numbers at the commencement of the year to those in the first line of the table, it is found that $82\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the distinct prisoners in 1884 were imprisoned only once during the year, and consequently seventeen and a half per cent. were imprisoned more than once. In the case of males, the proportions were $85\frac{1}{2}$ and $14\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; and in the case of females, 71 and 29 per cent. respectively. The tendency of females to be imprisoned over and over again is very much greater than males; thus, during the year, nearly a sixth of the whole number were imprisoned three times or upwards, and nearly an eleventh four times or upwards; whereas less than a twentieth of the males were imprisoned more than twice, and only a fortieth more than three times.

Prisoners
previously
convicted.

1276. Out of a total of 1,406 prisoners in detention on the 31st December, 1884, 1,361, or 97 per cent., had been previously convicted—viz., 535, or 38 per cent. of the whole, once; 184, or 13 per cent., twice; 118, or 8 per cent., three times; 91, or 7 per cent., four times; and as many as 433, or 31 per cent., five times or oftener.

Grounds of
imprison-
ment.

1277. The following is a classification of the prisoners in confinement at the end of 1884, according to the grounds in respect to which they were detained. It will be noticed that 70 were untried; also that more than half the males, but only a seventh of the females, had been convicted of felony:—

GROUNDS FOR DETENTION OF PRISONERS AT END OF 1884.

Grounds for Detention.	Gaols.		Police Gaols.		Penal Establishments.	Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	M.	F.	Total.
Felony, tried ...	140	47	3	...	436	579	47	626
„ untried ...	35	5	1	...	...	36	5	41
Misdemeanors, tried ...	185	187	1	2	67	253	189	442
„ untried ...	8	6	5	...	...	13	6	19
Other offences, tried ...	169	84	9	1	27	205	85	290
„ untried ...	10	...	...	...	...	10	...	10
Total ...	547	329	19	3	530	1,096	332	1,428

Sickness in
prisons.

1278. The cases of sickness in the year, which numbered 887,* were in the proportion of 1 case to every 9 individual prisoners, or to every 2 of the average number constantly detained.

Deaths in
prisons.

1279. Forty deaths (including 1 death of a criminal executed) occurred in prison during 1883, and 49 deaths (including 3 executions) in 1884. These deaths were in the proportion of 1 to every 200 in

* The cases of sickness in gaols were set down as 865 in Part Vital Statistics, paragraph 687 *ante*. In that return the sickness which occurred in police gaols was not included.

the former year, and 1 to every 163 in the latter year, of the estimated individual prisoners; or in the proportion of 1 to every 36 in the former year, and 1 to every 30 in the latter year, of the daily average number of prisoners detained.

1280. In 1883, although some attempts were made, not one prisoner succeeded in effecting his escape. In 1884, however, two prisoners, both males, absconded, and were not recaptured, viz., 1 from the Williamstown, and 1 from the Melbourne gaol. Prisoners absconding.

1281. One prisoner who had been sentenced to imprisonment for life was liberated in 1884. Of such prisoners, there have been 33 altogether in the colony, and of these, 16 have been discharged under the operation of regulations in force since February, 1878, as to prisoners under commuted sentences to terms of life, 1 by special commutation, 1 to a lunatic asylum, and 2 by death; whilst 13—viz., 10 males and 3 females—still remain in custody.* Prisoners under life sentences.

1282. An abstract of the estimated population at various ages, of the average number of prisoners at the same ages, and the proportion of the latter to the former, will be found in the following table:— Ages of prisoners.

AGES OF PRISONERS, 1884.

