

Number
of letters,
&c., sent
in the
principal
countries
in the
world.

386. The following table gives the numbers and number per head of letters, postal cards and newspapers sent in the principal countries of the world. The figures have been taken partly from official sources and partly from the Statesman's Year Book, and the calculations have been made in this office. It was not found possible to give the figures for letters only, owing to the returns from many countries including other matter. The extraordinary quantity of mail matter sent in the Australasian Colonies is worthy of observation. It will be seen that, with the exception of Switzerland, the number per head in each of the Colonies is higher than in any other country in the world. Probably one of the principal reasons for this is the fact of the Australasian trade being, in proportion to population, exceedingly large, and an extensive trade naturally creates an extensive correspondence. The systems of enumeration also vary in different countries, and it may be that those in practice in the Australasian Colonies are particularly accurate. The very large number of tourists that congregate in Switzerland every year most probably accounts for that country's foremost position:—