

580. The returns of live stock imported overland made by the inspectors of stock always differ more or less from those of the officers of the Customs. In 1879 the former showed larger numbers as regards horses and cattle, but slightly smaller numbers as regards sheep, than the latter. The following are the imports of these descriptions of stock, according to the returns of both authorities:—

IMPORTS OF LIVE STOCK OVERLAND, 1879.

	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.
According to returns of the stock inspectors	5,364 ...	65,988 ...	845,026
„ „ Customs	2,565 ...	63,640 ...	845,482

581. According to the returns of the stock inspectors, the pigs imported overland in 1879 numbered 160. According to the Customs returns, the total number of pigs imported in the same year numbered 6,101, but it is not stated how many were imported by land and how many by sea.

582. According to the Customs returns, the value of live stock (exclusive of pigs) imported overland in 1878 was £549,563, and in 1879, £761,185.

PART VI.—LAW, CRIME, ETC.

583. 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 first introduced into Victoria in the year 1862, and continues in force to the present period.

584. All lands alienated from the Crown since the introduction of the system have come at once under its provisions; and lands alienated prior to its inauguration can be brought under them, 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.

585. 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 at the end of 1879 was £57,141, of which £47,156 had been invested in Government stock. Three claims upon the fund have been substantiated since its first formation, and £718 Os. 4d. has been paid to claimants.

Transactions
under the
Land
Statute,
1878 and
1879.

586. The following is a statement of the transactions which took place under the Transfer of Land Statute in 1878 and 1879. A decrease will be observed in the number of applications to bring land under the Statute, which was less by 113, in the value of land included in applications, which was less by over £180,000, and in the certificates of title issued, which were fewer by 229 than in 1878; but an increase in most of the other items:—

TRANSFER OF LAND STATUTE, 1878 AND 1879.

		1878.	1879.
Applications to bring land under the Act	... number	1,075	962
Extent of land included	... acres	31,686	29,737
Value of land included	... £	986,133	804,299
Certificates of title issued	... number	10,347	10,118
Transfers, mortgages, leases, releases, surrenders, &c.	..	17,661	18,008
Registering proprietors	... ..	63	99
Other transactions*	... ..	16,883	20,477
Forms sold	... ..	347	295
Fees received	... ..	25,573	26,855

Proportion of
land under
the Statute.

587. The total quantity of land under the Transfer of Land Statute at the end of 1879 was 7,557,715 acres, the declared value of which, at the time it was placed under the Act, was £19,090,842. The land granted and sold up to the end of 1879 was 11,742,328 acres. It therefore follows that at that period 64 per cent. of the alienated land in the colony was subject to the provisions of this Statute.

Transactions
in Equity.

588. The transactions in Equity during 1878 and 1879 were as follows. The business was not heavy in either year:—

TRANSACTIONS IN EQUITY, 1878 AND 1879.

		1878.	1879.
Suits by bill	... number	84	91
Petitions filed	..	4	12
Commissions issued	..	11	7
Decrees issued	..	51	48
Orders issued	..	166	124
Reports issued	..	30	56
Writs of injunction issued	..	8	7
Conveyances settled by Master	..	1	—
Leases settled by Master	..	1	—
Recognizances entered into	..	1	—
Rolls filed	..	32	43

Probates and
letters of
administra-
tion.

589. The probates and letters of administration issued in 1879 were slightly more numerous than those in 1878, but the value of property bequeathed was less by over a quarter of a million sterling. The average value of each estate in 1878 was £2,177, and in 1879 £1,925:—

* Not including copies of documents supplied.

PROBATES AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, 1878 AND 1879.

Year.	Probates.		Letters of Administration.*		Both.	
	Number.	Property sworn under—	Number.	Property sworn under—	Number.	Property sworn under—
1878 ...	762	£ 2,393,659	579	£ 525,556	1,341	£ 2,919,215
1879 ...	717	2,130,313	668	536,120	1,385	2,666,433
Increase	...	...	89	10,564	44	...
Decrease	45	263,346	...	...	...	252,782

590. During the fifteen years ended with 1879 the value of the property respecting which probates and letters of administration were issued amounted to over twenty-six and a half millions sterling (£26,572,069). Value of property bequeathed.

591. 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, on estates of a value not exceeding £20,000 :— Scale of probate, &c., duties.

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 ”

592. The amounts realized by the State from duties on estates of deceased persons fluctuate greatly. During the nine years ended with 1879 they were as follow :— Amount of probate, &c., duties.

DUTIES ON ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS, 1871 TO 1879.

1871	...	£ 17,069	1876	...	£ 33,638
1872	...	37,643	1877	...	82,201
1873	...	39,026	1878	...	45,470
1874	...	67,998	1879	...	47,607
1875	...	50,057			

593. The following business was done under the head of Divorce and Matrimonial Causes in 1878 and 1879. It will be observed that in 1879 the petitions for dissolution of marriage were fewer by 7, but those for judicial separation were more numerous by 9, than in the previous year ; that the decrees for dissolution of marriage decreased from 8 to 3 ; and that only 1 decree for judicial separation took place in each year :— Divorce and matrimonial.

* 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.

DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL, 1878 AND 1879.

	1878.	1879.
Petitions for dissolution of marriage number	17	10
„ judicial separation „	5	14
„ alimony „	11	9
Decrees dismissing petitions „	1	1
„ for dissolution of marriage „	8	3
„ for judicial separation „	1	1
„ for alimony „	7	4

Divorces in
eighteen
years.

594. 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, 123 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 35 decrees for judicial separation have been made.

Fees in
Equity, &c.

595. The fees in Equity amounted in the aggregate to £1,047 in 1878, and to £1,063 in 1879; those on Probates amounted to £1,134 in 1878, and to £1,104 in 1879; those in Divorce amounted to £144 in 1878, and to £100 in 1879.

Collections
in Lunacy.

596. The moneys collected in the department of the Master-in-Lunacy decreased from £14,350 in 1878 to £10,505 in 1879.

Insolvencies.

597. In the twelve years ended with 1879, nearly ten thousand insolvencies took place in Victoria, with liabilities amounting to 7½ millions sterling, as against which assets were declared amounting to about 4 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 1879.

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
Total	9,548	7,754,052	3,965,479	3,788,573

Insolvencies,
1879 and
previous
years.

598. It will be observed that in 1879 the insolvencies were more numerous than in any of the other years shown, and the liabilities were more than twice as great as in any other year. The deficiency shown was, however, slightly exceeded in 1872 and 1879, and nearly equalled in 1868,

599. 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 70 per cent. of the latter, in 1878 to 60 per cent., in 1877 to 59 per cent., in 1876 to 51 per cent., and in 1875 to 61 per cent. In the whole period of twelve years, the declared assets were in the proportion of about 51 per cent. to the declared liabilities.

Proportion of liabilities to assets.

600. The intestate estates respecting which administration was granted to the Curator in 1878 numbered 256; those in 1879 numbered 219. The estimated value of such estates amounted to £36,987 in the former, and to £46,227 in the latter year.* The sums received by the Curator on these estates and on others remaining from former years were £38,020 in 1878, and £43,414 in 1879. In the eleven years ended with 1879 the number of intestate estates dealt with was 2,428, and their estimated value £395,977. The amount received by the Curator in respect to these estates during the eleven years was £366,967.

Intestate estates.

601. The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during 1878 and 1879 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. A slight increase will be observed under the first head, but a decrease under the other two heads; the total number of offences being 2 per cent. less in 1879 than in 1878:—

Offences reported.

