

Confidential.

OBSERVATIONS

CONCERNING THE

CONSTABULARY FORCE OF IRELAND.

CHIEFLY IN REFERENCE TO CERTAIN OBJECTIONS ALLEGED
AGAINST THE PRESENT SYSTEM.

EXTRACTED FROM THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF
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MAY, 1862.

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OBSERVATIONS,

&c.

- I. ON THE ALLEGED TOO MILITARY TENDENCIES OF THE IRISH
CONSTABULARY FORCE.
- II. ON THE AMOUNT OF CRIME REPORTED, AND OF CRIME PUN-
ISHED; AND THE CAUSES OF THE IMPUNITY OF CERTAIN
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- III. ON SOME MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.
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NOTE.

IN the following Extracts, bearing chiefly upon points which seem at present to form topics of a considerable amount of discussion, the same subject will occasionally be found adverted to in the reports of different years.

I have deemed it better to preserve intact (with scarcely a verbal exception), the observations as originally written at the dates of the several reports, than to alter or amalgamate them by re-writing the whole; adding only occasional notes by way of connexion or explanation where such appeared to be necessary.

A few Extracts from the Constabulary Code (which might have been multiplied to any extent), illustrative of the essentially civil nature of the Constabulary duties, have been subjoined.

HENRY JOHN BROWNRIGG.

May, 1862.

I.

On the alleged too Military Character of the Irish Constabulary Force.

I.—So much has been said upon the supposed military character and tendencies of the Irish Constabulary, that it is very probable that erroneous opinions have been formed upon the subject, the grounds of which it may be well to examine.

Vague notions about the military character of the Force.

1. It is not, however, easy to deal with a mere general statement upon this subject. When a definite proposition is advanced, it can be considered, and approved or rejected. But when, as is not unfrequently the case, it is said that the Police are "too military," the exact amount of meaning intended to be conveyed is not very apparent.

If, for example, it were alleged that the Irish Constabulary should cease to be grouped in barracks, and live indiscriminately amongst the people:—that they should cease to be under authority and control, and go where, and do what, should seem good to themselves:—that they should cease to wear a uniform, and dress in plain clothes, like other men:—or that they should cease to carry arms, and be served out with walking sticks:—such propositions would, at least, have the merit of being perfectly intelligible.

But what is meant by the Force being "too military?"—too military for what, and in what respects too military?

If it means that our men are taught the use of the arms they carry; to march and act in bodies when necessary; and to render a respectful and implicit obedience to their Officers,—then, not caring to quarrel about a word, I at once admit that the Constabulary are a military body.

But if it mean that they are not civilians—that the duties they are employed upon are not of a purely civil nature—that those duties have any resemblance to those of the military—or that the existing organization is not adapted to the state of things in this country,—then, I am persuaded that every one really conversant with the subject will be prepared with me to deny the allegation.

Necessity
for due
organiza-
tion and
equip-
ment.

2. 'That*—if the men are to carry arms, they should be serviceable and safe—if they are to be clad in uniform, it should be of a sufficiently durable kind—if they are to wear a head dress, it should be light and comfortable instead of the reverse—and if there is to be subordination of ranks, there should be visible marks of it,—all these seem to be requisitions so reasonable that I have not scrupled to advocate them even at the risk of being considered importunate: and if that advocacy shall fail from an apprehension of the Constabulary being diverted from their civil duties, I may venture to say that such an apprehension is groundless.

Distinc-
tion be-
tween a
military
appear-
ance and
a military
system.

3. Some, possibly, may fail to see the essentially *civil* character of the Constabulary, looking at them only as members of an organized Force, having a certain amount of military appearance,—thus, confounding a *disciplined* with a *military* body. But I presume it is hardly necessary for me to insist, that a strict discipline is indispensable in a large armed force, comparatively few of whom are for any length of time under the eye of an Officer; or that

* The above was of course written prior to the recent issue of new arms to the Constabulary; and it may be here observed in explanation, that for a considerable time previously to the issue, the old arms—which had been upwards of twenty years in use—had become unserviceable and even dangerous to the men. The clothing, also, had been of a very bad description—greatly inferior in quality to that of analogous services, and quite inadequate to the wear required. The cap—dress and undress—was at once oppressive, unsightly, and ill-adapted as a protection against the weather. These complaints have at length been removed; and the consequent improved exterior of the men has probably, in part, led to the revival of a notion that the Constabulary were assuming more and more of a military character.

this discipline is no less essential to the safety of the public than to the management of the Force itself.

II.—There is no reason to fear that the Constabulary Force, as at present constituted and at present governed, will ever merge into a mere military body. Every thing is against such a contingency. True, they live in barracks;—they wear a uniform;—they are armed and equipped;—and they are taught the field exercise;—but there the resemblance ends, and a very slight resemblance it is.

Every body of men will, it is evident, become, in the main, what the laws and regulations by which it is governed and directed fashion it to be. If, then, the Constabulary Code be examined,* and if a single rule be there found, calculated to create a feeling in the force (whether Officers or men), that they are a military body—that they are soldiers—or that they are not civilians;—then I will yield the point contested. The genius of the Constabulary Force is not less diverse from that of the Army than is the nature of its regulations from that of a military code.

1. They live in barracks;—but their barracks are not great buildings, constructed expressly for the purpose;† but are, for the most part, simple dwelling houses, in no respect differing from those of their neighbours; their household economy approaches far nearer to that of the family than that of the military barrack;—one or two married families reside at each post, the female portion of which cook, wash, and clean for the men, and not a few of the rest of the married men are allowed to sleep with their families out of barracks.

2. They are armed and accoutred;—and nobody pretends to deny that they *do* present a military appearance, when (for instance), leaving Dublin in bodies prepared

* See, for example, a few extracts from the Constabulary Code, p. 34, § *seq.*

† It need scarcely be remarked that the Depôt in Phoenix Park, Dublin, where recruits remain but three or four months under training, forms no exception to the purport of the above remarks.

Points of resemblance between the Constabulary and Military, examined.

Organized bodies take the character of their rules and government.

Constabulary Code essentially civil.

Difference between Military and Constabulary barrack life.

Arms and Accoutrements: alleged unsuitableness—erroneous notions on this point.

Frequent
employ-
ment of
Men on
duty in
plain
clothes.

for dispersion in other parts, or when collected in numbers at any station. But, from statements sometimes made, one would suppose that they are perpetually bristling in arms—that they are always tightly belted and fully accoutred; and that they never move but with the stately tramp of heavy armed infantry. The fact is very different. The baggage with which they are supposed to be encumbered, contains, amongst other articles for use, a suit of plain clothes, which every man is bound, on joining the Force, to provide himself with, and which his Officer is both bound to see, on every inspection, that he is possessed of, and to require him* frequently to wear, for the better detection of offenders.