Ages.	Estimated Population.	Average Number of Prisoners constantly detained.	Prisoners per 10,000 of the Population.
Under 20 years ...	448,832	188	4·19
20 to 30 „ ...	184,676	463	25·07
30 „ 40 „ ...	93,570	281	30·03
40 „ 50 „ ...	92,594	252	27·22
50 „ 60 „ ...	79,549	159	19·99
60 years and upwards...	46,879	110	23·46
Total ...	946,100	1,453	15·36

1283. It appears from this table that, in 1884, the proportion of prisoners constantly detained to the population was greatest between the ages of 20 and 50. Of persons over 20 living in Victoria, 1 in every 393; of those between 20 and 40, 1 in every 374; of those over 40, 1 in every 420; and of those over 60, 1 in every 426, were constantly in prison throughout the year. Proportion of prisoners at various ages.

1284. The birthplaces and religions of the prisoners constantly detained during the year, deduced from the total numbers of each nationality and religion returned as passing through the institutions, also the estimated totals of the same nationality and religion, are compared in the following table:— Birthplaces and religions of prisoners.

* See Report of the Inspector-General of Penal Establishments for the year 1884, p. 8.

BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS OF PRISONERS, 1884.

Native Country and Religion.	Estimated Population.	Average Number of Prisoners constantly detained.	Prisoners per 10,000 of the Population.
NATIVE COUNTRY.			
Australasian Colonies ...	590,994	603	10·20
England and Wales ...	161,987	324	20·01
Scotland ...	52,854	105	19·95
Ireland ...	95,045	316	33·25
China ...	13,092	15	11·46
Other countries ...	32,128	90	...
Total ...	946,100	1,453	15·36
RELIGION.			
Protestants ...	678,387	829	12·22
Roman Catholics ...	223,084	600	26·85
Jews ...	4,754	4	8·41
Pagans ...	12,381	15	12·12
Others ...	27,494	5	...

Relative numbers of each country and sect.

1285. It will be observed that, in view of their respective numbers in the population, natives of the Australasian colonies and of China contributed much less than their share to the number of inmates of prisons, but the natives of England and Wales and Scotland contributed 30 per cent. more, and natives of Ireland 116 per cent. more, than their share to that number. Also, that of the religious denominations shown, Jews, Protestants, and Pagans contributed much less than their share; but Roman Catholics 74 per cent. more than their share to the number of such inmates.

Supposed cause of crime.

1286. Mr. W. G. Brett, Inspector-General of Penal Establishments and Gaols, makes the following remarks as to what he supposes to be the chief causes of crime in Victoria; in reference to which, however, it may be remarked that in many countries where the education given by the State is religious as well as secular, the criminality of the population is much greater than it is here; also, that since the secular system of education was introduced into Victoria, in 1873, crime has steadily decreased:—

“Among the various causes at work which may be regarded as specially promotive of prison population may be mentioned the neglect of careful moral instruction, which is one great cause of the multiplication of crime, and education without that kind of instruction is too often a dangerous possession; and unless the responsibility of the individual to his Maker be made, at least, as evident as are his responsibilities to man, he will almost certainly be made to suffer the penalties of the criminal laws of the country; and an examination of prisoners in regard to their mere educational attainments will show that their learning has generally served to increase the character of their crimes. It has been the instrument by which they have more extensively imposed upon the public and increased their offences.”

1287. Mr. Brett gives the following figures to show the state of Education of prisoners. education of prisoners at various periods since 1873, and the increased proportion of those able to read and write, and the diminished proportion of the grossly illiterate section :—

EDUCATION OF PRISONERS, 1873 TO 1884.

Period.	Numbers in every 100—		
	Able to Read and Write.	Able to Read only.	Unable to Read.
1873 to 1876 ...	64	18	18
1877 to 1880 ...	74	8	18
1881 to 1883 ...	83	6	11
1884 ...	84	6	10

1288. The following cases of punishment for offences committed within the prison took place in 1884. It will be observed that solitary confinement was prescribed in over 800 instances. The “other punishments” do not include whipping, as corporal punishment is not administered in Victoria for any breach of prison regulations :— Gaol punishments.

PUNISHMENTS FOR OFFENCES WITHIN PRISONS, 1884.

