

690. The sums deposited with building societies at the end of 1880 amounted in the aggregate to £830,000. They exceeded by 12 per cent. the amounts on deposit at the end of 1879. Deposits with building societies.

691. The following is a statement of the total amount of moneys on deposit at or about the end of each of the four last 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 1876 TO 1880.

Amount deposited with—	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
	£	£	£	£	£
Banks	14,850,148	16,503,528	16,106,581	16,326,165	17,972,703
Savings banks ...	1,507,235	1,575,305	1,510,273	1,520,296	1,661,409
Building societies	611,598	748,253	703,463	742,542	829,941
Total	16,968,981	18,827,086	18,320,317	18,589,003	20,464,053

692. It will be observed that the moneys known to be on deposit about the close of the last year amounted in the aggregate to nearly twenty and a half millions sterling. Moneys on deposit, 1880.

PART VII.—LAW, CRIME, ETC.

693. 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. Transfer of Land Statute.

694. 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. Lands under the Statute.

695. 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 1881 was £66,503, of which £50,000 had been invested in Government Assurance fund.

stock. Three claims upon the fund have been substantiated since its first formation, and £718 0s. 4d. has been paid to claimants.

Transactions under the Land Statute, 1879 and 1880.

696. The following is a statement of the transactions which took place under the Transfer of Land Statute (29 Vict. No. 301) in 1879 and 1880. A decrease will be observed in the applications to bring land under the Statute, which were fewer by 97 in the latter year than the former. The extent of land included in applications, however, increased by 21,027 acres, and the value of such land by £213,851. Most of the other items show slight decrease :—

TRANSFER OF LAND STATUTE, 1879 AND 1880.

			1879.	1880.
Applications to bring land under the Act	... number		962	865
Extent of land included	... acres		29,737	50,764
Value of land included	... £		804,299	1,018,150
Certificates of title issued	... number		10,118	10,066
Transfers, mortgages, leases, releases, surrenders, &c.	..		18,008	18,015
Registering proprietors	... ..		99	311
Other transactions*	... ..		20,477	20,383
Forms sold	... ..		295	226
Fees received	... ..		26,855	26,579

Proportion of land under the Statute.

697. The total quantity of land under the Transfer of Land Statute at the end of 1880 was 8,026,354 acres, the declared value of which, at the time it was placed under the Act, was £20,473,905. The land granted and sold up to the end of 1880 was 12,152,527 acres. It therefore follows that at that period two-thirds of the alienated land in the colony was subject to the provisions of this Statute.

Transactions in Equity.

698. The transactions in Equity during 1879 and 1880 were as follow. The business was generally lighter in 1880 than in the previous year :—

TRANSACTIONS IN EQUITY, 1879 AND 1880.

		1879.	1880.
Suits by bill	... number	91	63
Petitions filed	..	12	8
Commissions issued	..	7	8
Decrees issued	..	48	35
Orders issued	..	124	127
Reports issued	..	56	33
Writs of injunction issued	..	7	3
Conveyances settled by Master	..	—	1
Leases settled by Master	..	—	2
Recognizances entered into	..	—	1
Rolls filed	..	43	31

Probates and letters of administration.

699. There was an increase in the number of probates issued in 1880, as compared with 1879, but a considerable decrease in the letters of administration, and in the value of property bequeathed. The

* Not including copies of documents supplied.

average value of each estate in 1879 was £1,925, and in 1880, £1,530:—

PROBATES AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, 1879 AND 1880.

Year.	Probates.		Letters of Administration.*		Both.	
	Number.	Property sworn under—	Number.	Property sworn under—	Number.	Property sworn under—
1879 ...	717	£ 2,130,313	668	£ 536,120	1,385	£ 2,666,433
1880 ...	744	1,476,035	491	414,065	1,235	1,890,100
Increase	27	...	...	...	...	...
Decrease	...	654,278	177	122,055	150	776,333

700. During the sixteen years ended with 1880 the value of the property respecting which probates and letters of administration were issued amounted to nearly twenty-eight and a half millions sterling (£28,462,169). Value of property bequeathed.

701. 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 ”

702. The amounts realized by the State from duties on estates of deceased persons have not varied much in the last three years, but before that period they fluctuated greatly. During the ten years ended with 1880 they were as follow:— Amount of probate, &c., duties.

DUTIES ON ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS, 1871 TO 1880.

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	1880	...	48,697

* 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.

703. The following business was done under the head of Divorce and Matrimonial Causes in 1879 and 1880. A large increase will be observed in the petitions and decrees for dissolution of marriage in the latter year, but a decrease in the petitions for judicial separation :—

DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL, 1879 AND 1880.

				1879.		1880.
Petitions for dissolution of marriage	...	...	number	10	...	16
" judicial separation	...	...	"	14	...	6
" alimony	...	...	"	9	...	7
Decrees dismissing petitions	...	...	"	1	...	—
" for dissolution of marriage	...	...	"	3	...	11
" for judicial separation	...	...	"	1	...	—
" for alimony	...	...	"	4	...	5

Divorces in
eighteen
years.

704. 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, 134 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 35 decrees for judicial separation have been made.

Divorces in
Victoria and
England.

705. 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 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.

706. The fees in Equity amounted in the aggregate to £1,063 in 1879, and to £802 in 1880; those on Probates amounted to £1,104 in 1879, and to £1,050 in 1880; those in Divorce amounted to £100 in 1879, and to £111 in 1880.

Collections
in Lunacy.

707. The moneys collected in the department of the Master-in-Lunacy increased from £10,505 in 1879 to £12,286 in 1880.

Insolvencies.

708. In the thirteen years ended with 1880, over ten thousand insolvencies took place in Victoria, with liabilities amounting to 8½ millions sterling, as against which assets were declared amounting to about 4½ 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 1880.

