

I. POPULATION IN THE COLONIAL AND CONTINENTAL PERIODS.

CENSUS PROCEDURE IN COLONIAL AND CONTINENTAL PERIODS—POPULATION PRIOR TO 1790—RECENT ESTIMATES OF EARLY POPULATION—POPULATION OF CITIES—CHANGES IN URBAN POPULATION 1710 TO 1900.

Enumerations of population, more or less accurate, were made in nearly all the Northern colonies during the Colonial period, and several of the states took one or more censuses during the Continental period. Nearly all of these enumerations were more than a simple numbering of the people; in some instances, the inhabitants were classified by race, sex, age, and marital condition.

Colonial period (prior to 1774).—Most of the enumerations of the Colonial period were made at the instance of the British Board of Trade—which at this period exercised many of the functions now vested in a colonial office—in order to obtain information which would be of value in the administration of the affairs of the colonies. Thus, in a sense, the British Board of Trade was the originator of census taking in America.

These enumerations were made under the immediate supervision of the colonial governors, by sheriffs, justices of the peace, and other county or town officers. No enumeration embracing all the colonies was ever made, and in some of the colonies no accurate count of population occurred during the entire Colonial period. At times the board experienced great difficulty in getting the information desired. Its demands were often but partially complied with by the colonies, were sometimes entirely ignored, and were generally a source of friction. In consequence, the population statistics given out were not always reliable. Indeed, the colonial governors encountered so many obstacles in their attempts to make the required enumerations, that in many cases the tables prepared by them to supply the information demanded were based on muster rolls and lists of taxables, rather than on actual counts. Even when actual enumerations were made, they were often incomplete or inaccurate. The small population dispersed over large areas, the difficulties of travel, the independent spirit of the people, and the fact that in many instances the sheriffs and other officers charged with the enumeration received no compensation for their services, were all factors opposed to completeness and accuracy. "Superstition also was an influence opposed to census taking. In 1712 Governor Hunter undertook an enumeration of the inhabitants of New York. In writing to the home government he excused the imperfection of the returns in part by saying that 'the people were deterred by a simple superstition and observation that sickness

followed upon the last numbering of the people.' Governor Burnett, of New Jersey, in a communication to the British board in 1726, alluding to an enumeration made in New York three years before, said, 'I would have then ordered the like accounts to be taken in New Jersey, but I was advised that it might make the people uneasy, they being generally of a New England extraction, and thereby enthusiasts; and that they would take it for a repetition of the same sin that David committed in numbering the people, and might bring on the same judgments. This notion put me off at that time, but, since your lordships require it, I will give the orders to the sheriffs that it may be done as soon as may be.'"¹

Continental period (1774-1789).—The Colonial period in North America had covered more than a century and a half, and the policy of the board of trade in demanding exact returns of population at frequent intervals during this period doubtless had great weight in educating the people of the colonies to an appreciation of the value of accurate statistical information. It is significant, at least, that the states which took censuses in the Continental period upon their own initiative, after having thrown off the yoke of Great Britain, were those in which, as colonies, enumerations had been made by British authority; while those states which made no such enumerations were in the main those in which no colonial enumerations had been made. The Continental censuses are of great interest, and, so far as accuracy and completeness are concerned, probably compare well with the first Federal census. Especially to be noted is the Rhode Island census of 1774, in which the schedule of enumeration is almost identical with that of the Federal census of 1790.

The necessity for a national census, comprehending all the states, became apparent early in the Continental period. During the War of the Revolution, the Continental Congress had authorized and directed the issue of \$3,000,000 in bills of credit. It had also resolved that the credit of the Thirteen United Colonies should be pledged for the redemption of these bills; that each colony should provide ways and means to redeem its proportion in such manner as it should see fit; that the proportion of each colony should be determined by the number of its inhabitants

¹ Johnston's New Universal Encyclopaedia, vol. 1, page 845.

of all ages, including negroes and mulattoes; and that it should be recommended to the colonial authorities to ascertain in the most confidential manner their respective populations, and to send the returns, properly authenticated, to Congress. Massachusetts and Rhode Island took a census upon this recommendation in 1776, but most of the colonies failed to comply. In November, 1781, a resolution was introduced in Congress recommending to the several states that they make an enumeration of their white inhabitants pursuant to the ninth article of the Confederation. The resolution failed to pass and the article was inoperative. Several of the states, however, made an enumeration about this time. The question of a settlement of the national debt became continually more serious, and the unwillingness of some of the states to order a general census and assume their equitable proportion made it apparent that a complete enumeration of the inhabitants of the country could never be made except by a central directing authority. Hence, when the Constitutional Convention met, all members seem to have been agreed that a provision for a Federal census at stated intervals should be incorporated in the Constitution.

CENSUSES PRIOR TO 1790.

The following table shows the number of official censuses of the inhabitants, of which record has been found, made in each of the colonies before 1790:

| COLONY. | NUMBER OF CENSUSES. | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Total. | Colonial period. | | | | Conti- nental period. |
| | | 1649 to 1649. | 1650 to 1699. | 1700 to 1749. | 1750 to 1773. |  | 1774 to 1789. |
| All colonies..... | 38 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 11 | 11 |
| New England colonies..... | 20 | | | 3 | 8 | 9 |
| Maine..... | 2 | | | | 11 | 1 ² 1 |
| New Hampshire..... | 4 | | | | 2 | 2 |
| Vermont..... | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Massachusetts..... | 2 | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Rhode Island..... | 7 | | | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Connecticut..... | 4 | | | | 2 | 2 |
| Middle colonies..... | 14 | | 1 | 10 | 2 | 1 |
| New York..... | 11 | | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| New Jersey..... | 3 | | | 3 | | |
| Pennsylvania..... | | | | | | |
| Delaware..... | | | | | | |
| Southern colonies..... | 4 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Maryland..... | 3 | | | 1 | 1 | |
| Virginia..... | 2 | 1 | | | | 1 |
| North Carolina..... | | | | | | |
| South Carolina..... | | | | | | |
| Georgia..... | | | | | | |

¹ Taken as part of a census of Massachusetts.

² Partly estimated.

³ Taken as part of a census of New York.

⁴ Of these, 2 were partly estimated.

⁵ Census of polls and taxable property. There are four incomplete lists of polls made during this period and still in existence, but only one appears to have been used as a basis for an estimate of population.

The table shows that 38 censuses of various colonies were taken, within the area of the original thirteen states, before the first enumeration was made in Great

Britain. Apparently the British Government desired more definite statistical information regarding its colonies than it required concerning the British Isles.

New York and Rhode Island developed the greatest aptitude for census taking; of the total of 38 enumerations made before the date of the first Federal census, 18, or more than half, were made in these two colonies—11 in the former and 7 in the latter. The people of Massachusetts and Connecticut manifested considerable opposition to census taking, seeing no advantage in it to themselves, and fearing that in some way the information obtained would be used by the British authorities to their disadvantage. The first census embracing all the inhabitants of Connecticut was taken in 1756, and the first in Massachusetts not until 1764—when the general court, after continued demands from the governor, and fearing longer to irritate British authority, ordered a general census. Pennsylvania and Delaware, as well as the Southern colonies, present a marked contrast to New York; so far as appears, the Federal census of 1790 was the first thorough enumeration ever made within the borders of any of them, except Virginia.

The records of enumerations before 1790 are in many cases fragmentary; often totals only are given, and in some instances the results of the same enumeration are reported differently by different authorities. It must be remembered, however, that correct enumeration of any community is at best a difficult task, and the results of early censuses in every country have been inaccurate and disappointing. The later censuses in the Colonial period and most of those of the Continental period, were more accurate, and compare well with the first Federal census.

The following paragraphs present, for each of the colonies in turn, the general results of all known enumerations up to 1790, together with the estimates made by colonial governors and other officials which appear to possess a fair degree of accuracy, and also certain estimates by modern students of Colonial population. The results of all pre-Constitutional censuses are presented in detail on pages 149 to 185. In the summaries and more extended tables which follow, the population as shown by the first Federal census, 1790, is included for comparison.

New Hampshire.—None of the figures given below include the Vermont towns.

| YEAR. | Estimates. | Censuses. |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 1641..... | 1,000 | |
| 1675..... | 4,000 | |
| 1689..... | 6,000 | |
| 1716..... | 9,000 | |
| 1721..... | 9,500 | |
| 1732..... | 12,500 | |
| 1742..... | 24,000 | |
| 1749..... | 50,000 | |
| 1761..... | 38,000 | |
| 1767..... | | 52,700 |
| 1773..... | | 72,092 |
| 1775..... | | 81,000 |
| 1786..... | | 95,755 |
| 1790..... | | 141,899 |

The census of 1775 was taken in order to ascertain the quantity of arms and ammunition in the province, and to correct the wild estimate made by Congress of 102,000 inhabitants, exclusive of slaves.

Massachusetts (including Maine).—The first census in Massachusetts was one of the “negro slaves, both males and females, 16 years old and upward,” ordered in 1754, and finished in the beginning of 1755. The earliest recorded movement for a census of all the inhabitants was begun in 1760, and the resulting census was taken in 1764–65. This census was comprehensive in its scope, and the schedule of information strikingly resembles that of the first Federal census. It was ordered in 1764, and by the terms of the act was to have been completed by the last of that year; but the selectmen in some of the towns were negligent and dilatory, and did not send in their returns as required. On March 5, 1765, an act was approved by the governor by which the selectmen were required to complete the census and make their returns before May 25 following, under a penalty of £50. But even then, either some towns failed to make returns or else the returns have been lost.¹

This census was taken according to the following schedule:

- White people, under 16 years { Male.
- { Female.
- White people, above 16 years { Male.
- { Female.
- Families.
- Houses.
- Negroes and mulattoes { Males.
- { Females.
- Indians { Males.
- { Females.

