

CHAPTER XIII.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Collection
of criminal
statistics.

681. The collection of criminal statistics for the Dominion is provided for by the Act 39 Vic., chap. 13, which came into operation in 1876, and annual returns are made to the Department of Agriculture and Statistics by all clerks of Criminal Courts, and certain other officers as named in the Act, which returns are supposed to be complete statements of all the criminal cases at each place during the year. It is, however, much to be regretted that these returns have not at present by any means attained that degree of perfectness which is desirable and practicable. The figures that are returned can, nevertheless, be relied on as far as they go, and it is possible from them to get a fairly accurate general idea of the amount of crime throughout the Dominion, though it is not possible to ascertain correctly the distribution of crime, or with any fairness to compare the figures of one Province with those of another.

Indictable
offences.

682. The various indictable offences are divided into six classes, as follow :—

- Class I. Offences against the person.
- Class II. Offences against property, with violence.
- Class III. Offences against property, without violence.
- Class IV. Malicious offences against property.
- Class V. Forgery, and offences against the currency.
- Class VI. Other offences not included in the foregoing classes.

And the following list gives the principal crimes and offences that are included in each class :—

CLASS I.—OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON.

- Murder and attempt to murder.
- Manslaughter.
- Shooting, stabbing, wounding, &c.
- Rape and other offences against females.
- Unnatural offences.
- Bigamy.
- Abduction.
- Assault, aggravated and common.
- Other offences against the person.