

RETURN showing the Population of the Australian Colonies and New Zealand, the estimated Number of Letters received and despatched by the Colonies, respectively, the Contract Time of the Outward Voyage by the several Postal Routes, and the Amounts contributed by the United Kingdom and the Colonies towards the maintenance of Steam Postal Communication between Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand.

Country.	Population.	Estimated Number of Letters received and despatched during one Year.			Contract Time—Outward Voyage.				Amount Contributed.		Estimated Cost of Service via Batavia.	Total.
		Via Galle.	Via Panama.	Via Batavia.	Via Galle and Marseilles. Southampton	Via Panama.	Via Marseilles.	Via Batavia and Southampton	Via Galle.	Via Panama.		
United Kingdom	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ s. d. 69,437 13 2	£ s. d. ...	£ s. d. ...	£ s. d. 69,437 13 2
Victoria	630,000	1,094,668	20,874	...	48	56	54	60	28,774 16 11	...	...	28,774 16 11
New South Wales	430,859	475,302	79,789*	1,016	51	56	52	58	14,635 10 6	57,300 0 0	...	71,935 10 6
South Australia	165,000	251,423	3,120	...	46	59	52	63	17,098 1 0	...	...	17,098 1 0
New Zealand	220,000	758,843	250,000	...	55	49	59	65	32,494 9 6	62,700 0 0	...	95,194 9 6
Queensland	100,000	242,124	...	...	53	59	50	56	9,474 7 4	...	45,000 0 0	54,474 7 4
Tasmania	100,000	82,176	...	...	50	58	56	62	3,138 13 11	...	...	3,138 13 11
Western Australia	...	34,644	...	...	...	...	...	...	719 9 2	...	...	719 9 2
	1,645,859	2,939,180	...	...	...	...	...	...	175,773 1 6	120,000 0 0	45,000 0 0	840,773 1 6

* This is estimated from the actual number received and despatched during the quarter ended 31st December, 1866. The number of letters by the Panama route has increased since then; and a corresponding reduction has taken place in the number of letters sent and received via Suez.