

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
REGISTRAR-GENERAL
OF
BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES
IN ENGLAND.

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ANNUAL REPORT

REGISTRAR-GENERAL

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES

IN ENGLAND



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1853

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REPORT

TO

The Right Honourable SIR GEORGE GREY, Bart., G.C.B., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, &c. &c. &c.

General Register Office,
30th August 1855.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit to you the detailed Abstracts, for the year 1852, of the Marriages, Births, and Deaths, which have been already laid before Parliament in a compendious form.

TABLE I.—Estimated POPULATION, Number of MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS registered in England in each Year from 1838 to 1852.

Years ended Dec. 31st.	Estimated POPULATION in England in the Middle of the Years.*	MARRIAGES.	PERSONS Married.	BIRTHS (exclusive of Still-born).	DEATHS.	Excess of Births over Deaths.
1838	15,312,256	118067	236134	463787	342760	121027
1839	15,515,296	123166	246332	492574	338984	153590
1840	15,721,029	122665	245330	502303	359687	142616
1841	15,929,492	122496	244992	512158	343847	168311
1842	16,123,793	118825	237650	517739	349519	168220
1843	16,320,479	123818	247636	527325	346445	180889
1844	16,519,565	132249	264498	540763	356933	183830
1845	16,721,081	143743	287486	543521	349366	194155
1846	16,925,051	145664	291328	572625	390315	182310
1847	17,131,512	135845	271690	539965	423304	116661
1848	17,340,492	138230	276460	563059	399833	163226
1849	17,552,020	141883	283766	578159	440839	137320
1850	17,766,129	152744	305488	593422	368995	224427
1851	17,982,849	154206	308412	615865	395396	220469
1852	18,205,627	158782	317564	624012	407135	216877

* The Population has been deduced on the assumption that the annual rate of increase was uniform; viz. 1.220 per cent. in each of the 10 years 1841-51, and 1.326 per cent. in each of the 3 years 1838-40. For 1852 the increase of Population has been obtained by taking the excess of births over deaths in the four quarters ending June 30th, 1852.

TABLE II.—Proportion of MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS to the Population of England.

Years ended Dec. 31st.	To 100 Persons living,				The Number of Persons living.			
	MARRIAGES.	PERSONS MARRIED.	BIRTHS.	DEATHS.	To one Marriage.	To one Person Married.	To one Birth.	To one Death.
1838	.771	1.542	3.029	2.238	130	65	33	45
1839	.794	1.588	3.175	2.185	126	63	31	46
1840	.780	1.560	3.105	2.288	128	64	31	44
1841	.769	1.538	3.215	2.159	130	65	31	46
1842	.737	1.474	3.211	2.168	136	68	31	46
1843	.759	1.518	3.231	2.123	132	66	31	47
1844	.801	1.602	3.273	2.161	125	62	31	46
1845	.860	1.720	3.251	2.089	116	58	31	48
1846	.861	1.722	3.383	2.306	116	58	30	43
1847	.793	1.586	3.152	2.471	126	63	32	40
1848	.797	1.594	3.247	2.306	125	63	31	43
1849	.808	1.616	3.294	2.512	124	62	30	40
1850	.860	1.720	3.340	2.077	116	58	30	48
1851	.858	1.716	3.425	2.199	117	58	29	45
1852	.872	1.744	3.428	2.236	115	57	29	45
Mean	.808	1.616	3.257	2.235	124	62	31	45

NOTE.—By disregarding the decimal points the Table will show the proportion to every 100,000 persons living. A correction for increase of population has been made in calculating the above results.

The tables and the calculations are nearly of the same nature as those which were in my Report for the previous year.

1852 was a prosperous year; and the price of provisions was low until after harvest, when the price of wheat rose, and potatoes, which are consumed so largely by people of all classes and ages, became dear.

317,564 persons were married; 624,012 children were born; 407,135 deaths were registered, in the year 1852.

The rate of marriage was 1.744, of birth 3.428, of death 2.236 per cent. on the population; or, in other terms, but less exactly, there was one person married to 57 living, one birth to 29 living, and one death to 45 living. The rates of marriage and of birth greatly exceeded the average. The mortality was at the average rate.

MARRIAGES.