The following are contemporary estimates of the combined population of Massachusetts and Maine (including New Hampshire in 1665):

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| 1632..... | 2,300 |
| 1643..... | 16,000 to 17,000 |
| 1665..... | 30,000 |
| 1675..... | 33,000 |
| 1692..... | 60,000 |
| 1721..... | 94,000 |
| 1735..... | 145,000 |
| 1742..... | 165,000 |
| 1751..... | 165,000 |
| 1755..... | 200,000 |

The estimate given for 1735 includes 2,600 negroes, and that for 1755 includes from 4,000 to 5,000. The fact that the population remained stationary during the nine years from 1742 to 1751 is ascribed to “a great depopulation by smallpox and war.”

The totals reported at the three pre-Constitutional censuses of Massachusetts and Maine are compared below with the results of the Federal census of 1790. The census of 1784 was a count of polls only. The

population figures given are estimates by Doctor Chickering,² based on the results of the count.

| CENSUS. | Both colonies. | Massachusetts. | Maine. |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------|
| 1764-65..... | 259,711 | 245,718 | 23,993 |
| 1776..... | 338,007 | 291,147 | 47,520 |
| 1784..... | 408,059 | 346,053 | 61,406 |
| 1790..... | 475,199 | 378,556 | 96,643 |

Rhode Island.—Of the seven pre-Constitutional censuses of Rhode Island, that of 1774 was particularly elaborate, giving the names of the heads of families, white males and white females over and under 16 years, negroes, and Indians. The results of this census were published in detail in 1858. Because of Rhode Island’s share in the slave trade, the proportion of colored persons in the population was large—one person in every nine being either a negro or an Indian.

| YEAR. | Estimates. | Censuses. |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 1658..... | 1,209 | ..... |
| 1663..... | 2,000 | ..... |
| 1675..... | 3,000 | ..... |
| 1689..... | 5,000 | ..... |
| 1708..... | ..... | 7,181 |
| 1730..... | ..... | 17,935 |
| 1742..... | 30,000 | ..... |
| 1748..... | ..... | 34,000 |
| 1755..... | ..... | 40,636 |
| 1774..... | ..... | 59,707 |
| 1776..... | ..... | 55,011 |
| 1782..... | ..... | 52,400 |
| 1790..... | ..... | 69,112 |

Of the population at the census of 1730, 985 were Indians. The decreases in population from 1774 to 1782 were directly due to the war, during which a large portion of the state was in the possession of the British forces. Indeed, the census of 1782 specifically excluded one whole town which was still in the enemy’s hands.

Connecticut.—The number of official enumerations was much smaller in Connecticut than in Rhode Island. The growth of population, however, was more regular. The information desired by the British Board of Trade was furnished more often from estimates than from enumerations.

| YEAR. | Estimates. | Censuses. |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 1643..... | 5,500 | ..... |
| 1665..... | 9,000 | ..... |
| 1679..... | 14,000 | ..... |
| 1689..... | 26,000 | ..... |
| 1713..... | 34,000 | ..... |
| 1730..... | 51,000 | ..... |
| 1749..... | 100,000 | ..... |
| 1756..... | ..... | 130,612 |
| 1761..... | ..... | 146,520 |
| 1774..... | ..... | 196,088 |
| 1782..... | ..... | 208,870 |
| 1790..... | ..... | 237,655 |

Of the population reported at the census of 1761, 930 were Indians. The stunted growth in the later years appears to have been due to the heavy emigration from Connecticut to New York and to the West.

¹ Dr. J. Belknap (Mass. Hist. Soc. Collections, Vol. LV, page 198) says that this census, being an unpopular measure, was not accurately taken.

² Statistical View of the Population of Massachusetts from 1763 to 1840, page 7.

New York and Vermont.—Eleven enumerations were made in New York prior to 1790—a larger number than in any other colony. The first of these, made in 1698, was the first census of any magnitude on the continent. There is no evidence that Vermont was included in any of the colonial censuses of New York, except that of 1771.

| YEAR. | Estimates. | Censuses. |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| 1664..... | 7,000..... | |
| 1673..... | 19,500..... | |
| 1683..... | 29,000..... | |
| 1698..... | | 18,067 |
| 1703..... | | 20,748 |
| 1712..... | 25,000..... | 22,608 |
| 1715..... | 31,000..... | |
| 1723..... | | 40,564 |
| 1731..... | | 50,289 |
| 1737..... | | 60,437 |
| 1746..... | | 70,000 |
| 1749..... | | 73,448 |
| 1756..... | | 96,790 |
| 1771..... | | 168,006 |
| 1775..... | 190,000..... | |
| 1786..... | | 238,895 |
| 1790..... | | 340,241 |

The date of the first estimate, 1664, is the year of the British Conquest. Governor Hunter's census, in 1712, met with so much opposition, from a superstitious fear that it would breed sickness, that only partial returns were obtained. The census of 1746 also was incomplete; Albany county was reported as "not possible to be numbered on account of the enemy." The census of 1749 was taken by Governor Clinton, who volunteered the information that the returns, in common with those of preceding censuses, might not be strictly accurate, since the officers received no pay for this service, and it was performed reluctantly and carelessly.

Of the population reported at the census of 1771, 163,337 was reported for New York and 4,669 specifically for certain Vermont towns. At the Federal census of 1790 the population of New York was 340,241 and that of Vermont was 85,341.

New Jersey.—There is very little information concerning the population of the colony of New Jersey, only three enumerations having been made before the first Federal census. Census taking was unpopular, because of the religious prejudices and superstition of the people.

| YEAR. | Estimates. | Censuses. |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| 1702..... | 15,000..... | |
| 1726..... | | 32,442 |
| 1737..... | | 47,369 |
| 1745..... | | 61,383 |
| 1749..... | 60,000..... | |
| 1754..... | 78,500..... | |
| 1774..... | 120,000..... | |
| 1784..... | 149,434..... | |
| 1790..... | | 184,139 |

Of the population reported at the census of 1745, 4,606 were slaves. The estimate for 1749 is for whites only; the estimates for 1754 and 1784 include 5,500 and 10,500 blacks, respectively.

Pennsylvania and Delaware.—The census of 1790 appears to have been the first thorough enumeration ever attempted in either Pennsylvania or Delaware. Accordingly estimates of the population are subject to a large margin of error. In the case of some of the estimates given below, for years prior to 1770, it is uncertain whether the inhabitants of Delaware are included.

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| 1681..... | 500 |
| 1685..... | 7,200 |
| 1700..... | 20,000 |
| 1715..... | 45,800 |
| 1730..... | 49,000 |
| 1731..... | 69,000 |
| 1740..... | 100,000 |
| 1750..... | 150,000 |
| 1757..... | 200,000 |
| 1760..... | 220,000 |

The 500 inhabitants given as the estimate for 1681—before the arrival of Penn's settlers—were whites, and mainly Swedes, on the banks of the Delaware. The 1730 estimate, made by Governor Gordon, is probably too small.

The following are estimates made separately for the two colonies of Pennsylvania and Delaware, together with the returns of the Federal census of 1790:

| YEAR. | Pennsylvania. | Delaware. |
|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| 1770..... | 250,000 | 25,000 |
| 1775..... | 302,000 | |
| 1780..... | | 37,000 |
| 1782..... | 350,000 | |
| 1790..... | 433,611 | 59,046 |

Maryland.—Maryland presents, throughout its colonial history, a uniform and gradual growth, which strikingly resembles that of Connecticut.

| YEAR. | Estimates. | Censuses. |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| 1660..... | 8,000..... | |
| 1676..... | 16,000..... | |
| 1701..... | 32,258..... | |
| 1712..... | | 46,073 |
| 1715..... | 50,200..... | |
| 1719..... | 61,060..... | |
| 1748..... | 130,000..... | |
| 1755..... | | 153,564 |
| 1761..... | 164,007..... | |
| 1775..... | 200,000..... | |
| 1783..... | 254,000..... | |
| 1790..... | | 319,728 |

The population reported at the census of 1712 included 8,330 negroes, and the total reported for 1755 was composed of 107,208 whites, 42,764 negroes, and 3,592 mulattoes. The estimates for 1719, 1748, and 1761 include 11,000, 36,000, and 49,675 blacks, respectively.

Virginia.—The first of all the colonies to be founded, Virginia, had a feeble growth at the start, but soon became the leader in population.

| YEAR. | Estimates. | Censuses. |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| 1616..... | 351..... | ..... |
| 1620..... | 2,400..... | ..... |
| 1628..... | 3,000..... | ..... |
| 1635..... | ..... | 5,119..... |
| 1640..... | 7,647..... | ..... |
| 1648..... | 15,000..... | ..... |
| 1659..... | 30,000..... | ..... |
| 1671..... | 40,000..... | ..... |
| 1689..... | 60,000..... | ..... |
| 1717..... | 100,000..... | ..... |
| 1754..... | 284,000..... | ..... |
| 1772..... | 475,000..... | ..... |
| 1775..... | 550,000..... | ..... |
| 1782..... | ..... | 567,614..... |
| 1790..... | ..... | 747,610..... |

For the four years 1782 to 1785, inclusive, there are in existence lists of polls in some of the Virginia counties. The population given above for 1782 is the estimate made by Thomas Jefferson, based on the list for that year.¹

The meager data on which Mr. Jefferson's estimate was based were that in 1782, in all but 8 of the Virginia counties, there were 53,289 free males 21 years of age and over, 211,698 slaves (of both sexes and all ages), and 23,766 "tithable slaves" (apparently slaves 16 years of age and over); and that in the 8 counties not included in the list of polls there were, in 1779 and 1780, 3,161 militia.

Mr. Jefferson made five assumptions: (1) That the number of persons under 16 years of age equaled the number 16 years and over; (2) that the number of males from 16 to 20 years of age, inclusive, was equal to the number of unmarried men in the militia (males between 16 and 50 years), which was one-third of the total number in the militia, or about one-fourth of all males 16 years and over; (3) that the number of females equaled the number of males; (4) that the number of free males 16 years of age and over in 1782, in the 8 counties not included in the list of polls, was equal to the number of the militia in those counties in 1779 and 1780; (5) that the ratio of free to slave population was the same in these 8 counties as in the rest of the state.

