

Number of ships in commission. 1877-78, voted by parliament, the total expenditure was fixed at £10,979,829, and in them the strength of the navy of the United Kingdom, regarding ships in commission, was reported as follows for December 1, 1876:—

Table with 2 columns: Ship type and count. Includes Sea-going steamers (112), Reserve steamers and sailing vessels (136), and Total navy (248).

Armour-clad ships. The number of ships in commission here given form but a small portion of the naval forces of the United Kingdom, especially of its by far most important division, the armour-clad fleet. Together with the navy estimates for the financial year 1877-78, there was issued a parliamentary return, issued from the Admiralty, dated April 5, 1877, containing a list "of all iron-clads, and date of their first completion for sea." The return gives the names of 48 armour-clad vessels, 31 of them classified as "broadside ships," 1 as a "ram," 14 as "turret ships," and 2 as "iron-clads building."

Increase of armour-clad ships. The whole of the armour-clad ships of the broadside class completed previous to 1870 have no thicker armour than from 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 inches; while those completed from 1870 to 1873 received armour of from 6 to 8 inches thickness. This was increased in the broadside iron-clad of 1877, the "Alexandra," to from 8 to 12 inches thickness; and in three not quite completed, to armour of from 8 to 10 and 11 inches. In the turret ships, a greater thickness of armour was resorted to at an earlier date. The "Glatton," completed in 1872, was the first ship to receive armour of from 12 to 14 inches in thickness, subsequently also given to the "Devastation" and the "Thunderer;" while the "Dreadnought" had 14 inches throughout. Surpassing all other ships in armour-thickness is the "Inflexible," under construction at the end of 1877, the central part of which has from 16 to 24 inches, protecting 4 guns of 81 ton weight, the heaviest ever made for the British navy, and exceeded only by a few made in England for two Italian men-of-war.

The construction of unarmoured ships, while not yet quite abandoned, is confined entirely to screw steamers, built of iron or steel, designed for great speed, and with very powerful engines. There were 9 ships of this class at the end of 1877, 3 of them frigates and 6 corvettes. The two largest frigates, the "Inconstant" and the "Shah," of 5700 tons, with engines of 7500 horse-power, were reported at the date to be the swiftest ships of the British navy.

The number of men provided for the naval service of the kingdom was 54,400 in the navy estimates 1877-78. They were divided into 34,100 seamen and 6300 boys, 3000 of the latter being under training, giving a total of 40,400 directly classified as "sailors." Besides them, for the service of the fleet, were 14,000 marines—7000 afloat and

7000 on shore. Included in the number of 34,100 seamen of the fleet, provided for in the estimates of 1877-78, were 160 flag officers, 30 officers superintending dockyards and naval establishments, and 2889 other commissioned officers on active service, being a total of 3079 officers for the British navy.

XI. Religion and Education.

There is a singular want of authentic religious statistics in England. While in nearly all other European countries the number of the population adhering to various creeds is carefully ascertained at the periodical census takings, or at other times, this has never been done in England, except in a cursory manner. At the census of March 31, 1851, an enumeration took place of the number of places of worship in England and Wales, and the attendance of persons therein on the preceding day, a Sunday; but the information thus obtained, though valuable in some respects, was not of the kind to allow accurate conclusions concerning the strength of the various religious bodies, it being well known that the attendance in churches and chapels comprises many persons outside the creed to which they adhere. The returns of the census of March 1851 were as follows:—

Table with 3 columns: Creeds, Total Attendance in Places of Worship, and Percentage of Attendance. Includes Church of England (47.4%), Church of Rome (3.9%), and All other religious bodies (48.7%).

The total population of England and Wales at the census of March 31, 1851, was 17,927,609, so that the church attendance registered comprised little more than one-third of the population.

