

IX.

Observations on the Statistics of Van Diemen's Land for 1848: compiled from Official Records in the Colonial Secretary's Office; and published by Order of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor. By JAMES BARNARD, Esq. [Read 10th October, 1849.]

TABLE 1 is a comprehensive summary of the Population of Van Diemen's Land, as ascertained by the Census taken on the 31st December, 1847*; from which it appears, that the number of souls in the Colony on that day was 70,164. Of this aggregate, 47,828, or 68 per cent., were males, and 22,336, or 32 per cent., were females. Taking the sexes together, it will be found by analysis that the free immigrants form 20 per cent., persons born in the Colony 26 per cent., and persons who have emerged into freedom $16\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.,—making the total free population $62\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., exclusive of the troops (3 per cent.), and the scanty remnant of Aborigines.

Of the Convicts, the Ticket-of-leave holders are 8 per cent., those in Government employ 14 per cent., and Pass-holders in service $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.,—making in all $34\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the entire population.

The increase in numbers upon the Census of 1842 is 11,262, or 19 per cent., for the five years ending in 1847, averaging $3\frac{4}{5}$ per cent. annually; and for the 23 years since

* This Census has been already partly illustrated in *Tasmanian Journal*, (vol. 3, part 6, p. 450.)

1824 it has been 456 per cent., or at the average annual rate of nearly 20 per cent., viz.—

Years.	Population.	Aggregate Increase per cent.	Annual Increase per cent.
1824	12,643		
1835	39,563	212 in 11 years.	19
1838	45,846	15 in 3 years.	5
1841	53,000	15 in 3 years.	5
1842	58,902	8 in 1 year.	8
1847	70,164	19 in 5 years.	3½

By further analysis, to show in detail the relative proportion of the sexes in each class, it will be seen that, of the free immigrants, the males preponderate by only 1½ per cent., of native-born persons on the contrary the females exceed by one-tenth per cent., while of those who have become free by servitude the males exceed the females in the ratio of 3 to 1. The males in all form 36 per cent., and the females 26 per cent., making the difference of 10 per cent. between the sexes among the free population. But the disparity is striking among the Convict class; for of the Ticket-of-leave holders the males are 5 to 1, of the prisoners in Government employ 8 to 1, and of Pass-holders in service also 8 to 1: in other words, the males are 29½ per cent., and the females only 5 per cent.,—making a difference between the sexes of 24½ per cent. in this class of the population.

Table 2 shows the distinction between the Married and the Single Inhabitants of the Colony, without reference to their civil condition. Of the total males, the married form 21 per cent., and those who are unmarried 79 per cent.; and of the total females, the married are 39 per cent., and the unmarried 61 per cent. The Aborigines form 12 married couples, and 3 males and 11 females who are single. The Troops, and the Convicts at Punishment Stations, are excluded from the calculation.

Table 3 is a return, with a similar exception, of the Ages of the inhabitants of the Colony. Of the 64,141 persons enumerated, the proportions may be thus grouped :—

		Per cent. of Population.
Under 2	.....	5½ or 1 in 18
2 and under 7	.....	10½ or 1 in 9
7 and under 14	.....	9 or 1 in 10
14 and under 21	.....	8 or 1 in 12
21 and under 45	.....	56 or 1 in 2
45 and under 60	.....	9 or 1 in 11
60 and upwards	.....	2 or 1 in 51

Of the Aborigines 3 are under fourteen, 27 are between twenty-one and forty-five, 6 are under sixty, and the ages of the two still older cannot be accurately ascertained.

Table 4 is a return of the Religion professed by the people, which may be thus generically classified in denominations :—

	Per cent.
Church of England	69·40
———— Scotland	7·10
———— Rome	15·40
Wesleyans	4·
Other Protestant Dissenters	3·40
Jews and Pagans	0·70

The religion of the troops, and of the Convicts under punishment, was not ascertained by the Census.

The other division of this Table comprises a classified list of the industrial occupations of the people, which are in the following proportions :—

Landed proprietors, bankers, merchants, and professional men	.....	2 per cent.
Shopkeepers	.....	1½ „
Mechanics	.....	8 „
Shepherds	.....	1½ „

Gardeners and farm labourers.....	16	per cent.
Domestic servants	7	„
Military	3½	„
Convicts at Punishment Stations	5½	„
Unenumerated.....	55	„

One is struck with the large number excluded from classification, and at first led to think that the grouping must be defective which fails to designate the avocations of more than one-half the population. But it must be borne in mind that all the children under 14 years of age have to be deducted, and also the married females in the majority of cases, which will leave only about 15 per cent. whose occupation is unaccounted for.

Table 5 is a return of the number of Houses in the Colony, more than half of which remain of wood, notwithstanding that such erections have been in numerous instances replaced by substantial buildings of brick and stone. There are 10,187 houses in all, of which 5¾ per cent. are unfinished, and 6½ per cent. uninhabited. Taking the population, the number occupying each house would average 7; a proportion that will be greatly lessened when the large numbers confined in prisons and barracks are considered. The handsome and spacious buildings in our towns, and scattered through the country, excite the admiration of most visitors to Van Diemen's Land; and it may not be too much to say, that there is no Colony, of comparative size and population, which excels this in the taste and style of its public buildings. The abundance of excellent stone and other materials, together with the number of well-skilled artizans, have of course greatly contributed to this superiority.

Table 6 relates to the Aborigines of the Colony, who are now located at Oyster Cove. The dwindling down in their numbers from 210 in 1835, to 54 in 1842, and now to 12 men and 23 women, with 8 children, tends to create the

painful impression, that this race of our fellow-creatures—the original lords of the soil—have not been duly cared for since their enclosure within the pale of civilized life. So far, however, from there being reason to suppose that there has been any blameable neglect, it is believed that the most humane sympathy and consideration has been constantly evinced on the part of successive Governments; and that whatever was likely to contribute to render the condition of these “sons of nature” happy and comfortable has been freely bestowed: nor has this been confined to physical enjoyments alone—to the bestowal of mere clothing, food, shelter, and amusements. Education, to the extent of which their faculties are susceptible, has been attempted; and of the existing remnant, besides 7 children in the Orphan Schools, there are 5 who can both read and write, and 10 who can read, the remaining 21 being totally uneducated. While withholding assent from M. de Strzelecki's conclusion, that the gradual extinction of the savage races is in fulfilment of any law of Providence, “that the black should disappear before the white,” it may be fairly admitted that partial civilization has exercised an influence most unfavourable upon their existence. From their previous habits and modes of life, they are not placed in harmony with their new condition, physically or morally, and have become consequently disqualified from its full share of benefit.