OFFENCES, 1878 AND 1879.

Offences in respect to which—	1878.	1879.	Increase.	Decrease.
1. Persons were brought before magistrates on summons	19,198	19,311	113	...
2. „ „ apprehended by the police	25,544	24,625	...	919
3. The offenders were still at large ‡ ...	4,892	4,630	...	262
Total	49,634	48,566	...	1,068

602. More than a third of the total number of offences in 1879 and 1878 consisted of those in respect to which persons were brought before magistrates on summons but were not taken into custody. These must

Summons cases.

* These numbers and values are included in those given in the table following paragraph 589 ante.

† 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 are and are not 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.

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 bye-laws, the Masters and Servants or Wines and Spirits Statute, &c. The following are the particulars given respecting those which were dealt with in 1878 and 1879:—

OFFENCES DEALT WITH BY SUMMONS,* 1878 AND 1879.

	1878.	1879.	Increase.	Decrease.
Offences against the person	2,631	2,298	...	333
" " property	652	703	51	...
Other offences	15,915	16,310	395	...
Total	19,198	19,311	113 †	...
Cases dismissed by magistrates	7,184	7,815	631	...
Offender summarily convicted or held to bail	12,014	11,496	...	518

Charges
counted as
persons.

603. 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.

Arrests, 1869,
1874, and
1879.

604. The persons § who were taken in charge by the Victorian police in 1879, and in the first year of each of the two previous quinquenniads, were as follow:—

PERSONS § ARRESTED, 1869, 1874, AND 1879. ||

	1869.	1874.	1879.
Taken into custody	24,770	23,856	24,625
Discharged by magistrates... ..	7,730	6,929	7,227
Summarily convicted or held to bail	16,198	16,233	16,770
Committed for trial	842	694	628

* 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 be included in subsequent tables.

† Net figures.

‡ An attempt has been made to show the distinct individuals arrested in one year. See paragraphs 624 to 628 *post*.

§ See last 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*.

605. It will be observed that most arrests were made at the first period and fewest at the middle period, the last period occupying, in this respect, a place between the two others. In proportion to the number of persons in the colony, however, arrests at the last period were even less numerous than at the middle period, and much less so than at the first period. The estimated average population in 1869 was 696,942 ; in 1874, 798,688 ; and in 1879, 888,500. The arrests were therefore in the proportion of 1 to every 28 persons living at the first period, and of 1 to every 33 persons living at the second period, and of 1 to every 36 persons living at the third period.

Arrests, proportion to population.

606. The persons summarily convicted, held to bail, or committed for trial, were, to the whole number arrested, in the proportion of 69 per cent. at the first period, and of 71 per cent. at the second and third periods.

Proportion of times charge was sustained.

607. The diminution in the number of serious offences is shown by the decreasing number of commitments for trial at each successive period. These were in the proportion of 1 to every 29 arrests at the first period, of 1 to every 34 arrests at the middle period, and of 1 to every 39 arrests at the third period.

Diminution of serious offences.

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

Males and females arrested.

MALES AND FEMALES* ARRESTED, 1869, 1874, AND 1879.

	1869.		1874.		1879.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Taken into custody ...	19,827	4,943	19,049	4,807	19,162	5,463
Discharged by magistrates ...	6,167	1,563	5,452	1,477	5,521	1,706
Summarily convicted or held to bail	12,904	3,294	12,978	3,255	13,061	3,709
Committed for trial ...	756	86	619	75	580	48

609. 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 $68\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. and $68\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. in 1869; of $71\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. and $69\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. in 1874; and of 71 per cent. and $68\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. in 1879.

Cases in which charge was sustained.

610. 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. It will be observed that the proportion of females to males under all the heads except that of the committed for trial was greater at the last period than at

Relative proportions of the sexes.

* See paragraph 603 ante.

either of the former periods ; but that in no instance was it anything like equal to 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 81, and at the second and third periods of 84 to every 100 males :—

**MALES AND FEMALES.—RELATIVE PROPORTIONS ARRESTED,
1869, 1874, AND 1879.**

	Number of Females to 100 Males.		
	1869.	1874.	1879.
Taken into custody	24·93	25·24	28·51
Discharged by magistrates	25·34	27·09	30·90
Summarily convicted or held to bail	25·53	25·08	28·40
Committed for trial	11·38	12·12	8·28

Causes of
arrest.

611. 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, 1869, 1874, AND 1879.

Offence.	1869.	1874.	1879.
Murder and attempt at murder	31	10	15
Manslaughter	36	28	14
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm	46	73	46
Assaults	1,557	1,653	1,682
Rape and indecent assaults on females	58	49	60
Unnatural offence, and assaults with intent to commit	22	11	8
Other offences against the person	102	108	140
Robbery with violence, burglary, &c.	215	177	203
Horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, &c.	174	189	154
Other offences against property	3,936	3,372	3,508
Forgery and offences against the currency	105	91	100
Drunkenness	10,647	10,981	10,859
Other offences against good order	5,676	5,058	6,043
Offences relating to carrying out laws	625	473	393
Smuggling and other offences against the revenue	90	73	85
Offences against public welfare	1,450	1,510	1,315
Total	24,770	23,856	24,625

Offences at
last period.

612. Arrests for manslaughter, for unnatural offences, for horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, for offences relating to carrying out laws, and for offences against public welfare, were less numerous at the last period than at either the second or the first. Apprehensions for assaults, for rape and indecent assaults on females, for miscellaneous offences against the person, and for miscellaneous offences against good order, were more numerous at the last period than at either of the other periods.

Drunken-
ness.

613. Arrests for drunkenness in 1879 were more numerous than in 1869, but slightly less so than in 1874. For several years prior to 1877, drunkenness, as shown by the arrests, was increasing from year to year, but since then, judged by the same standard, it has been steadily declining ; thus, in the six years ended with 1879, these arrests numbered 10,981, 11,541, 11,624, 12,447, 11,825, and 10,859. Drunkenness is still, however, quite common enough to show that vigorous effort on the part of those who are seeking to suppress or mitigate the evil is not uncalled for, especially when it is remembered that large as is the number of persons taken into custody each year for this offence, arrests therefor are very seldom made unless it is accompanied with disorderly conduct. 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	73	living in	Victoria.
„ 1875,	„	71	„	„
„ 1876,	„	72	„	„
„ 1877,	„	68	„	„
„ 1878,	„	73	„	„
„ 1879,	„	82	„	„

614. The ages of those taken into custody in 1879, 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, 1879.

Ages.	Superior Instruction.	Read and Write well.	Read only, or Read and Write imperfectly.	Unable to Read.	Total.
Under 10 years	...	1	73	370	444
10 to 15	...	45	568	151	764
15 to 20	4	569	1,358	233	2,164
20 to 25	28	1,130	1,678	392	3,228
25 to 30	30	772	1,533	406	2,741
30 to 40	68	1,321	3,214	905	5,508
40 to 50	52	1,109	3,080	1,026	5,267
50 to 60	39	591	1,743	570	2,943
60 years and upwards	17	274	847	402	1,540
Unknown	1	9	12	4	26
Total	239	5,821	14,106	4,459	24,625

615. 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 1879, according to the table, was 1,208, and of these not one was possessed of superior instruction ; only 46, or about a twenty-sixth, could read and write well ; and 521, or 43 per cent., were unable to read. The number of children under 15 committed for trial was 6 ; all of whom were able to read only.

Education of
children
arrested.

* See paragraph 603 ante, also table following paragraph 624 post.