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
Total	10,316	8,280,182	4,263,863	4,016,319

709. The financial and commercial depression which existed during 1879, is shown by the unusual number of failures in that year. It is gratifying, however, to note a great improvement in 1880, when the insolvencies were fewer than in any of the previous years, except 1871, 1873, 1876, and 1877; and the liabilities were less than in every other year except 1870, 1871, 1873, and 1877. The deficiency shown, moreover, although not so small as in 1873 and 1877, was about equal to that in 1871, and less than in any other year.

710. 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 57 per cent. of the latter, 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 thirteen years, the declared assets were in the proportion of about 51 per cent. to the declared liabilities.

711. The intestate estates respecting which administration was granted to the Curator in 1879 numbered 219; those in 1880 numbered 204. The estimated value of such estates amounted to £46,227 in the former, and to £28,350 in the latter year.* The sums received by the Curator on these estates and on others remaining from former years were £43,414 in 1879, and £50,473 in 1880. In the eleven years ended with 1880 the number of intestate estates dealt with was 2,395,

* These numbers and values are included in those given in the table following paragraph 699 *ante*.

and their estimated value £415,511. The amount received by the Curator in respect to these estates during the eleven years was £408,786.

712. The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during 1879 and 1880 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 third head, but a decrease under the other two heads; the total number of offences being nearly 4 per cent. less in 1880 than in 1879:—

OFFENCES, 1879 AND 1880.

Offences in respect to which—	1879.	1880.	Increase.	Decrease.
1. Persons were brought before magistrates on summons	19,311	17,795	...	1,516
2. „ „ apprehended by the police	24,625	23,983	...	642
3. The offenders were still at large † ...	4,630	4,898	268	...
Total	48,566	46,676	...	1,890‡

713. Nearly two-fifths of the total number of offences in 1879 and 1880 consisted of those in respect to which persons were brought before magistrates on summons but were 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 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 1879 and 1880:—

* 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.

‡ Net figures.

Offences reported.

Summons cases.

OFFENCES DEALT WITH BY SUMMONS,* 1879 AND 1880.

	1879.	1880.	Increase.	Decrease.
Offences against the person	2,298	2,409	111	...
" " property	703	346	...	357
Other offences	16,310	15,040	...	1,270
Total	19,311	17,795	...	1,516 †
Cases dismissed by magistrates	7,815	6,716	...	1,099
Offender summarily convicted or held to bail	11,496	11,079	...	417

714. 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.

715. The persons § who were taken in charge by the Victorian police in 1880, and in the first year of each of the two previous quinquennials, were as follow:—

Arrests, 1870, 1875, and 1880.

PERSONS § ARRESTED, 1870, 1875, AND 1880. ||

	1870.	1875.	1880.
Taken into custody	23,790	25,247	23,983
Discharged by magistrates... ..	7,204	7,674	7,432
Summarily convicted or held to bail	15,678	16,829	15,871
Committed for trial	908	744	680

716. It will be observed that most arrests were made at the middle period and that they were only slightly more numerous at the last than at the first period. In proportion to the number of persons in the colony, however, arrests at the last period were much less numerous than at either the first or the middle period. The estimated average population in 1870 was 713,195 ; in 1875, 787,337 ; and in 1880, 850,343. The arrests were therefore in the proportion of 1 to every 30 persons living at the first period, of 1 to every 31 persons living at the second period,

Arrests, proportion to population.

* 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 733 to 737 post.

§ 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.

and of 1 to every 35 persons living at the third period. In considering the arrests in connection with the numbers of the population, it should, however, be remembered that persons at an age to commit crime probably bear a much smaller proportion to the inhabitants of the colony than they did formerly. This cannot be known with certainty until the census return of ages has been tabulated.

717. 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, of 70 per cent. at the second, and of 69 per cent. at the third period.

718. 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 26 arrests at the first period, of 1 to every 34 arrests at the middle period, and of 1 to every 35 arrests at the third period.

719. 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, 1870, 1875, AND 1880.

	1870.		1875.		1880.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Taken into custody ...	19,525	4,265	19,967	5,280	18,857	5,126
Discharged by magistrates ...	5,889	1,315	5,936	1,738	5,763	1,669
Summarily convicted or held to bail	12,794	2,884	13,373	3,456	12,469	3,402
Committed for trial ...	842	66	658	86	625	55

720. 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 70 per cent. and 69 per cent. in 1870; of 70 per cent. and 67 per cent. in 1875; and of 69 per cent. and 67½ per cent. in 1880.

721. 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 taken into custody and summarily convicted was greater at the last period than at either of the former periods, but the proportion committed for trial and discharged was much the highest at the middle period; in no instance, however,

* See paragraph 714 ante.

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 82, and at the second of 88, and at the third period of 90 to every 100 males :—

MALES AND FEMALES.—RELATIVE PROPORTIONS ARRESTED, 1870, 1875, AND 1880.

	Number of Females to 100 Males.		
	1870.	1875.	1880.
Taken into custody	21·84	26·44	27·19
Discharged by magistrates	22·33	29·28	28·96
Summarily convicted or held to bail	22·54	25·84	27·28
Committed for trial	7·84	13·07	8·80

722. 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, 1870, 1875, AND 1880.

Offence.	1870.	1875.	1880.
Murder and attempt at murder	44	15	26
Manslaughter	15	16	10
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm	52	43	65
Assaults	1,639	1,710	1,767
Rape and indecent assaults on females	86	38	81
Unnatural offence, and assaults with intent to commit	15	11	16
Other offences against the person	103	119	119
Robbery with violence, burglary, &c.	243	212	245
Horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, &c.	186	220	171
Other offences against property	3,779	3,395	3,534
Forgery and offences against the currency	103	110	56
Drunkenness	10,603	11,541	10,056
Other offences against good order	4,975	5,741	6,111
Offences relating to carrying out laws	564	426	329
Smuggling and other offences against the revenue	82	89	79
Offences against public welfare	1,301	1,561	1,318
Total	23,790	25,247	23,983

723. Arrests for manslaughter, for horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, for forgery, for drunkenness, for offences relating to carrying out laws, and for smuggling, were less numerous at the last period than at either the second or the first. Apprehensions for shooting at or wounding, for assaults, and for miscellaneous offences against good order, were more numerous at the last period than at either of the other periods.