Tables 7 and 8 describe the extent of Emigration to and from Van Diemen's Land during 1848; the arrivals, including 1460 Convicts, numbering 4410, and the departures 3799,—the difference being less than 1 per cent. of the aggregate population. Of those who left the Colony, the proportion of “free” was 63 per cent., of those free by servitude 26 per cent., and of the conditionally pardoned 11 per cent. The emigrants of the last two descriptions were no doubt permanent departures; but, of

the "always free," the probability is that theirs were mostly trips of business or pleasure, being so evenly balanced by the arrivals of the same class, and therefore occasioning no actual diminution in the number of "the free." The influx of Convicts, more than one-third of whom were females, was only 2 per cent. upon the whole population.

Table 9 is a comprehensive return of the Convict population. The number in the Colony on 31st December, 1848, was 25,459; of whom 40 per cent. held tickets-of-leave, 48 per cent. were pass-holders, and 12 per cent. were under probation or sentence. Of the whole number, again, 84 per cent. were males, and 16 per cent. females; and the proportion of deaths reported during the year was less than 1 per cent. Of the ticket-of-leave holders, the females comprise $11\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.; of the pass-holders, 18 per cent.; and of those under probation or sentence, also 18 per cent. The number of both sexes who emerged into freedom during the year by the expiration of their sentences was 12 per cent.; of those who received pardons 5 per cent.; and of those to whom tickets-of-leave were granted, 14 per cent. The proportion of Convicts in the population, as before stated, is $34\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Table 10 is a return of the Marriages registered in the several districts in 1848; the total number being 799. Of these 72 per cent. were by the Church of England, 8 per cent. by the Church of Scotland, 11 per cent. by the Church of Rome, 2 per cent. each by the Wesleyans and Independents, and 4 per cent. by the Baptists. One Marriage only was performed by the Deputy Registrar. Of these marriages, $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the males and 19 per cent. of the females were under age; 6 per cent. of the males and 16 per cent. of the females had been previously married; and the large proportion of $24\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. of males and 38 per cent. females were unable to write their names.

Tables 11 to 15 form a series of returns from the General Registry of the Births and Deaths in 1848 ; but their value is somewhat lessened by the apparent neglect of the District of Great Swanport to contribute its quota of information. Of the Births, the males are 858, and the females 795, making a total of 1653,—being 1 in 42 upon the Census. Of the Deaths amongst the free, there are registered 463 males, or 1 in 54, and 310 females, or 1 in 59,—in all 773, or 1 in 56 of the whole ; affording a favourable average in comparison with older countries. The deaths of Convicts are recorded in the Comptroller-General's Department ; but it is understood that these amount in number to only 244, or 1 in 99, for the same period. This small rate of mortality amongst prisoners is doubtless ascribable to the fact, that the Convict class is composed almost exclusively of persons in the prime of life.

Tables 16 and 17 are returns of the Places of Public Worship existing in Van Diemen's Land in 1848. By No. 16 it appears that there were 53 Churches and Chapels of the Church of England, having 13,200 sittings ; the average attendance rather exceeding one-third of the whole accommodation possessed. The pew-rents for the year are stated at £797 13s. 1d. ; and the offertory fund to amount to £759 5s. 5d. The cost to the Colony for the same period is £9301 12s. 7d., and to the British Treasury £5086, or in the respective proportions of $64\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and $35\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the total expense,—showing a remarkable coincidence with the relative number of the free and bond constituting the population.

No. 17 is a similar return for the other Churches and religious bodies, presenting a total of 57 places of public worship, having 12,675 sittings, with an average attendance of 8670 ; the expense to the Colony being £4806 14s. 0d. The Church of Rome, in addition, is a charge of £2056

upon the British Treasury ; and there is one remark as to this Church which the return suggests. The number of sittings in its 3 chapels are stated to be 580, while the average attendance is given at 1600, or nearly as 3 to 1 of the accommodation afforded. The Jews are included in this enumeration, having 2 places of worship, 268 sittings, and an average attendance of 90. Neither this body nor the Independents are borne upon the public funds for the support of their religion.

Table 18 is a comparative return of the various Ministers of Religion, together with their cost of maintenance, showing the proportion of expense borne upon Colonial funds, the amount contributed* by the Home Government, and the number who derive their support from other sources. Taking all denominations together, the number employed is 97, inclusive of 26 who are not paid by the State. From the Local Treasury there is expended upon this object £14,032 ; and by the Home Government £7142 : and if to these sums be added £3900 for the 26 dependent upon extraneous sources, averaging them at £150 each, the result will be a total of £25,074, or a cost of 7s. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per head of the whole population, for the support of religion, annually.

Analysis affords the following points of comparison between the several denominations ; viz.—

Denominations.	Proportion of Clergy- men em- ployed.	Paid by Colony.	Paid by Home Govt.	Supposed to be paid from extraneous sources.	Average of total Cost.	* Ratio of Population.	Cost per head of each Deno- mination.
	per cent.	£	£	£	per cent.		£ s. d.
Church of England.....	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	9081	5086	900	60	69.40	4 6 $\frac{1}{4}$
..... Scotland	12	2930	nil.	300	13	7.10	1 8 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
..... Rome	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	1371	2056	450	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15.40	7 11
Wesleyans	7	500	nil.	1050	6	4.	12 1
Baptists	2	150	nil.	300	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	3.40	12 4*
Independents	6	nil.	nil.	900	4 $\frac{1}{2}$		

* This may not be strictly accurate, as the term used in the Return is " Other Protestant Dissenters," which may include Quakers ; but it is believed to be a correct approximation.