“Dispos-
able (or
Detective)
Men.”

Besides, there is, in every county, a certain number of “*disposable men*”—(a number which may be enlarged *ad libitum*)—selected for peculiar aptitude for such duty, and in readiness to be sent anywhere at any time. These are frequently, and sometimes for long periods together, employed in plain clothes for the discovery of offenders, and, when so employed, are freed from most of the restraints imposed upon the men generally. The Force, so far from being the stiff and machine-like body that some would represent, includes, not merely this staff of “Disposables,” but an indefinite number of others, equally eligible for such duty if necessary.

These disposables are always ready to mount the frieze, to assume the short pipe, to converse (many of them) in the Irish language, and to employ devices, as an Irishman knows how, to come at the knowledge they are in quest of; while yet they are strictly cautioned against any thing like a system of espionage, which is so hateful to any people, and so contrary to what is regarded as the spirit of the British Constitution.†

* See Extracts, page 38.

† See Extracts, page 38. See also some further remarks on the Disposable System, on page 18, taken from the Report for 1860.

Having thus shown, in passing, that there is ample means for the performance of duties to which men in coloured clothes are best adapted, I return, for a moment, to the consideration of the main body of the Force. These, having arms, are rarely assailed; without arms, the case would be very different. The people in this country (except in proclaimed districts), are generally in possession of fire-arms, for which they have a great predilection. To disarm the Constabulary, under such circumstances, would be little short of an invitation to the worst characters to assail them: and attempts, on their part, to enforce the law at any distance from their posts would be to expose themselves, defencelessly, to imminent peril.

Danger of
disarming
the Force.

To deprive the Force of arms would probably lead to its speedy dissolution. Resignations would multiply; and few, I am inclined to believe, would be found willing to take the vacant places.

4. Rarely, indeed, have the Constabulary, since the present organization has existed, been obliged to repel, by the use of their arms, assaults committed on them in the execution of their duty—even when employed in twos and threes.

Infre-
quent use
of Arms.

It may be said, and it cannot be denied, that the Revenue Police never proceeded on duty in parties of less than twelve or fourteen men, and yet, though armed, they were sometimes assailed. But this very fact demonstrates the superior moral weight of the Constabulary over the old Revenue Police, since, proceeding in parties not half so large upon the self-same duty, and discharging it far more effectually, there are but two instances upon record in which they have been assailed in the execution of this duty, and, in those, only two men were employed, who did not act with the circumspection that usually characterizes the Force; in one of these instances, indeed, the men had been engaged upon other duty, and only casually came across the illicit matter.

But while the prestige of the Constabulary is thus

turned to account in the particular branch of duty last referred to, enabling them to perform the same service with less means, it must be remembered that, to disarm the Force would be to essentially alter its character, and undermine its prestige.

Display of strength useful.

And is the military appearance, which some complain of, an unmitigated evil? Has it no tendency to deter from breaches of the peace, or to impart confidence to the well disposed? Is it nothing to have visible proof that the Constabulary can, upon occasion, assemble in strength, and oppose the concentrated force of a disciplined armed body to the movements of an ill-organized rabble?

Drill occupies but little of the time and attention of the Constabulary.

3. Our men are instructed in the field exercise* :—but, once dismissed from the training Depot, the difficulty is, not to restrain their military ardour, but, amidst their numerous *civil* duties, and in their scattered localities, to find sufficient opportunities for practice, and for the means of retaining their knowledge of drill, which, consequently, they are but too apt to lose.

Esprit de Corps: not military.

4. Nor is the military spirit fostered by the men being congregated in large masses. Hundreds of our stations consist of not more than five or six men. Even when drawn together at contested elections, at assizes, or at great gatherings of the people where disturbances may be anticipated, they are, for the most part, a mere handful, and they continue together but for a very limited time.

The system has not superinduced a military spirit.

The Constabulary Force has now been in existence nearly forty years, and is essentially the same as it ever was. It has not indeed been stationary. It has not been unaffected by changes going on around. Its organization has been improved and consolidated and its regulations have been enlarged and methodized. It has been found a useful instrument for many good purposes,† though

* It must not be forgotten that the men are also instructed at the Depot in their duties as Peace Officers.

† See a statement of some of these, on page 33, taken from the Report for 1861.

never employed as a means of oppression ; and its members are fully aware that the slightest infraction on their part of the constitutional rights of the people, will not only subject them to the disapprobation of the Government they serve, but, in all probability, to prosecution at the ordinary legal tribunals ; and not unfrequently have they been put upon their trial—sometimes at their own charges—for an error of judgment, or even for doing no more than their duty. But the principal point which I would here insist upon is, that if there had been any thing inherent in the constabulary system to foster a love of soldiering, it must surely by this time have developed itself, and something would have been heard of it from the people amongst whom the force is stationed. From these I now and then receive letters of complaint, such as that men are located too near their relatives ; that they engage in private pursuits ; that they plant potatoes ; or that they keep a pig ; but I never heard of any complaints from *such* quarters that the men were employed in soldiering or that they were in any wise diverted from their duties, or incapacitated from the performance of them, by their military accoutrements.

The Force has indeed, been remarkably free from a military mania. The men composing it are chiefly of a different stamp from those of the army. They are attached to their own corps, and accustomed to its duties, for which they have acquired a predilection. The older and more influential portion of it are steady heads of families, whom they are endeavouring to educate and to provide for ; and, for themselves, are looking forward to the ultimate attainment of the pension to which their services shall entitle them. The younger portion are eager for promotion, and look forward to occupying the places to be vacated by their senior comrades, to which they cannot successfully aspire otherwise than by the steady discharge of all their duties, but pre-eminently of their police duties

—namely, the actual detection, arrest, or prosecution of offenders.

There is, indeed, in the Constabulary Force, a certain esprit de corps: but it is not a military spirit. A similar thing may be found in any body of men, collected together for any purpose whatever.

Infre-
quency of
enlistment
into the
Army.

No attempt to recruit for the army, from the Constabulary (even for crack regiments) has ever succeeded. The individual exceptions to this statement are so few as to need no notice. The effort made during the Crimean war to obtain from our Force volunteers for the Guards, even with the advantage of carrying with them their Constabulary period of service, was a failure, and was viewed by our men with a feeling nearly approaching to merriment.