Offences at last period.

Drunken-
ness.

724. Arrests for drunkenness in 1880 were less numerous than in either 1870 or 1875. 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 seven years ended with 1880, these arrests numbered 10,981, 11,541, 11,624, 12,447, 11,825, 10,859, and 10,056. 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 71 living in Victoria.

„ 1875,	„	„	68	„	„
„ 1876,	„	„	69	„	„
„ 1877,	„	„	65	„	„
„ 1878,	„	„	69	„	„
„ 1879,	„	„	77	„	„
„ 1880,	„	„	85	„	„

Age and
education
of arrested
persons.

725. The ages of those taken into custody in 1880, and the degree of instruction possessed by them, are shown in the following table:—

DEGREE OF INSTRUCTION AND AGE OF PERSONS* ARRESTED, 1880.

Ages.	Superior Instruction.	Read and Write well.	Read only, or Read and Write imperfectly.	Unable to Read.	Total.
Under 10 years ...	...	5	77	356	438
10 to 15 „ ...	...	68	528	131	727
15 to 20 „ ...	2	526	1,260	175	1,963
20 to 25 „ ...	15	1,107	2,006	278	3,406
25 to 30 „ ...	27	870	1,390	262	2,549
30 to 40 „ ...	43	1,386	2,836	611	4,876
40 to 50 „ ...	40	1,205	3,170	917	5,332
50 to 60 „ ...	25	552	1,847	532	2,956
60 years and upwards	5	263	1,083	377	1,728
Unknown ...	...	1	1	6	8
Total ...	157	5,983	14,198	3,645	23,983

Education of
children
arrested.

726. 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 1880, according to the table, was 1,165, and of these not one was possessed of superior instruction; only 73, or about a sixteenth, could read and write well; and 487, or 42 per cent.,

* See paragraph 714 *ante*, also table following paragraph 733 *post*.

were unable to read. The number of children under 15 committed for trial was 2, both males, of whom one was able to read and write, and the other to read only.

727. Those over 15 years arrested numbered 22,818, and of these, 6,067, or nearly a fourth (including those possessed of superior instruction), could read and write well, and 3,158, or nearly a seventh, could not read. Those over 15 years of age committed for trial numbered 678, of whom 181, or more than a fourth, could read and write well, or were possessed of superior instruction, and 89, or about 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 somewhat better educated than the other arrested persons. Whether those arrested, committed for trial, or otherwise dealt with, were on the average as well educated as the general population, cannot be ascertained until the census returns are compiled.

Education of adults.

728. The following table shows the birthplaces and religions of the persons taken into custody and of those committed for trial in 1880. The proportions to the population are not given, as, until the census returns are compiled, any estimates which might be made of the total numbers of each nationality and sect would probably be wide of the mark :—

Birthplaces and religions of criminals.

BIRTHPLACES AND RELIGIONS OF PERSONS * ARRESTED AND COMMITTED FOR TRIAL, 1880.

Birthplace and Religion.	Persons Arrested.	Persons Committed for Trial.
BIRTHPLACE.		
Victoria (not Aborigines)	5,688	211
Other Australasian colonies (not Aborigines)	1,109	47
Australian Aborigines	44	1
England and Wales	6,188	181
Scotland	2,008	28
Ireland	7,359	132
Other British possessions	71	2
China	236	18
Other countries	1,280	60
Total	23,983	680
RELIGION.		
Protestants	13,085	423
Roman Catholics	10,383	233
Jews	81	9
Pagans	235	15
Others	199	...

* See paragraph 714 ante, also table following paragraph 733 post.

Religions of
persons con-
victed and
sentenced.

729. 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 during 1880, together with the percentage of convictions obtained—that in that year a larger proportion of Roman Catholics were unjustly committed than of Protestants, that more of the latter were unjustly committed than Jews, but that Pagans were the most wrongly accused of all. It may however be remarked that in the previous year, the proportion of convictions obtained was much less in the case of Protestants than of Roman Catholics :—

RELIGIONS OF PERSONS CONVICTED AND SENTENCED, 1880.

Religions.	Committed for Trial, 1880.	Convicted and Sentenced.	
		Total Number.	Percentage of Committals.
Protestants	379	235	62·01
Roman Catholics	203	121	59·61
Jews	9	6	66·66
Pagans	11	5	45·45
Total	602*	367	60·96

Causes of
arrest and
religions,
1880.

730. The following table shows the religions of the persons taken into custody in connection with their offences. It will be observed that 16 Protestants and 9 Roman Catholics were arrested for murder and attempts at murder; 33 Protestants, 36 Roman Catholics, and 6 Pagans were arrested for manslaughter, shooting, or serious wounding; 59 Protestants and 36 Roman Catholics, were arrested for sexual offences against females or males. About 5,500 Protestants, 4,400 Roman Catholics, 13 Jews, and 13 Pagans, were arrested for drunkenness. No Jew was arrested during the year for murder, manslaughter, seriously wounding, or a sexual offence. It will also be noticed that 19,700 out of the 24,000 arrests, or 82 per cent., were for drunkenness and other offences against good order, and for minor offences against property :—

* Exclusive of 78 who were awaiting trial at the end of the year.

CAUSES OF ARREST, AND RELIGIONS, 1880.