Tables 19 to 22 are a series of returns from the Inspector of Schools relating to education in this Colony in 1848. Of private establishments there are 100 ; 15 of which decline to give any information as to the number of their pupils. The other 85 schools contained 1285 boys, and 1011 girls ; and if to these be added the numbers probably under instruction at the 15 referred to, taking the average of the whole of the others as a guide for the calculation, the total number may be estimated at 2668 children of both sexes, the boys exceeding the girls by about 25 per cent. There were 33 schools upon the Penny-a-day System in connection with the Church of England, and 4 of the same belonging to the Church of Rome, comprehending in all 1812 scholars, in the proportion of $82\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the former denomination to $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the latter ; the ratio of expense being also 79 and 21 per cent. respectively.—The next table is devoted to particulars of the Board of Education Schools ; the total number of children on the books at the same date being 1080. The annual cost of each scholar, according to the average daily attendance, was £3 11s. 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.—The last return of the group relates to Infant Schools, two of which exist in Hobart Town, having an attendance of 138 children, and one at Launceston attended by 56.

Table 23 details the working of the Queen's Orphan Schools, from which it appears that the orphan children of Convicts are supported entirely at the expense of the British Government, while those of " free persons " are borne upon Colonial funds under the head of Pauperism. The total number in school at the end of 1848 was 460 ; of whom 396 were the offspring of Convicts, and 64 the children of free parents. Of these, again, 3 boys and 4 girls were children of the Aborigines. The following is a summary

of the youth of the Colony under education at schools in 1848 :—

Children of both Sexes.	
In private Schools	2668
In Schools under the Penny-a-day } system	1812
In Government Schools under Board } of Education	1080
In Infant Schools.....	194
In Queen's Orphan Schools	460
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Total.....	6214
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Considering also the large number, especially girls, receiving domestic instruction, the foregoing total displays an education-power of immense influence upon the destinies of the rising generation ; although there must obviously be, after making every allowance, a considerable number of children as yet destitute of all training.

The next group, Nos. 24 to 27, form the Medical Statistics of the Colony. Table 24 is a return of the Insane under confinement at the New Norfolk Lunatic Asylum ; the increase of patients, chiefly in the Convict class, being 8 per cent. upon the previous year. Table 25 shows the number of Paupers treated in the various Convict Hospitals during 1848, the expense of whom is defrayed by the Colony ; the charge for each being at the rate of 1s. per diem. There are 529 in all, of whom 80 per cent. are persons who have been Convicts. Table 26 is a classified list of Diseases treated in the Colonial Hospitals during the same period, the whole number being 3475, and the deaths 166. By analysis of the several classes, we obtain the

following results—which are of importance as showing the maladies most prevalent, and those most fatal ; the proportion of deaths being greater in an inverse ratio to the number of cases ; viz.—

Of 3475 cases of Disease treated,—

Fevers constitute 6 per cent. ; the proportion of deaths being 1 in 25

Diseases of the Lungs	10 per cent....	deaths 1 in 7
——— Liver	1 „ ... „	1 in 5
——— Stomach & Bowels	7 „ „	1 in 10
——— Brain	6 „ „	1 in 9
Dropsies	0·50 „ „	1 in 3
Rheumatic Affections	8 „ „	1 in 143
Abscesses and Ulcers	13 „ „	1 in 73
Venereal Affections	7 „ „	1 in 230
Diseases of the Eyes	16 „ „	nil.
——— Skin	1·20 „ „	1 in 16
Other diseases	16·50 „ „	1 in 16

Table 27, completing this series, is a return of the persons legally qualified to practise Medicine, &c. ; they are stated at 67, of whom 7 belong to the Staff and Military, 15 are attached to the Convict Department, and 45 are private practitioners. There are also 7 chemists and druggists in Hobart Town, and 4 in Launceston.

Table 28 details the Imports and Exports for the year 1848 : but, before entering into an analysis of this return, it may be as well to advert again to the principle which it is conceived should regulate commercial intercourse with foreign countries.* It was shown, in the paper referred to, that while it was sound policy to encourage native industry, and

* See the principle discussed at length in the *Tasmanian Journal*, vol. 3, part 6, page 446.

foster colonial enterprise, by promoting the consumption of domestic manufactures ; yet, at the same time, that it was indispensable that the home-made article should relatively be as good in quality, and cheap in price, as the one imported.

An undue anxiety is usually displayed to maintain an even balance between the imports and exports, and the greatest concern expressed should the former at any time preponderate in amount. The apprehension is altogether groundless ; for, in the very nature of things, an adjustment must take place. For instance, although the imports of one year exceed the exports, it by no means follows that they will be consumed during that period. Besides, the ordinary law of supply and demand itself steps in to regulate imports, and to check their excess, by a fall below cost price, which at once provides an effectual remedy, as importations must obviously stop as soon as they cease to be profitable. Imports, then, subject to the restrictions and regulated by the principle pointed out, are highly advantageous to a community by adding so greatly to its sum of comforts.

With these preliminary observations we turn to an examination of the Table, and find that the total imports in 1848 exceed the exports by $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. As compared with 1847, we notice a decrease under each head of 18 per cent. ; but, compared with 1846, the imports show an increase of nearly 6 per cent., while the exports on the contrary have decreased 16 per cent.

The diminution in the total value of exports for 1848 may be partly accounted for by the fall in the price of wool, ascribable to the political convulsions agitating Europe, estimated to have caused an actual deficiency in value of £60,000 to £70,000 upon the year's clip ; and it will be at once apparent how greatly, again, this immense loss must tend to diminish imports.

As an opinion prevails that the commerce of our ports has been somewhat crippled, especially the Sydney trade, by the 15 per cent. *ad valorem* Duties' Act, which came into operation in 1847, it may be useful to trace the history of these duties, and to ascertain their actual effects. In 1840 the exemption in favour of tobacco grown in New South Wales, being found to be injurious to the revenue, was taken away by the Act 4 Vict. No. 28; and the duty of 1s. 6d. per lb. was imposed, the same as levied upon tobacco grown in foreign countries. This led to reprisals by the Government of New South Wales, who at once fixed a duty upon our exports to that colony. In 1845 it was deemed necessary, in order to support the revenue, to increase the *ad valorem* duties from 5 to 15 per cent. on tea, sugar, and other foreign merchandise; but on this occasion articles the growth, produce, or manufacture of New South Wales (save in respect of tobacco) continued to be specially exempted. The principle, however, of differential duties having been condemned as objectionable, and the state of the revenue not permitting a recurrence to the previous rate of 5 per cent., in the absence of a provision for charging a similar duty upon British goods, they were abolished by the Act 10 Vict. No. 7, which came into operation on the 1st April, 1847, and at once subjected equally the goods, wares, and merchandise of New South Wales to the uniform duty of 15 per cent. *ad valorem*. On the 6th October, 1848, the Act 12 Vict. No. 8 was passed, wholly exempting wool, coal for steam navigation, metallic ores, seeds, manures, and specimens of natural history from duty; and the Customs' laws were still further relaxed by the 13 Vict. No. 8, exempting metallic ores for smelting from wharfage dues.