158,782 marriages were celebrated in the year. The increase in the rate of marriage is evident on comparing this number with the 118,067 marriages in 1838. The increase, it will be seen, in fourteen years is in the proportion of four to three. (Tables I., II.)

133,882 of the marriages were performed according to the rites of the Established Church; in 19,469, or one-seventh of the cases, marriage it is

TABLE III.—MARRIAGES registered in ENGLAND in each Year from 1841 to 1852.

YEARS ending 31st December	According to the Rites of the Established Church.					Not according to the Rites of the Established Church.					TOTAL MARRIAGES.		
	Special Licence.	Licence.	Banns.	Superintendent Registrar's Certificate.	Not stated.	Total.	Total.	In Registered Places.	Superintendent Registrar's Office.	Quakers.		Jews.	
1841	13	15792	78015	972	19579	114371	8125	5882	2064	66	113	122496	
1842	9	14935	75744	944	18415	110047	8778	6200	2357	58	163	118825	
1843	8	14544	79849	1222	18014	113637	10181	7152	2817	61	151	123818	
1844	10	14980	85176	1538	18335	120009	12240	2280	6284	3446	55	175	132249
1845	10	16013	92867	1706	18919	129515	14228	2816	7181	3977	74	180	143743
1846	14	17135	92995	1862	18303	130509	15155	3027	7669	4167	68	224	145664
1847	14	17052	84863	1968	19379	120876	14969	2961	7483	4258	83	184	135845
1848	13	16896	86519	2170	18871	121469	16761	3658	8060	4790	67	186	138230
1849	18	16697	90644	2593	13230	123182	18701	4199	8662	5558	53	229	141883
1850	8	17413	98669	3136	11733	130959	21785	5623	9626	6207	69	260	152744
1851	8	17781	99406	3351	10412	130958	23248	6570	9540	6813	65	260	154206
1852	8	19461	106497	3610	4306	133882	24900	7479	10017	7100	57	247	158782

YEARS ending 31st December	Marriages contracted between				Re-married.		Under Age.		Signed the Marriage Register with Marks.			
	Bachelors and Spinsters.	Bachelors and Widows.	Widowers and Spinsters.	Widowers and Widows.	Widowers.	Widows.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Marriages in which both Signed.	Marriages in which one Signed.
1841	—	—	—	—	—	—	5362	16285	39954	59680	—	—
1842	—	—	—	—	—	—	15619	10579	5387	16003	38031	56965
1843	—	—	—	—	—	—	16305	10811	5511	16403	40520	60715
1844	—	—	—	—	—	—	16941	11183	5515	17410	42912	65073
1845	119539	6028	11835	6341	18176	12369	6287	19376	47665	71229	—	—
1846	121324	5997	12212	6131	18343	12128	6313	20001	47488	70145	—	—
1847	112576	5705	11667	5897	17564	11802	5556	18118	42429	61877	32622	39062
1848	113284	5920	12702	6324	19026	12244	6092	19436	43166	62771	32974	39989
1849	116134	6102	13155	6492	19647	12594	6650	21105	44027	65135	—	—
1850	124031	6575	14558	7580	22138	14155	7453	23109	47572	70606	—	—
1851	126018	6625	14813	7250	21563	13875	7737	24286	47439	69812	36136	44879
1852	130672	6696	14044	7370	21414	14066	8551	26978	48421	70772	36636	45921

stated was by licence or special licence, in 106,497 instances after banns, and in 3610 instances on superintendent registrars certificates. It is gratifying to observe that the clergy generally say whether the marriage was celebrated after banns or by licence; still in this year the point is left unrecorded in 4306 instances.

The marriages performed not according to the rites of the Established Church were 12,240 in the year 1844, and 24,900 in the year 1852; and of these numbers 2280 and 7479 were in the registered places of Roman Catholics. The Roman Catholic marriages have thus increased more than threefold in eight years. 7100 marriages took place in superintendent registrars offices. 57 marriages of Quakers, 247 marriages of Jews, were registered.

Conjugal condition of persons married.—130,672 marriages were contracted between bachelors and spinsters, 6696 between bachelors and widows, 14,044 between widowers and spinsters, and 7370 between widowers and widows; consequently 21,414 widowers and 14,066 widows married in the year. Of 100 men who married 13.49 were widowers, of 100 women 11.18 were widows.