With the facts and the basis outlined above, Mr. Jefferson evolved the following data:

Population of Virginia in 1782.

| POPULATION. | The state. | Counties included in list of polls. | Other counties. |
|------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Total population..... | 567,614 | 543,438 | 24,176 |
| Free population..... | 296,852 | 284,208 | 12,644 |
| Males..... | 148,426 | 142,104 | 6,322 |
| Under 16 years..... | 74,213 | 71,052 | 3,161 |
| 16 years and over..... | 74,213 | 71,052 | 3,161 |
| 16 to 20 years..... | 18,553 | 17,783 | 790 |
| 21 years and over..... | 55,660 | 53,289 | 2,371 |
| Females..... | 148,426 | 142,104 | 6,322 |
| Slave population..... | 270,762 | 259,230 | 11,532 |

It will be observed that Mr. Jefferson's estimate is smaller than either the population at the Federal

¹ Thomas Jefferson: Notes on the State of Virginia, pages 94 and 95.

census of 1790 or the estimate for 1775 would indicate. He made the very conservative assumption, in (4), that the number of the militia (males between 16 and 50) equaled the number of free males 16 years of age and over; had he assumed that the number of the militia equaled the number of free males 21 years of age and over—in accordance with the proportions which can readily be obtained by analyzing (2)—his estimate would have been increased to 301,068 free persons and 274,608 slaves, or a total of 575,676.

North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.—No thorough enumeration was ever made in these colonies during the Colonial or the Continental period. Accordingly all of the population figures given below, except for the Federal census of 1790, are estimates.

North Carolina.

| YEAR. | Estimated population. |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| 1677..... | 4,000..... |
| 1701..... | 5,000..... |
| 1711..... | 7,000..... |
| 1717..... | 10,000..... |
| 1732..... | 36,000..... |
| 1754..... | 90,000..... |
| 1764..... | 135,000..... |
| 1774..... | 260,000..... |
| 1790..... | ¹ 395,005..... |

¹ Census.

The estimate given for 1732 includes 6,000 negroes, and that for 1754 includes 20,000 negroes.

South Carolina.

| YEAR. | ESTIMATED POPULATION. | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Total. | White. | Negro. |
| 1682..... | 2,200..... | (¹)..... | (¹)..... |
| 1708..... | 9,500..... | 4,000..... | 5,500..... |
| 1714..... | 16,300..... | 6,300..... | 10,000..... |
| 1720..... | 20,828..... | 9,000..... | 11,828..... |
| 1749..... | 64,000..... | 25,000..... | 39,000..... |
| 1763..... | 105,000..... | 35,000..... | 70,000..... |
| 1773..... | 175,000..... | 65,000..... | 110,000..... |
| 1790..... | ² 249,073..... | ² 140,178..... | ² 108,895..... |

¹ Not estimated separately.

² Census.

The decrease in the number of negroes between 1773 and 1790—which was accompanied by a marked decrease in the proportion they formed of the total population—was due to a large deportation of negroes by British authority during the War of the Revolution.

Georgia.

| YEAR. | ESTIMATED POPULATION. | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Total. | White. | Negro. |
| 1752..... | 5,000..... | (¹)..... | (¹)..... |
| 1760..... | 9,000..... | 6,000..... | 3,000..... |
| 1766..... | 18,000..... | 10,000..... | 8,000..... |
| 1773..... | 33,000..... | 18,000..... | 15,000..... |
| 1776..... | 50,000..... | (¹)..... | (¹)..... |
| 1790..... | ² 282,548..... | ² 152,886..... | ² 129,662..... |

¹ Not estimated separately.

² Census.

RECENT ESTIMATES OF POPULATION PRIOR TO 1790.

Attention has already been called to the fact that at no time prior to 1790 was there a simultaneous enumeration of all the colonies. Estimates for various years have been made, however, by a number of historians and statisticians. In the preparation of this report valuable assistance was obtained from the exhaustive study made by Prof. Franklin Bowditch Dexter, of Yale University, of population in the several American colonies. Estimates in Bancroft's History of the United States also proved helpful. Mr. Bancroft, however, says of one of his estimates that it "rests on the consideration of many details and opinions of that day, private journals and letters, reports to the board of trade, and official papers of the provincial governments." Professor Dexter apparently depended less on British sources of information, and put more credence in official enumerations and in estimates based on militia rolls and lists of polls.

It is interesting to compare the estimates of the two authorities mentioned above with the estimates prepared by Mr. J. B. D. De Bow, Superintendent of the Seventh Census (1850), and published in the report of that census. Accordingly the various estimates obtainable from these three sources are summarized in the following statement:

Estimates of colonial population: 1640 to 1780.

| YEAR. | Dexter. | Bancroft. | De Bow. |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1640..... | 25,000 | | |
| 1650..... | 80,000 | | |
| 1688..... | | 200,000 | |
| 1701..... | | | 202,000 |
| 1721..... | 500,000 | | |
| 1743..... | 1,000,000 | | 1,045,000 |
| 1750..... | 1,207,000 | 1,240,000 | |
| 1754..... | 1,310,000 | 1,428,500 | |
| 1760..... | 1,610,000 | 1,635,000 | |
| 1767..... | 2,000,000 | | |
| 1770..... | 2,205,000 | 2,312,000 | |
| 1775..... | | | 2,503,000 |
| 1780..... | 2,580,000 | 2,945,000 | |

Professor Dexter's first estimate relates to the period when Parliament gained the ascendancy in England; at that time, he states, "60 per cent of the inhabitants were in New England and most of the remainder in Virginia." His second estimate indicates that at the time of the Restoration the population had more than trebled, "the greatest gain being in the most loyal divisions, Virginia and Maryland, which now comprehended one-half the whole." Concerning a group of his later estimates Professor Dexter says: "A round half million appears to have been reached about 1721, with the Middle colonies showing again the largest percentage of growth and New England the least. A million followed in twenty-two years more, or in 1743, this figure being doubled in turn twenty-four years later, or in 1767, the latter reduplication being delayed a little, doubtless by the effect of intervening wars."

Mr. Bancroft says, concerning his estimate for 1754: "The board of trade reckoned a few thousand more and revisers of their judgment less." He also makes a subdivision by color for each of his estimates, except that for 1688, as follows:

Bancroft's estimate of population, by color.

| YEAR. | Total. | White. | Black. |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| 1750..... | 1,260,000 | 1,040,000 | 220,000 |
| 1754..... | 1,428,500 | 1,165,000 | 263,500 |
| 1760..... | 1,695,000 | 1,385,000 | 310,000 |
| 1770..... | 2,312,000 | 1,850,000 | 462,000 |
| 1780..... | 2,945,000 | 2,383,000 | 562,000 |

For two years, 1688 and 1754, Mr. Bancroft presented estimates for each of the colonies. These are deemed of sufficient interest and importance to be presented in full.

Bancroft's estimates of population, by colonies.

| COLONY. | 1688 ¹ | 1754 ² | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|---------|
| | | Total. | White. | Black. |
| All colonies..... | 200,000 | 1,428,500 | 1,165,000 | 263,500 |
| New Hampshire..... | 6,000 | 263,000 | 50,000 | 6,000 |
| Massachusetts and Maine..... | 44,000 | 35,000 | 207,000 | 4,500 |
| Rhode Island..... | 6,000 | 39,500 | 35,000 | 4,500 |
| Connecticut..... | 19,000 | 130,500 | 133,000 | 3,500 |
| New York..... | 20,000 | 96,000 | 85,000 | 11,000 |
| New Jersey..... | 10,000 | 78,500 | 73,000 | 5,500 |
| Pennsylvania and Delaware..... | 12,000 | 206,000 | 195,000 | 11,000 |
| Maryland..... | 25,000 | 148,000 | 104,000 | 44,000 |
| Virginia..... | 50,000 | 234,000 | 168,000 | 116,000 |
| North Carolina..... | | 90,000 | 70,000 | 20,000 |
| South Carolina..... | 8,000 | 80,000 | 40,000 | 40,000 |
| Georgia..... | | 7,000 | 5,000 | 2,000 |

¹History of the United States, Vol. I, page 602.

²History of the United States, Vol. II, page 389.

Concerning the estimates for 1754, Mr. Bancroft says: "Nearly all are imperfect. The greatest discrepancy in judgments relates to Pennsylvania and the Carolinas."

Mr. De Bow's estimates for the several colonies in 1701, 1749, and 1775—which, it will be remembered, are the only statements concerning pre-Constitutional population hitherto published in a Federal census report—are as follows:

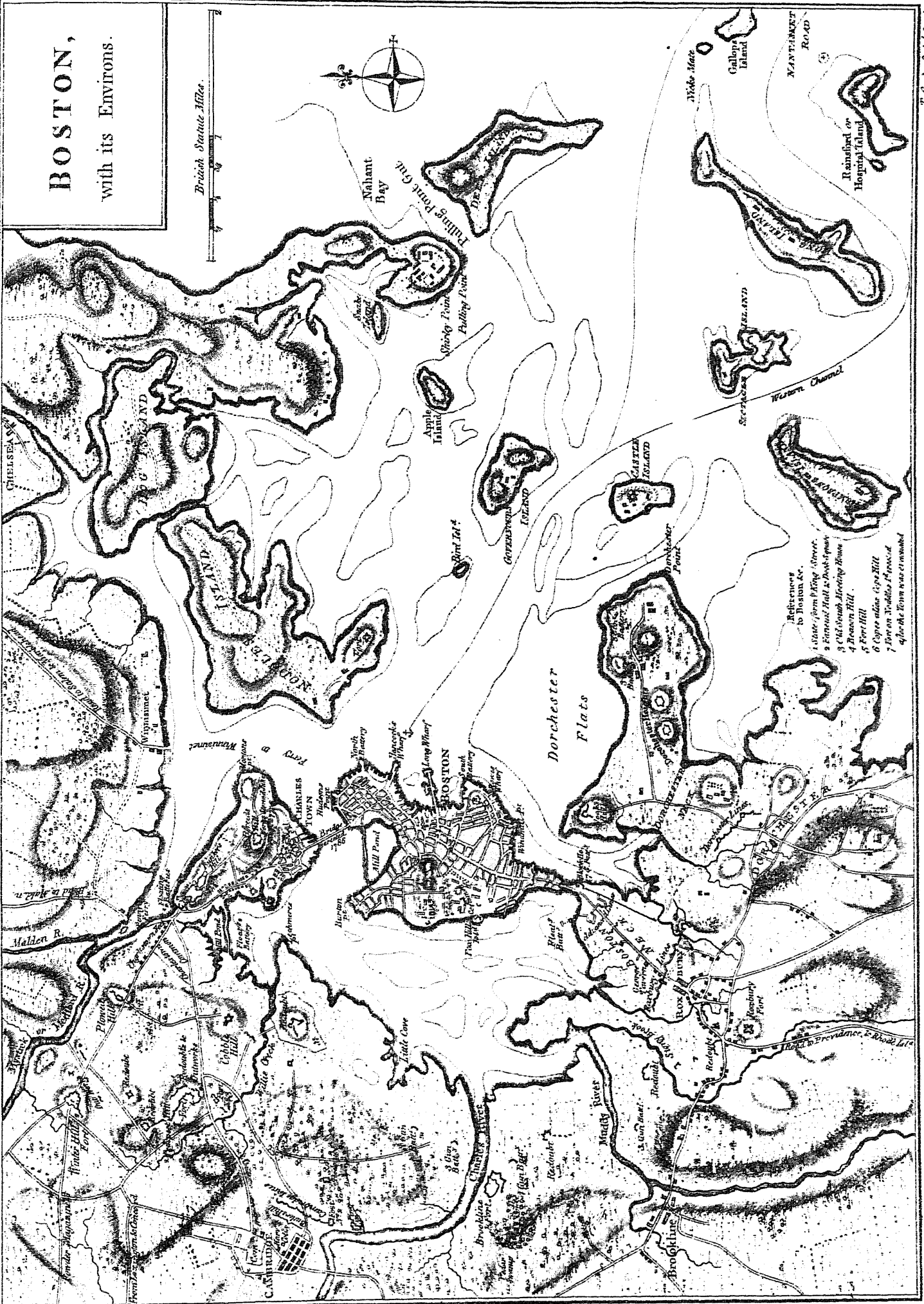
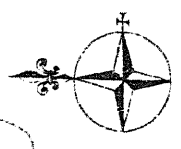
De Bow's estimates of population, by colonies.

| COLONY. | 1701 | 1749 | 1775 |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| All colonies..... | 262,000 | 1,046,000 | 2,803,000 |
| Slaves, estimated..... | | | 500,000 |
| New Hampshire..... | 10,000 | 30,000 | 102,000 |
| Massachusetts (including Maine)..... | 70,000 | 220,000 | 352,000 |
| Rhode Island..... | 10,000 | 35,000 | 58,000 |
| Connecticut..... | 30,000 | 100,000 | 202,000 |
| New York (including Vermont)..... | 30,000 | 100,000 | 233,000 |
| New Jersey..... | 15,000 | 60,000 | 133,000 |
| Pennsylvania and Delaware..... | 20,000 | 250,000 | 375,000 |
| Maryland..... | 25,000 | 85,000 | 174,000 |
| Virginia..... | 40,000 | 85,000 | 300,000 |
| North Carolina..... | 5,000 | 45,000 | 181,000 |
| South Carolina..... | 7,000 | 30,000 | 93,000 |
| Georgia..... | | 6,000 | 27,000 |

The estimates given above were made by the colonists at the dates referred to, and at the time Mr. De Bow wrote were the most reliable in existence. When

BOSTON, with its Environs.

British Statute Miles.



- References to Boston &c.
- 1 State, from King Street.
 - 2 Hancock Hall & Dock Square.
 - 3 Old South Meeting House.
 - 4 Beacon Hill.
 - 5 Fort Hill.
 - 6 Copse above Copp's Hill.
 - 7 Fort on Top of the Bunker's Hill.
 - 4 for the Town was et univert.

they are considered, however, in the light of accepted investigations and discussions in progress during the last half century, they prove to be in many cases much too generous. It seems advisable, therefore, after the lapse of more than half a century since this subject was discussed in a Census report, to present a new series of estimates, based upon the best information now obtainable. Indeed, it is unlikely that another publication will be issued by the Federal Census Office in which a discussion of this character will be so appropriate as in connection with the reproduction of the returns of the First Census. Moreover, unless some future discovery is made of enumerations or of extensive statistical material, at present unknown, there is little probability that the figures given below will be materially changed hereafter.

The following tables represent the first attempt, within the knowledge of the Census authorities, to trace the population of the colonies by decades, upon the basis of enumerations and contemporary and other estimates.¹ In all consideration of these tables (with the exception of the actual returns for 1790) it must, of course, be remembered that the population shown for each colony is in nearly every case merely an estimate.

These estimates are derived from enumerations at neighboring dates, or from the nearest enumeration or estimate of that period;² they must be accepted, therefore, simply as approximations in the absence of

definite returns. They can be defended, however, not only as being the closest approximations to the population of that period which it is possible to secure after a careful consideration of many authorities, but also on the ground that they are probably more accurate than earlier estimates. Study by many distinguished students of history and statistics has resulted in much discussion; many old records have been examined, and comparisons have been made between the population estimates of early writers and those of modern experts, so that extreme or unreasonable estimates, which in some cases stood for many years, have been eliminated. In consequence, the estimates of early population presented in the following tables may be accepted as expressing the best judgment of students of history and statistics at the present period.

¹ The free population of 1790 was 3,250,000. In 1688 the whole population is estimated by Mr. Bancroft to have been 200,000. If we take the free population of that day at 185,000 and add thereto one-third for each decennial period, we shall obtain the amount given by the census in 1790, as follows:

| YEAR. | Population. | YEAR. | Population. |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1690..... | 185,000 | 1750..... | 1,035,000 |
| 1700..... | 246,000 | 1760..... | 1,380,000 |
| 1710..... | 328,000 | 1770..... | 1,840,000 |
| 1720..... | 437,000 | 1780..... | 2,453,000 |
| 1730..... | 582,000 | 1790..... | 3,270,000 |
| 1740..... | 776,000 | | |

—H. C. Carey, *Principles of Political Economy* (1840), Part III, pages 25 and 26.

² See tables 76 to 103, pages 149 to 185.

TABLE 1.—ESTIMATED POPULATION DURING COLONIAL AND CONTINENTAL PERIODS: 1610 TO 1790.

| STATE. | 1610 | 1620 | 1630 | 1640 | 1650 | 1660 | 1670 | 1680 | 1690 |
|---------------------|------|-------|-------|--------|--------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Total..... | 210 | 2,499 | 5,700 | 27,947 | 51,700 | 84,850 | 114,500 | 155,600 | 213,500 |
| Maine..... | | | 400 | 700 | 1,000 | (¹) | (¹) | (¹) | (¹) |
| New Hampshire..... | | | 500 | 800 | 1,400 | 2,300 | 3,000 | 4,000 | 5,000 |
| Vermont..... | | | | | | | | | |
| Massachusetts..... | | 99 | 1,300 | 14,000 | 18,000 | 25,000 | 30,000 | 40,000 | 54,000 |
| Rhode Island..... | | | | 300 | 800 | 1,500 | 2,500 | 4,000 | 5,000 |
| Connecticut..... | | | | 2,000 | 6,000 | 8,000 | 10,000 | 13,000 | 18,000 |
| New York..... | | | 500 | 1,000 | 3,000 | 6,000 | 9,000 | 14,000 | 20,000 |
| New Jersey..... | | | | | | | 2,500 | 6,000 | 9,000 |
| Pennsylvania..... | | | | | | | | | 12,000 |
| Delaware..... | | | | | | | | 500 | (²) |
| Maryland..... | | | | 1,500 | 4,500 | 8,000 | 15,000 | 20,000 | 25,000 |
| Virginia..... | 210 | 2,400 | 3,000 | 7,647 | 17,000 | 33,000 | 40,000 | 49,000 | 58,000 |
| North Carolina..... | | | | | | 1,000 | 2,500 | 4,000 | 3,000 |
| South Carolina..... | | | | | | | | 1,100 | 4,500 |
| Georgia..... | | | | | | | | | |
| Kentucky..... | | | | | | | | | |
| Tennessee..... | | | | | | | | | |

| STATE. | 1700 | 1710 | 1720 | 1730 | 1740 | 1750 | 1760 | 1770 | 1780 | 1790 |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Total..... | 275,000 | 357,500 | 474,388 | 654,950 | 889,000 | 1,207,000 | 1,610,000 | 2,205,000 | 2,781,000 | 3,929,625 |
| Maine..... | (¹) | (¹) | (¹) | (¹) | (¹) | (¹) | (¹) | 34,000 | 55,500 | 96,643 |
| New Hampshire..... | 6,000 | 7,500 | 9,500 | 12,000 | 22,000 | 31,000 | 38,000 | 60,000 | 84,500 | 141,899 |
| Vermont..... | | | | (²) | (²) | (²) | (²) | 25,000 | 40,000 | 85,341 |
| Massachusetts..... | 70,000 | 150,000 | 192,000 | 125,000 | 158,000 | 180,000 | 235,000 | 285,000 | 307,000 | 378,556 |
| Rhode Island..... | 6,000 | 8,000 | 11,000 | 16,950 | 24,000 | 35,000 | 44,000 | 55,000 | 62,000 | 69,112 |
| Connecticut..... | 24,000 | 31,000 | 40,000 | 55,000 | 70,000 | 109,000 | 142,000 | 175,000 | 203,000 | 237,655 |
| New York..... | 19,000 | 26,000 | 36,000 | 49,000 | 63,000 | 80,000 | 113,000 | 160,000 | 200,000 | 340,241 |
| New Jersey..... | 14,000 | 20,000 | 26,000 | 37,000 | 52,000 | 66,000 | 91,000 | 110,000 | 137,000 | 184,139 |
| Pennsylvania..... | 20,000 | 35,000 | 48,000 | 65,000 | 100,000 | 150,000 | 220,000 | 250,000 | 335,000 | 433,611 |
| Delaware..... | | (²) | (²) | (²) | (²) | (²) | (²) | 25,000 | 37,000 | 59,066 |
| Maryland..... | 31,000 | 43,000 | 62,000 | 82,000 | 105,000 | 137,000 | 162,000 | 200,000 | 250,000 | 319,728 |
| Virginia..... | 72,000 | 87,000 | 116,000 | 153,000 | 200,000 | 275,000 | 346,000 | 450,000 | 520,000 | 747,610 |
| North Carolina..... | 5,000 | 7,000 | 13,000 | 30,000 | 50,000 | 80,000 | 115,000 | 230,000 | 300,000 | 335,005 |
| South Carolina..... | 8,000 | 13,000 | 20,828 | 50,000 | 45,000 | 63,000 | 95,000 | 140,000 | 160,000 | 249,073 |
| Georgia..... | | | | | | 5,000 | 9,000 | 26,000 | 55,000 | 82,543 |
| Kentucky..... | | | | | | | | (³) | 45,000 | 73,677 |
| Tennessee..... | | | | | | | | | | 35,691 |

¹ Maine included with Massachusetts.
² Delaware included with Pennsylvania.