Education of
adults.

616. Those over 15 years arrested numbered 23,417, and of these, 6,014, or over a fourth (including those possessed of superior instruction), could read and write well, and 3,938, or nearly a sixth, could not read. Those over 15 years of age committed for trial numbered 622, of whom 204, or about a third, could read and write well, or were possessed of superior instruction, and 79, or an eighth, were unable to read. According to these figures, the persons charged with offences serious enough to call for their commitment for trial were 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 seventh, were returned as being able to read and write, and only a tenth were returned as entirely illiterate.

Birthplaces
and reli-
gions of
criminals.

617. The following table shows the birthplaces and religions of the persons taken into custody and of those committed for trial in 1879, also the ratio of those of each country and sect to the estimated numbers of the same country and sect in the mean population, calculated, except in the case of the Australian-born,* according to the proportions which prevailed at the last census :—

**BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS OF PERSONS † ARRESTED AND
COMMITTED FOR TRIAL, 1879.**

Birthplace and Religion.	Persons Arrested.		Persons Committed for Trial.	
	Number.	Proportion per 1,000 of the estimated Population. ‡	Number.	Proportion per 10,000 of the estimated Population. ‡
BIRTHPLACE.				
Victoria	5,450§	11·18	181	3·70
Other Australian colonies ...	1,133	26·72	45	10·61
England and Wales	6,653	40·23	183	11·06
Scotland	2,166	39·91	29	5·34
Ireland	7,754	80·30	108	11·18
China	224	12·64	8	4·51
Other countries	1,245	...	74	...
Total	24,625	27·72	628	7·07
RELIGION.				
Protestants	13,331	20·76	364	5·67
Roman Catholics	10,813	51·05	235	11·09
Jews	66	14·90	5	11·29
Pagans	220	10·10	8	3·67
Others	195	...	16	...

* See paragraph 54 *ante*.

† See paragraph 603 *ante*, also table following paragraph 624 *post*.

‡ The estimated population of each birthplace and religion with which these calculations have been made will be found in the tables following paragraphs 54 and 56 *ante*.

§ Including 60 Aborigines.

618. 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 is no doubt 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 1871 only 2,123 persons of Victorian birth were taken into custody, whereas in the year under review the number had risen to 5,450. The country which supplies the largest number of arrested persons is generally Ireland. In 1879, those arrested of this nationality exceeded the English and Welsh arrested by 1,100, and this although natives of England and Wales in the population outnumbered the Irish by nearly 70,000. The offences with which the Irish were charged could not, however, as a whole, have been of so serious a nature as those in respect of which the English were arrested, as the number of the former committed for trial was, in proportion to population, only slightly larger than that of the latter. Proportionately to the numbers in the population, the Scotch arrested were slightly below the English, whilst those committed for trial were much below any others except Victorians and Chinese; the Chinese arrested and committed for trial were below persons of any nationality except Victorians. Arrests of natives of other Australasian colonies were, in proportion to their supposed numbers, the least numerous after those of Chinese and Victorians, but their commitments were more numerous than those of persons of any nationality except the English and Irish.

Relative numbers of each birth-place.

619. In proportion to their numbers in the community, the Roman Catholics supplied more than twice as many arrested persons as the Protestants, more than three times as many as the Jews, and more than five times as many as the Pagans. In view of a similar proportion, fewer Protestants were committed for trial than were members of any other sects distinguished except Pagans. Five Jews were committed for trial during the year, which, as the number of this sect in the population is but small, renders the proportion of committals of Jews as great as that of the Roman Catholics, and about twice as high as that of Protestants. 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.

620. 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

Religions of persons convicted and sentenced.

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 during 1879, together with the percentage of convictions obtained—that a greater proportion of Protestants were unjustly committed than of Roman Catholics, that more of the latter were unjustly committed than Jews, but that Pagans and persons of other beliefs than those named were the most wrongly accused of all :—

RELIGIONS OF PERSONS CONVICTED AND SENTENCED, 1879.

Religions.	Committed for Trial, 1879.	Convicted and Sentenced.	
		Total Number.	Percentage of Committals.
Protestants	320	182	57·00
Roman Catholics	217	156	72·00
Jews	5	4	80·00
Pagans	8	3	37·00
Others	16	8	50·00
Total	566*	353	62·00

Causes of
arrest and
religions,
1879.

621. The following table shows the religions of the persons taken into custody in connection with their offences. It will be observed that 8 Protestants and 6 Roman Catholics were arrested for murder and attempts at murder; 30 Protestants, 26 Roman Catholics, and 3 Pagans were arrested for manslaughter, shooting, or serious wounding; 35 Protestants, 27 Roman Catholics, and 3 Pagans were arrested for sexual offences against females or males. About 5,800 Protestants, 5,000 Roman Catholics, 13 Jews, but only 6 Pagans, were arrested for drunkenness. No Jew was arrested during the year for murder, manslaughter, or seriously wounding. It will also be noticed that 20,500 out of the 24,600 arrests were for drunkenness and other offences against good order, and for minor offences against property :—

* Exclusive of 62 who were awaiting trial at the end of the year.

CAUSES OF ARREST, AND RELIGIONS, 1879.

Offences.	Religions.					Total.
	Protestants.	Roman Catholics.	Jews.	Pagans.	Others.	
Murder and attempts at murder	8	6	...	1	...	15
Manslaughter	5	8	...	1	...	14
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm	25	18	...	2	1	46
Assaults	510	487	3	14	8	1,022
Rape and indecent assaults on females	34	23	...	1	2	60
Unnatural offence, and assaults with intent to commit	1	4	...	2	1	8
Other offences against the person	406	378	2	5	9	800
Robbery with violence, burglary, &c.	101	91	7	2	2	203
Horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, &c.	87	63	2	...	2	154
Other offences against property	1,999	1,410	12	63	24	3,508
Forgery and offences against the currency	78	22	...	...	...	100
Drunkenness	5,814	4,952	13	6	74	10,859
Other offences against good order	3,229	2,680	19	73	42	6,043
Offences relating to carrying out laws	242	138	4	6	3	393
Smuggling and other offences against the revenue	50	22	2	7	4	85
Offences against public welfare	742	511	2	37	23	1,315
Total	13,331	10,813	66	220	195	24,625

622. Arrests for drunkenness and other offences against good order were in the proportion of 68 per cent. of the total arrests of Protestants, of 71 per cent. of those of Roman Catholics, of 49 per cent. of those of Jews, of 36 per cent. of those of Pagans, and of 59 per cent. of those of persons of other beliefs. In the case of Protestants and Roman Catholics, the results differ but little from those in the previous two years. Religions of drunkards.

623. The next table shows the occupations of the males and females taken into custody in 1879. It will be observed that, of the males, more laborers were arrested than persons of any other calling, also that artisans and mechanics, sailors, tailors, bootmakers, &c., and miners were frequently arrested; but that only 5 males were set down as belonging to the criminal or pauper classes. Of females, about a third are contained in the criminal or pauper group; these were all public prostitutes. More than half the arrested females were of no specified occupation. Of females returned as following regular occupations, more than three-fourths were domestic servants, and the bulk of the remainder were dressmakers, tailoresses, &c.:— Occupations of persons arrested.

OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES ARRESTED, 1879.

