

quarter sessions. It should be remembered that convicts are not tried before these courts, except for offences to which the punishment of death is attached. Therefore a great portion of the following convictions must have been of free persons. On the average of the seven years from 1829 to 1835, both inclusive, these convictions amounted every year to about one in a hundred of the whole population; an enormous proportion; as convictions in England are about one in a thousand, and in Scotland about one in thirteen hundred of the population. A large portion of these convictions were for offences of the greatest magnitude. This appears from the fact that, during the period of which I have spoken, whilst the average population of the penal colonies did not exceed 90,000, the annual number of convictions for murder and attempt at murder were about 34; for rape, seven; for highway robbery and bushranging, 66; for burglary, 50; for forgery, 13; for sheep and cattle-stealing, 53; for larceny and receiving stolen goods, 367. The average number of sentences of death were 132 a year; of executions, 52; and of sentences of transportation, 369. Thus in seven years, in these communities, whose population did not exceed one-half of that of Westminster, 923 persons were condemned to death, 362 executed, and 2,586 transported; without including the