

99. The price of gold ranged in the year under review Price of gold. from £3 5s. to £4 2s. 9d. per oz. Its purity, and consequently its value, differs in different districts. It fetched most in the Ballarat district, where the price ranged from £3 16s. 6d. to £4 2s. 9d. per oz., and least in the Gippsland district, where the price ranged from £3 5s. to £3 19s. 6d. per oz.

100. The returns of live stock imported overland have Live stock imported overland. hitherto been most unsatisfactory, as, notwithstanding the registration of imported stock was made compulsory under Act 19 Vict. No. 21, it is known that large quantities of stock have each year been brought into the colony across the Murray, and have not been officially accounted for in any way. Inspectors of live stock were, however, appointed about the end of January in the year under review, and by their agency there is no doubt that more complete returns will be available in future. From the date of the appointment of these officers to the end of 1873 they took cognizance of 13,567 horses, 86,503 head of cattle, 717,305 sheep, and 1,627 pigs which passed over the borders into Victoria. These figures are, in the case of each description of stock, largely in excess of the numbers registered during the whole year under Act No. 21.

101. The weights and measures used in Victoria are in Weights and measures. every respect similar to those in use in the United Kingdom.

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## PART VI.—LAW, CRIME, ETC.

102. This Part commences with tables relating to the Transfer of Land Statute transactions. Transfer of Land Statute. By these it appears that the number of applications to bring land under the Act was 1,076 in 1872, and 1,149 in 1873; that the extent of land included in applications in the same years respectively was 31,595 acres and 32,502 acres, and its value £773,893 and £1,128,534; that the number of certi-

ificates of title issued was 7,318 and 4,643; that the number of transactions was 30,865 and 31,906½, and the number of forms sold was 1,658 and 1,324.

**Fees.** 103. The fees received in the Office of Titles in the year 1872 amounted to £17,600, and in 1873 to £17,262.

**Extent and value of land under the Act.** 104. Up to the end of 1873, the total extent of land under the Act amounted to 4,916,318 acres, valued at £10,486,920. Of this, 285,557 acres, valued at £4,404,076, had been brought under the Act by application, and 4,630,761 acres, valued at £6,082,844, by grant and purchase from the Crown. The total extent alienated in Victoria up to the end of 1873 was 9,401,050 acres; and by the above figures it is seen that more than half of this area was subject to the provisions of the Transfer of Land Statute.

**Transactions in Equity.** 105. The number of transactions in Equity amounted to 507 in 1872, and to 799 in 1873.

**Probates and letters of administration.** 106. The probates issued numbered 392, and the letters of administration 429, in 1872; the property included in the former being sworn under £1,229,579, and that in the latter under £365,199. In 1873, the probates numbered 548, and the letters of administration 547; the property in the former being sworn under £1,114,798, and that in the latter under £452,292.

**Divorce and matrimonial.** 107. Eighteen petitions for dissolution of marriage, 8 for judicial separation, and 9 for alimony, were filed in 1872, as against 17 for dissolution of marriage, 4 for judicial separation, and 5 for alimony, in 1873.

**Equity fees.** 108. The fees collected in the department of the Master-in-Equity in 1872 and 1873 were as follow:—

	1872.	1873.
Duties on estates of deceased persons ...	£37,643	£39,026
Equity ...	1,052	1,217
Ecclesiastical ...	690	893
Divorce ...	98	124
Miscellaneous ...	2	...
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>£39,485</b>	<b>£41,260</b>

109. The moneys collected in the department of the Master-in-Lunacy in the same two years were as follow :— Lunacy.

	1872.	1873.
Collected on behalf of lunatic patients ...	£4,372	£1,120
Percentage paid into Treasury ...	631	718
Paid into Treasury on account of maintenance	3,402	2,822
Fees ...	89	69
Total ...	£8,494	£4,729

110. The number of insolvents was 804 in 1872, and 672 in 1873. In the former year the liabilities amounted to £696,868, and the assets to £222,770, leaving a deficiency of £474,098. In the latter year the liabilities amounted to £330,337, and the assets to £188,351, leaving a deficiency of £141,986. The court fees amounted to £2,495 in 1872, and to £2,842 in 1873. Insolvency.