Occupations.	Males.	Females.
Local government officer	5	...
Others ministering to government, defence, or protection	16	...
Medical men, dentists, druggists, nurses	66	4
Lawyers, law-court officers	28	...
Teachers, governesses, &c.	55	2
Architects, civil engineers, surveyors	26	...
Actors, vocalists, musicians, &c.	32	2
Authors, editors, reporters	13	...
Artists, sculptors	7	...
Photographers	6	...
Merchants, shopkeepers, dealers	606	20
Bank officials	11	...
Accountants, agents, brokers, collectors	65	...
Commercial clerks	354	...
Others assisting in the exchange of money or goods	41	...
Hotel, boarding, eating house—keepers, servants	156	8
Tailors, shoemakers, dressmakers, hatters, barbers, &c.	998	91
Domestic servants	350	712
Artisans, mechanics, contractors, &c.	2,503	6
Miners, &c.	972	...
Squatters, station laborers, herdsmen, and others engaged about animals	243	...
Farmers, gardeners, farm servants	913	7
Carriers, carters, cab, omnibus—owners, drivers, railway officials	606	...
Ships' officers, sailors, boatmen, stevedores, lumpers	1,305	...
Butchers, bakers, greengrocers, millers, brewers, dairy-men, and others dealing in food	603	9
Laborers, woodsplitters, bushmen	7,330	3
Rag and bottle gatherers, shoeblacks, nightmen, lamp-lighters, &c.	112	2
Of independent means	20	...
Criminal and pauper classes	5	1,648*
No occupation, unspecified †	1,715	2,949
Total	19,162	5,463

Arrests of
distinct
individuals.

624. It has been already stated† that, in making up the tables, 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. In the last two issues of the *Victorian Year-Book* a table was given showing the actual number of individuals who passed into the hands of the police during 1876 so far as the particulars could be gathered from a comparison of the names, ages, birthplaces, religions, localities, &c., appearing in the returns furnished by the police; also the number of offences the arrested persons were respectively charged with. The preparation of this table involved such an amount of time and labor as I did not feel justified in again causing to be devoted to

* Prostitutes.

† Including 930 male and 289 female children.

‡ See paragraph 603 ante.

the construction of a similar table, more especially as the proportions would probably not differ greatly from those for the year named. The table for 1876, in which the results are given according to sex, age, and birthplace, is therefore re-published. The offences for which arrests were made during that year numbered 25,281, or 656 more than those in 1879 :—

DISTINCT INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED, 1876.

Sex, Age, and Birthplace of Arrested Persons.	Number of charges on which arrests were made.	Number of distinct individuals arrested.	Number of charges on which distinct individuals were arrested.										
			1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11 and upwards.*
SEX.													
Males ...	19,528	14,948	12,004	2,029	566	180	87	31	24	10	4	4	9
Females ...	5,753	3,846	2,898	539	201	82	48	35	14	9	3	5	12
Total ...	25,281	18,794	14,902	2,568	767	262	135	66	38	19	7	9	21
AGE.													
Under 10 years ...	481	470	461	8	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 to 15 „ ...	704	629	572	45	9	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
15 to 20 „ ...	1,841	1,404	1,140	178	46	17	10	5	5	3	...	...	...
20 to 25 „ ...	2,745	2,079	1,633	314	87	23	12	7	1	...	...	1	1
25 to 30 „ ...	2,827	2,110	1,659	316	78	28	16	3	3	3	...	...	4
30 to 40 „ ...	6,265	4,554	3,550	650	203	69	37	17	11	6	1	2	8
40 to 50 „ ...	5,792	4,219	3,294	582	201	70	37	15	9	2	2	4	3
50 to 60 „ ...	3,045	2,182	1,676	328	102	38	12	11	6	4	2	...	3
60 years & upwards	1,552	1,120	892	145	41	15	10	7	3	1	2	2	2
Unknown ...	29	27	25	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
BIRTHPLACE.													
Victoria ...	4,105	3,293†	2,776	361	91	31	17	8	4	2	...	1	2
Other Australasian colonies	1,069	774	608	111	26	12	8	4	...	2	...	...	3
England and Wales	7,492	5,675	4,569	737	218	70	39	13	17	1	3	4	4
Scotland ...	2,587	1,822	1,381	286	91	28	15	8	4	3	...	1	5
Ireland ...	8,258	5,780	4,360	886	301	109	56	32	11	11	4	3	7
China ...	343	290	245	38	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other countries ...	1,427	1,160	963	149	34	11	...	1	2	...	...	...	...

625. The charges on which individuals are arrested, as shown in the first column of the table, correspond in the majority of cases with the number of times they are arrested. Instances sometimes occur, however, of an individual being arrested at the same time on two charges, less frequently on three, and occasionally, but not often, on four or even more. In such cases, the individual, although arrested only once, would be the occasion of as many entries being made in the tables of arrested persons as he had offences laid to his charge.

Manner in which charges are multiplied.

*Two males and 1 female were arrested on 12, 1 male and 1 female on 13, 1 female on 14, 1 female on 16, and 1 female on 17 charges during the year.

† Including 60 Aborigines, of whom 46 were arrested on 1, 7 on 2, 4 on 3, and 3 on 4 charges during the year.

Sexes of those arrested more than once.

626. It appears that the tendency of females to become arrested over and over again, or at any rate on a variety of charges, is greater than that of males, for, whereas the arrested persons respecting whom particulars are given in the table were distinct individuals in as many as 77 per cent. of the cases of arrests of males, they were so in only 67 per cent. of the cases of arrests of females; also, whilst only 1 male in every 5 males arrested was charged with more than one offence, the proportion of the other sex was 1 to every 4.

Ages of those arrested more than once.

627. The persons arrested more than once, or on more than one charge, during 1876 amounted to only 6 per cent. of those under 15 years of age, to 20 per cent. of those between 15 and 25 and of those over 60 years of age, and to 22 per cent. of those between 25 and 60 years of age.

Countries of those arrested more than once.

628. Sixteen per cent. of the Victorians arrested during 1876 were taken into custody more than once or on more than one charge, as also were 22 per cent. of the natives of other Australasian colonies, 19 per cent. of the English, 24 per cent. of the Scotch, 25 per cent. of the Irish, and 15 per cent. of the Chinese.

Results of summary disposal.

629. The results of the summary disposal of cases by magistrates in the year 1879 were as follow :—

SUMMARY DISPOSAL BY MAGISTRATES OF ARRESTED PERSONS, 1879.

Sentence.				Males.	Females.
Imprisonment for 3 years	...	...	...	3	...
" 2 years	...	...	...	14	...
" 1 year and under 2 years	...	...	...	174	76
" 6 months and under 1 year	...	...	...	270	175
" 5 months	...	...	...	2	2
" 4 months	...	...	...	18	4
" 3 months	...	...	...	780	349
" 2 months and under 3 months	...	...	...	217	66
" 1 month and under 2 months	...	...	...	903	308
" 15 days and under 1 month	...	...	...	70	9
" 8 days and under 15 days	...	...	...	491	211
" 7 days and under	...	...	...	3,433	1,378
Fined	...	...	...	5,562	734
Ordered to find bail	...	...	...	308	51
Sent to industrial school or reformatory	...	...	...	408	206
Otherwise dealt with	...	...	...	408	140
Total sentenced				13,061	3,709
Discharged				5,521	1,706
Total summarily disposed of				18,582	5,415
Escaped whilst on remand				3	...
Total arrested				18,585	5,415

630. Of the persons sentenced by magistrates during 1879, 43 per cent. of the males, and 20 per cent. of the females, were fined ; 30 per cent. of the former, and 43 per cent. of the latter, were imprisoned for various terms under a month, and 17 and 24 per cent., respectively, for periods varying from 1 to 12 months ; little more than 1 per cent. of the males, but more than 2 per cent. of the females, were sentenced to more than 1 year's imprisonment ; the balance, or 9 per cent. of the males, and 11 per cent. of the females, were otherwise disposed of.