³ Vermont included with New York.
⁴ Kentucky included with Virginia.

TABLE 2.—PER CENT OF INCREASE OF ESTIMATED POPULATION DURING COLONIAL AND CONTINENTAL PERIODS: 1610 TO 1790.

| STATE. | 1610 to 1620 | 1620 to 1630 | 1630 to 1640 | 1640 to 1650 | 1650 to 1660 | 1660 to 1670 | 1670 to 1680 | 1680 to 1690 | 1690 to 1700 | 1700 to 1710 | 1710 to 1720 | 1720 to 1730 | 1730 to 1740 | 1740 to 1750 | 1750 to 1760 | 1760 to 1770 | 1770 to 1780 | 1780 to 1790 | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Total..... | 1,090.0 | 128.1 | 390.3 | 85.0 | 64.0 | 35.0 | 35.9 | 37.2 | 28.8 | 30.0 | 32.7 | 38.1 | 35.7 | 35.8 | 33.4 | 37.0 | 26.1 | 41.3 | |
| Maine..... | | | 75.0 | 42.9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 63.2 | 74.1 |
| New Hampshire..... | | | 60.0 | 75.0 | 64.3 | 30.4 | 33.3 | 25.0 | 20.0 | 25.0 | 26.7 | 26.3 | 83.3 | 40.9 | 22.6 | 57.9 | | 40.8 | 67.9 |
| Vermont..... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 60.0 | 113.4 |
| Massachusetts..... | | 1,213.1 | 976.9 | 28.6 | 38.9 | 20.0 | 33.3 | 35.0 | 29.6 | 14.3 | 15.0 | 35.9 | 26.4 | 13.9 | 30.6 | 12.8 | | 15.8 | 23.3 |
| Rhode Island..... | | | | 166.7 | 87.5 | 66.7 | 60.0 | 25.0 | 20.0 | 33.3 | 37.5 | 54.1 | 41.6 | 45.8 | 25.7 | 25.0 | | 15.5 | 32.9 |
| Connecticut..... | | | | 200.0 | 33.3 | 25.0 | 30.0 | 38.5 | 33.3 | 29.2 | 29.1 | 37.5 | 27.3 | 42.9 | 42.0 | 23.2 | | 16.0 | 17.1 |
| New York..... | | | 100.0 | 200.0 | 100.0 | 50.0 | | 55.6 | 42.9 | 15.0 | 36.8 | 38.5 | 36.1 | 28.6 | 27.0 | 41.3 | | 41.6 | 25.0 |
| New Jersey..... | | | | | | | | 140.0 | 50.0 | | 42.9 | 30.0 | 42.3 | 40.5 | 26.9 | 37.9 | | 20.9 | 24.6 |
| Pennsylvania..... | | | | | | | | | 66.7 | 75.0 | 37.1 | 35.4 | 53.8 | 50.0 | 46.7 | 13.6 | | 34.0 | 29.4 |
| Delaware..... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 48.0 | 59.7 |
| Maryland..... | | | | 200.0 | 77.8 | 87.5 | 33.3 | 25.0 | 24.0 | 38.7 | 44.2 | 32.3 | 28.0 | 30.5 | 18.2 | 23.5 | | 25.0 | 27.9 |
| Virginia..... | 1,042.9 | 25.0 | 154.9 | 122.3 | 94.1 | 21.2 | 22.5 | 18.4 | 24.1 | 20.8 | 33.3 | 31.9 | 30.7 | 37.5 | 25.8 | 30.1 | | 15.6 | 43.8 |
| North Carolina..... | | | | | | 150.0 | 60.0 | 25.0 | 66.7 | 40.0 | 86.6 | 129.7 | 66.7 | 60.0 | 43.8 | 100.0 | | 30.4 | 31.7 |
| South Carolina..... | | | | | | | | 309.1 | 77.8 | | 62.5 | 60.2 | 44.0 | 50.0 | 51.1 | 39.7 | | 47.4 | 14.3 |
| Georgia..... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 80.0 | | | 50.1 | 63.7 |
| Kentucky..... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tennessee..... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

¹ Decrease.

These tables comprehend approximately two-thirds of the period which has elapsed since the establishment of English settlements upon the North Atlantic coast of America. They begin with the population of Virginia in 1610—the first population in a decennial year forming part of a continuous series—consisting of 210 souls maintaining a precarious foothold upon an unexplored continent; and end, after the lapse of approximately two centuries, with an aggregate population of 3,929,625 inhabitants, possessing more than 800,000 square miles of territory, as shown by the Federal census of 1790.

While percentages of increase in population can be accepted only as suggestions of approximate growth, it will be observed that those which are shown in Table 2 tend to confirm the impression concerning the growth of population natural under the conditions which prevailed at this period.¹ For the first half century, or until the middle of the seventeenth century, percentages obviously have little significance as indicating normal growth, because they were violently affected by every shipload of colonists that arrived. From 1660 to the close of the century, as the population began to assume greater proportions and to extend over larger areas of territory, the percentages of increase, both in individual colonies and in the aggregate for all the colonies, tend to become more uniform, and thus to reflect the influence of natural increase as compared with artificial increase by additions from Europe.² In the eighteenth century there was a noteworthy uniformity of per-

centages of increase, with the exception of the reduced increase shown for the decade from 1770 to 1780, a variation which unquestionably reflects the period of warfare and privation through which the colonists were then passing.

Incidentally it should be stated that in the making of these tables the population assigned at each decade to each of the colonies has been computed without the least regard to the total population or the percentage of increase in total population which would be shown; the result for each colony has been prepared independently, from the historical sources previously mentioned, so as to reflect as closely as possible the population conditions actually prevailing at the dates specified. Hence the interesting uniformity of increase from decade to decade shown by the aggregate for all colonies tends to strengthen confidence in the accuracy of the estimates presented. Moreover, it will be noted that the similarity in percentages of increase remains practically the same from decade to decade during the first half century of actual enumeration (1790 to 1840), as during the latter half of the period covered by the above tables.

It is of additional interest to observe the geographic grouping of population during the early history of the colonies. The following table shows the number and the proportion of inhabitants in each of the three geographic groups of colonies at the beginning and the end of the pre-Constitutional period, and at half century intervals:

¹ "He who will construct retrospectively general tables (of Colonial population) from the rule of increase in America, since 1790, will err very little."—*Bancroft: History of the United States, ed. 1852, Vol. IV, page 128, note.*

² "In the Northern states of America, where the means of subsistence have been more ample, the manners of the people more pure, and the checks to early marriages fewer than in any of the modern states of Europe, the population has been found to double itself, for above a century and a half successively, in less than each period of twenty-five years.

"In the back settlements, where the sole employment is agriculture, and vicious customs and unwholesome occupations are little known, the population has been known to double itself in fifteen years. * * *

"It appears from some recent calculations and estimates that from the first settlement of America to the year 1800 the periods of doubling have been but very little above twenty years."—*Malthus: Essay on the Principle of Population, vol. 1, pages 6 and 7: London, Edition 1806.*

TABLE 3.—ESTIMATED POPULATION IN THE PRE-CONSTITUTIONAL PERIOD, OF THE AREA ENUMERATED IN 1790, BY GEOGRAPHIC GROUPS.

| GEOGRAPHIC GROUP. | 1610 | | 1650 | | 1700 | | 1750 | | 1790 | |
|------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| | Population. | Per cent. | Population. | Per cent. | Population. | Per cent. | Population. | Per cent. | Population. | Per cent. |
| Area enumerated in 1790..... | 210 | 100.0 | 51,700 | 100.0 | 275,000 | 100.0 | 1,207,000 | 100.0 | 3,929,625 | 100.0 |
| New England..... | | | 27,200 | 52.6 | 100,000 | 38.5 | 346,000 | 28.7 | 1,009,206 | 25.7 |
| Middle colonies..... | | | 3,000 | 5.8 | 53,000 | 19.3 | 296,000 | 24.5 | 1,017,087 | 25.9 |
| Southern colonies..... | 210 | 100.0 | 21,500 | 41.6 | 116,000 | 42.2 | 565,000 | 46.8 | 1,903,332 | 48.4 |

In 1610 the total white population in the original area of the United States was located in the single colony of Virginia; but in 1650 more than half of all the colonists were located in New England, and most of the remainder in Virginia. From that date the proportion in the New England colonies steadily declined, and the proportion in the Southern colonies steadily increased. The remarkable increase in the proportion in the Middle colonies during the period from 1650 to 1700 was due to the settlement of Pennsylvania and extensive immigration into that colony.

POPULATION OF CITIES.

Three cities which have continued to the present time to be leaders in population were preeminent during the Colonial and Continental periods, not only in the number of their inhabitants, but also in prosperity and influence. These cities were New York, Philadelphia, and Boston. From its foundation, in 1630, until the middle of the eighteenth century, Boston was the most populous town in the American colonies. Philadelphia (including suburbs) then took the lead, which it retained until it in turn was passed by New York, in 1810. Hence, each of these three cities has been the leader in population at some period.