Offences.	Religions.					Total.
	Protestants.	Roman Catholics.	Jews.	Pagans.	Others.	
Murder and attempts at murder	16	9	...	1	...	26
Manslaughter	3	7	...	...	...	10
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm	30	29	...	6	...	65
Assaults	882	840	4	23	18	1,767
Rape and indecent assaults on females	50	29	...	...	2	81
Unnatural offence, and assault with intent to commit	9	7	...	...	...	16
Other offences against the person	80	36	1	1	1	119
Robbery with violence, burglary, &c.	141	98	1	5	...	245
Horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, &c.	109	61	...	...	1	171
Other offences against property	1,995	1,397	38	74	30	3,534
Forgery and offences against the currency	42	14	...	...	...	56
Drunkenness	5,495	4,448	13	13	87	10,056
Other offences against good order	3,177	2,802	17	77	38	6,111
Offences relating to carrying out laws	197	122	3	6	1	329
Smuggling and other offences against the revenue	42	25	2	10	...	79
Offences against public welfare	817	459	2	19	21	1,318
Total	13,085	10,383	81	235	199	23,983

731. Arrests for drunkenness and other offences against good order were in the proportion of 66 per cent. of the total arrests of Protestants, of 70 per cent. of those of Roman Catholics, of 37 per cent. of those of Jews, of 38 per cent. of those of Pagans, and of 63 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 three years. Religions of drunkards.

732. The next table shows the occupations of the males and females taken into custody in 1880. 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 2 males were set down as belonging to the criminal or pauper classes. Of females, more than 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 the few females returned as following regular occupations, more than four-fifths were domestic servants, and the bulk of the remainder were dressmakers, tailoresses, &c.:— Occupations of persons arrested.

OCCUPATIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES ARRESTED, 1880.

Occupations.	Males.	Females.
Local government officers	2	...
Others ministering to government, defence, or protection	11	...
Clergy, church officers, &c.	2	...
Medical men, dentists, druggists, nurses	60	3
Lawyers, law-court officers	22	...
Teachers, governesses, &c.	35	3
Architects, civil engineers, surveyors	29	...
Actors, vocalists, musicians, &c.	26	5
Authors, editors, reporters	14	...
Artists, sculptors	3	...
Photographers	2	...
Merchants, shopkeepers, dealers	640	16
Bank officials	1	...
Accountants, agents, brokers, collectors	96	...
Commercial clerks	384	...
Others assisting in the exchange of money or goods	62	...
Hotel, boarding, eating house—keepers, servants	310	14
Tailors, shoemakers, dressmakers, hatters, barbers, &c.	995	78
Domestic servants	36	573
Artisans, mechanics, contractors, &c.	2,530	7
Miners, &c.	932	1
Squatters, station laborers, herdsmen, and others engaged about animals	349	...
Farmers, gardeners, farm servants	964	3
Carriers, carters, cab, omnibus—owners, drivers, railway officials	562	...
Ships' officers, sailors, boatmen, stevedores, lumpers	1,119	2
Butchers, bakers, greengrocers, millers, brewers, dairy-men, and others dealing in food	572	4
Laborers, woodsplitters, bushmen	7,209	...
Rag and bottle gatherers, shoeblacks, nightmen, lamp-lighters, &c.	145	1
Of independent means	9	...
Criminal and pauper classes	2	1,556*
No occupation, unspecified †	1,734	2,860
Total	18,857	5,126

Arrests of
distinct
individuals.

733. 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

* Prostitutes.

† Including 805 male and 275 female children.

‡ See paragraph 714 *ante*.

and labor as I did not feel justified in again causing to be devoted to 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 1,298 more than those in 1880 :—

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	...	...	...	...

734. 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

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.

be the occasion of as many entries being made in the tables of arrested persons as he had offences laid to his charge.

Sexes of those arrested more than once.

735. 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.

736. 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.

737. 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.

738. The results of summary disposal of cases by magistrates in the year 1880 were as follow :—

SUMMARY DISPOSAL BY MAGISTRATES OF ARRESTED PERSONS,* 1880.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.
Imprisonment for 3 years	1	...
" 2 years	25	...
" 1 year and under 2 years	189	89
" 6 months and under 1 year	307	162
" 5 months	12	...
" 4 months	31	8
" 3 months	797	311
" 2 months and under 3 months	229	42
" 1 month and under 2 months	819	289
" 15 days and under 1 month	15	9
" 8 days and under 15 days	479	198
" 7 days and under	3,433	1,212
Fined	5,152	677
Ordered to find bail	264	61
Sent to lunatic asylum	244	153
Sent to industrial school or reformatory	385	186
Otherwise dealt with	87	5
Total sentenced	12,469	3,402
Discharged	5,763	1,669
Total summarily disposed of	18,232	5,071

* See paragraph 714 ante.

739. Of the persons sentenced by magistrates during 1880, 41 per cent. of the males, and 20 per cent. of the females, were fined ; 31 per cent. of the former, and 42 per cent. of the latter, were imprisoned for various terms under a month, and 18 and 24 per cent., respectively, for periods varying from 1 to 12 months ; not quite 2 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 8 per cent. of the males, and 12 per cent. of the females, were sent to Lunatic Asylums, Industrial and Reformatory Schools, or were otherwise disposed of.

Sentences by magistrates.

740. 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. No one, however, was so sentenced in 1880. In the previous 6 years there was an average of 4 per annum.

Whipping ordered by magistrates.

741. 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, 1870, 1875, AND 1880.

	1870.	1875.	1880.
Number for trial	908	744	742*
Convicted and sentenced...	568	427	398
Acquitted	270	170	208
Not prosecuted	70	59	58
Awaiting trial ... ..	...	88	78

742. Of those committed for trial in 1870, 838 were eventually tried. Of those committed in 1875, 597 were tried during that year. Including 62 remaining for trial from the previous year, 606 were tried in 1880. At the first period 68 per cent., at the second 71 per cent., and at the third period 66 per cent., of the trials resulted in convictions.