A certain number of our men annually resign. They resign from a feeling of inadequate pay—to resume agricultural pursuits—to rejoin their friends—to fill other situations—to emigrate; but rarely indeed to enlist in the army.

The Con-
stabulary
rather dis-
posed to
mix with,
than to
separate
from, the
country
people.

5. If, indeed, there is any danger, it is one exactly the reverse of that under consideration. Between the soldier and the civilian there is a distinct line of demarcation; but the Constabulary man is most decidedly on the civil side of this line. Instead of being possessed with the roving spirit of the soldier, he forms matrimonial connexions and too intimate friendships with the people amongst whom he is stationed, and would fain become, if permitted, fixed as it were to the soil. Generally, nothing is so contrary to his wishes as to be removed—though this step is frequently necessary to the free and independent discharge of his duty.

The Con-
stabulary
preven-
tive, as
well as
detective.

Far be it from me to throw into the shade, the extreme importance of detecting the perpetrators of Agrarian outrage. But in giving this subject the prominence it deserves, let it not be forgotten that the Constabulary have other duties, scarcely less essential to the well-being

of society than even this. To prevent and deter, whether by moral or physical force, from the violation of the public peace, is one of these: and it can scarcely be denied that the absence of general crime of a serious nature in most counties, is a proof of the preventive efficiency of the Police. How to put down Agrarian crime is undoubtedly a most serious question: but I must strongly deprecate the notion that that desirable end is likely to be furthered by disarming the Police, or that such a measure would tend to the better preservation of the peace or the enforcement of the law in this country. Those who would discourage and extinguish what there is of strength and spirit in the Constabulary Force, must be prepared to accept all the consequences of the principle they advocate. The emasculation of the Constabulary would involve the necessity of increasing the army or militia Force, to which the preservation of the peace must then in reality be intrusted. This would be to retrograde—not to advance;—to revert to a state of things which existed at a time when crime and lawlessness were far more rife, and enjoyed far greater impunity than at present.

The weak-
ening of
the Force
to be de-
precat-
ed.

IV.—It is to me surprising that any one, even but partially acquainted with the habits, feelings, and social condition of this country, should propound for it schemes which might be well enough adapted to a different state of things:—but that persons who have spent large portions of their lives in the country parts of Ireland should seriously project such a step as the disarming and disorganizing the Constabulary Force is perfectly unaccountable.

Ill-advised
schemes
depre-
cated.

1. Say some, let the men on actual duty at fairs and public assemblies be armed with batons, and let these be supported by a body with fire-arms!

But any person who is acquainted with the character and propensities of the country people, must see that the interference of Policemen armed with *sticks* in a popular assembly would be simply an invitation to oppose them

Arming
with
batons.

Consequences of such a step.

with similar weapons: frequent collisions between the baton men and the people would be the inevitable result, which could only be put an end to by the armed party, perhaps not without a resort to serious extremities.

Besides, it would be unsafe for any but strong parties (which cannot ordinarily be furnished by a rural police) to go upon any duty beyond the immediate precincts of their own quarters.

Deprivation of Side-arms.

2. Others, with little reason, have suggested that the Constabulary should, when not on duty as they term it, be disarmed of their bayonets. But the Constabulary in rural districts are *always* upon duty.

Total absence of any reason for such a measure.

The notion of depriving the Constabulary of side-arms is based upon a fallacy. The military, when off duty, are not permitted to wear side-arms; therefore, it is contended, a similar prohibition should be extended to the Constabulary.

Now, that soldiers, loosed from the restraints of discipline, irritated by some exciting cause, and congregated in numbers, have often made a bad use of their side-arms, or indeed of any thing else that could be used as a weapon of aggression, is quite true, and hence it may have been very proper to deprive them of the means of inflicting injuries upon civilians or upon each other, under the circumstances referred to. But who, with experience to guide him, will affirm that there is any danger to be apprehended in this quarter from the Constabulary?

As a body, the Constabulary are of a superior class, and the original difference is augmented by the totally different circumstances in which the two Forces are placed. Fighting is the soldier's element: and his whole training and service go to foster his warlike propensity. The Constabulary, on the contrary, are men of peace—to preserve which, unbroken, is the end of their existence: and they are taught, in fulfilling this end, to endure, with forbearance, much provocation and even ill-treatment.

The influence of this training is quite apparent; and I am not aware of a single instance, since the reorganization of the Force in 1836, in which the public have had to complain, in any county in Ireland, of the misuse of side-arms by the Constabulary: and although the Depot has been established upwards of twenty years, only a solitary instance in Dublin has been alleged, and that of doubtful occurrence, or at all events greatly overdrawn and misrepresented at the time.

Another proposition has now and again been suggested as an improvement upon the Police system of this county namely, to abrogate the present organization, and to substitute a set of men residing indiscriminately with the people. With those who could entertain a notion of this kind, one fact might be more convincing than any thing else that could be advanced. Some years ago, on the perpetration of a barbarous murder, a first-rate officer from England was sent over to try and discover the perpetrators: his methods proved utterly fruitless: he discovered only that he could do absolutely nothing: and on quitting the country, he left behind him this testimony, that, in its adaptation to the country, the Irish Constabulary system could not be improved upon, and particularly that it would never answer here for the Police to live indiscriminately with the people.

Substitution of the Bow-street Officer system.

Example of its probable ill-success.

V.—That the day will never arrive, when, without augmenting the military, the Constabulary may be deprived of deadly weapons, be greatly reduced in numbers, or even be allowed to live every man at his own home, is more than I am prepared to assert. But we have not yet arrived even at the dawn of such an era. Before that time comes, there are serious social problems to be solved; and a new state of things must not only be inaugurated but fairly established, before it will be safe to tamper with an institution which is admitted by almost all who are acquainted with the facts, to be adapted to the existing

The disarming of the Constabulary not the question of the time.

state of the country, and whose value no persons, of whatever rank or class, seem disposed to deny.

Meanwhile, so long as the Constabulary are to be armed, they should be *well* armed; and one of the best safeguards against their being called upon to make a deadly use of their arms, is that they should be so instructed as to be quite efficient in the management of them should the necessity for their use unfortunately arise.

In enlarging upon this topic at so much length, I have exceeded my original design. But I thought it a fitting opportunity of placing before the Government, a few of the facts and considerations which might be adduced, with the view of allaying all fears grounded on the supposed too military tendencies of the Force. One observation may be necessary in conclusion, to obviate a possible misconstruction of the foregoing remarks. Although the members of our Force were found, as above stated, unwilling to enter the Guards and other regiments, and although, under ordinary circumstances, they are averse to removal from county to county, yet I have reason to know, and am persuaded, that such is the spirit prevailing amongst the Force, that, were it evoked, they would be found ready and willing to act, as a body, under their own officers not only in any part of the Country, but in any part of the world, where their services might be needed.—(*Annual Report, 1859.*)

FURTHER REMARKS ON THE DISPOSABLE SYSTEM.