In the absence of other official reports, the best existing means of ascertaining the numbers of the various creeds are in the returns of the registrar-general of births, deaths, and marriages. Since the year 1836, when, during Lord Melbourne's administration, an Act was passed granting all dissenters from the state church the right to go through the ceremony of marriage in their own churches and chapels—a right of which they had been deprived from 1754, for a period of 82 years—strict accounts were kept of the creeds of all persons marrying, and from these tolerably accurate conclusions may be drawn regarding the respective numbers, if not of all the sects and denominations, at least of the two great divisions of the population, churchmen and nonconformists. A careful analysis of the marriage returns for the forty years from 1837 to the end of 1876 makes it apparent that the number of nonconformists is steadily increasing, and that, although the great majority of the population still adhere to the Church of England, the probability seems that it will be otherwise in the course of one or two generations.

Dissenters.—From an enumeration made in the year 1699, and believed to be quite trustworthy, it appears that at that time the total number of Protestant dissenters from the Church of England was not more than 214,000, being 4.18 per cent. of the population. There are no returns for about a century and a half after this date from which an estimate can be drawn respecting the number of dissenters, the first new basis for them not offering itself till the passing of the Marriage Act of 1836. In 1845, when the Act had been well carried out, the number of Protestant dissenters in England and Wales was calculated at 1,351,000, being 8.08 per cent. of the population. This was no great increase from 1699, when the percentage was 4.18, but the rise of dissent became more marked henceforth. In 1851 the

number of Protestant dissenters was estimated at 1,958,000, or 10.89 per cent. of the population; and ten years after, in 1861, the total number was calculated to have increased to 3,090,000, being 15.36 per cent. of the population. There was an estimated further increase to 3,686,000, or 17.38 per cent. of the population, in the number of dissenters at the end of 1866; while the last calculations, going down to the end of 1876, make it probable that at this date the number had risen to 4,500,000, being not far from 20 per cent. of the population. According to the most reliable estimates, the dissenters did not constitute the majority of the population in the year 1876 in any part of England, but they possessed it in Wales. Next to Wales, the greatest number of dissenters were in Monmouthshire, Cumberland, Cornwall and Devon, Durham, and Yorkshire, in all which counties they constituted more than a third of the population. On the other hand, the dissenters were in a small minority in nearly all the southern counties of England, notably in Middlesex, Kent, and Sussex. In the metropolis itself, the Protestant dissenters were estimated to form about 10 per cent. of the population.

Under the Act of 1836, the registrar-general has to keep a list of all the churches and chapels of the various dissenting religious denominations wishing to be "licensed" for the celebration of marriages. The number so entered was, according to the "Thirty-Eighth Annual Report of the Registrar-General" issued in 1877, no less than 122. The following was the reported list of denominations:—

Religious Denominations in England and Wales.

- Adventists, Apostolics, Armenian New Society, Baptists, viz., Calvinistic Baptists, General Baptist New Connexion, Old Baptist, Particular Baptist, Presbyterian Baptist, Scotch Baptist, Seventh Day Baptist, Strict Baptist, Union Baptist, Unitarian Baptist, Baptist Believers, Believers in Christ, Bible Christians, Bible Defence Association, Brethren, Calvinists, Catholic and Apostolic Church, Christadelphians, Christians "who object to be otherwise designated," Christian Believers, Christian Brethren, Christian Eliasites, Christian Mission, Christian Testotellers, Christian Temperance Men, Christian Unionists, Church of Christ, Church of Progress, Church of Scotland, Church of the People, Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion, Disciples in Christ, Eastern Orthodox Greek Church, Eclectics, Episcopalian Dissenters, Evangelical Unionists, Followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, Free Catholic Christian Church, Free Christian Association, Free Christians, Free Church, Free Church (Episcopal), Free Church of England, Free Gospel and Christian Brethren, Free Gospel Church, Free Grace Gospel Christians, Free Union Church, German Lutheran, German Roman Catholic, Glasites, Glory Band, Greek Catholic, Halifax Psychological Society, Hallelujah Band, Hope Mission, Humanitarians, Independent Religious Reformers, Independents, Independent Unionists, Inghamites, Israelites, Jews, Latter Day Saints, Moravians, Mormons, New Church, New Jerusalem Church, Orthodox Eastern Church, Peculiar People, Plymouth Brethren, Polish Society, Presbyterian Church in England, Primitive Christians, Progressionists, Protestant Members of the Church of England, Protestants "adhering to Articles of Church of England, 1 to 18 inclusive, but rejecting Order and Ritual," Protestant Union, Providence, Quakers, Ranters, Recreative Religionists, Reformed Church of England, Reformed Presbyterians or Covenanters, Reformers, Revival Band, Revivalists, Roman Catholics, Salem Society, Sandemanians, Second Advent Brethren, Separatists (Protestant), Society of the New Church, Spiritual Church, Swedenborgians, Temperance Church, Testimony Congregational Church, Trinitarians, Unionists, Unitarian Christians, Unitarians, United Brethren or Moravians, United Christian Church, United Presbyterians, Welsh Free Presbyterians, Wesleyan Methodists, viz., Methodist, New Connexion Wesleyans, Original Connexion of Wesleyans, Primitive Methodists, Reform Free Church of Wesleyan Methodists, Refuge Methodists, Temperance Methodists, United Free Methodist Church, Welsh Calvinistic Methodists, Wesleyan Methodist Association, Wesleyan Reformers, Wesleyan Reform Glory Band, Wesleyans, Working Man's Evangelistic Mission Chapels.