The two tables which follow present the population, from the earliest records up to 1790, of the 7 cities which had acquired a population of 8,000 inhabitants prior to the Federal census of 1790, or which reported a population of approximately that figure in that year. The first table gives the results of censuses, contemporary estimates, and modern estimates based on contemporary data—as poll lists or counts of dwellings. The second table gives, for each decennial year from 1710 to 1790, the population of all cities which had reached, or practically reached, the minimum of 8,000 inhabitants. Figures given in the second table, but not in the first, are estimates based on the most reliable sources of information.

The most significant facts reflected by the following tables are the continual uncertainty concerning increase or decrease of population during the whole of the eighteenth century and the insignificant increase recorded in each of the 7 cities during the entire period from 1710 to 1790. The variations in population which are shown during different periods for each of these cities are frequently violent.

Population of cities of the United States to and including 1790.

| YEAR. | Philadel- phia (in- cluding suburbs). | New York. | Boston. | Charles- ton. | Balti- more. | Salem. | Newport. |
|-----------|--|--------------|---------|------------------|-----------------|--------|----------|
| 1656..... | | 1,000 | | | | | |
| 1680..... | | | 4,500 | | | | |
| 1683..... | 1,500 | | | | | | |
| 1690..... | | | 7,000 | | | | |
| 1698..... | | 4,937 | | | | | |
| 1700..... | 14,400 | | 6,700 | | | | |
| 1703..... | | 4,436 | | | | | |
| 1708..... | | | | | | | 2,203 |
| 1710..... | | | 9,000 | | | | |
| 1712..... | | 5,840 | | | | | |
| 1720..... | | | 11,000 | | | | |
| 1722..... | | | 10,567 | | | | |
| 1723..... | | 7,248 | | | | | |
| 1730..... | | | 13,000 | | | | 4,640 |
| 1731..... | | 8,622 | | | | | |
| 1737..... | | 10,664 | | | | | |
| 1740..... | | | 17,000 | | | | |
| 1742..... | | | 16,382 | | | | |
| 1746..... | | 11,717 | | | | | |
| 1748..... | | | | | | | 6,508 |
| 1749..... | 113,000 | 13,294 | | | | | |
| 1750..... | | | 15,731 | | | | |
| 1752..... | | | | | 200 | | |
| 1753..... | 14,563 | | | | | | |
| 1755..... | | | | | | | 6,753 |
| 1756..... | | 13,040 | | | | | |
| 1760..... | 18,756 | | 15,631 | | | | |
| 1765..... | | | 15,520 | | | 4,427 | |
| 1769..... | 28,042 | | | | | | |
| 1770..... | | | 15,520 | 10,563 | | | |
| 1771..... | | 21,863 | | | | | |
| 1773..... | | | | 12,000 | | | |
| 1774..... | | | | | | | 9,209 |
| 1775..... | | | | | 5,034 | | |
| 1776..... | 134,400 | | | | | 5,337 | 5,209 |
| 1777..... | 225,000 | | | | | | |
| 1780..... | | | 10,000 | | | | |
| 1782..... | | | | | | | 5,530 |
| 1783..... | 137,800 | | | | | | |
| 1786..... | | 23,614 | | | | | |
| 1787..... | | | | 15,000 | | | |
| 1790..... | 42,444 | 33,131 | 18,038 | 16,359 | 13,503 | 7,921 | 6,716 |

¹ Estimated on the assumption that the number of persons to each dwelling, as shown on page 13, was 6.3.
² Estimated from Lord Howe's census.

Population of cities having at least 8,000 inhabitants, for each decennial year from 1710 to 1790.

| YEAR. | Philadel- phia (in- cluding suburbs). | New York. | Boston. | Charles- ton. | Balti- more. | Salem. | Newport. |
|-----------|--|--------------|---------|------------------|-----------------|--------|----------|
| 1710..... | | | 9,000 | | | | |
| 1720..... | | | 11,000 | | | | |
| 1730..... | 8,500 | 8,500 | 13,000 | | | | |
| 1740..... | 10,500 | 11,000 | 17,000 | | | | |
| 1750..... | 13,400 | 13,300 | 15,731 | | | | |
| 1760..... | 18,756 | 14,000 | 15,631 | 8,000 | | | |
| 1770..... | 28,000 | 21,000 | 15,520 | 10,563 | | | 9,000 |
| 1780..... | 30,000 | 18,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 8,000 | | |
| 1790..... | 42,444 | 33,131 | 18,038 | 16,359 | 13,503 | 7,921 | |

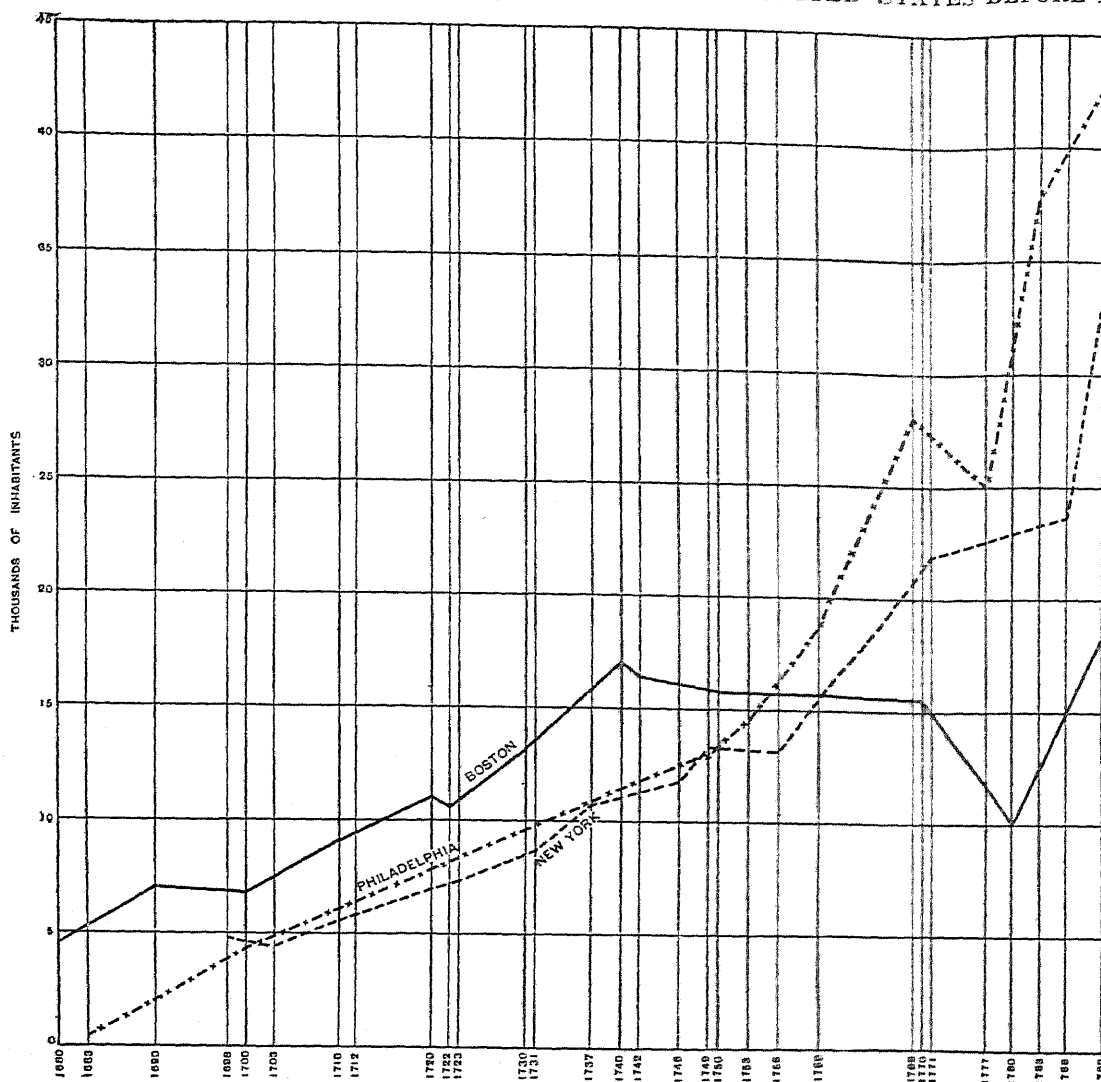
Changes, whether of increase or decrease, were generally due to local conditions, explained by the historians of the time. The lack of sanitary appliances and of skillful physicians exposed the American cities, especially in the eighteenth century, to attacks of contagious maladies, which in several instances

A CENTURY OF POPULATION GROWTH.

greatly reduced the population, either by death or by enforced removal of citizens. Such fluctuations of population must be regarded as incidents inseparably

connected with the early life of urban communities in which the inhabitants are engaged in a hand-to-hand struggle for existence.

DIAGRAM I.—POPULATION OF THE PRINCIPAL CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES BEFORE 1790.



It will be observed that the maximum population of the city of Newport prior to 1790 was reached in 1774; and that the population of Salem even in 1790 had not attained the minimum city population of 8,000—falling short of that number by 79 souls. But as it has been the custom of previous Census authorities to include Salem in the list of cities having a distinctly urban population in 1790, it is here included in the list of those having a population of 8,000 inhabitants.