Supposed
defects of
disposable
*system.

Disposable or Detective Men.—Our disposable system is sometimes pronounced defective, on, as it seems to me, untenable grounds. With respect to *numbers*, there is, as I have shown elsewhere, no lack of means of multiplying them to any required extent. With regard to *methods employed*, let it be remembered that our men are held strictly accountable for their proceedings, and for any infraction of the rights of the subject;

and that a system of trickery or espionage would never be tolerated by the people of these countries, nor sanctioned by our Government; and it is worthy of remark that in no single instance has it come to my knowledge that any member of the disposable Force, since its formation, has committed himself, or compromised the character of the Government, by any act of *Paddy M'Cuicism*,* or by any proceeding even approaching to that character.

It would seem to be the opinion of some that sufficient Secrecy. secrecy is not observed by the men employed on disposable duty, and that these men ought to preserve a strict and absolute *incognito*, the better to enable them to pick up information. But I should anticipate very little, if any, success in this country, from confining the men to such a system. The peasantry are exceedingly wary, and are not very apt to afford information of the kind desired, or to discourse freely upon such topics in the presence of a total stranger, while, on the other hand, they are often disposed to make disclosures, where they can safely do so—for example, to a Police Agent in plain clothes from a distant part of the country, when they would not venture to be seen with the local Constabulary on such an errand. Certain it is that our most useful disposable men are those who have been longest employed on missions of this kind, and who are even known as such. I do not therefore attach any importance to the perfect secrecy desired by some, being convinced that, even were it practicable, it would yield no good result.—(*Annual Report*, 1860, pp. 29-30.)

* This term, which became current some years ago, is used to denote the concoction of crime, with the design of afterwards giving information to the authorities in order to obtain reward; and is derived from the name of a person who became notorious at the time, from having been convicted of the practice referred to.

II.

On the Amount of Crime Reported, and of Crime Punished;
and the causes of the Impunity of certain classes of Offenders.

I.—As regards Crime reported.

1. I shall first insert a Return of the Total Number of Outrages specially reported (annually) by the Constabulary, during a series of years past.

Years.	No. of Cases of Outrage specially reported by the Constabulary.	Years.	No. of Cases of Outrage specially reported by the Constabulary.
1847,	20,986	1855,	4,201
1848,	14,080	1856,	4,125
1849,	14,908	1857,	4,032
1850,	10,639	1858,	3,492
1851,	9,144	1859,	3,618
1852,	7,824	1860,	3,531
1853,	5,452	1861,	3,581
1854,	4,652		

Leaving this Table to speak for itself, in regard to the *aggregate* number of offences reported (remarking only that the large numbers of the earlier years arose from the great prevalence, at the time, of the offence of sheep and cattle stealing), I shall next specify the offences of the later years more in detail.

2. The next Table shows the Number of Outrages of different groups reported by the Constabulary in each of the years 1859, 1860, and 1861.

Offences.		1859.	1860.	1861.
Against the Person.	Homicides,	88	88	91
	Firing at the Person, Administering Poison, Conspiracy, and Assault (with intent to Murder),	33	45	44
	Serious Assaults (of all kinds, some of them endangering life),	939	786	848
	Rape, Felonious Assaults, Child Desertion, Concealing Birth, &c.,	336	344	249
	Abduction,	3	3	3
Total,		1,399	1,266	1,235

[continued.]

Number of Outrages of different groups—*continued.*

Offences.		1859.	1860.	1861.
Against Property.	Incendiary Fires,	251	206	249
	Burglaries and Robberies,	566	567	736
	Cattle and Sheep Stealing,	408	426	637
	Shearing, Killing, and Maiming Sheep and Cattle, and other injuries to property, }	468	504	468
	Total,	1,693	1,703	2,090
Against the Peace.	Robberies of Arms,	19	23	33
	Riots,	55	75	61
	Administering Oaths Unlawfully,	11	15	18
	Threatening Notices,	239	268	260
	House Attacks, and Firing into Dwellings,	65	38	49
	Resistance to Legal Process,	14	7	15
	Other offences,	123	138	130
Total,	526	562	556	
General Total,		3,618	3,531	3,881

3. Such of the Offences included in the preceding Return as originated in **Agrarian** motives are shown in the following Table:—

Offences (Agrarian).		1859.	1860.	1861.
Against the Person.	Homicide,	5	4	4
	Firing at the Person, Conspiracy, and Assault (with intent to Murder),	2	7	5
	Serious Assaults of all kinds (some of them endangering life),	23	51	21
Total,		30	62	30
Against Property.	Incendiary Fires,	35	22	25
	Burglaries and Robberies,	1	5	7
	Shearing, Killing, and Maiming Sheep, &c., and injuries to property, }	36	41	48
Total,		72	68	80
Against the Peace.	Robberies of Arms,	2	1	—
	Riots,	—	7	1
	Administering Oaths and Threatening Notices,	95	89	106
	House Attacks, and Firing into Dwellings,	18	3	10
	Resistance to Legal Process,	1	—	1
	Appearing Armed,	3	2	1
Total,		119	102	119
General Total,		221	232	229

II.—As regards Crime Punished, or made amenable.

1. The following Table shows the number of **Arrests** by the Constabulary during the three past years :—

	Years.		
	1859.	1860.	1861.
Arrests for Homicide,	117	99	152
„ for Infanticide,	64	57	58
„ for firing at the person, &c.,	43	53	57
„ for other serious offences against the person,	8,438	7,414	465
„ for minor offences against the person,)			
Total Arrests for offences against the person,	8,662	7,623	7,795
Arrests for other offences,	67,356	60,006	54,396
Totals,	76,018	67,629	62,191

The foregoing Table does not include cases in which parties were made amenable by summons.

2. The more serious cases, it need not be remarked, are such as are brought forward for trial at the Assizes. The following Table will show what has been doing in that field :—

RETURN of the NUMBER of Cases and of Persons brought to TRIAL at the ASSIZES (with the results) in each of the Years 1859, 1860, and 1861.