Nature of Punishment.	Gaols.			Penal Establishments.	Total.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	M.	F.	Total.
Hard labour ...	4	...	4	13	17	...	17
Solitary confinement ...	202	109	311	498	700	109	809
Other punishments ...	49	55	104	283	332	55	387
Total ...	255	164	419	794	1,049	164	1,213

1289. The punishments for offences within the prison, as detailed in the last table, were in the proportion of 1 to every 7 individual prisoners, 1 punishment of a male to every 6 individual male prisoners, 1 punishment of a female to every 11 individual female prisoners. According to the daily average number of prisoners, there was rather less than one punishment to each prisoner; or not quite one punishment to each male, and not quite two punishments to each female. Proportion of prisoners punished.

1290. The total cost of prisoners in 1884 was £55,818, being equivalent to £38 19s. 7d. per head of the average number in detention. The gross earnings of prisoners during the year amounted to £45,398—of which £20,500 was the value of work done for other Government Cost and earnings of prisoners.

departments, municipal bodies, &c., and £24,898 for work done in connexion with the gaols, including the manufacture of clothing, utensils, implements, &c. The actual cash receipts paid into the Treasury, however, amounted to only £7,194. The earnings in the year—on working days only, which numbered 311 during the year—were equivalent to 2s. 4d. per head per diem; the average number of available prisoners being 1,240.

Expenditure
on police,
gaols, &c.

1291. The following table shows the total amounts and the amounts per head expended in connexion with the police and the penal establishments and gaols during the 19½ years ended with 1883-4. The cost of buildings is not included, the figures relating to maintenance only:—

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE, GAOLS, ETC., 1865 TO 1883-4.

Year.	Amount Expended* on—			Amount per Head of Population.	
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establishments.	Total.	s.	d.
	£	£	£		
1865	187,962	62,629	250,591	8	2
1866	194,189	72,522	266,711	8	6
1867	138,226	52,972	191,198	5	11
1868	201,000	71,285	272,285	8	2
1869	157,563	50,913	208,476	6	1
1870	198,027	56,503	254,530	7	2
1871 (six months) ...	95,363	27,101	122,464	3	4
1871-2	190,711	57,855	248,566	6	8
1872-3	187,101	56,017	243,118	6	5
1873-4	194,329	61,787	256,116	6	8
1874-5	198,312	60,469	258,781	6	7
1875-6	199,738	61,051	260,789	6	7
1876-7	197,371	60,008	257,379	6	5
1877-8	207,119	58,132	265,251	6	6
1878-9	209,041	58,442	267,483	6	5
1879-80	233,732	56,636	290,368	6	11
1880-81	207,674	53,565	261,239	6	1
1881-2	201,063	53,032	254,095	5	9
1882-3	204,561	57,128	261,689	5	9
1883-4	216,973	55,836	272,809	5	10
Total	3,820,055	1,143,883	4,963,938	6	5

Expenditure
per head.

1292. By the figures in the last column it will be observed that the police and gaols expenditure has ranged from 8s. 6d. to 5s. 9d. per head, the former being that in the second year, and the latter that near the end of the period. The amount in the last year slightly exceeded that in the two previous years, but was less than that in any of the other years.

New
Caledonian
convicts in
Victoria.

1293. Up to July, 1884, it is known that 33 convicts, or expirees, from the French penal settlement at New Caledonia—viz., 29 males

* Exclusive of the cost of buildings.

and 4 females—came to Victoria. By the following statement respecting their career in this colony, it appears that only three were leading honest lives, and the remainder had relapsed into disreputable courses or crime:—

NEW CALEDONIAN CONVICTS IN VICTORIA, 1884.

MALES.

In prison, serving sentence for burglary	...	...	...	6
”	”	uttering false coin	...	5
”	”	”	forged cheques...	1
At large, having served a sentence for false pretences	...	...	...	1
”	”	larceny and forgery	...	1
”	”	larceny and absconding	...	1
Extradited for larceny in New South Wales	...	...	...	1
Living on earnings of prostitutes	...	...	...	10
Leading honest lives (two having been political prisoners)	...	...	...	3
				—
		Total	...	29
				—

FEMALES.

