

TOTAL NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS IN CANADA, 1882 TO 1886.

OFFENCES.	Convictions for the Years ended 30th September				
	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
I.—Offences against the person.....	4,667	4,845	4,281	4,886	5,202
II.—““ property, with violence.....	173	132	228	222	255
III.—““ “ without violence.....	2,190	2,003	3,286	3,599	3,178
IV.—Malicious offences against property.....	655	584	274	201	269
V.—Forgery and offences against the currency	22	25	20	48	43
VI.—Other offences, not included in the above classes	23,598	25,799	21,459	24,913	24,927
Total.....	31,305	33,388	29,551	33,869	33,874

576. There was an increase of only 5 in the total number of convictions in 1886 as compared with 1885, which may be considered satisfactory, for seeing that the returns from the Province of Quebec were fuller than in any previous year, and assuming that the figures from the other Provinces were, at least, not less complete than formerly, it is evident that there must have been a decided decrease in crime during the year under review. The largest increases were in offences against the person and malicious offences against property, while it is very satisfactory to note a marked decrease in the number of offences against property without violence, the increase in crimes of this description having been alarmingly rapid in previous years. Decrease
in crime.

577. It must be borne in mind that the number of convictions does not represent a similar number of individual criminals, because any person convicted more than once during the year, whether for the same or a different offence, is counted as a separate person for each conviction, and it is well known that for drunkenness, vagrancy and similar offences, a number of persons are convicted several times every year. The police returns for the city of Toronto for Persons
convicted
more than
once.