

856. The next table gives the number of convictions for indictable offences in each province in 1891, together with the ages and educational status of the convicted. Age and education of criminals.

AGES AND EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF PERSONS CONVICTED FOR INDICTABLE OFFENCES, &c., 1891.

| PROVINCES. | Convictions. | EDUCATIONAL STATUS. | | | | | AGES. | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|------------|-----------------|-------|------------------------|----|------------------------|-----|--------------------|----|------------|----|
| | | Superior. | Elementary. | Unable either to read or write. | Not given. | Under 16 years. | | 16 years and under 21. | | 21 years and under 40. | | 40 years and over. | | Not given. | |
| | | | | | | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ontario..... | 2,046 | 43 | 1,588 | 350 | 65 | 372 | 10 | 422 | 26 | 764 | 75 | 280 | 28 | 65 | 4 |
| Quebec..... | 1,356 | 16 | 811 | 484 | 45 | 174 | 15 | 158 | 14 | 751 | 48 | 129 | 14 | 48 | 5 |
| Nova Scotia... | 124 | 3 | 100 | 19 | 2 | 15 | 1 | 24 | 2 | 46 | 4 | 13 | 5 | 14 | .. |
| N. Brunswick... | 96 | 1 | 53 | 14 | 28 | 16 | .. | 15 | 3 | 26 | 7 | 17 | 8 | 4 | .. |
| Manitoba..... | 93 | 6 | 71 | 9 | 7 | 7 | .. | 16 | .. | 52 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 6 | .. |
| E. Columbia... | 145 | 1 | 80 | 34 | 30 | 1 | .. | 5 | 1 | 74 | 3 | 27 | .. | 33 | 1 |
| P. E. Island... | 29 | 4 | 25 | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 4 | .. | 12 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 1 | .. |
| Territories... | 75 | 3 | 24 | 9 | 39 | 2 | .. | 9 | .. | 21 | .. | 7 | .. | 36 | .. |
| Total..... | 3,964 | 77 | 2,752 | 919 | 216 | 589 | 26 | 653 | 46 | 1,746 | 142 | 487 | 58 | 207 | 10 |

857. The steady decrease which was apparent during the years 1884, 1885 and 1886 in the number convicted who could neither read nor write has ceased, for while in 1886 the proportion of these to the total number was 9·60 per cent; in 1887 it rose to 15·24 per cent, in 1888 to 14·81 per cent, in 1889 to 14·92 per cent, in 1890 to 15·93 per cent, and in 1891 to 23·18 per cent. More complete returns have probably something to do with this increase, but they can hardly be held to account for the whole of it, and it may be that the spread of education is having a tendency to confine crime more to the ignorant classes. Number unable to read or write.

858. The educational status of criminals in proportion to the total number convicted during the last five years, is shown below: — Educational status of criminals, 1887-1891.

| EDUCATION. | 1887. | 1888. | 1889. | 1890. | 1891. |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. |
| Superior..... | 1·44 | 0·98 | 0·80 | 0·63 | 1·94 |
| Elementary..... | 78·08 | 76·97 | 75·85 | 76·97 | 69·42 |
| Unable to read or write. | 15·24 | 14·81 | 14·92 | 15·93 | 23·18 |
| Not given..... | 5·24 | 7·24 | 8·43 | 6·47 | 5·46 |