

TABLE C.—AGE AND SEX OF PUPILS, DECEMBER, 1888.

| Ages. | Boys. | Girls. | Total. | Percentages for Five Years. | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | | | 1888. | 1887. | 1886. | 1885. | 1884. |
| Five and under seven years .. | 10,495 | 9,563 | 20,058 | 17.80 | 18.00 | 19.77 | 20.87 | 21.46 |
| Seven and under ten years .. | 21,481 | 19,860 | 41,341 | 36.69 | 37.00 | 37.21 | 37.63 | 37.05 |
| Ten and under thirteen years .. | 19,352 | 17,864 | 37,216 | 33.03 | 32.28 | 30.76 | 29.26 | 29.26 |
| Thirteen and under fifteen years .. | 6,048 | 5,855 | 11,903 | 10.56 | 10.52 | 10.20 | 10.29 | 10.34 |
| Over fifteen years .. | 988 | 1,179 | 2,167 | 1.92 | 2.20 | 2.06 | 1.95 | 1.89 |
| Totals .. | 58,364 | 54,321 | 112,685 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

The classification according to standards is shown in Table D, and in fuller detail in Table No. 2, Appendix, p. 2. The proportion of children who have not yet passed Standard I. continues very high, though it is declining. For 1888 the proportion was 42.43 per cent.—26.9 in the preparatory class, and 15.53 in the class preparing for Standard I. This proportion of 42.43 per cent. is nearly equal to the proportion of all the children under the age of nine years, which is the average age of children when they pass Standard I. Considering the large number of children under seven years, it is somewhat surprising that the average age of passing the First Standard should be so high; but it is probable that the average age is kept up by the entrance of a considerable number of older children who have had no instruction in school learning.

TABLE D.—CLASSIFICATION BY STANDARDS, DECEMBER, 1888.

| Standards. | Boys. | Girls. | Totals. | Percentages for Five Years. | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|---------|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | | | 1888. | 1887. | 1886. | 1885. | 1884. |
| Preparatory classes (P.) .. | 16,065 | 14,255 | 30,320 | 26.90 | 26.77 | 27.70 | 27.49 | 27.33 |
| Class for Standard I. .. | 9,167 | 8,327 | 17,494 | 15.53 | 16.59 | 17.41 | 18.14 | 19.19 |
| " " II. .. | 8,776 | 8,339 | 17,115 | 15.19 | 15.39 | 15.61 | 16.16 | 16.14 |
| " " III. .. | 8,935 | 8,672 | 17,607 | 15.63 | 15.39 | 15.48 | 15.51 | 15.51 |
| " " IV. .. | 6,975 | 6,801 | 13,776 | 12.23 | 12.15 | 11.87 | 11.13 | 11.15 |
| " " V. .. | 4,876 | 4,660 | 9,536 | 8.46 | 7.92 | 7.08 | 6.85 | 6.27 |
| " " VI. .. | 2,617 | 2,292 | 4,909 | 4.35 | 4.06 | 3.58 | 3.28 | 3.25 |
| Passed Standard VI. .. | 953 | 975 | 1,928 | 1.71 | 1.73 | 1.57 | 1.44 | 1.16 |
| Totals.. | 58,364 | 54,321 | 112,685 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

The next table (E) gives the average age of passing each standard in the several education districts. It will be seen that on the whole the schools may in this respect be considered stationary. The mean of the average ages (11 years 8 months) is the same for 1888 as for 1887 and for 1886.

as follows:—

| Education Districts. | Pure Maoris. | | | Half-castes living as Maoris. | | | Half-castes living among Europeans. | | | Total. | | | No. of Schools in which there were Native Children. |
|----------------------|--------------|--------|--------|-------------------------------|--------|--------|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---|
| | Boys. | Girls. | Total. | Boys. | Girls. | Total. | Boys. | Girls. | Total. | Boys. | Girls. | Total. | |
| Auckland .. | 88 | 55 | 143 | 7 | 15 | 22 | 187 | 159 | 346 | 232 | 229 | 511 | 90 |
| Taranaki .. | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 5 |
| Wanganui .. | 20 | 17 | 37 | 8 | 9 | 17 | 13 | 11 | 24 | 41 | 37 | 78 | 21 |
| Wellington .. | 20 | 18 | 38 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 22 | 18 | 40 | 44 | 43 | 87 | 11 |
| Hawke's Bay .. | 48 | 16 | 64 | 9 | 3 | 12 | 35 | 30 | 65 | 92 | 49 | 141 | 16 |
| Marlborough .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| Nelson .. | 6 | 2 | 8 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 2 | 8 | 4 |
| Grey .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Westland .. | 9 | 10 | 19 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 11 | 22 | 3 |
| North Canterbury .. | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 10 | 21 | 14 | 16 | 30 | 8 |
| South Canterbury .. | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 15 | 5 |
| Otago .. | 2 | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | 1 | 24 | 21 | 45 | 26 | 22 | 48 | 9 |
| Southland .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 44 | 52 | 96 | 44 | 52 | 96 | 12 |
| Totals for 1888 .. | 200 | 123 | 323 | 31 | 41 | 72 | 348 | 307 | 655 | 579 | 471 | 1,050 | 187 |
| Totals for 1887 .. | 155 | 124 | 279 | 35 | 29 | 64 | 314 | 279 | 593 | 504 | 432 | 936 | 177 |
| Difference .. | 45 | -1 | 44 | -4 | 12 | 8 | 34 | 28 | 62 | 75 | 39 | 114 | 10 |