Four out of the 6 cities having a population of 8,000 or more in 1790 were located in the Northern states; Baltimore was upon the edge of the Northern states; and only one city—Charleston—was situated in the distinctly Southern states. In Virginia, the oldest of the colonies, no city possessed in 1790 a population greater than 4,000. Indeed, with the exception of the city of Charleston, above noted, all of the great area

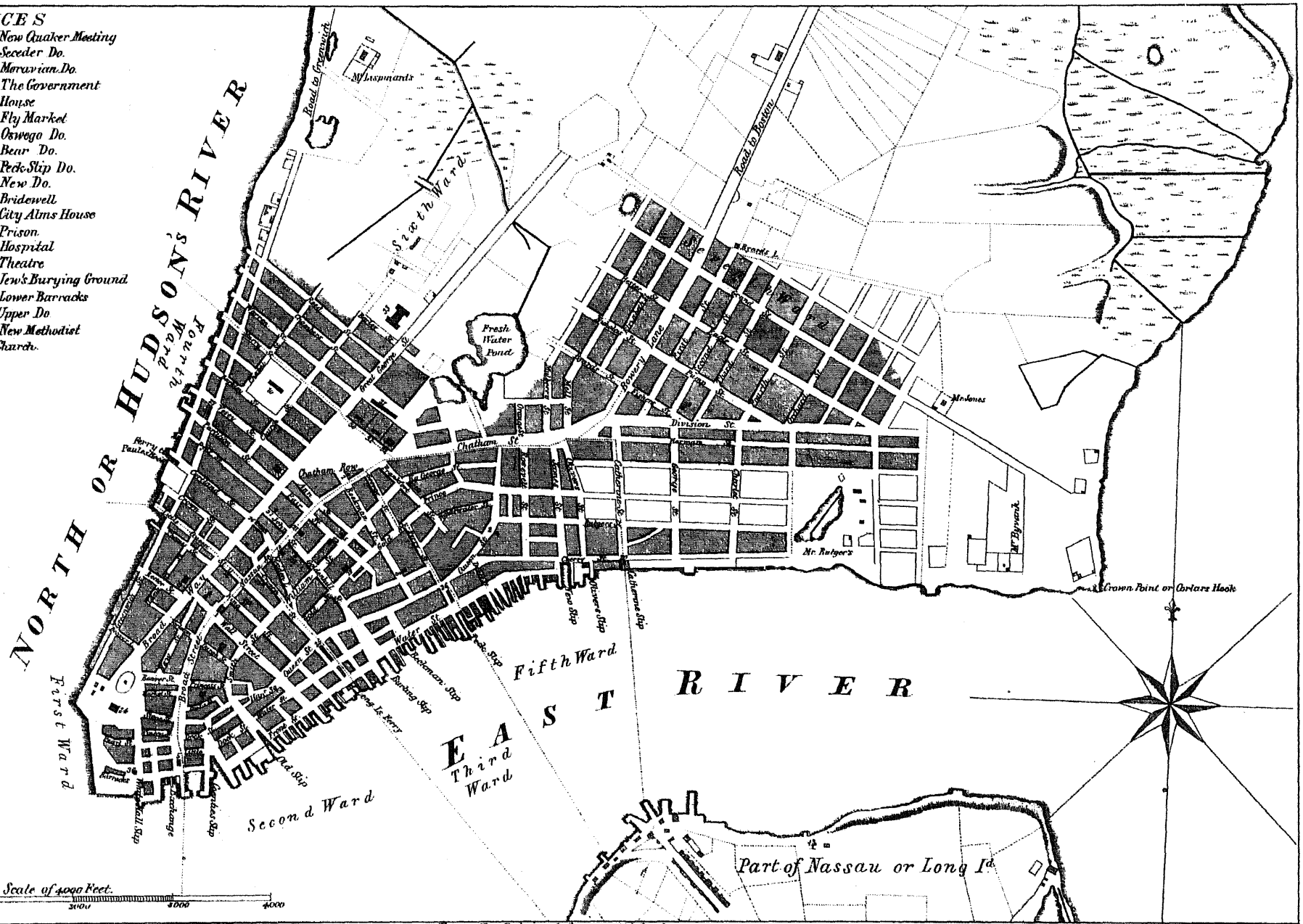
lying south of the Potomac must be regarded as distinctly rural at that period. The marshal who supervised in 1790 the taking of the Federal census for North Carolina, in making his returns, accompanied them with the observation that in that large commonwealth there was no community the population of which exceeded 2,000 inhabitants.

In 1700 the aggregate population of the 3 leading cities—Boston, New York, and Philadelphia—was approximately 15,500. Ninety years later the aggregate population of these 3 cities was 95,000, having increased sixfold. The striking change which has taken place since 1700 in all the conditions which tend to increase urban population is illustrated by the fact that in 1900, or at the close of the succeeding century, the population of these 3 cities was 5,291,791, having increased more than fiftyfold in the second period of one hundred and ten years. The rates of increase

PLAN OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

REFERENCES

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Fig. 1 Federal Hall | 21 New Quaker Meeting |
| 2 St. Pauls Church | 22 Seceder Do. |
| 3 Trinity Do. | 23 Moravian Do. |
| 4 Old Presbyterian Do. | 24 The Government House |
| 5 Exchange | 25 Fly Market |
| 6 North Church | 26 Oswego Do. |
| 7 New Presbyterian Do. | 27 Bear Do. |
| 8 St. Georges Chapel | 28 Pedc-Step Do. |
| 9 St. Peters Church | 29 New Do. |
| 10 College | 30 Bridewell |
| 11 Scots Pres ^o . Church | 31 City Alms House |
| 12 Old Dutch Church | 32 Prison. |
| 13 New Dutch Do. | 33 Hospital |
| 14 Jew's Synagogue | 34 Theatre |
| 15 Old Quaker Meeting | 35 Jew's Burying Ground |
| 16 Methodist Do. | 36 Lower Barracks |
| 17 Baptist Do. | 37 Upper Do |
| 18 German Cal ^l . Church | 38 New Methodist Church. |
| 19 Lutheran Do. | |
| 20 French Do. | |



here noted reflect the differing tendencies of the two centuries under consideration. Rapid increase in urban population is generally regarded as one of the results of the unprecedented growth in commercial and industrial activity, characteristic of the nineteenth century.

The proportion of the population living in cities showed a significant uniformity from the beginning of the eighteenth century to 1820. Indeed, the proportion in 1730 was almost precisely the same as that shown for 1820—nearly a century later. The low proportion shown for 1780 was obviously the result of the Revolutionary War, in which practically all the principal cities suffered from the ravages of war or pestilence, or both. The movement of population toward the cities, a movement which gathered momentum after 1830, may be regarded primarily as the result of industrial expansion. From that date the growth of population in manufacturing centers uninterruptedly kept pace with the growth in number of industries and in value of products.

The principal facts regarding the early population of the cities shown in the tables on page 11, including reference to some of the causes which led to violent increase or decrease, will be found in the following summaries.

Philadelphia.—The colonial population of Philadelphia can not be stated with precision. Dr. James Mease, in his "Picture of Philadelphia," gives the following table:

| YEAR. | Dwelling houses. | Popula- tion. |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1683 | 80 | ..... |
| 1700 | 700 | ..... |
| 1749 ¹ | 2,076 | ..... |
| 1753 | 2,300 | 14,563 |
| 1760 | 2,960 | 18,756 |
| 1769 | 4,274 | 28,042 |
| 1776 | 5,460 | ..... |
| 1783 | 6,000 | ..... |
| 1790 | 6,651 | ..... |

¹"The enumeration of 1749 was made by citizens of the first respectability. Mulberry ward, by Doctor Franklin; Dock ward, Joseph Shippen; Lower Delaware, William Allen (Chief Justice); Upper Delaware, Thomas Hopkinson; South ward and Southern suburbs, Edward Shippen; High street, Thomas Lawrence, jr.; Walnut, William Humphreys; Chestnut, Joseph Turner; North ward and Northern suburbs, Dr. William Shippen; Middle ward, William Coleman. The alteration of the division of the wards in 1800 renders it impossible to judge of the comparative increase of population in the several quarters of the city."—James Mease, M. D.: *The Picture of Philadelphia (1811), pages 31 and 32.*

The data given for 1760 are confirmed by a passage from "Burnaby's Travels," written in 1759. Mr. Burnaby visited Philadelphia in that year, and reported that it contained about 3,000 houses and from 18,000 to 20,000 inhabitants.

The only census before 1790 was taken about October, 1777, for Lord Howe, when he held possession of the city; it yielded 5,470 dwellings (587 of which were empty) and 21,767 inhabitants, exclusive of the army and strangers. At all times when both the number of houses and inhabitants were given, except during the Revolution, the number of inhabitants bore to the number of houses a ratio of from 6.2 to 6.4. The population figures omitted from Mease's table have

been computed for the tables of pre-Constitutional population of cities, on page 11, by applying to Doctor Mease's data as to number of dwellings a ratio of 6.3.

New York.—Twelve censuses of the city of New York were taken prior to 1790, the first being taken in 1656. Hence, the population figures for New York as shown on page 11 may all be accepted as accurate.

Boston.—From the time of its founding until about 1755, Boston was the most populous town in the American colonies. The first recorded enumeration of the inhabitants of Boston was made in 1722, during a pestilence of smallpox; the population was found to be 10,567. A second census was taken in 1742 and a third in 1765. In connection with a report on a census of Boston taken in 1845, Mr. Lemuel Shattuck made a very thorough study of the early population of that city,¹ from which he deduced the figures given for decennial years in the table on page 11.

The decrease in the population from 1740 to 1750 was due to depopulation by smallpox and war. The decrease from 1770 to 1780 was due to the occupation of Boston by the British; according to Mr. Shattuck, in 1776 Boston contained only 2,719 white inhabitants, many of the former inhabitants having been dispersed in the country. In 1777 there were 2,863 males 16 years of age and over—"of whom," says the record, "11 were Quakers, 7 belonged to the castle, 188 were colored, 36 in Charlestown, Falmouth, and Newport, 200 at sea, and 543 in the army." The number of males 16 years of age and over actually living in Boston was therefore only 1,878; and of these, many were said to be old, infirm, and decrepit.

Charleston.—The fourth city in size in 1790 was Charleston, S. C. Before the Revolution this was an important commercial center. Lieutenant-Governor Bull reported that on November 30, 1770, the number of houses in Charleston was 1,292, and its population was 10,863—5,030 whites and 5,833 blacks (domestic servants and mechanics). De Brahm, three years later, reported that the city contained about 1,500 houses and more than 12,000 souls, more than half of whom were negroes and mulattoes. The Revolution seriously affected the prosperity and the population of the city. Morse's Gazetteer, published in 1789, says that in 1787 the city contained 1,600 houses and a population of 15,000—9,600 white inhabitants and 5,400 negroes.

