

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	257	182	439	39	37	76	321	256	577	617	475	1,092	148
Taranaki	24	11	35	2	1	3	8	10	18	34	22	56	15
Wanganui	98	57	155	14	3	17	23	19	42	135	79	214	34
Wellington	56	46	102	12	10	22	28	19	47	96	75	171	21
Hawke's Bay	179	104	283	6	14	20	56	49	105	241	167	408	27
Marlborough	1	2	3	..	..	..	18	8	26	19	10	29	5
Nelson	10	2	12	..	..	..	..	2	2	10	4	14	7
Grey	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland	11	7	18	..	..	..	3	2	5	14	9	23	4
North Canterbury	8	7	15	..	..	..	11	8	19	19	15	34	10
South Canterbury	6	4	10	..	..	..	1	1	2	7	5	12	3
Otago	13	16	29	3	..	3	31	25	56	47	41	88	12
Southland	..	..	..	7	9	16	48	55	103	55	64	119	18
Totals for 1897	663	438	1,101	83	74	157	548	454	1,002	1,294	966	2,260	304
Totals for 1896	590	358	948	77	61	138	503	434	937	1,170	853	2,023	283
Difference	73	80	153	6	13	19	45	20	65	124	113	237	21

Table C., derived from Table No. 1 (Appendix, p. 1), shows that the boys attending the public primary schools outnumber the girls in the usual proportion of about 51·8 to 48·2. The number below the age of ten is to the number above that age as 51·6 to 48·4, but this ratio seems to be slightly declining. The ages at which the attendance is proportionately most numerous are the years between nine and ten and between ten and eleven, in the order in which they are here stated; and after the age of thirteen (or probably before that age) a rapid decline sets in, which, however, seems not to begin quite so early as it did some years ago.

TABLE C.—AGE AND SEX OF PUPILS, DECEMBER, 1897.

Ages.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Percentages for Five Years.				
				1897.	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.
Five and under six years ..	5,249	4,812	10,061	7·6	7·4	7·4	7·4	7·6
Six and under seven years ..	6,886	6,358	13,244	10·0	9·9	9·8	10·2	10·2
Seven and under eight years ..	7,684	7,144	14,828	11·2	11·2	11·6	11·5	11·5
Eight and under nine years ..	7,738	7,077	14,815	11·2	11·6	11·5	11·5	11·7
Nine and under ten years ..	7,919	7,453	15,372	11·6	11·6	11·6	11·6	11·8
Ten and under eleven years ..	7,763	7,506	15,269	11·5	11·5	11·6	11·9	11·7
Eleven and under twelve years ..	7,694	6,965	14,659	11·1	11·3	11·4	11·1	11·0
Twelve and under thirteen years ..	7,320	6,779	14,099	10·7	10·6	10·5	10·1	10·0
Thirteen and under fourteen years ..	5,695	5,256	10,951	8·3	8·1	7·9	7·8	7·9
Fourteen and under fifteen years ..	3,133	2,871	6,004	4·5	4·5	4·4	4·6	4·4
Over fifteen years ..	1,378	1,517	2,895	2·3	2·3	2·3	2·3	2·2
Totals	68,459	63,738	132,197	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

The statement of the classification of pupils in standard classes is given in detail in Table No. 2 (Appendix, p. 2), and condensed into a shorter statement in Table D.

TABLE D.—CLASSIFICATION BY STANDARDS, DECEMBER, 1897.

Standards.	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.	Percentages for Five Years.				
				1897.	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.
Preparatory classes	17,361	15,184	32,495	24·58	24·91	24·94	24·96	25·37
Class for Standard I.	8,437	7,818	16,255	12·30	12·68	13·01	13·34	14·14
" " II.	8,786	8,196	16,982	12·85	13·13	13·41	13·92	14·04
" " III.	9,796	9,108	18,904	14·30	14·46	14·80	15·09	14·79
" " IV.	9,514	9,124	18,638	14·10	14·11	13·90	13·65	13·18
" " V.	7,185	7,224	14,409	10·90	10·53	10·35	9·70	9·62
" " VI.	4,934	4,667	9,601	7·26	6·75	6·27	6·20	6·09
Passed Standard VI.	2,446	2,467	4,913	3·71	3·43	3·32	3·14	2·77
Totals	68,459	63,738	132,197	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

It will be observed that in all the classes above that preparing for Standard IV. the proportional number of pupils is constantly increasing, that in the