

568. The following is a comparative statement of loss for each year since 1870, all casualties, whether at sea or on inland waters, being included in the table:—

Number
of wrecks,
&c., 1870-
1887.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF WRECKS AND CASUALTIES,
1870 TO 1887.

| YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER. | Casualties. | Tonnage. | Lives Lost. | Damage. |
|---------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| 1870..... | 335 | | 210 | 901,000 |
| 1871..... | 274 | 81,035 | 81 | 2,100,000 |
| 1872..... | 290 | 99,109 | 237 | 2,507,338 |
| 1873..... | 350 | 99,523 | 813 | 2,844,133 |
| 1874..... | 308 | 106,682 | 109 | 2,029,965 |
| 1875..... | 286 | 99,437 | 78 | 2,468,521 |
| 1876..... | 452 | 153,368 | 404 | 2,942,955 |
| 1876..... | 468 | 177,896 | 133 | 3,952,582 |
| 1878..... | 414 | 161,760 | 187 | 3,444,875 |
| 1879..... | 533 | 198,364 | 349 | 4,119,233 |
| 1880..... | 445 | 179,993 | 217 | 3,820,652 |
| 1881..... | 440 | 210,719 | 399 | 4,922,423 |
| 1882..... | 451 | 193,655 | 271 | 3,138,423 |
| 1883..... | 366 | 158,826 | 259 | 2,029,752 |
| 1884..... | 324 | 119,741 | 253 | 2,965,321 |
| 1885..... | 346 | 144,726 | 198 | 2,753,667 |
| 1886..... | 377 | 150,277 | 54 | 1,950,799 |
| 1887..... | 263 | 125,983 | 46 | 1,193,543 |
| Total..... | 6,722 | 2,461,084 | 4,308 | 50,086,182 |

* 545 persons were lost by the wreck of the White Star SS. "Atlantic."

569. It will be seen that the loss of life was considerably less in 1886 than in any other year in the table, and the amount of damage was also very much smaller than in any previous year, 1870 only excepted, and since the amount of shipping involved is continually increasing, it would appear as if the improved protection by means of lights, buoys, &c., and the greater attention now paid to the qualifications both of masters and mates, were having beneficial effects in reducing risks both to life and property.

Decrease
in loss of
life and
property.