Sentences by magistrates.

631. Corporal punishment to males only 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. Four offenders were so sentenced in 1879, in addition to terms of imprisonment. Of these, 3 were ordered to be whipped once, and 1 twice. Two of those sentenced to one whipping were to receive 25 and the other 15 lashes, and the one sentenced to 2 whippings was to receive 20 lashes on each occasion. One of the offenders was between 25 and 30 years of age, one between 30 and 40, one between 40 and 50, and one between 50 and 60.

Whipping ordered by magistrates.

632. 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, 1869, 1874, AND 1879.

	1869.	1874.	1879.
Number for trial	842	694	692*
Convicted and sentenced... ..	507	436	397
Acquitted	256	194	180
Not prosecuted	79	64	53
Awaiting trial ... ..	...	...	62

633. Of those committed for trial in 1869 and 1874 respectively, 763 and 630 were eventually tried. Including 64 remaining for trial from the previous year, 577 were tried in 1879. At the first period 66 per cent., and at the second and third periods 69 per cent., of the trials resulted in convictions.

Proportion of convictions obtained.

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

Sentences in superior courts.

* Including 64 remaining for trial from the previous year. In 1869 and 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.

SENTENCES OF PERSONS TRIED AND CONVICTED, 1879.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.
Death	2	...
Hard labor on roads or public works for 10 years and under 15 years	2	...
" " " 7 years and under 10 years	2*	...
" " " 4 years and under 7 years	43*	...
Imprisonment for 2 years and under 4 years	144	4
" 1 year and under 2 years	93	12
" 6 months and under 1 year	49	5
" 1 month and under 6 months	21	4
" under 1 month	5	3
To find bail to appear when called upon	8	...
Total tried and convicted	369	28

Length of sentences in superior courts.

635. Of males convicted in superior courts, two were sentenced to death and nearly four-fifths of the remainder to terms of imprisonment of one year or upwards, and more than half to over 2 years ; but scarcely a fifth were sentenced for periods less than one year. Of the females, four-sevenths were sentenced to over one, and the remainder to under one year's imprisonment. No female was sentenced to be imprisoned for a longer period than 4 years, whereas two males were sentenced to periods ranging from 10 to 15 years.

Whipping ordered by superior courts.

636. In addition to the terms of imprisonment named in the foregoing table, several of the persons sentenced were ordered to be kept in solitary confinement for certain periods, and five were ordered to be whipped. Rape or indecent assaults on females were the crimes of two of these, for each of whom three whippings were prescribed ; one was to receive 20 and the other 15 lashes on each occasion. Unnatural offence was the crime of two ; the number of whippings to be administered in both cases being 3 of 12 lashes each. Robbery under arms was the crime of the remaining offender, who was sentenced to 1 whipping of 15 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 3, and the greatest number of lashes at each whipping is 50.

* One of these was sentenced to wear irons during the first year of his sentence.

Undetected
crime.

639. The offences in respect to which no person was apprehended numbered 4,630 in 1879, or 262 less than in the previous year. Those against the person increased by 7, whilst those against property fell off by 8, and the other offences by 21. The following are the undetected offences in the last five years. It will be noticed that the total number was highest in 1877, and in not one of the years was it so low as in the year under review :—

UNDETECTED CRIME, 1875 TO 1879.

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

Offender
perhaps
arrested on
other
grounds.

640. With reference to the offences set down as undetected, it should be remarked that in all probability the malefactor does 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 may even before that date be arrested, and perhaps punished, for other misdeeds.

Crime in
Australasian
colonies.

641. The next four tables, giving details of crime in the various Australasian colonies, have been compiled in this office from their respective *Statistical Registers*. The first of these gives for each colony, and for the whole of Australasia, during the years 1876, 1877, and 1878, 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; also, for Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, the amount of undetected crime as represented by the number of offences reported, but in respect of which no arrest was made :—

CRIME IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1876 TO 1878.

Name of Colony.	Number of Offences for which Persons were—				Number of Reported Offences for which no one was Apprehended. (Undetected Crime.)	
	Apprehended or Summoned.*	Summarily Convicted or held to Bail.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.		
Victoria ...	1876	42,297	27,505	680	384	4,727
	1877	45,844	29,528	594	340	5,351
	1878	44,742	29,452	658	458	4,892
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	...
Queensland ...	1876	10,180†	6,126	285	132	...
	1877	9,929†	6,444	312	177	...
	1878	9,563†	6,153	344	197	...
South Australia	1876	9,375	7,929	239	124	857
	1877	10,314	8,696	240	137	862
	1878	13,682	11,685	369	207	696
Western Australia	1876	7,509	5,847	95	47	...
	1877	6,855	5,272	83	27	...
	1878	6,126	4,552	102	45	...
Tasmania ...	1876	9,207	7,208	96	51	482
	1877	7,619	6,092	102	49	494
	1878	7,901	6,243	113	54	535
New Zealand ...	1876	22,141	16,100	414	249	...
	1877	21,953	16,293	405	250	...
	1878	22,237	16,370	415	292	...
Australasia ...	1876	145,814	101,119	3,200	1,809	...
	1877	150,253	105,328	3,253	1,809	...
	1878	157,576	112,379	3,804	2,212	...

642. 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 in regard to serious offences, the commitments for trial and convictions thereafter being in New South Wales more than twice as numerous as in Victoria. In 1878 the apprehensions and summonses exceeded those in Victoria by over 19 per cent., and the summary convictions by a third. It may be mentioned that, large as is the amount of crime shown by the returns of New South Wales, the figures do not express nearly all which exists in that colony, since the published statistics, in

Large amount of crime in New South Wales.

* Not including civil cases.

† Not including cases brought up for lunacy. In New South Wales 814 lunatics during 1876, 955 during 1877, and 879 during 1878, and in Queensland 320 during 1876, 288 during 1877, and 384 during 1878, were admitted to asylums. Probably four-fifths of these were apprehended by the police.

common with those of three of the other colonies, contain no record of offences in respect to which no arrest has been made.

Proportion of
crime in
each colony.

643. 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 mean 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 three 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 ARRESTS, COMMITMENTS, AND CONVICTIONS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES TO POPULATION, &c., 1876, 1877, and 1878.

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	50·92	33·11	8·19	4·62	65·03	56·47
	1877	53·94	34·74	6·99	4·00	64·40	57·24
	1878	51·48	33·89	7·57	5·27	65·82	69·60
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
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
South Australia	1876	42·99	36·36	10·96	5·69	84·58	51·88
	1877	44·60	37·60	10·38	5·92	84·31	57·08
	1878	56·34	48·12	15·20	8·52	85·40	56·10
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
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	57·53	10·41	4·98	79·00	47·78
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
Total Australasia	1876	61·52	42·66	13·50	7·63	69·35	56·53
	1877	60·97	42·74	13·20	7·34	70·10	55·61
	1878	61·67	43·98	14·89	8·66	71·32	58·15

* Not including civil cases.

644. Judging from the number of offences for which apprehensions were made or summonses issued during the three 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, Queensland would appear to be the colony in which the population is the least criminal of any in the group, and next to Queensland, Victoria, which is closely followed by New Zealand. The following is the order of the various colonies in this respect in 1878, the colony with the lowest proportion of persons apprehended or summoned on criminal charges being placed first, and that with the highest last:—

Order of colonies in respect to apprehensions, &c.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO NUMBERS APPREHENDED OR SUMMONED IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1878.