Minors.—8551, or 5.39 per cent., of the men; 26978, or 16.99, of the women, were under age. The proportion of minors of both sexes was 11.19 per cent. in 1852, and 8.83 in 1841.

Signatures of the persons married.—48,421 men, and 70,772 women, signed the marriage register by making marks; in 36,636 instances both parties signed with marks; in 45,921 instances one party signed with a mark; and one wrote his or her name. It is gratifying to find that the proportional numbers of men and women who write their names is increasing; still, however, 30.5 per cent. of the men, and 44.6 per cent. of the women, sign with marks. And in several counties more than half of the women are unable to write their names. (Tables III., IV., V.)

Registered Places for Marriages.—At the close of the year 3340 buildings were registered for the solemnization of marriages. (Table VI.)

TABLE IV.—MARRIAGES. The Proportion per Cent. of Minors of each Sex, of Males and Females who signed the Register with Marks, and of Persons who were Widowers or Widows.

YEARS ended 31st December	To 100 Married.								
	The Proportion under 21 Years of Age.			The Proportion who signed the Marriage Register with Marks.			The Proportion who were		
	Males.	Females.	Mean.	Males.	Females.	Mean.	Widowers.	Mean.	Widows.
1841	4.38	13.29	8.83	32.7	48.8	40.8	*12.30	*8.99	*10.95
1842	4.53	13.47	9.00	32.0	47.9	40.0	13.14	8.90	11.02
1843	4.45	13.25	8.85	32.7	49.0	40.9	13.17	8.73	10.95
1844	4.17	13.16	8.67	32.4	49.2	40.8	12.81	8.46	10.63
1845	4.37	13.48	8.93	33.2	49.6	41.4	12.64	8.60	10.62
1846	4.38	13.73	9.03	32.6	48.2	40.4	12.59	8.33	10.46
1847	4.09	13.34	8.72	31.2	45.5	38.4	12.03	8.54	10.74
1848	4.41	14.06	9.24	31.2	45.4	38.3	13.76	8.86	11.31
1849	4.69	14.88	9.79	31.0	45.9	38.5	13.85	8.88	11.37
1850	4.88	15.13	10.01	31.1	46.2	38.7	14.49	9.27	11.88
1851	5.02	15.75	10.39	30.8	45.3	38.1	13.98	9.00	11.49
1852	5.39	16.99	11.19	30.5	44.6	37.6	13.49	8.86	11.18

* The proportion of Widowers and Widows in the Year 1841 is for the September and December quarters only.

was born out of wedlock. The proportions varied in the several counties from 4·8 per cent. in Monmouthshire to 11·4 in Norfolk. (Table VII.)

Twins.—In 6036 cases women bore two living children at a birth; in 37 cases three living children. So 12,072 of the children were twins, 111 were triplets.

The occupations of the fathers of the triple births are shown in the Table of Abstracts, p. 84. It will be noticed that in 15 cases the triple

TABLE VII.—ENGLAND. BIRTHS, 1852.—NUMBER and PROPORTION of Male and Female Children born in and out of Wedlock.

Table with 12 columns: REGISTRATION COUNTIES, Male Children born, Female Children born, Born in Wedlock (Males, Females), Born out of Wedlock (Males, Females), Males born to every 100 FEMALES born, Males born in Wedlock to every 100 FEMALES so born, Males born out of Wedlock to every 100 FEMALES so born, CHILDREN born out of Wedlock to every 100 Births. Rows include ENGLAND, I.—LONDON, II.—SOUTH EASTERN COUNTIES, III.—SOUTH MIDLAND COUNTIES, IV.—EASTERN COUNTIES, V.—SOUTH WESTERN COUNTIES, VI.—WEST MIDLAND COUNTIES, VII.—NORTH MIDLAND COUNTIES, VIII.—NORTH WESTERN COUNTIES, IX.—YORKSHIRE, X.—NORTHERN COUNTIES, XI.—MONMOUTHSHIRE AND WALES.

births consisted of three boys, in 10 cases of three girls, in 7 cases of two boys and one girl, in 5 cases of two girls and one boy. It is evident that in these cases the boys preponderate, and that the cases in which the children are of the same sex occur in undue proportion; for, instead of being in the proportion of 15, 10, 7, and 5, the above numbers would have been in the proportion of 3, 3, 1, and 1, had the theoretical probabilities not been interfered with by a natural law tending to create children of the

TABLE VIII.—ENGLAND. BIRTHS 1852.—PROPORTIONAL Number of BIRTHS registered in each Registration County in the Year 1852, and in each Season of the Year, or the Number of Births in each Quarter to 1000 Births in the Average Quarter.