	1859.							1860.							1861.							
	Convictions.	Acquittals.	Bills ignored.	No Trial.	Totals.	Sentenced to Death.	Transportation and Penal Servitude.	Convictions.	Acquittals.	Bills ignored.	No Trial.	Totals.	Sentenced to Death.	Transportation and Penal Servitude.	Convictions.	Acquittals.	Bills ignored.	No Trial.	Totals.	Sentenced to Death.	Transportation and Penal Servitude.	
Cases in which the Constabulary gave evidence.																						
Homicide, . . . Cases, .	24	32	13	26	95	.	.	40	25	8	29	102	.	.	31	22	11	24	88	.	.	
" . . . Persons,	32	65	18	42	157	1	7	55	41	10	50	156	4	11	44	35	15	35	129	1	2	
Infanticide, . . . C.	7	10	1	2	20	.	.	9	6	4	3	22	.	.	9	12	5	3	29	.	.	
" . . . P.	8	13	1	2	24	.	1	9	6	5	4	24	1	.	9	15	6	4	34	.	.	
Firing at person and { C.	7	6	2	2	17	.	.	5	8	5	5	23	.	.	9	8	4	4	25	.	.	
administering poison { P.	9	6	4	3	22	.	1	13	9	7	7	36	1	4	9	9	5	7	30	.	1	
Other serious offences { C.	140	45	21	33	239	.	.	140	46	22	33	241	.	.	123	46	25	30	224	.	.	
against the person, { P.	315	115	33	60	523	.	4	252	89	45	54	440	.	6	283	107	31	46	467	.	11	
Other offences, . . . C.	230	72	40	46	388	.	.	244	72	39	48	403	.	.	293	59	33	45	430	.	.	
" . . . P.	326	126	95	102	649	.	36	338	110	59	69	576	.	33	363	106	35	71	575	.	69	
Cases in which the Constabulary were not concerned as prosecutors, . . . C.	57	19	20	24	120	.	.	53	29	17	20	119	.	.	55	21	13	11	100	.	.	
" . . . P.	77	37	88	42	244	.	4	101	43	30	40	214	.	4	67	23	19	14	123	.	5	
Total of all cases at the Assizes, . . . C.	465	184	97	133	879	.	.	491	186	95	138	910	.	.	520	168	91	117	896	.	.	
" . . . P.	767	362	239	251	1,619	1	53	768	298	156	224	1,446	6	58	775	295	111	177	1,358	2	88	

* A case of Arson.

Impunity of Certain Offenders.

The fact undeniable.

3. While it appears from the preceding statements* that the arrests of offenders are very numerous, and that the successful prosecutions are far from being inconsiderable, still it is a deplorable fact that a certain class of criminals in this country enjoys a large amount of impunity. It is very common to lay this state of things to the charge of the Constabulary. Such accusations are frequently to be heard from various quarters. The detection of offenders is an acknowledged proof of police activity, and hence it is at once concluded that the impunity of offenders is a proof of their apathy or inaptitude; and as they must be supposed to be doing something, it is occasionally alleged that they are more concerned about the fashion of their equipments, the cultivation of a military esprit, or in short any thing else than about the proper duties of their vocation.

Erroneously attributed to Police inactivity.

Such allegations must, perhaps indeed, be expected: they may even serve some purpose both as a check and as a stimulus. But if they do any good in this direction they do mischief in another—they draw off the attention of the public from the real cause of the evil in question, which is to be found, not in the inactivity or want of skill on the part of the police, but elsewhere. Granted that success in detection and conviction is a proof of activity and efficiency, but it by no means follows that want of success is a proof of the contrary. Success depends upon something in addition to the activity of the police, namely testimony; and if this be wanting, no activity, no skill on their part will much avail. Crimes are not perpetrated in the presence of the police, though occasionally certain notorious offenders, confident that they would be

* These remarks, it will be observed, were written at the close of 1859. I have, however, for the sake of completeness, brought the preceding Tables down to the end of 1861.

shielded by secrecy and concealment, *have* perpetrated great crimes even at no great distance from a Police Barrack.

In numerous instances of less note the same secrecy is observed, and the same protection afforded. It is in vain that the police are quickly on the spot, that suspected persons are arrested, that the injured and their probable assailants are brought before a Magistrate, and that endeavours are made to extract the truth under the obligation of an oath. The only parties that *could* identify will not do so. What more could be done by the police under such circumstances? So long as their efforts in this class of cases are not only unaided but thus systematically baffled, it is obvious that they cannot often be successful. Should, by the course of events, the causes of the evil be diminished or removed we should soon give a different account of the perpetrators of outrage.*

Upon this subject I need say the less, having not long since examined, in detail, some allegations of the kind referred to, arising out of the state of the King's County in a report already submitted to Government. It had been contended that there was a great disproportion in that county between crime perpetrated and crime punished, and this disproportion seemed to be laid to the door of the police. Upon examining the crime, I found that the numerical amount of it had been swelled by a large proportion of threatening letters (the detection of the writers of which is peculiarly difficult) that some of the cases were of a far less grave character than might have been supposed; that in every instance in which actual outrage had taken place, the police had done all that police *could* do, and in some instances, with success; and finally, that the statements had been so framed as to over-

* The obstacles encountered by the Constabulary in the conviction of offenders, are further referred to in an extract from the Report for 1860, page 27.

draw the disproportion between crime and its punishment.

And, here, I would take leave to remark that while many Magistrates and a large portion of the public, would seem to be impressed with the notion that the Police should be able, as if by intuition to lay their hands on the perpetrators of such crimes as soon as committed—those very gentlemen and landlords have rarely found themselves in a position to render help in the matter; and notwithstanding all the facilities they possess, through their Agents, Bailiffs, and numerous Tenantry, they have not in a single instance that I can call to mind after an experience of thirty-three years, been able to detect any crime of an agrarian or serious character, or been able to afford the Constabulary any useful hints for the discovery of the perpetrators, or their whereabouts.

Tests of
Police effi-
ciency and
usefulness.

But this question—that of the efficiency of the Police—may be regarded from another point of view.—Whenever the removal of members of the Force from one place to another—particularly those in charge of stations—is ordered, either with a view to the ends of discipline, or to meet the wants of other localities, such an order is almost invariably followed by an application for its reversal—signed by Magistrates, Clergy, and inhabitants generally, not unfrequently of all denominations—on the ground that such removal would be attended with serious consequences to the peace and order of the locality, and would materially favour the escape and impunity of offenders. I am aware, indeed, that such applications are sometimes got up by the parties themselves, in order to avoid the inconveniences of removal, but there is abundant reason to know that many of them are the spontaneous and genuine expressions of the high opinion entertained of the efficiency and usefulness of the Police, by those who have the best means of forming a judgment on the subject.