111. The intestate estates dealt with by the Curator in 1873 numbered 347, of which 236 were fresh estates, and 111 estates remaining from former years. The estimated value of the fresh estates was £31,408. The sums received by the Curator during the year amounted in the aggregate to £31,543, and the sums paid to £17,553 Intes'tacy.

112. The persons taken into custody by the Victorian police in the last two years, and the manner in which they were dealt with, are given in the following table :— Persons taken into custody.

PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE, 1872 AND 1873.

	1872.			1873.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
Taken into custody ...	23,705	19,031	4,674	24,959	19,911	5,048
Discharged by Magistrates	7,473	5,956	1,517	7,262	5,724	1,538
Summarily convicted, or held to bail ...	15,544	12,442	3,102	16,968	13,530	3,438
Committed for trial ...	688	633	55	729	657	72

113. Both in the year under review and the former one four-fifths of the persons taken into custody were males and one-fifth were females. Sexes of persons arrested.

Persons  
arrested,  
how dealt  
with.

114. Of the persons taken into custody in 1872, 31 per cent. were discharged by magistrates, 66 per cent. were summarily convicted or held to bail, and 3 per cent. were committed for trial. Of those taken into custody in 1873, 29 per cent. were discharged by magistrates, 68 per cent. were summarily convicted or held to bail, and 3 per cent. were committed for trial.

Sexes of  
persons  
committed  
for trial.

115. Ninety-two per cent. of those committed for trial in 1872 were males, and 8 per cent. were females. In the year under review, 90 per cent. of those committed for trial were males, and 10 per cent. were females.

Persons  
committed  
for trial,  
how dealt  
with.

116. Of those committed for trial in 1872, 407, or 59 per cent., were convicted and sentenced; 203, or 30 per cent., were acquitted; and 78, or 11 per cent., were not prosecuted. Of those committed for trial in 1873, 476, or 65 per cent., were convicted and sentenced; 201, or 28 per cent., were acquitted; and 52, or 7 per cent., were not prosecuted.

Ages of  
persons  
arrested.

117. In the year under review the persons taken into custody were of the following ages:—461 under 10 years of age; 745 between 10 and 15; 1,695 between 15 and 20; 2,379 between 20 and 25; 3,230 between 25 and 30; 7,023 between 30 and 40; 5,431 between 40 and 50; 2,763 between 50 and 60; and 1,232 upwards of 60.

Degree of  
education of  
persons  
arrested.

118. Of the persons taken into custody, 175, or 7 in 1,000, were possessed of superior instruction; 5,800, or 232 in 1,000, could read and write well; 14,182, or 568 in 1,000, could read only, or could read and write imperfectly; and 4,802, or 193 in 1,000, could not read. When the census was taken, no more than 111 in every 1,000 of the population of 5 years and upwards, and only 90 in 1,000 of those of 15 years and upwards, were unable to read. Persons falling into the hands of the police are therefore evidently worse instructed on the average than the general population.

Birthplaces  
of persons  
arrested.

119. In order to determine the relative criminality of persons of the different nationalities of which the population is composed, I have compared the numbers taken into custody of each nationality with the total numbers

of the same nationality living at the last census, and the result is given in the following table :—

BIRTHPLACES OF PERSONS ARRESTED, AND POPULATION.

