

## CHARACTERS OF PARENTS OF CHILDREN COMMITTED FOR LARCENY.

The following table contains a classification of the parents of the children committed to Caversham and Burnham Schools for larceny :—

Character of Parents of Children charged with Larceny.	Caversham.			Burnham.			Total.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Both respectable, or nothing known against them ...	9	...	9	8	4	12	17	4	21
Father dead or deserted; mother respectable ...	7	...	7	1	1	2	8	1	9
Father drunkard; mother of good character ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1
Father respectable; mother deserted ...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Father deserted; mother dead ...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Maori ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1
Father deserted; mother of very bad character ...	2	2	4	1	...	1	3	2	5
Father and mother drunkards ...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Father noted for villainy ...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	1
No information ...	...	...	...	5	...	5	5	...	5
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>46</b>

It is reported of many of the children committed for larceny that they had become uncontrollable. The following entries in the registers are of this nature:—"Father dead; the boy beyond control of mother." "Father a seaman; leaves his wife and family to do the best they can. The mother a respectable woman, but could not control her son, who is a thief and sleeps from home." "The father is a tailor, poor, with large family; the boy a thief, and thoroughly beyond parents' control."

An attempt is made by means of the following table to classify all the inmates of the Caversham and Burnham Schools according to the character and circumstances of the parents at the date of committal :—

Information respecting the Parents at time of Children's Committal.		Caversham.			Burnham.			Total.			Remarks.			
Father.	Mother.	No. of different Families.	Number of Children.		No. of different Families.	Number of Children.		No. of different Families.	Number of Children.					
			Boys.	Girls.		Total.	Boys.		Girls.	Total.		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Very bad character	Very bad character	8	10	6	16	21	19	16	35	29	29	22	51	Number whose committal may be attributed more or less to misconduct on the part of one or both parents.
Deserted ...	Very bad character	24	25	16	41	8	4	8	12	32	29	24	53	
No information ...	Very bad character	19	10	10	20	8	6	8	14	27	16	18	34	
Deserted ...	Deserted ...	16	13	9	22	10	9	5	14	26	22	14	36	
Sickly and poor ...	Very bad character	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	
Dead ...	Very bad character	8	5	14	19	7	10	2	12	15	15	16	31	
Very bad character	Dead ...	7	12	1	13	10	14	6	20	17	26	7	33	
Drunkard ...	In lunatic asylum	1	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	
Bad character, or deserted	In hospital ...	2	5	1	6	...	...	...	...	2	5	1	6	
Very bad character	Believed respectable	6	4	4	8	1	1	...	1	7	5	4	9	
Sickly and poor ...	Deserted ...	1	1	3	4	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	4	
Dead ...	Deserted ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	1	1	
Deserted ...	Dead ...	13	12	12	24	3	3	1	4	16	15	13	28	
Deserted ...	In lunatic asylum	5	2	7	9	...	...	...	...	5	2	7	9	
Deserted ...	Believed respectable	11	10	3	13	2	2	...	2	13	12	3	15	
In lunatic asylum	In lunatic asylum	3	4	4	8	2	1	1	2	5	5	5	10	Attributable, more or less, to misfortune or mismanagement.
Poor ...	In lunatic asylum	4	6	2	8	...	...	...	...	4	6	2	8	
Dead ...	In lunatic asylum	2	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	2	
In lunatic asylum	Dead ...	2	4	2	6	...	...	...	...	2	4	2	6	
In lunatic asylum	Respectable ...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	2	1	2	...	2	
Dead ...	Dead ...	12	5	8	13	3	3	...	3	15	8	8	16	
Poor ...	Dead ...	3	7	4	11	2	3	2	5	5	10	6	16	
Dead ...	Poor, but respectable	4	4	1	5	5	4	2	6	9	8	3	11	
Believed respectable	Believed respectable	8	10	...	10	11	11	3	14	19	21	3	24	
Maori ...	Maori ...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	
No information ...	No information ...	...	...	...	...	19	22	2	24	19	22	2	24	
<b>Total on</b>	<b>December 31, 1880</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>433</b>	

The preceding classification brings out the fact that 313 committals may fairly be attributed, in a greater or less degree, to the misconduct of the parents; and 96 committals, to misfortune or mismanagement; there being 24 cases respecting which no information is received.

However uninviting the subject, it may prove of service to reveal the depths from which very many of these children have been rescued by means of the industrial schools. The following are some of the entries in the registers of admission: Two girls, aged nine and six years, "mother a brothel-keeper sent to gaol for one month, hence the children committed to the school," for six and seven years respectively; a girl, eleven years old, "father dead, mother described by the police to be 'one of the lowest abandoned women in Dunedin,'" a girl, five years old, "mother landed in Dunedin, pregnant, five years ago; she became a prostitute and died a short time ago; the child has no friends;" two boys, aged nine and six years,