The total number of "licensed" churches and chapels belonging to Protestant and other dissenters from the established church was 20,480 on the 31st December 1875. The number had fallen to 19,486 on the 31st October 1877.

The numerically most important body of Protestant dissenters is that of Wesleyan Methodists, founded in 1739 by the Rev. John Wesley, clergyman of the Church of England. Subsequently to his death, in 1791, the community split into various subdivisions, of which 13 are enumerated in the preceding list. The largest of these, known simply as Methodists, or Wesleyan Methodists, had on its roll 402,437 members at the end of 1876; and the next largest, the Primitive Methodists, 181,081 members. Of more or less importance, among the other bodies of Protestant dissenters, are the Baptists, split into nearly as many divisions as the Wesleyan Methodists; the Independents, also known as Congregationalists; the Unitarians; and the Moravians. No authentic returns exist regarding the number of persons adhering to any of the minor Protestant creeds reported by the registrar-general as existing in England and Wales.

More numerous than any single body of Protestant dissenters is that of Roman Catholics in England. It is stated by Hallam that in the reign of Queen Elizabeth the Roman Catholics numbered one-third of the entire population; but the effect of the many repressive laws enacted against them was that at the end of the 17th century, when the already referred to religious census of 1699 was taken, the total number was only 27,696, being barely one-half per cent. of the population. It was estimated that the number of Roman Catholics in England had increased to 68,000 in 1767, being about 1 per cent. of the population, and that it stood at 69,400 in 1780, being less than 1 per cent. On the basis of the marriage returns of the registrar-general, the estimated number of Roman Catholics in England and Wales was 284,300 in 1845, or 1.70 per cent. of the population; but within the next six years, when there was a large immigration of Irish, the numbers rapidly rose, and at the end of 1851 the total number of Roman Catholics was calculated at 758,800, being 4.22 of the population. The numbers kept rising till 1854, when there were estimated to be 916,600 Roman Catholics in England and Wales, being 4.94 per cent. of the population; but there was a fall after this year, if not in numbers yet in percentage. The calculated number was 927,500, or 4.61 per cent., in 1861, and 982,000, or 4.62 per cent., in 1866. It is estimated that in the middle of 1877 the number of Roman Catholics in England and Wales had barely reached one million, being a less percentage than in 1866, and that about one-half the number comprised natives of Ireland, with their families. It would thus seem that Roman Catholicism has not been progressive in England for about a quarter of a century. However, the wealth of the body increased very greatly during this period, owing mainly to the secession of many rich persons, of both sexes, to the church, which led to a vast increase of Roman Catholic places of worship. They numbered 616 in 1853, and had risen to 1095 at the end of 1877, with a clergy of 1892. The government of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales is under 12 bishops ruling dioceses, and 1 archbishop, head of the "province of Westminster."