Proportion of convictions obtained.

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

Sentences in superior courts.

* Including 62 remaining for trial from the previous year. In 1870 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, 1880.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.
Death	5	2
Hard labor on roads or public works for 15 years	1	...
" " " 10 years and under		
15 years	1	...
" " " 7 years and under		
10 years	5	...
" " " 4 years and under		
7 years	41	...
Imprisonment for 2 years and under 4 years	145	1
" 1 year and under 2 years	96	4
" 6 months and under 1 year	23*	6
" 1 month and under 6 months	38	5
" under 1 month	3	2
Fined	10	...
Remanded under Extradition Act	1	...
To find bail to appear when called upon	9	...
Total tried and convicted	378	20

Length of sentences in superior courts.

744. Of males convicted in superior courts, five 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 sixth were sentenced for periods less than one year. Of the females, 2 were sentenced to death, 5 were sentenced to over one, and 13 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.

745. 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 three of these, for each of whom three whippings were prescribed; one was to receive 20 lashes on each occasion; but the number to be received by the others was not stated. Unnatural offence was the crime of the remaining two offenders, who were sentenced to 3 whippings each; one was to receive 10 and the other 25 lashes on each occasion. 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 fined £10, in addition to imprisonment.

746. 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—all by superior courts. The total number of whippings directed to be administered in the seven years was 126, of which 25 were ordered by magistrates and 101 by superior courts. The number of persons sentenced to be whipped in 1880 was thus the same as in 1875, but less than in any other year of the previous sexenniad. The average number of whippings per individual in the seven years was 2.

Whippings-ordered, 1874-1880.

747. One criminal, a Victorian, claiming to be a member of the Roman Catholic Church, was executed in 1880 for murder. This is the first occasion on which a native of Victoria was executed. Executions have taken place in Victoria in each year since its separation from New South Wales, except 1874 and 1878. In the sixteen years ended with 1880 the total number of executions was 44, all of whom were males. The following table shows their birthplaces, the religions they professed, and the crimes they expiated on the scaffold:—

Executions.

CRIMINALS EXECUTED, 1865 TO 1880.

Birthplace, Religion, and Offence.								Number.
Total number executed								44
Birthplace—Victoria								1
" Other Australian colonies								2
" England								10
" Wales								1
" Ireland								18
" Scotland								2
" Belgium								1
" France								1
" Switzerland								1
" United States of America								1
" West Indies								1
" China								4
" At sea								1
Religion—Church of England								13
" Roman Catholic								23
" Presbyterian								2
" Wesleyan								3
" Pagan								3
Offence—Murder								39
" Attempt to murder								1
" Rape								3
" Unnatural offence on a child								1

Undetected
crime.

748. The offences in respect to which no person was apprehended numbered 4,898 in 1880, or 268 more than in the previous year. Those against the person increased by 110, and those against property by 172, whilst the other offences fell off by 14. The following are the undetected offences in the last six years. It will be noticed that the total number in 1880 was not so high as in 1877, about equal to the number in 1878, but higher than in the other years:—

UNDETECTED CRIME, 1875 TO 1880.

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

Offender
perhaps
arrested on
other
grounds.

749. 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.

750. 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 four years 1876 to 1879, 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 during the same four years, and for Western Australia during 1879, the amount of undetected crime as represented by the number of offences reported, but in respect of which no arrest was made. 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 the case of all the colonies:—

CRIME IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1876 TO 1879.

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
	1879	43,936	28,266	628	397	4,630
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	...
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	...
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
	1879	12,833	10,970	384	196	844
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	459
Tasmania ...	1876	9,207	7,208	96	51	2,841
	1877	7,619	6,092	102	49	1,527
	1878	7,901	6,260	113	54	2,150
	1879	8,709	7,061	110	67	2,338
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	...
Australasia ...	1876	145,814	101,119	3,200	1,809	...
	1877	150,253	105,328	3,253	1,809	...
	1878	157,576	112,396	3,804	2,212	...
	1879	157,369	111,828	4,061	2,284	...

751. By this table it would appear that, notwithstanding the smaller population, crime is much more prevalent in New South Wales than in

Large amount of crime in New South Wales.

* 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, and 863 during 1879; and in the latter, 320 during 1876, 288 during 1877, 384 during 1878, and 317 during 1879, were admitted to asylums. Probably four-fifths of these were apprehended by the police.

‡ Maoris are included. In 1879, the number of cases in which they were concerned was 613—in 267 of which summary convictions were obtained, in 144 cases the prisoner was discharged, and in 202 cases committed for trial.

§ 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.

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 considerably more than twice as numerous as in Victoria. In 1879 the apprehensions and summonses exceeded those in Victoria by 23 per cent., and the summary convictions by 37 per cent. 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 common with those of three of the other colonies, contain no record of offences in respect to which no arrest has been made. It must also 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.

Proportion of
crime in
each colony.

752. 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 four 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, ETC., 1876 TO 1879.

Name of Colony.		Proportion per 1,000 of—		Proportion per 10,000 of—		Proportion per Cent. of—	
		Apprehensions and Summonses Cases* to Population.	Summary Convictions to Population.	Commitments for Trial to Population.	Convictions after Commitment to Population.	Summary Con- victions to Ap- prehensions and Summonses 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
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
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

* Not including civil cases.

PROPORTION OF ARRESTS, COMMITMENTS, AND CONVICTIONS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES TO POPULATION, ETC., 1876 TO 1879 —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	5·69	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
	1879	50·50	43·17	15·11	7·71	85·48	51·04
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
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
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‡
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
	1879	59·19	42·06	15·28	8·59	71·06	56·24

753. Judging from the number of offences for which apprehensions were made or summonses issued during the four 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, New Zealand, and South Australia, which are closely followed by Victoria. The following is the

Order of colonies in respect to apprehensions, &c.

* Not including civil cases.