Birthplaces.	Numbers taken into Custody, 1873.	Proportions per 1,000 of Population at last Census.
England ... ..	7,514	46
Ireland ... ..	8,472	84
Scotland ... ..	2,470	44
Wales ... ..	286	43
Victoria ... ..	2,916	9
Other British Possessions ...	1,229	38
United States ... ..	313	129
France ... ..	128	109
Germany ... ..	340	37
Spain and Italy ... ..	42	46
China ... ..	843	47
Other countries ... ..	403	52½

120. It will be observed that, relatively to their numbers in the population, more citizens of the United States were arrested in the year under review than persons of any other nationality, and next to them Frenchmen; but the total numbers of both these are small, and it is probable that those who fell into the hands of the police were chiefly disorderly or runaway sailors. After these, the relatively largest numbers taken into custody were of Irish, these being nearly twice as great as those of persons born in either England, Scotland, or Wales. The Chinese arrested were relatively rather more numerous than the English. The Victorians arrested were relatively less numerous than persons of any other nationality, this being no doubt mainly due to the large proportion of children embraced in their numbers, and the same circumstance may partially account for the small relative number of persons of "Other British Possessions," including the other Australian Colonies, arrested. It will be noticed that the Germans arrested were relatively less numerous than even these, or than natives of any other country except Victoria.

Relative numbers of different birthplaces.

Religions of  
persons  
arrested.

121. The relative number of criminals amongst persons of different religions is similarly determined by comparison of the numbers taken into custody with the figures of the population at the last census :—

RELIGIONS OF PERSONS ARRESTED, AND POPULATION.

Religions.	Numbers taken into Custody, 1873.	Proportions per 1,000 of Population at last Census.
Protestants ... ..	14,074	27
Roman Catholics ... ..	9,852	58
Jews ... ..	67	19
Mahometans ... ..	25	200
Pagans ... ..	850	48

Relative  
numbers  
of different  
religions.

122. According to these figures, one-fifth of all the Mahometans in the colony were taken into custody in 1873, but the whole number at the census was only 125, and the 25 arrested were probably Lascar sailors. The Roman Catholics arrested were relatively twice as numerous as the Protestants, three times as numerous as the Jews, and 21 per cent. more numerous than the Pagans.

Sentences  
on persons  
convicted.

123. The following are the sentences passed on the persons tried and convicted in the year under review and the previous one :—

	1872.	1873.
Death ... ..	9	2*
Death recorded ... ..	3	1
10 to 14 years hard labor ... ..	6	16
7 to 10 years           " ... ..	10	18
4 to 7 years           " ... ..	58	61
Under 4 years       " ... ..	} 160 {	61
2 years and upwards imprisonment ... ..		87
1 year to 2 years       " ... ..	75	120
6 months to 12 months       " ... ..	38	44
1 month to 6 months       " ... ..	28	38
Under 1 month       " ... ..	14	17
Detained during pleasure ... ..	3	1
Held to bail ... ..	1	6
Fined ... ..	2	4
Total ... ..	407	476

\* Five men were executed in 1873, three of these must have been arrested in 1872.

124. Subjoined are some of the principal offences for which arrests have been made and the number of arrests for such offences, in 1863, 1868, and the year under review. Although the whole population has much increased since the first-named period, it is doubtful whether much increase has taken place at the ages at which crimes are generally committed\* :—

	1863.	1868.	1873.
Murder and attempt at Murder ...	79	31	25
Manslaughter ...	22	22	20
Attempt to Injure or Maim ...	66	55	59
Rape, attempt at Rape, and Indecent Assault ...	81	72	74
Sodomy and Bestiality ...	18	14	12
Assaults (not with intent to Rob) ...	958	1,226	1,135
Obstructing Constables, Rescuing, &c. ...	168	168	273
Other Offences against the Person ...	59	87	118
Burglary, Housebreaking, &c. ...	127	161	117
Robbery, Assault with intent to commit Robbery, &c. ...	152	108	64
Cattle, Horse, Sheep stealing, Illegally Using, &c. ...	181	183	136
Larceny ...	2,758	2,656	2,211
Arson ...	31	34	26
Wilful Damage to Property ...	734	717	607
Disorderly Characters, Prostitutes ...	539	334	274
Drunkenness ...	9,117	9,743	11,195
Obscene, Threatening Language ...	1,224	1,365	1,238
Riot, Breach of the Peace, &c. ...	397	1,361	204
Vagrancy ...	1,550	1,502	1,146
Other grounds of arrest ...	3,994	4,545	6,025
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>22,255</b>	<b>24,384</b>	<b>24,959</b>

Offences for which persons were arrested.