The subjoined statement of the extent and value of the trade of Van Diemen's Land with New South Wales

since 1844 will best explain the working of these duties ; viz.*—

PORT OF HOBART TOWN.

	Vessels Inwards.	Tonnage.	Vessels Outwards.	Tonnage.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.
					£	£
1845	161	17,994	180	29,124	69,545	60,247
1846	199	21,549	222	28,388	94,625	89,143
1847	236	23,467	251	27,079	†42,841	75,345
1848	265	27,545	285	36,055	†34,906	55,986

PORT OF LAUNCESTON.

	Vessels Inwards.	Tonnage.	Vessels Outwards.	Tonnage.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.
					£	£
1845	136	14,942	131	14,780	54,992	74,893
1846	168	18,701	162	17,912	52,614	119,294
1847	184	18,868	179	18,877	47,990	107,441
1848	191	19,012	174	17,295	†22,935	69,457

Looking at the disparity in value between the total imports and exports of the year, no apprehension need be entertained of any monetary derangement occurring so long as so effectual a counterpoise is afforded by British expenditure. The disbursements in 1848, for Commissariat, Convict, Military, and Ordnance services in the Colony, amounted to nearly a quarter of a million sterling !

But to proceed.—Of the total imports, $77\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. are from Great Britain, $18\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from British Colonies, and

* For these returns I am indebted to the courtesy of Henry D'Arch, Esq., Collector of the port of Hobart Town.

† The number of ships inwards, as well as of the tonnage, show a large progressive increase, while the "value" of the imports appears to have diminished considerably. The discrepancy can perhaps be reconciled by supposing that the permission to take the valuation at the port of shipment instead of at the port of entry had been largely and liberally acted upon.

4 per cent. from Foreign countries ; and of the total exports, 52 per cent. are to Great Britain, $47\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to British Colonies, and $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to Foreign countries.

The proportion of imports to population averages £8 9s. 4d. for each soul in the Colony ; and of exports, £6 19s. 9d. for each.

Our exports to Foreign countries are very trifling, and are exceeded by the imports nearly ten times over : the latter comprise in their list tea, coffee, sugar, wine, and tobacco,—articles recognised as indispensable to the comfort and enjoyment of every class in society.

The trade with British Colonies is pursued with vigour and activity, and is a valuable branch of our commerce. If, on the one hand, we import from our neighbours cattle, sheep, and salt meat, we send them, on the other, wheat, flour, and timber to three times the amount ; besides interchanging numerous surplus articles most beneficially to all, especially to consumers, by the influence exercised upon prices, which are thus brought to their natural level.

In the trade with Great Britain there is a remarkable steadiness in many staple imports for which we are necessarily dependent ; but it is gratifying to notice a decline in just those very articles which the Colony is so well able to produce ; *ex. gr.*, boots and shoes—butter and cheese—candles and tallow—casks—hops—soap. Among the exports, copper ore to a small extent forms a fresh item as a re-export ; and there is an increase under hides, skins, and leather : but there is a considerable decline in black oil—whalebone—wool—and wheat. Temporary causes may be assigned in explanation as respects these several staple exports with the exception of the one last named ; but the signal and complete failure of this has been doubtless occasioned by the ports of Great Britain being now thrown open to the markets of the World, and the consequent

reduction in the price of grain below a point to remunerate shippers.

Table 29 is a return of the number and tonnage of vessels that have arrived at and left our ports during the year. The ships inwards show an increase upon 1847 of 5 per cent. in number, and $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in tonnage; and the ships that cleared outwards also show an increase of 11 per cent. in number, and $11\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in tonnage. Slight as this increase is, it is the more satisfactory viewed in relation to the diminished exports and imports of the year; pointing to the conclusion that the decline is in value only, not in quantity, and that the commerce of the Colony is in an essentially sound and progressive condition.

Table 30 affords most valuable evidence of the increase to the material wealth of the Colony. Twenty-nine vessels of various tonnage, from 20 to 300, have been built in our ports during the past year; and several more ships of still larger burthen are now in progress, giving employment to many hundred mechanics and labourers, and tending to the formation of industrious and moral habits. The whale fisheries appear also by the same return to continue highly productive. A fleet of 29 vessels, of 6081 tons, was employed whaling during 1848; and the value of the produce has increased from £70,000 to £104,000, being an increase of $48\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon the previous year.* No one can regard the progress in this branch of commerce with an uninterested eye, fraught as it is with so much consequence to the advancement of the community, creating wealth from the illimitable resources of the Ocean, as well as providing

* Under Table 28 the exports of oil and whalebone are stated to have declined considerably in 1848: the discrepancy may probably be explained by supposing that a great proportion of the oil taken was not exported to London until the early part of the year 1849.

a nursery for a race of hardy seamen to maintain the glory of the British name in the hour of Britain's need !

Tables 31 and 32 complete the series relating to Colonial shipping ; showing an addition to the number belonging to our ports of 25 vessels, and 3518 in tonnage, or 14 and 23 per cent. respectively, since last year.

Table 33 is a return of the number of publicans' licences, as well as of those issued to wholesale dealers in wines and spirits : the latter are fewer in number by 6, while an addition of 9 has been made to the retail class. On a former occasion the evils incident to an indiscriminate issue of Licences were touched upon.* It were to be wished that the Legislature had introduced a declaratory clause in their recently amended Act, defining the extent of the magistrates' powers,—as there exists diametrically opposite opinions on the Bench in this particular ; some advocating the principle of free trade broadly and unrestrictedly—others merely qualifying it with the two conditions (the only ones imposed, as they say, by the Act of Council), that the applicant shall be of fair character, and his house possess adequate accommodation—while others, again, claim for themselves the right of judging whether the locality is suitable, and of rejecting any house evidently not required by the neighbourhood. Most desirable is it that a question involving such conflicting opinions should be authoritatively set at rest ; for the discussion upon the abstract point of the powers of Justices upon every successive application is most inconvenient, and injurious alike to both private and public interests.