Again, whenever the removal of an entire party of Police

is contemplated from any place to an adjoining one, either from want of sufficient accommodation in the old locality, or the more advantageous position of the new, such a move is generally regarded as fraught with evil to the neighbourhood abandoned, and is met by the most strenuous opposition of its inhabitants.

A further proof of the merits of the Police is afforded by the numerous applications (from the highest classes of society downwards) on behalf of its members which I daily receive, setting forth their claims to an extent far beyond my ability to meet either by promotion or otherwise; and by the substantial rewards and handsome testimonials so frequently proffered by Magistrates, Gentry, and other inhabitants to meritorious members of the Force.

It thus appears that, even from an imperfect glance at the records of crime punished, the perpetrators of outrage are to no small extent made amenable to justice by the Constabulary, and that the members of the Force are highly appreciated by the public, as evinced by constant objections to their removal, by incessant applications for their promotion or reward, and by the presentation of many flattering tokens of approbation. How these facts are to be reconciled with the alleged inefficiency or inaptitude of the Force, I cannot say.—(*Annual Report, 1859.*)

FURTHER REMARKS ON THE OBSTACLES TO BE SURMOUNTED IN BRINGING OFFENDERS TO PUNISHMENT.

I need not repeat what has already been stated in reference to the obstacles [see extract from *Annual Report, 1859, p. 25*] that impede the course of justice, nor remark how often information is wholly withheld, and how often—although, in the opinion of the Court, of the Crown Lawyers, and of all possessing local knowledge, the right parties are doubtlessly in custody—the prosecution, from some cause or other, breaks down, or has to be aban- Obstacles.

done. Sometimes the injured party refuses altogether to identify; sometimes the identification is held to be not sufficiently complete; sometimes parties bound to prosecute, choose rather to forfeit their recognizances than to be sworn before the Grand Jury; sometimes the witnesses disagree, and it becomes manifest that they are not telling the truth—so that acquittal follows. Occasionally, when one of a party turns approver, and his testimony is only partially corroborated, the Prisoner, however strong the marks of his guilt, has the benefit of the doubt, and he is acquitted.

A considerable amount of success nevertheless.

Yet it is hoped that the year 1860 may be regarded as not the most unsuccessful one in the respect under consideration. In King's County and Westmeath particularly, counties which have had a bad pre-eminence of late years, offenders have been arrested and brought to conviction, to a very satisfactory extent; and elsewhere, besides the cases successfully prosecuted, others have been postponed with a good hope of the result. In a bad case of waylaying and assault in the County of Cavan, in which three men (doubtless the proper parties) were arrested and indicted at the Assizes, the assailed party refused to prosecute, and was, in consequence, himself put on his trial, and sentenced to two months' imprisonment.

The prompt arrests* made by the Constabulary in some recent cases of serious outrage, namely, two very bad cases of assault, near Westport, in the County of Mayo; the murder of two brothers in the County of Monaghan; and the triple murder at Ballymote, in the County of Sligo, may also be cited.—(*Annual Report*, 1860).

Character of crime becoming less serious.

At the close of the year 1860, I remarked that the outrages of that year, though somewhat more numerous than those of the year 1859, were, on the whole, of a less

* It cannot have escaped attention that, with a single exception, the accused parties in all the recent cases were speedily arrested.

serious character. This year, again (1861), I am enabled to state that the offences reported, though somewhat more numerous, have been of a less serious character than those of either of the two preceding years;* and if the County Abstracts which accompany this report, be examined, it will be found that the *nature* of the crime, so to speak, would admit of a favourable comparison with the past of this country, if not indeed with that of an equal amount of population in any part of the United Kingdom, or elsewhere. No Police Force, however numerous, can absolutely prevent crime; no Police Force, however efficient, can absolutely, under all circumstances, bring about the conviction of the criminal: and no Police Force (as already stated in my Report of 1860),† has more to contend with in the detection and conviction of offenders than the Irish Constabulary. All we can hope to do is to hold crime in check, while its causes are in process of being allayed, mitigated, or uprooted; and to put forth our best exertions, with whatever success we can command, to bring the offender to punishment.

4. If we look at the sources of crime most prevalent in this country, we find that they have chiefly arisen from disagreements about *land*; from the existence of the *ribbon system*; from *party* and *sectarian* feeling; from a tendency to form *factions*; and from the vice of *intoxication*;—and that—while some outrages are doubtless, from time to time, premeditated—fairs, markets, and public houses, have furnished the *occasion* of the vast majority. There the peasantry become excited; old spleens are revived: and a trifle but too often gives rise to a serious or fatal occurrence. Illicit distillation, where it has prevailed, and shebeen houses every where, have always been powerful

Usual
sources of
crime in
Ireland.

* The correctness of these remarks, (written at the close of 1861,) is not affected by the unhappy revival of agrarian outrages in the current year.

† See page 27.

stimulants to crime ; and it is satisfactory to know that these continue to yield to the increased efforts of the Constabulary in that direction, and have been reduced to limits so narrow, as to afford a prospect of their extinction—as systematic practices—before long.

Decrease
of shebeen
houses.

For example, the following table will show what has been done with shebeen houses.

Year	Shebeen.	
	Prosecutions.	Convictions.
1855,	2,474	1,869
1856,	2,530	1,912
1857,	1,877	1,422
1858,	1,314	951
1859,	987	740
1860,	768	571
1861,	722	538

and, as observed in a former report, the decrease in the series cannot be accounted for on the supposition of relaxed effort, so long as the Constabulary continue to be specially rewarded for success in this branch of duty.

III.

Miscellaneous Topics.

1. *Arms*.— . . . And this leads me to refer to the existing urgency for re-arming the Force generally, as soon as practicable; the unserviceable and dangerous state of the old carbines has, however, been so often represented by me, and by my Predecessor, that it is needless to reiterate what has already been said upon that subject.— (*Annual Report*, 1860, p. 27.)

Urgent
necessity
for supply
of new
arms.

2. The *economy* with which all extra duties are performed by the Force, as compared with similar duties in other parts of the United Kingdom, is worthy of observation. Take, for example, the expense of conveying delinquents and prisoners to gaols, which, by a return now before me, I find to have amounted for the whole of Ireland to no more than £1,626 in the year 1858-59, and £1,767 in the year 1859-60. If the number of prisoners conveyed to gaols in Ireland be considered, and compared with a corresponding amount of duty in England or Scotland, there can be no doubt on which side the excess of expenditure would lie.—(*Annual Report*, 1860, p. 20.)

Economy:
convey-
ance of
Prisoners.

