

The proportion of those of whom particulars are not given, is always much larger than it ought to be.

Ages of criminals, 1886-1891.

859. As regards ages, the proportions of those convicted were as follow :—

	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Under 16 years.....	11·00	12·84	16·06	16·32	15·10	15·51
16 years and under 21..	16·64	16·78	18·55	18·42	18·53	17·63
21 years and under 40..	50·66	48·93	46·22	48·19	47·13	47·63
40 years and over.....	17·92	18·26	13·69	11·83	13·22	13·75

Increase in juvenile offenders.

860. The above figures would seem to indicate an increase in youthful depravity which is not encouraging, more especially as the increase is corroborated by the figures of 1884 and 1885, which were 10·13 per cent and 10·24 per cent respectively. This increase is probably due to the rapid growth of population in our larger cities, where force of example and association have more powerful influence for evil than in rural districts. Out of 615 young criminals under 16 years of age, 26 of whom were girls, convicted of indictable offences, 514, or 83 per cent, were charged with larceny. Of the latter number 23 were girls.

Religions of criminals, 1891.

861. The next table gives the religions of those convicted of indictable offences in 1891 :—

RELIGIONS OF PERSONS CONVICTED FOR INDICTABLE OFFENCES, 1891.

OFFENCES.	Baptists	Roman Catholics.	Church of England.	Methodists.	Presbyterians.	Protestants.	Other Denominations.	Not given.
Class I. ....	12	501	109	73	58	78	46	30
“ II. ....	11	130	47	30	19	28	8	10
“ III. ....	54	1,211	459	277	162	166	80	89
“ IV. ....		20	7	4	3	5	6	5
“ V. ....	1	13	6	9	5	1	1	.....
“ VI. ....	9	77	23	24	22	14	6	15
Total .....	87	1,952	651	417	269	292	147	149

Proportions of principal religions.

862. The following were the proportions of those convicted belonging to the four leading religious denominations in 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890 and 1891 :—

	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Roman Catholic ..	47·00	48·22	49·00	48·20	49·24
Church of England ...	16·05	17·00	16·63	16·22	16·42
Methodist.....	12·20	10·06	10·31	10·65	10·52
Presbyterian .....	7·13	7·76	6·65	6·86	6·79