The Established Church of England, to which adhere the majority of the population—the estimated number of members being 13 1/2 millions in the middle of 1877, leaving about 11 millions to all other creeds—was governed, at the end of 1877, by 2 archbishops and 28 bishops, of whom former at the head of two provinces, and the latter of as many episcopal sees. There were as many as 21 bishoprics at the beginning of the 8th century; which number was thought insufficient at the time, for the Venerable Bede,



school board taxation in the whole of England and Wales was 1.87d. per pound sterling in the year 1874-75, and rose to 3.43d. per pound in the year 1875-76.

Adult Education.—Though as yet unaffected by the introduction of the system of compulsory education, there is, nevertheless, a vast progress of general instruction visible among the adult generation, as is proved by the constantly growing numbers of persons able to sign their names to the marriage registers. The annual numbers, carefully collected by the registrar of births, deaths, and marriages, as among the most noteworthy tokens of the educational condition of the people, show that while in the quinquennial period 1841-45 there were in England and Wales 32.6 per cent. of men and 48.9 per cent. of women who signed the marriage registers with "marks," being unable to write, the proportion very steadily decreased from period to period, and from year to year, till it had fallen in 1871-75 to 18.5 per cent. in the case of men, and to 25.2 per cent. in the case of women. Thus there was in the thirty-five years from 1841 to 1875 a decrease of 15.5 per cent. in illiterate men and of 25.6 per cent. in illiterate women.

The proportion of males and females unable to write varies greatly in the several counties of England and in Wales, as will be seen from the following table, which gives the percentage of both sexes who signed the marriage registers with "marks" in the year 1875, according to the 38th annual report of the registrar-general, issued in 1877 :—

Proportion of persons unable to sign their names to marriage registers.

Table with 3 columns: Counties, Men, Women. Lists percentages for various counties like Westmoreland, Surrey, Middlesex, etc., and a total for England and Wales.

Large as seems the proportion of male and female adults still unable to write in England, the registrar-general, in

his 38th annual report, published in 1877, arrived at the hopeful calculation that "if instruction increases in future years at the same arithmetical rate as it has done in the years from 1841 to 1875, then all the men will be able to write in 38 years, and all the women in 31 years."

XII. Crime and Pauperism.

The wide-spread belief that increase of education will lead to a decrease both of crime and pauperism receives some confirmation from the criminal and other statistics of England and Wales for more than a generation, though not to the full extent that might be desired. As regards crime, the decrease of it, while of a fluctuating nature, was much less in proportion than the increase of education, as shown by the number of persons committed for trial before juries in England and Wales and either convicted or acquitted. The following table shows these numbers for every fifth year from 1841 to 1876 :—

Table with 4 columns: Years, Number of Persons Committed for Trial, Number of Persons Convicted, Number of Persons Acquitted. Shows data from 1841 to 1876.

The small difference between the number of persons convicted and acquitted and the total committed comprised those found to be and detained as insane.

It will be seen from the preceding table that, while the total committals decreased from 27,760 in 1841 to 16,078 in 1876, and the convictions from 20,280 in 1841 to 12,195 in 1876, the downward progress was not regular, but intermittent, fall and rise following each other. Thus there were fewer convictions in the year 1871 than in 1876. The fluctuations in crime and the number of criminals must be referred to complicated causes, chief among them the state of trade and commerce, which, according as they are either flourishing or depressed, greatly influence the condition of welfare of the masses of the population.

The classes of offences for which persons were committed for trial in England and Wales, and either convicted or acquitted by juries, in each of the three years from 1871 to 1873, were as follows :—

Table with 5 columns: Classes of Offences, Years, Number Committed or Bailed, Number Convicted, Number Acquitted or Discharged. Lists categories like 'Against the Person', 'Against Property committed with Violence', etc.

Decrease of crime.

Classes of offences.