Supreme Court criminal sessions.

125. The number of criminal cases tried in the Supreme Court in 1872 was 423, viz., 323 for felonies and 100 for misdemeanors. In 1873 the number tried was 326, viz., 230 for felonies and 96 for misdemeanors. The number of convictions in 1872 was 308, viz., 235 for felonies and 73 for misdemeanors. The number in 1873 was 222, viz., 157 for felonies and 65 for misdemeanors.

\* Between the censuses of 1861 and 1871 there was a falling off of the male population between 20 and 35 years of age to the extent of 48,766, and of the female population between 25 and 30 years of age to the extent of 1,394. See Report by the Government Statist on the Census of Victoria, 1871, pp. 12 and 13.—Ferres, Melbourne.

## General Sessions.

126. The number of persons tried for criminal offences in the Courts of General Sessions was 206 in 1872, and 346 in 1873. The number of convictions was 122 in the former year, and 228 in the latter.

## Supreme Court civil sittings.

127. The causes entered in the Supreme Court for assessment of damages and trial numbered 261 in 1872, and 206 in 1873, the amount of damages laid being £180,660 and £172,196. The number of causes tried was 182 in 1872, and 132 in 1873, and the amount awarded by the jury was £23,020 in the former year, and £52,408 in the latter.

## County Courts.

128. County Courts were held at 59 places in 1872 and 60 places in 1873. The number of causes tried in those two years respectively was 10,705 and 11,249; the aggregate amounts sued for were £268,369 and £232,771, and the aggregate amounts recovered were £92,598 and £85,726.

## Courts of Mines.

129. The places at which Courts of Mines were held numbered 33 in 1872 and 31 in 1873. The suits numbered 122 in the former year and 102 in the latter, the aggregate amount or value of demand was £105,746 in the former year and £221,900 in the latter.

## Courts of Petty Sessions.

130. In 1872 and 1873 respectively Courts of Petty Sessions were held at 179 and 184 places. The number of persons brought before them for indictable offences was 2,110 and 1,996, of whom 721 and 795 were committed for trial. The number of persons brought before them for other offences was 41,618 and 41,133, of whom 26,390 and 27,041 were summarily convicted. The number of civil cases heard was 29,850 and 21,147, the aggregate amounts of debts or damages claimed were £176,043 and £107,258, and the aggregate amounts awarded were £97,789 and £65,886.

## Writs.

131. The writs issued in the year under review numbered 1,386; those issued in the preceding year numbered 1,723.

## Executions.

132. Four criminals were executed for murder and one for rape in the year under review. Of these, 1 was a native of England, 1 of New South Wales, 1 of France, 1 of the West Indies, and 1 was born at sea; 1 was a



member of the Church of England, 1 of the Wesleyan Church, and 3 were Roman Catholics. In the ten years prior to the year under review 39 executions took place. In 36 cases the offence was murder, in 2 attempt at murder, and in 1 case sodomy. No native of Victoria was executed during the whole period, and in only one case a female. This was the sole instance of a female being executed since the first settlement of the colony.

133. The following table shows the state of the Gaols and Penal Establishments in Victoria during the year under notice and the previous one :—

Gaols and  
Penal  
Establish-  
ments.