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

645. As regards the persons summarily convicted, in proportion to population, a similar order prevails, except that New South Wales and Tasmania change places. The three colonies which at one time received convicts are again at the bottom of the list. The following is the order in which the colonies stand in this particular, the colony with the lowest 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 NUMBERS SUMMARILY CONVICTED IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1878.

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

646. 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 but small. New South Wales and Western Australia are still at the bottom of the list, and Queensland sinks to the place just above them, but Tasmania occupies a position inferior only to Victoria and New Zealand.

Order of colonies in respect to commitments for trial.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO NUMBERS COMMITTED FOR TRIAL IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1878.

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

Order of colonies in respect to convictions in superior courts.

647. In respect to convictions in superior courts, Tasmania had in proportion to population the smallest number in 1878, Victoria stood second, and New Zealand third. The positions of the other colonies are the same as in the preceding list.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO CONVICTIONS IN SUPERIOR COURTS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1878.

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

Order of colonies in respect to summary convictions obtained.

648. Punishment for minor offences does not, it would appear, follow their commission with such certainty in Victoria as in most of the other colonies, since the number of summary convictions obtained in proportion to the apprehensions is lower in this colony than in any of the others except Queensland. 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 greatest being placed first, and that in which it is least last:—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO PROPORTION OF SUMMARY CONVICTIONS TO ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES, 1878.

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

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

649. In regard to convictions for offences of sufficient gravity to be tried in superior courts, Victoria occupies a high position, being second only to New Zealand. This will be seen by the subjoined list, in which the colonies are placed in order, the one in which the convictions bear the highest proportion to commitments being first:—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO PROPORTION OF CONVICTIONS IN SUPERIOR COURTS TO COMMITMENTS FOR TRIAL, 1878.

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

Incomplete returns in some colonies.

650. 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 New South Wales and 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 only entered when an arrest takes place.

651. The following table shows the offences for which apprehensions were made or summonses issued in the various colonies during the three years 1876 to 1878, so far as the information can be gathered from their respective *Statistical Registers*. It will be observed that, notwithstanding the smaller population, arrests for offences against the person, for offences against property, and for drunkenness, were in all the years much more numerous in New South Wales than in Victoria:—

Arrests, &c., for various offences in Australasian colonies.

APPREHENSIONS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES IN THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1876, 1877, AND 1878.

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.	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
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
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
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
Western Australia	1876	515			537			6,457	
	1877	470			493			5,892	
	1878	619			515			4,992	
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
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

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

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

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH
AUSTRALASIAN COLONY, 1876, 1877, AND 1878.

Colony.	Year.	Arrests or Summonses per 1,000 of the Population for—			
		Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.
Victoria ...	1876	5·06	5·14	13·99	26·73
	1877	5·19	5·31	14·65	28·79
	1878	5·23	5·33	13·61	27·31
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
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
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
Western Australia ...	1876	19·06	19·88	239·01	
	1877	17·04	17·87	213·63	
	1878	22·13	18·39	178·27	
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
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

Order of colonies as to offences against the person.

653. 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 last year more than three times, and in the latter nearly twice as numerous as in Victoria. In South Australia and in New Zealand, however, the proportion of arrests for these offences was in all the years smaller than it was in Victoria. The following is the order of the colonies in this respect during 1878, the colony in which the proportion was smallest being placed first and that in which it was largest last:—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO ARRESTS OR SUMMONSES FOR
OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON, 1878.

1. South Australia.
2. New Zealand.
3. Victoria.
4. Queensland.

5. Tasmania.
6. New South Wales.
7. Western Australia.

654. Exactly the same order prevailed in regard to arrests for offences against property. In Western Australia, arrests for these offences were in 1878 more than three times, in New South Wales nearly twice, and in Tasmania more than one and a half times as numerous in proportion to population as they were in Victoria.

Order of colonies as to offences against property.

655. 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 having been in 1878 proportionately more than twice as numerous as they were in Tasmania, and nearly twice as numerous as in Victoria. In 1878, Tasmania was the colony in which apprehensions for drunkenness were relatively the fewest, but the proportion differed only slightly from that in Victoria. In South Australia a remarkable increase took place in the arrests for drunkenness, the proportion in 1877 being lower than in any other colony, whereas in 1878 it was higher there than in any colony except New South Wales. In the following list the colony in which the smallest number of inebriates was brought before magistrates is placed first and that in which the number was largest last :—

Order of colonies as to drunkenness.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO APPREHENSIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1878.

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

656. "Other offences," which embrace breaches of corporation bye-laws, Wines and Spirits Statute, &c., are rather violations of good order than actual crimes, and are consequently generally dealt with by summons. In 1878 they were relatively to population least numerous in Queensland, and were slightly less numerous in New Zealand than in Victoria, where they were fewer than in New South Wales, South Australia, or Tasmania. In Western Australia drunkenness is included with these, and therefore 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 possessing the greatest immunity from them being placed first and that in which they are most prevalent last :—

Order of colonies as to "other offences."

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO ARRESTS OR SUMMONSES FOR "OTHER OFFENCES," 1878.

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

657. A statement of the total number of prisoners from the United Kingdom who were landed in Australasia until transportation was

Convicts landed in Australasia, 1787 to 1863.

finally abandoned in 1868 was kindly handed to me by the late Mr. Gideon Lang, who had taken considerable pains to procure the information from the Governments of the colonies to which the convicts were sent and other official sources. The following is the statement referred to. It was published for the first time in the *Victorian Year-Book* 1877-8, but as the particulars are interesting, I make no apology for reprinting them :—

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CONVICTS LANDED IN AUSTRALASIA,
1787 TO 1868.**

Colony.	Period.	Number of Convicts Landed.		
		Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales ...	1787 to 1839	51,082	8,706	59,788
Van Diemen's Land ...	1803 to 1853	56,042	11,613	67,655
Western Australia ...	1853 to 1868	9,718	...	9,718
Total ...	...	116,842	20,319	137,161

Crime in
United
Kingdom.

658. 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 three years ended with 1878 :—

CRIME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1876 TO 1878.

Country.	Population.	Commitments for Trial.	Convictions.	Proportion of—			
				Commitments to Population.	Convictions to Population.	Convictions to Commitments.	
				per 10,000.	per 10,000.	per cent.	
England and Wales	1876	24,244,010	16,078	12,195	6·63	5·03	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
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
Ireland ...	1876	5,321,618	4,146	2,343	7·79	4·40	56·54
	1877	5,338,906	3,870	2,300	7·25	4·31	59·49
	1878	5,351,060	4,182	2,292	7·82	4·28	54·81
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	23,476	17,038	6·95	5·04	72·57

659. Taking the mean of the three 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 slightly less than in Victoria, but considerably less than in any of the other Australasian colonies, and the same holds good for all the divisions of the United Kingdom, except that the proportion in Victoria is about equal to that in Scotland and Ireland. Convictions after commitment are to population generally fewer in Victoria and Tasmania than in the United Kingdom or any of its divisions except Ireland, but in all the other colonies the proportion is higher than in the United Kingdom or any of its divisions.

Crime in
United
Kingdom
and
Australasia
compared.

660. The proportion of convictions obtained after commitment is, according to the figures, greater in England and Scotland than in any of the Australasian colonies, but the proportion in Ireland is exceeded in Victoria and New Zealand.

