

Area and population of the world.

138. The area and population of the world, according to the same authority, are as follow :—

CONTINENTS.	Area.	Population.	Inhabitants to Square Mile.
	Sq. Miles.		
Europe	3,555,000	360,200,000	101
Asia	14,710,000	850,000,000	57
Africa	11,514,000	127,000,000	11
Australasia	3,300,000	4,750,000	1·4
North America	6,446,000	89,250,000	14
South America	6,837,000	36,420,000	5
Polar Regions	4,888,800	300,000
Total	51,250,800	1,467,920,000	29

PART II.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Collection of vital statistics.

139. Vital statistics are collected in some of the provinces with more or less accuracy, those by the Roman Catholic clergy in Quebec and the Provincial Government in Ontario being probably the most complete, but the great expense that must necessarily be incurred has hitherto deterred the Dominion Government from attempting any system of collection for the whole country, the only movement in this direction being the collection of mortuary statistics from some of the principal cities and towns, and also the contributing towards the expense of collecting statistics of the French population of Quebec, which are taken by the Roman Catholic Church. The Government having decided that the result did not justify the expense incurred, discontinued the collection of mortuary statistics, at the close of 1891.

Death rate in principal towns.

140. Twenty-nine towns made returns of mortuary statistics in 1890, Stratford, which has been added to the list, not having commenced in time to be included in that year. The result of the census having shown that the populations of the several places had in very many cases been largely over-estimated, the ratios per 1,000 of population have been calculated for this work on the number of inhabitants as ascertained by the census in April, 1891, and as only three months elapsed between the end of the year and the taking of the census, it is believed that these ratios are nearer the correct figures than any of those heretofore published.