Table 34 states the number and character of public-houses, as well as the ratio of population to each, in the several districts. Sixteen per cent. of the houses licensed,

* See *Tasmanian Journal*, vol. 3, part 2, page 449.

the chief part being in Hobart Town, are described as of low character ; an evil which loudly demands the attention of the magistracy.

Table 35 is a new, and no doubt useful return, in a commercial point of view, of the stock on hand in our Bonding Warehouses of the several kinds of Spirits and Tobacco at the end of 1848.

Table 36 details the statistics of the Post-office for the past year, by which it appears that there are 51 Post-offices in all, employing 76 persons, and operating over 634 miles of Post-roads. There were sent from Hobart Town, in the course of the year, 195,785 letters, and 222,522 newspapers ; and 161,571 letters were received there within the same period. After defraying its whole expenditure, about £600 is yielded to the Revenue from this department.

Table 37 states the number of Stage-coaches running upon the Main and Cross Roads of the Colony, and affords at once evidence of the increased degree of accommodation which the public now enjoy, and of a rapid extension of intercourse within a comparatively limited period.

Table 38 records the fact that there are six newspapers published at Hobart Town, two of which appear once a week, and four twice ; and three at Launceston, two of these coming out twice a week, and one, devoted to the advocacy of the Tee-total cause, monthly.

Table 39 develops the affairs of the Banks in Van Diemen's Land at the end of 1848. The assets comprise bullion to the value of £200,000, and bills of exchange to the amount of about one million ; while the liabilities do not exceed £60,000 for their notes and bills in circulation, and £340,000 for deposits : in other words, their liabilities are about one-third of their assets. As compared with 1847, there is a decrease in bullion of $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but an addi-

tion of 1 per cent. to the bills of exchange; while the notes and bills in circulation are nearly 10 per cent., and the deposits $21\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. less than at the corresponding period of the previous year. The Banks continue to display much caution and steadiness in their operations, amply justifying that confidence in their stability which they have hitherto so well maintained.

Table 40 is a return of the Savings' Banks at the close of the year 1848, three of which now exist in the Colony; the total number of depositors being 2260 (one-half of whom are for smaller sums than £10), and the amount deposited £43,637 12s. 2d.—with interest allowed at the rate, principally, of 4 per cent. Compared with 1847, the depositors are fewer in number by $13\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., while the deposits show an increase of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The social and moral welfare of the working classes are so intimately connected with the maintenance of these valuable institutions, that it must prove a source of unalloyed satisfaction to observe the great degree of encouragement which they receive. Besides affording the best incitement to industry and self-restraint, perhaps a more effectual means could scarcely be devised for rescuing a man from the thralldom of the vice of drunkenness. Induce him to invest his first shilling, and you in all probability detach him from the "evil of his ways," and are instrumental in laying the foundation of industrious and prudent habits.

Tables 41 to 48 form a series of returns illustrative of the progress made in agriculture during 1848. By Table 41 an addition is shown of $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the number of acres broken up and brought into cultivation since the previous year,—a circumstance which, considering the low prices that have ruled for every species of produce, speaks well for the persevering energy of the settlers. There is an increase also

of 28 per cent. in the quantity of Crown Land taken up under licences of occupation ; and the aggregate rental thence derived has been augmented nearly 23 per cent.

The great extent to which the Crown Lands, formerly lying waste and unproductive, are now leased for the depasturing of flocks, notwithstanding the temporary depression from the low price of wool, attests the productiveness of the labour and capital therein employed ; and the wise and successful policy of the measure will be at once evident from the following comparative statement :—

Years.	No. of Lessees.	Acres let.	Rent received.		
			£	s.	d.
1842	41	39,019	658	14	0
1843	79	78,714	991	0	8
1847	490	1,062,989	14,279	0	0
1848	538	1,363,427	17,511	11	3

It is understood that applications have been since received at the Survey Office for the occupation of nearly a million of acres in the “ new country,”—thus still further developing the resources of the Colony. By the table quoted, it also appears that Van Diemen's Land is estimated to contain $14\frac{1}{2}$ millions of acres, of which only about one-fifth has been granted or sold to settlers ; and of this quantity, again, only 171,540 acres, or less than 1-20th, are in cultivation.

Table 42 records the sales made of Crown Land during the year. There were 51 Country Allotments sold, in area 1544*a.* 3*r.* 36*p.*, and producing, at the average of 2*4s.* 3½*d.* per acre, £1877 3*s.* 9*d.* ; and the number of Town and Suburban Allotments sold was 133, in quantity 629*a.* 1*r.* 16¾*p.*, yielding, upon the average of £5 4*s.* 1½*d.* per acre, the sum of £3276 14*s.* 6*d.*

Table 43 details the number of acres in crop, and the nature of each crop, for the several districts of the Island,

on the 31st December, 1848. The following comparison with 1847 will show the increase or decrease in the various productions of the soil during one year; viz.—

	Increase per cent.		Decrease per cent.
Wheat	1	....	„
Barley	19	....	„
Oats	59	....	„
Peas .....	„	....	4
Beans	6	....	„
Potatoes	0.50	....	„
Turnips	15	....	„
Tares.....	42	....	„
English Grasses	26	....	„

The average yield of produce per acre, taking the mean of the several Districts, appears to be as under; viz.—

Wheat.....	17 bushels.
Barley.....	23½ „
Oats	25 „
Peas	19 „
Beans	13 „
Potatoes	4½ tons.
Turnips	4½ „
Tares	7 bushels.
English Grasses	1¼ tons.

Table 44 gives the quantity of Live Stock in the Colony, arranged in Districts, on 31st December, 1848; viz.—

		Increase since 1847.		Decrease since 1847.
Horses.....	17,196	....	6 per cent.	....
Horned Cattle....	85,485	....	4 „	....
Sheep	1,752,963	....	„	.... 4 per cent.
Goats	2,902	....	2 „	....
Pigs.....	29,967	....	(now first published).	