Convictions
in United
Kingdom
and
Australasia
compared.

661. The number of criminal cases tried in the Central Criminal Court, Melbourne, and in the Courts of Assize throughout the colony, in 1879, was 293, of which 223 were for felonies, and 70 for misdemeanors. The convictions for felonies numbered 167, and for misdemeanors 41. The number of places where courts were held was 11, the number of courts held was 33, and the total duration of courts was 95 days.

Supreme
Court

Criminal
Sessions.

662. Courts were held at the same number of places to try civil cases. The number of causes entered for trial during the year was 224, and for assessment of damages, 4. The number of causes tried was 164, of which 156 were tried by juries of four or six, and 8 by juries of twelve. All the latter, and all but 6 of the former, were defended. The damages laid in the declarations amounted in the aggregate to £229,910. Verdicts were returned in 155 instances; and there were 5 nonsuits. Of the verdicts, 124, or about 80 per cent., were for the plaintiff. The aggregate amount awarded by the juries was £72,622, or 31 per cent. of the damages laid. In the ten years ended with 1878 the damages sued for in these or similar courts amounted to £1,889,136, and the sums awarded by juries to £387,590, or to about 25 per cent. of the damages sued for.

Supreme
Court civil
sittings.

663. 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 1879 numbered 29, and the number of courts held, 92, extending over periods amounting in the aggregate to 96 days. The number of cases tried was 247, in 155 of which, or 63 per cent., convictions were obtained. The number of appeals heard was 89. In the ten years prior

Courts of
General
Sessions.

to 1879, 3,057 cases were tried in Courts of General Sessions, and 2,022 convictions were obtained; the latter thus were to the former in the proportion of 66 per cent.

County
Courts.

664. County Courts have jurisdiction in civil cases up to £250. The number of places at which they were held in 1879 was 61, and the number of courts held was 205, extending over 418 days. The total number of causes tried was 10,553, the amount sued for was £217,183, and the amount recovered, £98,474, or 45 per cent. of the amount sued for. The costs awarded to the plaintiff amounted to £13,062, and the costs awarded to the defendant to £3,598. During the ten years prior to the year under review the aggregate amount sued for in County Courts was £2,541,722, and the aggregate amount awarded was £897,665, or 35 per cent. of the amount sued for.

Courts of
Mines.

665. 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 1879 numbered 24, and the courts held numbered 83, occupying 38 days. The total number of suits was 25, and the aggregate amount or value of demand, £1,688. The amount of costs awarded to the plaintiff was £43, and to the defendant, £63. 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 wardens of the goldfields. In the ten years prior to 1879 the value sued for in Courts of Mines amounted in the aggregate to £501,024. The business has fallen off very considerably in the last four years.

Courts of
Petty Ses-
sions, civil
cases.

666. 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 208 places during the year. The civil cases heard numbered 23,950, in which the total amount of debts or damages claimed was £106,224, and the total amount awarded was £63,970, or 60 per cent. of the amount claimed. In the ten years ended with 1878 the debts or damages claimed in these courts amounted in all to £1,305,268, and the sums awarded to £762,705, or to 58 per cent. of the amounts claimed.

Debts sued
for and
awarded.

667. The net results of the civil cases tried in 1879 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 1879 and the previous decenniad. It will be noticed that the whole amount at stake was over half a million sterling, and that more than two-fifths was recovered; also that the proportions recovered in 1879 were above the average:—

DEBTS AND DAMAGES CLAIMED AND AWARDED.

Name of Court.	Amount of Debts and Damages, 1879.		Proportion of Debts and Damages recovered.	
	Claimed.	Awarded.	1879.	Average of Previous 10 Years.
	£	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Supreme Court	229,910	72,622	31	25
County Court	217,183	98,474	45	35
Courts of Petty Sessions ..	106,224	63,970	60	58
Total	553,317	235,066	42	36

668. The cases of indictable offences heard at Petty Sessions during 1879 numbered 1,608, which resulted in 628 commitments for trial. Commitments were thus obtained in 39 per cent. of the cases. The offences summarily dealt with numbered 42,328, in 28,181 of which, or 67 per cent., the offender was convicted.

Courts of Petty Sessions, indictable offences.

669. Writs were issued during 1879 in six places. The number of writs issued was 2,790, of which 33 were Queen's writs against both person and property, 46 were subjects' writs against the person alone, and 2,711 were subjects' writs against property alone; the latter were half as numerous again as in 1878 and more numerous than in any year since 1870.

Writs.

670. 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.

671. The total and average number of males and females detained in each of these descriptions of prison during 1879, and the numbers transferred from one institution to another in the same year, will be found in the following table:—

Gaols and prisoners.

GAOLS AND PENAL ESTABLISHMENTS, 1879.

Description of Prison.	Number of Institutions.	Prisoners detained during the Year.						Prisoners transferred from one institution to another during the Year.		
		Total Number.			Average at One Time.					
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Gaols	9	6,672	2,808	9,480	536	312	848	2,781	535	3,316
Police gaols	10	487	65	552	23	...	23	146	16	162
Penal establishments	3	2,035	...	2,035	692	...	692	255	...	255
Total	22	9,194	2,873	12,067	1,251	312	1,563	3,182	551	3,733

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

Proportion of
prisoners to
population.

672. Estimating the mean population of the colony during 1879 as 888,500, consisting of 483,425 males and 405,075 females, and comparing these figures with those in the table showing the average number of prisoners, it follows that 1 person to every 568 persons living was constantly in prison during the year; or, distinguishing the sexes, that, during the same period, 1 male to every 386 males living, and 1 female to every 1,298 females living, were constantly in detention. These figures, and those for the three previous years, are given in the following table. It will be observed that in 1879 the proportion of males constantly in prison was nearly identical with that in 1878, but that the proportion of females in prison was much greater than in that year, also that the proportion of both male and female prisoners during 1879 was much smaller than in either 1876 or 1877:—

PROPORTION OF PRISONERS TO POPULATION, 1876 TO 1879.

Year.	Of the Total Population one Person was constantly in Prison to every—		
	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.
1876	345	1,161	508
1877	373	1,206	544
1878	388	1,427	581
1879	386	1,298	568

Prisoners,
1878 and
1879.

673. The total number of prisoners detained during the whole or any portion of 1879, exclusive of those transferred from one institution to another, was greater by 178, and the average number of prisoners constantly detained during the same year was also greater by 67 than the corresponding numbers in 1878.

Number of
distinct
prisoners.

674. According to figures supplied by the Inspector-General of Penal Establishments and Gaols, the number of individual prisoners detained during some portion of 1879 in the institutions under his control amounted to 7,556, viz., 5,775 males and 1,781 females. If the number of individuals in police gaols, estimated to have amounted to 476—viz., 433 males and 43 females—be added to these, the sum, amounting to 8,032—viz., 6,208 males and 1,824 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.

Proportion of
distinct pri-
soners to
population.

675. Comparing these figures with those showing the estimated mean population, it appears that 1 person to every 111 persons in the colony, or 1 male to every 66 males, and 1 female to every 227 females, passed

some portion of the year in prison. In this estimate no account is taken of persons lodged temporarily in watchhouses, &c., pending examination before magistrates, the prisoners here referred to being only those detained in regular gaols or penal establishments.

676. The following is a classification of the prisoners in confinement at the end of 1879, according to the grounds in respect to which they were detained. It will be noticed that more than half the males, but not quite a fourth of the females, had been convicted of felony :—

Grounds of imprisonment.

GROUNDS FOR DETENTION OF PRISONERS, 1879.