3. In former reports I have had occasion to defend the Constabulary system from certain plausible objections which have been again and again, and probably may yet be adduced against it, such as its alleged want of success in bringing crime to punishment; its supposed too military organization; its excessive centralization; and withdrawal from the control of the local magistracy. Such allegations, were they true, would be of very serious import, and would indeed demand a speedy change of system. But I trust I have shown, in the reports referred to, that these objections have no real force. They have been entertained, at times, by persons whose sentiments claimed

Self-con-
tradictory
objec-
tions.

respect, but whose practical acquaintance with the subject, in all its bearings, seems to have been limited. Hence they were handled at considerable length.

Other objections have been raised, from time to time, which I have thought it needless to discuss. It would, in fact, be sufficient to bring them together, and there leave them to answer each other. Upon this principle, were all true that has been alleged, it would be found that the men of the Force are too numerous and too sparse; that they are too liable to be removed, and too long left in the same locality; that they are sufficiently paid, and that they are ill paid; that, in their distribution they are too exclusively Protestant, and too exclusively Catholic: that there is too little promotion, and yet that too many of both persuasions are promoted; and other such statements, which might thus be arranged in pairs.—(*Annual Report*, 1861).

Crown Witnesses.

4. One of the sources of difficulty in bringing about the conviction of offenders (even where it is morally certain that the real offenders are in custody), is the danger to which *witnesses* are exposed, if unprotected, of being tampered with, threatened, or maltreated. The degree to which this source of impunity is in operation may to some extent be estimated by the number of crown witnesses under protection and maintenance. In 1849 the largest number was 364; this year (1861) the largest number has been 38; at the present time (January, 1862) it is 28.—(*Annual Report*, 1861).

Evictions.

I have, from time to time, brought under the notice of the Government the general decrease in the number of evictions from year to year, and I again bring down this statement to the latest period; showing, however, a tendency to increase within the past two years.

Years.	Families.	Persons.
1849, . . .	13,384	72,065
1850, . . .	14,546	74,171
1851, . . .	8,815	43,449

Years.	Families.	Persons.
1852, . .	6,550	32,160
1853, . .	3,620	17,868
1854, . .	1,835	8,989
1855, . .	1,365	6,732
1856, . .	878	3,948
1857, . .	919	4,223
1858, . .	720	3,432
1859, . .	491	2,348
1860, . .	571	2,711
1861, . .	819	3,964

—(Annual Report, 1861.)

5. That duties have devolved upon the Constabulary over and above those originally contemplated, none will deny. Some of these may be specified:—

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. They annually take the Agricultural Statistics. | } For these duties they are paid, (to cover expenses), but indifferently. |
| 2. The Census, decennially. | |
| 3. Serve and Collect Notices and Polling Papers for the Election of Poor Law Guardians. | |

4. Collect useful Returns, when required by Government.

5. Escort Prisoners and Convicts (a duty formerly performed, at a higher cost, by the Military).

6. Enforce various New Acts of Parliament, *e.g.*:—

Fishery Laws.

Spirits Acts.

Vagrant Act.

Towns Improvement.

7. Execute Loan Fund Warrants.

8. Exercise Supervision over Convicts on Tickets-of-Leave, and report such as come to, or leave, their respective districts.

9. Act as Billet Masters.

10. Act as Inspectors of Weights and Measures.

11. Act as Inspectors (in some places) under Common Lodging House Act.

12. Act in aid of Inspectors of Factories.
13. Act as Auctioneers, when necessary for the sale of distress.
14. Check, in certain cases, the accounts of Governors of Gaols and Bridewells, for the maintenance of prisoners.
15. Render useful information in connexion with the Emigration Laws.
16. Are now, by law, *Customs Officers* for the prevention of Smuggling.
17. And *Revenue Officers* for the prevention of Illicit Distillation.—(*Annual Report, 1861.*)
18. And they execute Warrants for small Debts under a recent Act of Parliament.

I V.

Extracts from Constabulary Code.

[*The numbers refer to the sections of the Code.*]

Duties of
a County
Inspector
in con-
nexion
with the
preserva-
tion of the
peace.

30. To the County Inspector belong duties of the utmost importance; he is, by law, invested with all the powers and authority of a peace-officer, and is, consequently, responsible for the prevention of crime, the detection of criminals, and the general preservation of the peace, within his county; and he is bound to see that all the officers, head constables, and constables under his control, discharge their respective duties towards the public with zeal, fidelity, and efficiency.

31. In case of any serious outrage, or apprehended violation of the law, it will be the County Inspector's imperative duty to repair forthwith to the spot, and to advise and instruct his subordinates how to act; nor should he afterwards allow either himself or those under his command to *lose sight* of any important case, but continue to employ his and their ability and energy to the

utmost, in such manner as the case may demand, until, if it be possible, persevering exertion in bringing the guilty to justice shall be crowned with success. Neither is he to allow his officers or men to limit their attention to serious outrage alone, but is to take care that they pay due regard to larcenies, and other offences of a *minor* character, in the suppression of which the public of all degrees, and, perhaps, especially the poorer classes, are deeply interested, and have a right to expect the utmost watchfulness and vigilance on the part of the police.

46. The Sub-Inspector is, in his district, what the Inspector is in his county; and he should be governed by the spirit of the foregoing instructions to that officer. . . .

Duties of a Sub-Inspector in connexion with the preservation of the peace.

47. He is promptly and cheerfully to obey all such orders and directions of the magistrates and other local authorities of his county as are enjoined by law. . . .

48. He is to attend, in uniform, the several Petty Sessions in his district, when not employed on more important duty. Sec 6 Wm. IV., ch. 13, sec. 15.

49. Like the County Inspector, he is to report to the Inspector-General promptly and correctly all circumstances connected with, or in anywise affecting, the peace of his district; and he is also to communicate to him the approach of any political festival, meeting, or assembly, in commemoration of any political or other public event, and is to send similar reports or communications to the Inspector of his county. Should he have reason to apprehend serious disturbance or breach of the peace, he will not only communicate his fears to headquarters and to the County Inspector, but also, if necessary, to the officers of adjacent districts.

Duty as to reporting occurrences.

77. He is to report to the nearest magistrate, whether local or stipendiary, every outrage or other matter seriously

Unreservedly communi-

cation
with the
Justices,
inculcated

affecting the peace of his district, acting in such a case as is enjoined in section 206 of the present regulations; and to visit, as soon as possible, every scene of outrage, without reference to its being actually within the boundary of his sub-district, unless he has reason to believe that the place had been previously visited by an officer or some other constable.