† See footnote (§) to preceding table.

‡ This small proportion of convictions is probably owing to the Maoris guilty of disturbances of a political nature having been leniently dealt with.

order of the various colonies in this respect in 1879, 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 REFERENCE TO NUMBERS APPREHENDED OR SUMMONED IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1879.

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

754. As regards the persons summarily convicted, in proportion to population, Queensland again stands first on the list, but New Zealand and South Australia give place to Victoria, which occupies the second position. 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 REFERENCE TO NUMBERS SUMMARILY CONVICTED IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1879.

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

755. 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:—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO NUMBERS COMMITTED FOR TRIAL IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1879.

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

756. In respect to convictions in superior courts, the order varies slightly from the foregoing, Victoria, however, being still at the top of the list. New Zealand and South Australia change places, but the positions of the other colonies remain unaltered:—

Order of colonies in respect to summary convictions.

Order of colonies in respect to commitments for trial.

Order of colonies in respect to convictions in superior courts.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO CONVICTIONS IN SUPERIOR COURTS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1879.

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

757. 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 respect to summary convictions obtained.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO PROPORTION OF SUMMARY CONVICTIONS TO ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES, 1879.

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

758. In regard to convictions for offences of sufficient gravity to be tried in superior courts, Victoria was in 1879 at the top 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 bear the highest proportion to commitments being placed first :—

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

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO PROPORTION OF CONVICTIONS IN SUPERIOR COURTS TO COMMITMENTS FOR TRIAL, 1879.

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

759. 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.

Incomplete returns in some colonies.

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

760. The following table shows the offences for which apprehensions were made or summonses issued in the various colonies during the four years 1876 to 1879, 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:—

APPREHENSIONS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES IN THE
AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1876 TO 1879.

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
	1879	29	60	4,174	203	154	4,160	10,859	24,297
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
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
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	7,150
Western Australia	1876	515			537			6,457	
	1877	470			493			5,892	
	1878	619			515			4,992	
	1879	462			387			5,622	
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
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

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

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

PROPORTION OF VARIOUS OFFENCES TO POPULATION IN EACH AUSTRALASIAN COLONY, 1876 TO 1879.

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
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
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
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
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	
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
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

762. 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 more than 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

Order of colonies as to offences against the person.

it was in Victoria. The following is the order of the colonies in this respect during 1879, 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, 1879.

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

763. In 1879 arrests for offences against property in Western Australia were more than twice, and in New South Wales and Tasmania nearly twice, as numerous in proportion to population as they were in Victoria. In this respect the order of the colonies was as follows, the colony with the smallest proportion of such arrests being placed first, and the rest in succession:—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO ARRESTS OR SUMMONSES FOR OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY, 1879.

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

764. 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 1879 having been proportionately nearly twice as numerous as in Victoria—that being the colony in which apprehensions for drunkenness in that year were relatively the fewest. In South Australia a remarkable increase during the last two years has taken place in the arrests for drunkenness; for whereas the proportion in 1877 was lower than in any other colony, in 1878 and 1879 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 IN REFERENCE TO APPREHENSIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, 1879.

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

765. "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

Order of colonies as to offences against property.

Order of colonies as to drunkenness.

Order of colonies as to "other offences."

summons. In 1879 they were relatively to population least numerous in Queensland, and were slightly less numerous in New Zealand, New South Wales, and South Australia than in Victoria. In Western Australia drunkenness is included with these offences, 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 IN REFERENCE TO ARRESTS OR SUMMONSES FOR
 “OTHER OFFENCES,” 1879.

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

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

Convicts
landed in
Australasia,
1787 to 1868.

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

767. 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 four years ended with 1879 :—

Crime in
United
Kingdom.

* Now called Tasmania.

CRIME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1876 TO 1879.

Country.	Estimated Population.	Commitments for Trial.	Con- victions.	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
	1879	25,165,336	16,388	12,525	6·51	4·98	76·43
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	2,699	2,090	7·44	5·76	77·44
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
	1879	5,362,337	4,363	2,207	8·14	4·12	50·58
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
	1879	34,155,126	23,450	16,822	6·87	4·93	71·74

Crime in
United
Kingdom
and
Australasia
compared.

768. Taking the mean of the four 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 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 relatively to population generally about as numerous in Victoria as in the United Kingdom, less numerous than in Scotland, and more so than in Ireland, but in all the other colonies the proportion is higher than in the United Kingdom or any of its divisions.

Convictions
in United
Kingdom
and
Australasia
compared.

769. 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 was in 1879 exceeded in Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, and Tasmania.

Supreme
Court
Criminal
Sessions.

770. The number of criminal cases tried in the Central Criminal Court, Melbourne, and in the Courts of Assize throughout the colony, in 1880, was 341, of which 243 were for felonies, and 98 for misdemeanors. The convictions for felonies numbered 162, and for misdemeanors 67. The number of places where courts were held was 11,

the number of courts held was 33, and the total duration of courts was 106 days.

771. Courts were held at the same number of places to try civil cases. The number of causes entered for trial during the year was 221. The number of causes tried was 161, of which 147 were tried by juries of six, and 14 by juries of twelve. All these were defended. The damages laid in the declarations amounted in the aggregate to £185,131. Verdicts were returned in every instance. Of the verdicts, 133, or about 83 per cent., were for the plaintiff. The aggregate amount awarded by the juries was £47,401, or 26 per cent. of the damages laid. In the ten years ended with 1879 the damages sued for in these or similar courts amounted to £1,898,997, and the sums awarded by juries to £426,695, or to about 22 per cent. of the damages sued for.

Supreme
Court civil
sittings.

772. 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 1880 numbered 31, and the number of courts held, 95, extending over periods amounting in the aggregate to 94 days. The number of cases tried was 226, in 158 of which, or 70 per cent., convictions were obtained. The number of appeals heard was 38. In the ten years prior to 1880, 2,934 cases were tried in Courts of General Sessions, and 1,944 convictions were obtained; thus the latter were to the former in the proportion of 66 per cent.