Grounds for Detention.	Gaols.		Police Gaols.		Penal Establishments.	Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	M.	F.	Total.
Felony, tried ...	187	67	2	...	473	662	67	729
" untried ...	24	3	7	...	...	31	3	34
Misdemeanors, tried ...	96	49	6	2	137	239	51	290
" untried ...	17	1	2	1	...	19	2	21
Other offences, tried ...	148	163	2	2	58	208	165	373
" untried ...	13	6	...	...	...	13	6	19
Total ...	485	289	19	5	668	1,172	294	1,466

677. The cases of sickness in the year, which numbered 1,268, were in the proportion of 1 to every 6 individual prisoners; but if the calculation be made upon the average number of prisoners detained, the proportion will be about one case of sickness to each prisoner.

Sickness in prisons.

678. Twenty-eight deaths in prison occurred in 1878, and 36 in 1879. These deaths were in the proportion of 1 to every 289 in the former year, and 1 to every 223 in the latter year, of the estimated individual prisoners; and in the proportion of 1 to every 53 in the former year, and 1 to every 43 in the latter year, of the average number of prisoners detained.

Deaths in prisons.

679. Ten prisoners absconded in 1878, viz., 1 from the Ararat, 1 from the Ballarat, and 4 from the Maryborough gaol, 3 from the penal establishment at Sandridge, and 1 from a police gaol. Twelve prisoners absconded in 1879, viz., 3 from the Maryborough gaol, 4 from the penal establishment at Sandridge, and 5 from that at Williamstown.

Prisoners absconding.

680. An abstract of the estimated numbers of the 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, 1879.

Ages.	Estimated Mean Population.*	Average Number of Prisoners constantly detained.	Prisoners per 10,000 of the Population.
Under 20 years	458,815	240	5·23
20 to 30 „	124,481	445	35·75
30 to 40 „	102,008	313	30·68
40 to 50 „	105,284	292	27·73
50 to 60 „	63,360	178	28·09
60 years and upwards ...	34,552	95	27·49
Total	888,500	1,563	17·59

Proportion of prisoners at various ages.

681. It appears from this table that, in 1879, the proportion of prisoners constantly detained to the population was greatest between the ages of 20 and 30, and gradually diminished up to 60 years. Of persons of both sexes over 20 years of age living in Victoria, 1 to every 325, of those between 20 and 40, 1 to every 299, and of those over 40, 1 to every 360, were constantly in prison throughout the year.

Birthplaces and religions of prisoners.

682. 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 in the mean population of the year, are compared in the following table:—

BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS OF PRISONERS, 1879.

Native Country and Religion.	Estimated Mean Population.†	Average Number of Prisoners constantly detained.	Prisoners per 10,000 of the Population.
NATIVE COUNTRY.			
Australian colonies... ..	529,811	471	8·89
England and Wales	165,391	445	26·90
Scotland	54,270	108	19·90
Ireland	96,563	419	43·39
China	17,725	27	15·23
Other countries	24,740	93	37·59
Total	888,500	1,563	17·59
RELIGION.			
Protestants	642,255	882	13·73
Roman Catholics	211,820	643	30·36
Jews	4,429	5	11·29
Pagans	21,794	28	12·85
Others	8,202	5	6·10

* See paragraph 53 ante.

† See paragraph 54 ante.

683. It will be observed that, in view of their respective numbers in the population, natives of the Australian colonies contributed much less, and natives of China slightly less, than their share to the number of inmates of prisons, but that natives of Scotland contributed slightly more, natives of England and Wales 53 per cent. more, and natives of Ireland 147 per cent. more, than their share to that number. Also that of the religious denominations shown, Protestants, Jews, and Pagans contributed less than their share, but Roman Catholics 73 per cent. more than their share, to the number of such inmates. It must be borne in mind, however, that these calculations are made on the assumption that the numbers estimated for the various religions and birthplaces in the population, which have for the most part been based on census proportions, are correct, which cannot at present be verified.

Relative numbers of each country and sect.

684. The following cases of punishment for offences committed within the prison took place in 1879. It will be observed that hard labor was prescribed in 44 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, 1879.

Nature of Punishment.	Gaols.			Penal Establishments.	Total.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	M.	F.	Total.
Hard labor ...	5	15	20	24	29	15	44
Solitary confinement ...	294	195	489	554	848	195	1,043
Other punishments ...	39	86	125	713	752	86	838
Total ...	338	296	634	1,291	1,629	296	1,925

685. The punishments for offences within the prison, as detailed in the last table, were in the proportion of 1 to every 4 individual prisoners, 1 punishment of a male to every 4 individual male prisoners, 1 punishment of a female to every 6 individual female prisoners. The total number of punishments exceeded the average number of prisoners by 362; the punishments of males exceeded the average number of male prisoners by 378; the average number of female prisoners exceeded the number of punishments of females by 16.

Proportion of prisoners punished.

686. The number of inmates of reformatories during 1879 was 262, viz., 201 males and 61 females. Of these, 86 were admitted, and 104 left, during the year. Of the latter, 36 were discharged on remission, and 18 on expiration, of sentence; and 50 were sent to employment.

Inmates of reformatories.

687. At the end of 1879 the inmates of reformatories numbered 152, of whom all but 12 were known to be Australians by birth. Of the

Birthplaces and religions in reformatories.

remainder, 3 were natives of England and Wales, 4 of Ireland, and of 5 the birthplace was unknown. Of the whole number, 91, or about 60 per cent., were Protestants, and the remainder—viz., 61, or about 40 per cent.—were Roman Catholics.

Ages in re-
formatories.

688. One of the inmates of reformatories at the end of 1879 was between 5 and 10 years of age, seven were aged 10, ten aged 11, fourteen aged 12, twenty aged 13, thirty-eight aged 14, forty-six aged 15, and sixteen aged 16 and upwards.

Inquests.

689. The inquests held in 1879 numbered 1,631, as against 1,621 in 1878. In 820 instances the death was found to have resulted from natural causes; in 24 cases, from intemperance; in 732 cases, from violence; in 47 cases, from doubtful causes; and in 8 cases a verdict of "still-born" was returned. Of the deaths set down to violence, the verdict in 567 cases was to the effect that the death had resulted from accident; in 5 from homicide; in 98 from suicide; 1 from execution; and in 61 that the cause of the violent death was doubtful. I pointed out on former occasions that the practice of holding inquests in cases of other than violent deaths was on the increase, which was shown by the increasingly large proportion which verdicts of "death from natural causes" bore to the total number of verdicts given. In 1873, this proportion was 45 per cent.; in 1874, 47 per cent.; in 1875, 52 per cent.; in 1876, 53 per cent.; in 1877, 54 per cent.; in 1878, however, the proportion decreased to 52 per cent., and in 1879 to 50 per 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.

690. Ten fire inquests were held during 1879, 3 in 1878, and 5 in 1877, as against 15 in 1876. Fire inquests are not held now as often as formerly, which is shown by the fact that in the three years ended with 1868 as many as 480 such inquiries were held, but no more than 253 in the succeeding eleven years. This change has occurred, partly because fires have of late years been less numerous than formerly, but chiefly owing to the circumstance that, since the 19th August 1869, at which date the Amending Coroners Statute (33 Vict. No. 338) came into operation, fire inquests have not been held except upon the payment of a fee of £5 5s. by or on behalf of some one applying to have the inquiry made, or in pursuance of authority from the Minister of Justice, which is only given when circumstances appear sufficiently suspicious to warrant action being taken.