### GAOLS AND PENAL ESTABLISHMENTS, 1872 AND 1873.

#### GAOLS.

Year.	Number of Institutions.	Average Number of Prisoners.			Number of Cases of Sickness.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Punishments for Offences within the Institution.
		Males.	Females.	Total.			
1872 ...	10	642½	234	876½	3,139	24	867
1873 ...	10	624½	238	862½	3,294	21	739

#### PENAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

Year.	Number of Institutions.	Average Number of Prisoners.			Number of Cases of Sickness.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Punishments for Offences within the Institution.
		Males.	Females.	Total.			
1872 ...	3	713	...	713	922	8	1,218
1873 ...	3	706	...	706	770	7	1,123

134. The aggregate number of persons who passed through all the Gaols in the year under review was 9,821, and the number who passed through all the Penal Establishments was 1,518. It is probable, however, that some of these were merely transferred from one establishment to another, and therefore that the actual number of

Ages, birth-  
places,  
religions of  
prisoners.

distinct prisoners was less than this. The ages, religions, and birthplaces of the respective prisoners were recorded at each institution they passed through, with the following results :—

AGES, BIRTHPLACES, AND RELIGIONS OF PRISONERS, 1873.

AGES.

Confined in—	Total Number of Prisoners.	Under 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 55.	55 and upwards.	Unspecified.
Gaols ... ..	9,821	15	383	2,044	2,695	2,444	1,365	871	4
Penal Establishments	1,518	..	1	336	445	361	241	134	...

BIRTHPLACES.

Confined in—	Total Number of Prisoners.	Australian Colonies.	England and Wales.	Ireland.	Scotland.	Other British Possessions.	Foreign Countries other than China.	China.
Gaols ... ..	9,821	1,989	3,246	2,789	824	116	400	457
Penal Establishments	1,518	197	690	252	112	37	134	96

RELIGIONS.

Confined in—	Total Number of Prisoners.	Church of England.	Presbyterians.	Wesleyans.	Independents.	Baptists.	Other Protestants.	Roman Catholics.	Jews.	Pagans.	Other Denominations.	No Religion.	Religion unknown.
Gaols ... ..	9,821	4,007	945	322	25	55	132	3,822	35	453	7	16	2
Penal Establishments	1,518	714	129	157	5	8	17	367	18	95	8	...	...

Reformatories—  
birthplaces  
and reli-  
gions.

135. The returns of birthplaces and religions of children in Reformatories are given in this part of the Statistics. From these it appears that 159 children were inmates of Reformatories at the end of 1873. Of these 144 were natives of the Australian Colonies, 6 of England and Wales, 1 of Ireland, 1 of Scotland, 1 was born at sea, and

of 6 the birthplace was unknown. Seventy-eight, or nearly half the number, were set down as Roman Catholics, 31 as members of the Church of England, 8 as Presbyterians, 4 as Wesleyans, 1 as a Baptist, 36 as other Protestants, and 1 as a Jew.

136. The number of inquests in the year under review Inquests. was 1,566 as against 1,512 in the former year. In 1873, according to the verdicts, 710 of the deaths were from natural causes, 36 from intemperance, 759 from external causes, 55 from unspecified or doubtful causes, and in 6 instances verdicts of still-born were returned. Of the deaths from external causes, 593 were held to have resulted from accident, 7 from homicide, 95 from suicide, 5 from execution, and 59 from doubtful causes.

137. Ten fire inquests were held in the year under review as against 21 in the former year. In five instances, Fire in-quests. out of the 10 which occurred in 1873, the verdict of the jury was that the fire had been occasioned purposely, and in one instance an open verdict was returned.

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## PART VII.—RELIGIOUS, MORAL, AND INTELLECTUAL PROGRESS.

138. The number of buildings of all descriptions used Churches and chapels. for public worship in 1873 was 2,284. Of these 1,464 were regular churches or chapels, and 820 were school-houses or other public or private buildings. The approximate number of services held during the year was 182,528; the number of persons the buildings were calculated to hold was 368,890; and the number of persons usually attending at the principal weekly service was 243,591.

139. The following are the number of edifices used Churches and chapels of each sect. for worship by each religious sect, and the amount of accommodation afforded :—