Courts of
General
Sessions.

773. County Courts have jurisdiction in civil cases up to £250. The number of places at which they were held in 1880 was 65, and the number of courts held was 207, extending over 435 days. The total number of causes tried was 9,498, the amount sued for was £215,929, and the amount recovered, £99,338, or 46 per cent. of the amount sued for. The costs awarded to the plaintiff amounted to £13,765, and the costs awarded to the defendant to £3,956. During the ten years prior to the year under review the aggregate amount sued for in County Courts was £2,541,696, and the aggregate amount awarded was £919,950, or 36 per cent. of the amount sued for.

County
Courts.

774. 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 1880 numbered 22, and the courts held numbered 68, occupying 32 days. The total number of suits was 13, and the aggregate amount or value of demand, £559. The amount of costs awarded to the plaintiff was £91, and to the defendant, £235. 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 1880 the value

Courts of
Mines.

sued for in Courts of Mines amounted in the aggregate to £501,024. The business has fallen off very considerably in the last five years.

775. 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 212 places during the year. The civil cases heard numbered 19,983, in which the total amount of debts or damages claimed was £75,684, and the total amount awarded was £50,764, or 67 per cent. of the amount claimed. In the ten years ended with 1879 the debts or damages claimed in these courts amounted in all to £1,334,714, and the sums awarded to £798,406, or to 60 per cent. of the amounts claimed.

776. The net results of the civil cases tried in 1880 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 1880 and the previous decenniad. It will be noticed that the whole amount at stake was nearly half a million sterling, and that more than two-fifths was recovered ; also that the proportions recovered in 1880 were above the average :—

DEBTS AND DAMAGES CLAIMED AND AWARDED.

Name of Court.	Amount of Debts and Damages, 1880.		Proportion of Debts and Damages recovered.	
	Claimed.	Awarded.	1880.	Average of Previous 10 Years.
	£	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Supreme Court	185,131	47,401	26	22
County Courts	215,929	99,338	46	36
Courts of Petty Sessions ..	75,684	50,764	67	60
Total	476,744	197,503	41	38

777. The cases of indictable offences heard at Petty Sessions during 1880 numbered 1,570, which resulted in 692 commitments for trial. Commitments were thus obtained in 44 per cent. of the cases. The offences summarily dealt with numbered 40,208, in 26,950 of which, or 67 per cent., the offender was convicted.

778. Writs were issued during 1880 in six places. The number of writs issued was 2,037, of which 35 were Queen's writs against both person and property, 58 were subjects' writs against the person alone, and 1,944 were subjects' writs against property alone; the latter were much less numerous than in 1879, but more numerous than in any other year since 1870.

779. Places for the reception of prisoners in Victoria are of three kinds: ordinary gaols, police gaols, and penal establishments. The

Courts of Petty Sessions, civil cases.

Debts sued for and awarded.

Courts of Petty Sessions, indictable offences.

Writs.

Gaols and penal establishments.

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.

780. The total and average number of males and females detained in each of these descriptions of prison during 1880, and the numbers transferred from one institution to another in the same year, will be found in the following table :—

GAOLS AND PENAL ESTABLISHMENTS, 1880.

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.	Tot l.	M.	F.	Total.			
Gaols ...	9	6,639	2,737	9,376	585	285	870	2,332	605	2,937
Police gaols ...	12	547	71	618	20	...	20	171	30	201
Penal establishments	2	1,438	56	1,494	677	32	709	135	28	163
Total ...	23	8,624	2,864	11,488	1,282	317	1,599	2,638	663	3,301

Gaols and prisoners.

Proportion of prisoners to population.

781. Estimating the mean population of the colony during 1880 as 850,343, consisting of 446,445 males and 403,898 females, and comparing these figures with those in the table showing the average number of prisoners, it follows that 1 person to every 532 persons living was constantly in prison during the year ; or, distinguishing the sexes, that, during the same period, 1 male to every 348 males living, and 1 female to every 1,274 females living, were constantly in detention. These figures, and those for the four previous years, are given in the following table. It will be observed that the proportion of males constantly in prison has been tolerably uniform throughout the quinquenniad, but the proportion of females in prison has fluctuated considerably, it having been lowest in the first two years of the period, next lowest in the last two years, and highest in the middle year :—

PROPORTION OF PRISONERS TO POPULATION, 1876 TO 1880.

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

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

Prisoners,
1879 and
1880.

782. The total number of prisoners detained during the whole or any portion of 1880, exclusive of those transferred from one institution to another, viz., 8,187, was less by 147, but the average number of prisoners constantly detained during the same year was greater by 36 than the corresponding numbers in 1879.

Number of
distinct
prisoners.

783. From the returns supplied by the Penal Department, it is not possible to determine accurately the number of distinct prisoners under detention, as, not only are some imprisoned more than once during a year, but a prisoner, on being transferred from one establishment to another, is reckoned afresh at the institution he enters. The prisoners transferred during 1880 amounted, according to the table, to 3,301, or 2,638 males and 663 females. These are certainly counted twice over, and should be deducted from the whole, which would leave 8,187, or 5,986 males and 2,201 females. Arbitrarily reducing these numbers 10 per cent. for those imprisoned two or more times during the year, the residue would be 7,368, or 5,387 males and 1,981 females, which may possibly express approximately the number of distinct persons incarcerated during the whole or some part of the year.

Proportion of
distinct pri-
soners to
population.

784. Supposing these figures to be correct, and comparing them with those showing the estimated mean population, it would follow that 1 person to every 115 persons in the colony, or 1 male to every 83 males, and 1 female to every 204 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.

Grounds of
imprison-
ment.