Table 45 sets out the average prices that have ruled for agricultural produce throughout the Colony, showing a considerable decline from those of former years.

Table 46 is a return of the contract prices for wheat, flour, meat, and vegetables, supplied to the Commissariat here and at Launceston during 1848, giving the averages as under :—

Wheat	4s. 2d. per bushel of 60 lbs.
Flour	£10 8s. 8d. per ton.
Fresh Meat	2½d. per lb.
Vegetables	5s. 7d. per 100 lbs.

Table 47 states the number of cattle and sheep imported from Port Phillip and Port Albert during 1848, being 4284 of the former, and 39,673 of the latter. Taking the average prices realised at sales by public auction, this imported stock cost the colony upwards of £40,000. A sum of £10,000 was paid in freight, however, for their conveyance, to the obvious benefit and encouragement of the colonial shipping. Impolitic as are discriminating duties, and injurious, as putting restrictions upon commerce, it is contended by some, that, in the instance of foreign cattle and sheep, the high rate of 15 per cent. duty has been actually productive of advantage in affording a measure of protection to our stockowners, who complain that they cannot enter into competition with their transmarine neighbours from their comparatively limited range of pasture, and the much less favourable terms upon which they hold their licences of occupation. It is by no means suggested that this inequality should be redressed by the assimilation of the rent of our Crown Lands to the merely *nominal* sum paid in the other Colonies: such a course would be attended with positive injustice to those settlers who have bought and paid large sums for their land; besides depriving the Colony of the

fair revenue derived from the leasing these waste lands, which are evidently not rated too high, considering their limited extent, and the competition which exists to obtain them.

Table 48 is a return by the Inspectors of Stock of the number of sheep and cattle slaughtered for food during the year in our two chief towns.

Table 49 shows the average daily wages paid to the most useful classes of mechanics in 1848. As compared with 1847, those paid to bricklayers, carpenters, and plasterers have fallen,—those to masons are stationary,—while the wages of joiners, painters and plumbers, and quarrymen, have slightly advanced.

Table 50 is a list of the principal manufactories and trades now in operation in the Colony. In the previous year there were enumerated 20, while the present return mentions 39. Some curious and significant particulars are gathered by comparing the two years. Agricultural implement makers show a decline from 76 to 47,* candle-makers from 15 to 10, fellmongers from 29 to 17, tanners from 44 to 40; several have remained stationary. The principal increase has been in shipwrights and boat-builders (from 16 to 51), sailmakers from 4 to 6, mast and block makers from 2 to 3; well agreeing with the increased activity in ship-building in all its branches. Two soap-boilers, it is satisfactory to notice, make their appearance for the first time in this list of trades.

Table 51 is a return of the net revenue of Van Diemen's Land collected in 1848, which is stated to be £129,545 5s. 5d. The amount of Customs is £77,151 16s. 6d.,—of which

* Such a fluctuation seems too capricious to be accurate. We must therefore suppose a mistake of nomenclature to have occurred, and that some of the missing numbers have been probably returned as "blacksmiths" or "wheelwrights."

£27,624 8s., or 35 per cent., was raised at the port of Launceston ; leaving £49,527 8s. 6d., or 65 per cent. for Hobart Town. Compared with 1847, there is a falling off in this branch of the revenue at the latter port of 10 per cent., but an increase of about 3 per cent. at Launceston ; making the actual deficiency 7 per cent. upon the year. The Post-office collections, including the Commissariat postage (a fixed sum of £1500), have increased nearly 9 per cent. The sums received for Licences, and as Fees, exhibit just such slight variations as are incidental to the fluctuations of business: the former head, collectively, shows an increase of 5 per cent., while the latter has decreased in about the same proportion. The Fines and Fees taken by the Police Magistrates have declined full 20 per cent. ; a rather satisfactory evidence, it may be supposed, of improvement in public morals. Some small additional items of revenue appear in this year's receipt, partly counter-balanced by the transfer of the proceeds of the Ferries to the Commissioners, and by the reduction of one-sixth in the charge for quit-rents. The total decrease in revenue as compared with 1847 is £20,928 16s. 4d. : but as in that year was included £12,500 in aid of Police and Gaols due to 1846, the decrease may be stated at £8428 16s. 4d. The actual net revenue for 1848, excluding arrears for 1847 received in that year, but including receipts not paid until 1849, appears by a Council paper to be £130,492 0s. 6d.

Table 52 shows the corresponding appropriation of the Revenue for 1848. The total sum expended is £136,193, being a reduction upon 1847 of £6304 19s. 3d. ; but in the last-named year there were paid off Loans to Banks of upwards of £15,000. Of the whole expenditure, the Civil Establishments form $19\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the Police nearly 25 per cent., the Public Works 13 per cent., the Judicial nearly 15 per cent., the Ecclesiastical 10 per cent., Schools 4 per

cent., Pauperism 3 per cent.; the residue being expended upon various Miscellaneous Services. During 1847 and 1848 the revenue has been increased, on the one hand, by the grant for Police and Gaols from the Home Government; and the expenditure has been also increased by the return of loans to Banks and the payment of outstanding claims. The actual expenditure for 1848, excluding the arrears of 1847, but including payments made in 1849, appears to be, by the same official document, £137,136 13s. 8d.

Table 53 is an account of the Land Revenue, and of the charges borne upon it, for 1848. Deducting the balances from each side of the statement, the amount realised from this source during the year is £23,719 4s. 2d.; and the sum expended £10,224 10s. 10d., which includes a loan of £3000 to the Bridgewater Commissioners, leaving a surplus of £13,494 13s. 4d. The balance of Land Revenue on 1st January, 1848, was £10,800 11s. 1d.; and on 31st December, £24,295 4s. 5d.

Table 54 is a return of Pensions chargeable upon the Colonial Revenue, and calls for no particular comment.

Table 55 is a summary of the Civil Process of the Supreme Court during 1848, and exhibits a considerable increase of business upon the year under most of its heads. If the number of lawsuits be a test of prosperity, as has been recently alleged by a high judicial authority, this increase should be a source of general congratulation; but it is the opinion of others, founded upon experience, that litigation flourishes most during the transition from high prices, high profits, and high wages, to a period of comparative depression. Compared with 1847, there were 103 more summonses issued, and 131 more actions brought, but only 3 more actions tried. Of undefended cases there was an increase of 27. The writs of execution, taking both sorts together, are the same in number as in the previous

year; there being 5 more of *fi. fa.* and 5 fewer of *ca. sa.* The warrants of attorney and cognovits, taken together, have increased 15 per cent. One equity suit has been decided, and 2 more commenced, within the year.