Committed for burglary, <i>nolle prosequi</i> entered	...	...	...	1
Keeping brothels	...	...	...	3
				—
		Total	...	4
				—

1294. During the same year, 47 male convicts from New Caledonia, of whom 5 were escapees and 18 expirees, were known to be living in Sydney,* and 77 had come to Queensland. Of the latter, 42 were sent back to New Caledonia. New Caledonian convicts in other colonies.

1295. The inquests held in 1884 numbered 1,439, as against 1,544 in 1883. In 791 instances the death was found to have resulted from disease or natural causes; in 14 cases, from intemperance; in 588 cases, from violence; in 40 cases, from doubtful causes; and in 6 cases a verdict of “still-born” was returned. Of the deaths set down to violence, the verdict in 406 cases was to the effect that the death had resulted from accident; in 8, from homicide; in 88, from suicide; 3 from execution; and in 83, that the cause of the violent death was doubtful. The practice of holding inquests in cases of other than violent deaths was more common in 1884 than in any of the previous ten years. In 1874, the proportion which verdicts of “death from disease or natural causes” bore to the total number of verdicts given was 47 per cent.; in 1875, 52 per cent.; in 1876, 53 per cent.; in 1877, 54 per cent.; in 1878, 52 per cent.; in 1879, 50 per cent.; in 1880, 52 per cent.; in 1881, 51 per cent.; in 1882, 53 per cent.; in 1883, 49 per cent.; and in 1884, 55 per cent. Inquests.

* See a return published in a paper laid before the Parliament of Victoria, entitled “Annexation, Federation, and Foreign Convicts.” No. 38, Session 1884.

cent. Inquests in cases of death occurring under suspicious circumstances are held at the discretion of the coroner of the district within which the death takes place, subject to instructions issued by the Governor in Council under the 3rd section of the Coroners Statute 1865 (28 Vict. No. 253).

Fire
inquests.

1296. Nine fire inquests were held during 1884, as against 4 in 1883, 5 in 1882, 4 in 1881, 5 in 1880, 10 in 1879, and 3 in 1878. Under the Amending Coroners Statute (33 Vict. No. 338), which came into operation on the 19th August, 1869, fire inquests may be held at the request of any individual who lodges with his application a fee of £5 5s., or in pursuance of Ministerial authority, which is only given when circumstances appear sufficiently suspicious to warrant action being taken.

PART IX.—DEFENCES.

Land forces.

1297. The Land Forces of Victoria in 1884 consisted of the Head Quarters Staff, of a paid Artillery Corps, and of a Volunteer Militia, embracing the Cavalry, Artillery, Rifle, Torpedo, and Engineer arms of the service. The following table shows the designation, strength, and establishment of the various corps on the 31st December of the year named:—

LAND FORCES.—STRENGTH AND ESTABLISHMENT, 1884.

Branch of Service.	Strength, 31st December, 1884.					Wanting to Complete.	Establishment.
	Officers.	Warrant Officers.	Sergeants.	Rank and File.	Total.		
Permanent Forces—							
Head Quarters Staff	4	2	...	...	6	...	6
Victorian Artillery	3	1	8	108	120	8	128
Volunteer Militia—							
Cavalry...	1	1	...	...	2	99	101
Field Artillery	16	1	19	264	300	6	306
Garrison Artillery	26	3	32	467	528	68	596
Torpedo	4	1	8	65	78	2	80
Engineers	4	1	4	68	77	24	101
Rifles	58	6	56	1,185	1,305	364	1,669
Medical...	14	...	...	...	14	2	16
Total	130	16	127	2,157	2,430	573	3,003
Unattached	41	...	...	...	41	...	...