The total number of prisoners confined in the jails of the United Kingdom, under sentence either of juries or of stipendiary and other magistrates, was 220,817 at the end of 1871, and rose to 220,887 in 1872, and 232,362 at the end of 1873. Of the latter total, 165,142 were imprisoned in England and Wales, 33,419 in Scotland, and 33,801 in Ireland. The classes of convicts confined in the prisons of England and Wales—including those imprisoned for debt, and military deserters, under the Mutiny Acts—were as follows at the end of the year 1873 :—

Table with 4 columns: Classes of Prisoners, Males, Females, Total. Lists categories like 'CRIMINAL PRISONERS: Convicted (not previously in Custody)', 'Debtors under Civil Process', etc.

The ages of the 155,413 prisoners—excluding debtors and deserters—in the prisons of England and Wales, at the end of 1873, were as follows :—

Table with 4 columns: Ages of Prisoners, Males, Females, Total. Lists age groups like 'Under 12 Years', '12 and under 21', etc.

The degree of education of the same 155,413 prisoners was as follows :—

Table with 4 columns: Education of Prisoners, Males, Females, Total. Lists levels like 'Not able to read or write', 'Able to read, or to read and write imperfectly', etc.

Of the 155,413 prisoners in the prisons of England and Wales at the end of 1873, no less than 61,274, or two-fifths, were old offenders. The number of their previous convictions was as follows :—

Table with 4 columns: Number of previous Convictions, Males, Females, Total. Lists frequency like 'Once', 'Twice', 'Three', etc.

The preceding tables show succinctly to what an extent the prisons of England and Wales are filled by what may

be called a criminal population, that is, one living regularly by crime. It is a population not very young, nearly one-half of the whole being between the ages of thirty and sixty, and not possessed of any education worth the name,—33.4 per cent., or just one-third of the whole, being unable either to read or write, and 63 per cent. of the whole only able to read, or to read and write imperfectly. Thus more than 96 per cent. of the entire army of prisoners, male and female, belonged, so far as education went, to the dregs of the population; while only a quite inappreciable fraction, expressed by 0.1 per cent., was that of a class described as possessed of "superior instruction."

Police.—Besides the direct cost of prisoners, there are a variety of other expenses connected with their apprehension and conviction, but it would be impossible to give an account of them. Foremost among these expenses stands that for the police, the total charge for which in the year 1873 amounted to £2,567,491. The expenditure was divided as follows among the various classes of the police :—

Table with 3 columns: Classes, Number, Expenditure. Lists categories like 'County constabulary', 'Borough police', 'Metropolitan police', etc.

Pauperism.—There is, as might be expected, an intimate connection between crime and pauperism. At the side of a fixed prison population, steeped in crime, stands a regular workhouse population, sunk in helpless, ir retrievable poverty. If far more harmless than the criminal population, the pauper population, on the other hand, is far more numerous, varying between three quarters of a million and a million. The number of paupers, like that of criminals, kept rising and falling, in alternate waves, during the course of the last generation, under the probable influence of good or bad harvests mainly, and the state of trade, with a general tendency to increase within the first half of the period, and to decrease within the second half. The total number of paupers in the United Kingdom, embracing both those kept in workhouses and those receiving public charity out of doors, was 1,022,540 in 1846, of whom 910,561 were in England and Wales, 69,432 in Scotland, and 42,547 in Ireland. At the end of thirty years, in 1876, the total number of paupers in the United Kingdom had fallen to 906,983, of whom 728,350 were in England and Wales, 100,105 in Scotland, and 78,528 in Ireland. Thus the aggregate decrease within the period was solely due to a decline of pauperism in England, there being an increase of 30,673 paupers in Scotland, and of 35,981 in Ireland.

The following table gives the number of paupers, distinguishing "in-door," within workhouses, and "out-door," receiving public relief, in England and Wales, for every fifth year from 1851 to 1871, and each year thereafter to 1877, on the first day of January in every year :—

Table with 4 columns: Years Jan. 1., In-door Paupers, Out-door Paupers, Total. Shows data from 1851 to 1877.