Table 56 is a similar record of the business of the Court of Requests, showing an increase upon the year of 20 per cent. in the summonses issued, and of actions brought, and 15 per cent. of actions tried. The writs of *fi. fa.* have also increased 28 per cent., and those of *ca. sa.* are 1 more in number than in 1847. The large total number of 1789 actions were brought, and 1089 tried, during the year.

Table 57 details particulars of the Insolvencies that have occurred during 1848. They are 94 in number; being an increase of 28 per cent. as compared with 1847: but in another point of comparison presenting a favourable result. The scheduled liabilities in 1847 were more than doubled by those of 1848; but the scheduled assets are also augmented in a still greater proportion: for whereas in the former year they would pay 10*s.* in the pound, in 1848 they were equivalent to 15*s.* in the pound. The loss sustained by creditors in 1847 from 74 insolvencies would be nearly £20,000, and in 1848, from 94 insolvencies, not quite £23,000; that is, of course, supposing the respective values to be realised as set down in the schedules. There were 5 insolvencies superseded in the course of the year.

Tables 58 and 59 are returns of Criminal Trials before the Supreme Court in 1848, the total number being 228. Of these 80 were acquittals, and 148 convictions; and of the persons tried, 28 came free to the Colony, and 200 were transported hither. Of the 28 free to the Colony, 19 were acquitted, and 9 convicted; and of those who were, or had been, Convicts, 61 were acquitted, and 139 convicted. The crimes against the person comprise 28 per cent., and those against property 72 per cent., of the whole. As compared

with 1847, the convictions for crimes against the person are fewer by 8, but show an increase of 14 in crimes against property.

Table 60 is a similar return of Trials at the Quarter Sessions for the same period, the total number being 194. Of these 74 were acquittals, and 120 convictions; and of the persons tried 20 came free to the Colony, and 174 were transported hither. Of the 20 free to the Colony, 7 were acquitted, and 13 convicted; and of those who were, or had been, Convicts, 67 were acquitted, and 107 convicted. As compared with 1847, the convictions have increased 60 per cent.

Table 61 is a return relative to the Conservancy of the Peace in 1848. There were 248 unpaid magistrates in the commission, comprising

	Per cent.
Naval and Military Officers	26
Surgeons	10
Barristers.....	2
Clergymen	4
Civil Officers	8
Merchants	8
Other gentlemen.....	42

The Police force consisted of a Chief Police Magistrate, 8 Police and 10 Assistant Police Magistrates, with 26 Police Clerks, and 506 Constables.

Table 62 furnishes particulars of the Gaols* of Van Diemen's Land on 31st December, 1848. They were 8 in number, with 14 gaolers and turnkeys, and 40 javelin-men; the expence for the year being £3891 9s. 4*d*. The gaols will hold 151 prisoners in separate cells, but will contain 717 when more than one sleeps in a cell. There were

* These are exclusive, of course, of the Barracks and other places for the reception and coercion of British Convicts.

117 males and 11 females in confinement in the month of September, of which 48 per cent. were for misdemeanors, and 52 per cent. for felonies. The instances of punishment within the walls of the Prisons during the year were 30. During the same period 334 cases of sickness occurred in the Gaols, 28 being the greatest number of sick at one time; but there were no deaths.

Tables 63 to 67 form the Police and Magisterial Statistics of the Territory for 1848. The aggregate total of persons, free and bond, taken before magistrates during the year, comprise the almost incredible number of 21,057,* or 30 per cent. of the entire population! Two-thirds of these, or 20 per cent., were bond, and one-third, or 10 per cent., were free. Drunkenness is, as usual, the most conspicuous offence, numbering 5255 cases, or 25 per cent. of the whole amount. These again are subdivisible in the proportion of 44 per cent. bond, and 56 per cent. free—to their shame be it recorded!

Analysis of the several offences, as grouped in the Tables 63 and 67, set down in a descending scale from the one of most frequent occurrence, affords the following results:—

	Per cent.
Drunkenness	25
Misdemeanors	14
Penal Convictions under Colonial and English Statutes	11½
Felony and Larceny	9
Absence without Leave	8
Absconding	4
Disobedience of orders	3

* Surely the number 21,057 entered as "persons" in this Return ought to have been stated as *cases*. Everyday experience and observation bears witness to the fact, that individuals charged with drunkenness, disorderly conduct, and offences arising out of these, appear again and again in our Police Courts within a comparatively short time.

	Per cent.
Assaults	3
Cases under examination	2
Neglect of duty	1½
Insolence.....	1½
Insubordination	0½
Idleness	0½
Sureties of Peace for good behaviour	0½
Various other offences.....	15

By Table 65 it appears that the 14,022 Convicts, who were brought before magistrates, bear the proportion of 61·60 per cent. to the total number of that class; and that, further analysed, they constituted 49·72 of the Ticket-of-leave holders, 84·52 of the Pass-holders, and 7·93 of those on probation or under sentence. This return is altogether exclusive of Tasman's Peninsula, and Norfolk and Maria Islands, as well as of cases before Visiting Magistrates, who report direct to the Comptroller-General.

By Table 66 it likewise appears that the 7035 free persons charged with offences before magistrates form 15·20 per cent. of the entire free population—65 per cent. of those free by servitude or otherwise, and 35 per cent. of those who arrived free or were native-born, including the Military. Further analysis shows that there were 38·39 per cent. of the former of these divisions, and 7·24 of the latter; or, excluding Military and children under 14 years of age, 15·92 per cent.

Table 67, completing this series, details the offences and civil condition of the persons brought before Magistrates, excluding Tasman's Peninsula, and Norfolk and Maria Islands. This return shows that, of the whole number taken before Magistrates, 18 per cent. were females; in the proportion of 12½ per cent. bond, and 5½ per cent. free.