205. It is of great importance that the most unreserved confidence should subsist between the local justices and the members of the Constabulary Force; and it is the duty of County Inspectors to frequently inculcate upon all under their respective commands, the obligation under which they lie to make the justices intimately acquainted with every occurrence in their several districts that can affect the public peace.

206. With this view it is strictly directed that every outrage, or apprehended outrage, shall be reported with the least possible delay by the officer or constable of a station, if within a reasonable distance, and that the officer or Head Constable attending the Petty Sessions shall present, for the information of the Bench, a summary of all outrages or other remarkable occurrences bearing on the public peace that have taken place since the preceding sessions, the details of which the Constabulary shall be prepared to give, if so required. A member of the force who shall neglect this order, or any part of it, will expose himself to serious consequences.

Promptitude in reporting serious outrages, enjoined.

207. But while the directions contained in the preceding section are on no account to be neglected, it is further enjoined that on the occurrence of any serious outrage, especially where life has been taken or attempted, the

officer, Head, or other Constable in charge nearest to the scene will make a point of sending, without a moment's loss of time, an intimation thereof to the nearest Resident Magistrate, in doing which he will employ the readiest means at command, whether telegraph, railway, car, or other conveyance; such intimation to be sent to the residence of the magistrate, or wherever else he is known (or can be ascertained) to be, such as at petty sessions, &c.; and it is to be presumed that the magistrate, in case of leaving home, will keep the police informed as to where he may be found.

341. But in case of outrage or matters affecting the state of the country, Officers, or Head Constables in charge of districts, are to report direct to head-quarters, as will also the member of the force in command of detachment employed in the preservation of the peace, or members employed on special duty. And in cases of an urgent nature, the senior at a station will report.

356. It is of great importance that the Government should receive immediate intelligence of every occurrence involving the safety of person or property, or the maintenance of the public peace; and the character of the force imperatively demands the best attention of its members to the efficient execution of this most essential duty; if therefore, any newspaper or other account of an outrage shall precede the police report of it, the Officer, Head, or other Constable, in whose district such outrage shall have occurred, must be deemed guilty of neglect of an important duty, and be dealt with accordingly, if he cannot satisfactorily explain the delay on his part, and show to whom the blame of it should attach; and if any loss of time shall occur between the commission of an outrage and the necessary report of it, the cause of such delay must be

explained in the report, for the accuracy of which explanation the officer will be held strictly responsible.

Precautions at seaports.

277. The more effectually to secure, at each *seaport*, the object adverted to in the preceding section, the County Inspector will select an active, intelligent, and steady policeman, whose peculiar duty it will be to notice the arrival and departure of all passengers, especially those of suspicious appearance, by all vessels (emigrant ships in particular), taking their departure from, or arriving at, the port.

278. The individual appointed to perform this duty is to consider it as one of much importance, and in the execution of it, he must act with great discretion and circumspection; he should make himself well acquainted with the descriptions of all persons advertised in the *Hull-and-Cry*, or described in any proclamation, placard, or return, which may be furnished in compliance with the regulations; and when actually engaged in this duty, he will be permitted to wear plain clothes.

Frequent employment in plain clothes.

993. The officers of the force should frequently employ their men, for the better detection of offenders, in plain clothes.

DISPOSABLE (OR DETECTIVE) FORCE.

General Instructions.

634. When any grave offence has been committed, one or more of the disposable police will be directed to proceed in plain clothes to the scene of outrage, there to remain as long as may be necessary to trace the criminals; but such directions will be sent from the Constabulary Office. The hair of disposable men will not be required to be cut short at any time; but when employed on disposable duty the men must not wear mustaches.

638. Great importance will be attached to the manner Caution.
 in which the disposable police discharge their difficult
 duties; and it cannot be too deeply impressed upon
 them, that however anxious the Government are for
 the conviction of criminals, the greatest delinquents
 even are not to be brought to justice by unjustifiable
 means. Should any disposable policeman, therefore, be
 convicted of practices in the discharge of his duties—
 whatever may be the amount of his success—that are
 inconsistent with the course that is fairly to be expected
 of every honest man, he will be discharged with disgrace
 from the public service.

The following CIRCULAR was issued to COUNTY
 INSPECTORS in the year 1860.

CIRCULAR No. 11.

Confidential.

CONSTABULARY OFFICE, DUBLIN CASTLE,
 7th October, 1860.

It becomes necessary to recall the most serious attention of
 County Inspectors to sections 30 and 31 of the Code, and to the
 grave responsibilities therein placed upon them—responsibilities
 which have reference not only to their own personal action, but
 to that of those under their command.

They are called upon to study these sections not only in their
 letter, but in all that they comprise and suggest. They cannot
 too strongly feel that freedom from outrage, if possible, or, at all
 events, the punishment of offenders, within the county committed
 to their charge, is expected of them; and they ought therefore
 to feel deeply solicitous that all under their command are properly
 trained and rendered as efficient as possible in those duties and
 obligations.

With this view they should take all opportunities of examining
 and instructing the younger officers of their respective counties,
 and of conferring with those more experienced in the service, as
 regards the measures proper to be taken, and the points to which
 attention should be directed, in case of serious outrage.

It would be impossible to refer, in a communication like the
 present, to all the points which, in such a case, ought to claim
 the immediate attention of the police: such, for example, as (in
 the case of a murder) the prompt arrest of suspected persons:

the discovery of the instrument with which the offence was committed; of portions of clothing; of the marks of blood—or of shot—or of footmarks, &c.

A minute and searching examination of the scene—(whether the murder was perpetrated within or without doors)—should be made, and a note taken of the exact state in which it was found, including any facts or circumstances that might be conceived to be of use in throwing light upon the occurrence. If in a house, immediate possession should be taken by the police, and all strangers and unofficial persons carefully excluded from access to it, or to any of its contents, without the sanction of a Magistrate or of the Officer in charge.

In other cases, similar (though not identical) precautions and measures adapted to the nature of the outrage and the circumstances of the case, will suggest themselves to the intelligent and experienced County Inspector, who should therefore be at no loss for materials of instruction and direction to those under his command, and who should let slip no opportunity of questioning and testing the younger officers especially, so as the better to prepare them to act promptly and correctly on the occurrence of outrage.

But it cannot be too frequently reiterated that *prevention* of crime is of the first importance; and where there is reason to suspect that the safety of any person is menaced, or that other serious outrage is meditated, increased vigilance should be exercised, and precautionary measures, suitable to the case, should be taken. Such cases should likewise, therefore, form the frequent subject of instruction, examination, and discussion, as above pointed out.

HENRY JOHN BROWNRIGG,
Inspector-General.

To County Inspectors.