785. The following is a classification of the prisoners in confinement at the end of 1880, 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 sixth of the females, had been convicted of felony :—

GROUNDS FOR DETENTION OF PRISONERS AT END OF 1880.

Grounds for Detention.	Gaols.		Police Gaols.		Penal Establishments.	Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	M.	F.	Total.
Felony, tried ...	229	47	2	...	518	749	47	796
„ untried ...	28	7	4	...	...	32	7	39
Misdemeanors, tried ...	126	32	10	1	123	259	33	292
„ untried ...	21	...	...	...	...	21	...	21
Other offences, tried ...	220	206	8	1	25	253	207	460
„ untried ...	10	7	1	1	...	11	8	19
Total ...	634	299	25	3	666	1,325	302	1,627

786. The cases of sickness in the year, which numbered 1,122, were in the proportion of 1 to every 7 individual prisoners; but if the calculation be made upon the average number of prisoners detained, the proportion will be less than one case of sickness to each prisoner. Sickness in prisons.

787. Thirty-six deaths in prison occurred in 1879, and 42 in 1880. These deaths were in the proportion of 1 to every 223 in the former year, and 1 to every 175 in the latter year, of the estimated individual prisoners; and in the proportion of 1 to every 43 in the former year, and 1 to every 38 in the latter year, of the average number of prisoners detained. Deaths in prisons.

788. Twelve prisoners, all males, absconded successfully in 1879, viz., 3 from the Maryborough gaol, 4 from the penal establishment at Sandridge, and 5 from that at Williamstown. In 1880, 7 prisoners made good their escape, viz., 1 male from the Geelong, 1 male from the Portland, and 1 female from the Melbourne Gaol, and 4 males from the penal establishment at Pentridge. Prisoners absconding.

789. The following are the numbers at different periods of age who were detained during the year in gaols and penal establishments. The census returns of ages not having been yet compiled, the proportions to the numbers at the same ages in the population are not known:— Ages of prisoners.

AGES OF PRISONERS, 1880.

Ages.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 10 years	50	17	67
10 to 15 „	188	33	221
15 to 20 „	1,045	251	1,296
20 to 30 „	2,638	669	3,307
30 to 40 „	1,502	689	2,191
40 to 50 „	1,438	791	2,229
50 to 60 „	964	311	1,275
60 years and upwards	796	103	899
Unspecified	3	...	3
Total	8,624	2,864	11,488

790. It will be observed that the period between 20 and 30 was the age at which the male prisoners, and that between 40 and 50 was the age at which the female prisoners, were the most numerous; also that 65 per cent. of male prisoners and 75 per cent. of the female prisoners were between 20 and 50 years of age. Most common age of prisoners.

791. The birthplaces of the prisoners were as follow. No comparison with the numbers of the same nationalities in the population can be made at present:— Birthplaces of prisoners.

BIRTHPLACES OF PRISONERS, 1880.

Australasian Colonies ...	4,017	China ...	216
England and Wales ...	2,996	Other countries ...	782
Scotland ...	713		
Ireland ...	2,764		11,488

Religions of prisoners,

792. The following are the religious denominations which the different prisoners claimed to belong to, with the number of adherents of each. These cannot, any more than the birthplaces and ages of the prisoners, in the present state of the census compilation be compared with the numbers in the population :—

RELIGIONS OF PRISONERS, 1880.

Protestants ...	6,346	Others ...	48
Roman Catholics ...	4,820		
Jews ...	56		11,488
Pagans ...	218		

Gaol punishments.

793. The following cases of punishment for offences committed within the prison took place in 1880. It will be observed that hard labor was prescribed in 56 instances. The "other punishments" do not include whipping, as corporal punishment is not administered in Victoria for any breach of prison regulations :—

PUNISHMENTS FOR OFFENCES WITHIN PRISONS, 1880.

Nature of Punishment.	Gaols.		Penal Establishments.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.
Hard labor ...	11	...	45	...	56	...	56
Solitary confinement ...	268	155	459	5	727	160	887
Other punishments ...	45	57	661	9	706	66	772
Total ...	324	212	1,165	14	1,489	226	1,715

Proportion of prisoners punished.

794. 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 116 ; the punishments of males exceeded the average number of male prisoners by 207 ; the average number of female prisoners exceeded the number of punishments of females by 91.

Inmates of reformatories.

795. The number of inmates of reformatories during 1880 was 242, viz., 192 males and 50 females. Of these, 90 were admitted, and 84 left, during the year. Of the latter, 14 were discharged on remission, and 25 on expiration, of sentence ; and 45 were sent to employment.

Birthplaces and religions in reformatories.

796. At the end of 1880 the inmates of reformatories numbered 192, of whom all but 5 were known to be Australians by birth. Of the

remainder, 1 was a native of Ireland, 1 of Scotland, and of 3 the birthplace was unknown. Of the whole number, 110, or about 58 per cent., were Protestants, and the remainder—viz., 82, or about 42 per cent.—were Roman Catholics.

797. One of the inmates of reformatories at the end of 1880 was Ages in reformatories. between 5 and 10 years of age, six were aged 10, twenty aged 11, twenty-five aged 12, twenty-four aged 13, thirty-one aged 14, forty-three aged 15, and forty-two aged 16 and upwards.

798. The inquests held in 1880 numbered 1,489, as against 1,631 in Inquests. 1879. In 778 instances the death was found to have resulted from natural causes; in 13 cases, from intemperance; in 645 cases, from violence; in 45 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 470 cases was to the effect that the death had resulted from accident; in 7 from homicide; in 118 from suicide; 1 from execution; and in 49 that the cause of the violent death was doubtful. I have 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., in 1879 to 50 per cent., but increased again in 1880 to 52 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).

799. Five fire inquests were held during 1880, and 10 in 1879, as Fire inquests. against 3 in 1878 and 5 in 1877. 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 163 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.