Table with 6 columns: REGISTRATION COUNTIES, BIRTHS to 100 Persons living, Proportional Number of Births registered (In the AVERAGE QUARTER assumed to be 1000, In the FIRST QUARTER ending March 31, In the SECOND QUARTER ending June 30, In the THIRD QUARTER ending Sept. 30, In the FOURTH QUARTER ending Dec. 31). Rows include ENGLAND, I.—LONDON, II.—SOUTH EASTERN COUNTIES, III.—SOUTH MIDLAND COUNTIES, IV.—EASTERN COUNTIES, V.—SOUTH WESTERN COUNTIES, VI.—WEST MIDLAND COUNTIES, VII.—NORTH MIDLAND COUNTIES, VIII.—NORTH WESTERN COUNTIES, IX.—YORKSHIRE, X.—NORTHERN COUNTIES, XI.—MONMOUTHSHIRE AND WALES.

Seasons.—Deaths take place every day in England, and the deaths on an average were 1115 daily in the year 1852. The respective numbers in each of the four quarters of the year did not differ considerably; for they were in the proportions of 1·045, ·989, ·986, and ·980, the average being taken as a point of comparison at 1·000. (Tables XII., XIII.)

The mortality-rate in England is now generally highest in the winter and lowest in the summer quarter; and when this order is reversed the cause is some epidemic, such as cholera, which is most fatal in the hot season of the year.

The rate of mortality exhibits a much more extensive range than the rate of birth; for it was as high as 1·201 in the winter quarter of 1848, and 1·227 in the summer quarter of 1849; as low as ·917 in the winter quarter of 1846, and ·877 in the summer quarter of 1848.

Great fluctuations almost invariably imply a high rate of mortality, and such an equality in the visitation of mortality as is recorded in this year may be always regarded as a favourable auspice.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your faithful Servant,

GEORGE GRAHAM,

Registrar-General.

TABLE XII.—DEATHS registered in each Quarter of the Years 1838 to 1852.

Years.	Quarters ending the last day of			
	March.	June.	September.	December.
1838	98152	90877	72877	80854
1839	89740	87969	76280	84995
1840	98896	90339	80822	89630
1841	99069	86134	75440	83204
1842	96314	86538	82339	84328
1843	94926	87234	76792	87493
1844	101024	85337	79708	90864
1845	104664	89149	74872	80681
1846	89484	90230	101664	108937
1847	119672	106718	93435	103479
1848	120032	99727	87638	92436
1849	105870	102153	135227	97589
1850	98430	92871	85849	91845
1851	105359	99458	91499	99080
1852	106358	100625	100382	99770

TABLE XIII.—ENGLAND. DEATHS.—PROPORTIONAL Number of DEATHS in each QUARTER to 1000 Deaths in the Average Quarter of each Year.

YEARS.	Number of Deaths in the Average Quarter.	Proportional Number of Deaths.				
		In the Average Quarter (assumed to be 1000).	First Quarter ending March 31.	Second Quarter ending June 30.	Third Quarter ending Sept. 30.	Fourth Quarter ending Dec. 31.
1838	85690	1000	1145	1061	850	944
1839	84746	1000	1059	1038	900	1003
1840	89922	1000	1100	1005	899	997
1841	85962	1000	1152	1002	878	968
1842	87380	1000	1102	990	942	965
1843	86611	1000	1096	1007	887	1010
1844	89233	1000	1132	956	893	1018
1845	87342	1000	1198	1021	857	924
1846	97579	1000	917	925	1042	1116
1847	105826	1000	1131	1008	883	978
1848	99953	1000	1201	998	877	925
1849	110210	1000	961	927	1227	885
1850	92249	1000	1067	1007	931	996
1851	93849	1000	1066	1006	926	1002
1852	101784	1000	1045	989	986	980