Table 68 is a subsidiary return of the average number of

Convicts, duly classified, in the territory of Van Diemen's Land during 1848 ; also of the actual number of each class on 1st December of that year ; as obtained from the Comptroller-General's office :—

	Males.		Females.
On probation or under sentence.....	1118	....	1115
Pass-holders	8130	....	1588
Ticket-of-leave holders	8217	....	1141
On Tasman's Peninsula	1963	....	„
At Maria Island	554	....	„
At Norfolk Island	661	....	„
	<hr/>		
Totals.....	20,643	....	3844
	<hr/>		
	3,844		
	<hr/>		
Total number of Convicts in Colony....	24,487		
	<hr/>		

This Table differs from a foregoing account of the Convict population, in that it includes Norfolk Island, Tasman's Peninsula, and Maria Island.

By Table 69 it appears that the extreme penalty of the law was carried into effect upon 16 criminals in Van Diemen's Land, and upon 1 at Norfolk Island, during 1848. Fifteen of those who suffered were Convicts, and 2 were free persons. In 1847 the total number of executions was 6.

Table 70 is a return of the Civil Establishment in Van Diemen's Land during 1848, grouped into classes of persons "educated" and "not required to be educated." The former division comprehends 128 officers and magistrates, &c., 68 chaplains and schoolmasters, 19 medical men, and 79 clerks : the latter, 42 tradesmen and seamen, and 111 other free persons. The total number employed by the Colonial Government is 447.

Table 71 is a similar return for the Convict Establishment. The total number of free persons employed in 1848

was 576, comprising 141 officers, superintendents, magistrates, &c., 54 chaplains, catechists, and schoolmasters, 29 medical men, and 51 clerks, in the class of educated persons; and 83 tradesmen and seamen, and 218 other free persons, in the uneducated class. The expenditure in 1848 for pay of officers, and food and clothing for Convicts, was £152,800 4s. 8d.; and £91,777 2s. 4d. was expended in pay of Military Guard and Staff Officers, including rations—together about a quarter of a million sterling. The estimated consumption in 1849 for Convict purposes of articles the produce of the Colony, deducting the quantities grown at stations, is valued at £37,222 7s. 0d.

Table 72 is a return from the Port Officer of the Light-houses of Van Diemen's Land, which are six in number; viz., Kent's Group, Brune Island, and Low Heads, exhibiting a revolving light; Goose Island, and Iron Pot Island, having a fixed light; and Swan Island, with its revolving flash. The maintenance of these Light-houses cost, in 1848, £2066 13s. 9d., averaging £344 8s. 11½d. each. The amount of Light Dues received during the year was £1359 5s. 4d., or 65¼ per cent. of their expence.

Table 73 is a return from the Port Officer of the Steam Vessels employed in 1848, being 4 in number. Two of these, the *Derwent* (35 h. p.) and *Kangaroo*, (32 h. p.) are employed by the Convict Department,—the *Native Youth* (20 h. p.) is used as a passage boat on the Derwent,—and the *Gipsy* (2 engines of 32 h. p.) is similarly used on the Tamar, although not so stated in the return.

Table 74 is a valuable register of Meteorological facts, illustrative of the climate of Van Diemen's Land, by Lieut. Kay, R.N., of the Observatory. The atmospheric pressure and temperature for the year are first given, being the monthly barometrical and thermometrical observations. The maximum pressure was 30.402 inches in June, and the

minimum 28·596 inches in September, giving a barometrical range upon the year of 1·806 inch. The highest monthly mean was 30·004 in July, and the lowest 29·041 in June; the difference being ·963 inch. The mean pressure of the year was 29·739 inches.—The maximum temperature occurred in December, when the thermometer stood at 86°·6; and the minimum in July, when it fell to 31°·3, giving a range in the course of the year of 55°·3. The highest mean temperature for any month was 60°·2 in January; the lowest mean 42°·8 for July; the difference between them being 17°·4. The mean temperature for the whole year was 52° 3,—that for 1847 being 53°·2,—and for 1846, 53°·1.

The next Table gives the quantity of rain which fell monthly during 1848, as denoted by the Self-registering Rain Gauge at the Observatory; the total being 23·67 inches for the year. A general impression prevails that this Island has a dry climate, and is deficient in moisture; and it may therefore create not a little surprise to state that Count Strzelecki gives the annual fall of rain in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land as actually greater than in England.* A most interesting conclusion is arrived at by Lieut. Kay, based upon a cycle of 7 years, that the seasons in this Colony are alternately wet and dry. In this last year April was the driest month, and May the wettest; the quantities which fell being 0·54 and 4·34 inches respectively. By comparison, it seems that much more rain falls annually on the northern parts of the Island than at Hobart Town, where Mount Wellington attracts much of the rain that would otherwise be precipitated below.

The popular opinion that the winds prevail from the north west are amply confirmed by the next Table; and it

* Strzelecki's N. S. W. and V. D. L., p. 194.

is remarked by Lieut. Kay that the westerly winds embrace 6-10ths of all that blow during the year.

Table 75 is an abstract of Meteorological observations registered at Launceston during 1848. The maximum pressure in the course of the year was in May 30·897 inches ; the minimum in November 29·025, giving a barometrical range of 1·872 inch. The mean pressure for the year will be found to be 30·364.—The maximum temperature occurred in January and February, when the thermometer stood at 88° ; and the minimum in July, when it fell to 27°·5, giving a range in the course of the year of 60°·5. The mean temperature for the whole year will be found to be 51°·1.—The quantity of rain which fell at Launceston during the year was 35·415 inches, being 11·745 more than fell at Hobart Town, corroborating the well-known fact that rain falls in varying quantities at points not far distant from one another. For instance, in London, deduced from 40 years' observation, the quantity which falls annually is 20·686 ; while at Kendal, in Lancashire, upon a series of observations extending over 25 years, the annual fall is 53·944 inches. In Paris, again, upon 15 years' observation, the annual fall is 18·649 inches ; while at Viviers, upon 40 years' observation, the quantity which falls is 33·977.

Tables 76 to 79, completing the volume, contain minute statistics of the several Church Establishments, and also of the Wesleyan and Independent Congregations, showing the local distribution, and names, of their clergy and ministers ; but as these returns are merely supplementary to Nos. 16 to 18, which have already passed under notice, further remark upon them is here unnecessary.