Baltimore.—An inventory of this town in 1752 indicated 25 houses and 200 inhabitants. In 1775 a census showed 564 houses and 5,934 inhabitants. Brissot de Warville, who passed through the city in 1788, states that it "was but a village before the war; but during that period a considerable portion of the commerce of Philadelphia was removed to this place."

Salem.—Founded in 1628, Salem had a slow growth during the first century of its existence. There were

¹"Report by the committee of the city council," appointed to obtain the census of Boston for the year 1845, page 5.

two censuses before 1790; the population in 1765 was 4,427, and in 1776 it was 5,337. A somewhat accelerated growth after the war, due to the importance of Salem's foreign commerce, brought the population in 1790 up to 7,921.

Newport and Providence.—It is easy to trace the population of the city of Newport and of the town of Providence from the summaries of the censuses given for Rhode Island in Table 85. The population of Newport in 1774 was 9,209—a figure which it did not attain again until the census of 1850. The city never recovered its commercial prosperity lost at the time of the Revolution.

New Haven, New London, and Norwich.—These Connecticut towns were populous and prosperous during the latter half of the eighteenth century, and carried on an important coastwise and West Indian commerce. The commerce of all three, however, was greatly injured during the Revolutionary War, and New Haven, at least, never fully regained her former rank as a shipping center.

The city of New Haven was incorporated on January 8, 1783; in 1787 its population was 3,364.¹ Scott's United States Gazetteer, published in 1795, states that the city of New London contained 340 dwellings and the city of Norwich 450 dwellings; this would indicate a population of about 2,000 for New London and about 3,000 for Norwich.

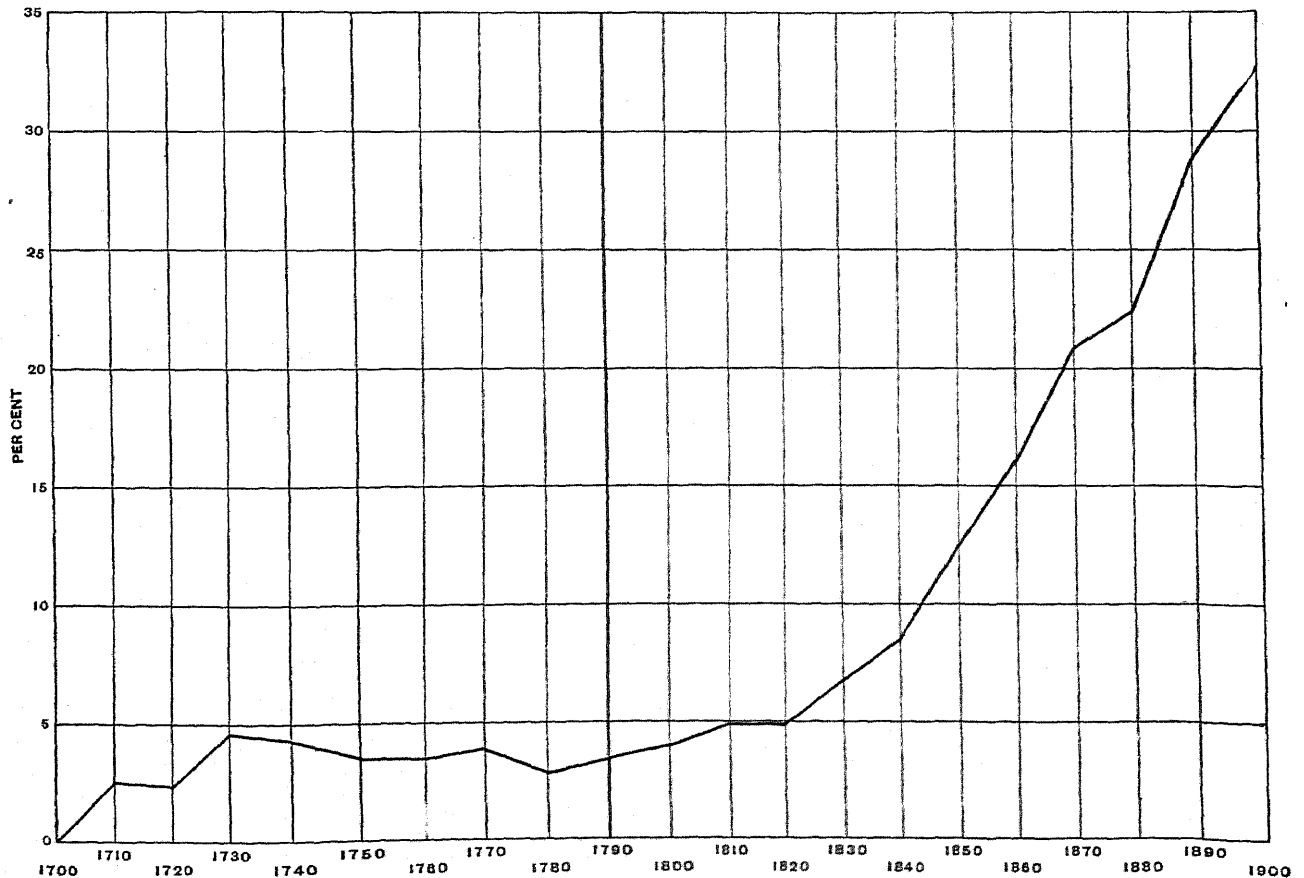
COMPARISON OF URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION.

While the population figures shown in Table 1 are to some extent based upon estimates, they may be accepted as reasonably accurate for the purpose of making a general separation of the inhabitants of the colonies in early years into the two main classes of urban and rural. Even at the close of the eighteenth century the urban communities were merely country towns as compared with the urban communities of the present time. Nevertheless, it is not to be doubted that the distinction between the dwellers in the cities, small as they were, and the dwellers in the strictly rural districts, was clearly marked. By adopting the community of 8,000 as a minimum, the following table has been constructed for a period covering two

| YEAR. | New Haven. | New London. | Norwich. |
|-----------|------------|-------------|----------|
| 1756..... | 5,085 | 3,171 | 5,540 |
| 1774..... | 8,295 | 5,888 | 7,327 |
| 1782..... | | 5,688 | 7,325 |

¹ "There are between 300 and 400 neat dwelling houses in the city, principally of wood. The streets are sandy but clean. Within the limits of the city are 4,000 souls."—Morse: *Gazetteer of the United States, 1797.*

DIAGRAM 2.—PER CENT OF TOTAL POPULATION OF UNITED STATES IN CITIES OF 8,000 POPULATION AND OVER.



centuries. The estimates of which the figures for years prior to 1790 are composed have already been given for the total population in Table 1, and for the urban population in tables on page 11.

TABLE 4.—TOTAL AND URBAN POPULATION (ON THE BASIS OF PLACES OF 8,000 INHABITANTS OR MORE) OF THE UNITED STATES, AND OF THE AREA ENUMERATED AT THE FIRST CENSUS, COMPARED WITH THE TOTAL POPULATION: 1700 TO 1900.

| YEAR. | FOR TOTAL AREA. | | | FOR AREA ENUMERATED IN 1790. | | | PER CENT POPULATION OF AREA ENUMERATED IN 1790 FORMS OF POPULATION OF UNITED STATES. | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------|--------|--------|
| | Total population. | Places of 8,000 and over. | | | Total population. | Places of 8,000 and over. | | | Total. | Urban. |
| | | Number. | Population. | Per cent of total. | | Number. | Population. | Per cent of total. | | |
| 1700..... | 275,000 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1710..... | 357,500 | 1 | 9,000 | 2.5 | | | | | | |
| 1720..... | 474,388 | 1 | 11,000 | 2.3 | | | | | | |
| 1730..... | 654,950 | 3 | 30,000 | 4.6 | | | | | | |
| 1740..... | 889,000 | 3 | 38,500 | 4.3 | | | | | | |
| 1750..... | 1,207,000 | 3 | 42,431 | 3.5 | | | | | | |
| 1760..... | 1,610,000 | 4 | 56,387 | 3.5 | | | | | | |
| 1770..... | 2,205,000 | 5 | 84,383 | 3.8 | | | | | | |
| 1780..... | 2,781,000 | 5 | 76,000 | 2.7 | | | | | | |
| 1790..... | 3,929,625 | 6 | 131,396 | 3.3 | 3,929,625 | 6 | 131,396 | 3.3 | 100.0 | |
| 1800..... | 5,308,483 | 6 | 210,873 | 4.0 | 5,247,355 | 6 | 210,873 | 4.0 | 98.8 | |
| 1810..... | 7,239,881 | 11 | 356,920 | 4.9 | 6,779,308 | 10 | 339,678 | 5.0 | 95.2 | |
| 1820..... | 9,638,453 | 13 | 475,135 | 4.9 | 8,293,869 | 13 | 438,317 | 5.2 | 86.0 | |
| 1830..... | 12,866,020 | 23 | 864,509 | 6.7 | 10,240,232 | 24 | 793,596 | 7.5 | 79.6 | |
| 1840..... | 17,069,453 | 44 | 1,453,994 | 8.5 | 11,781,221 | 40 | 1,272,330 | 10.4 | 69.0 | |
| 1850..... | 23,191,876 | 85 | 2,897,586 | 12.5 | 14,569,584 | 68 | 2,385,216 | 15.7 | 62.8 | |
| 1860..... | 31,443,321 | 141 | 5,072,256 | 16.1 | 17,326,157 | 106 | 3,948,039 | 21.8 | 55.1 | |
| 1870..... | 38,558,371 | 226 | 8,071,875 | 20.9 | 19,687,504 | 139 | 5,561,692 | 27.1 | 51.1 | |
| 1880..... | 50,155,783 | 286 | 11,318,547 | 22.6 | 23,925,639 | 168 | 7,485,723 | 29.9 | 47.7 | |
| 1890..... | 62,947,714 | 447 | 18,272,503 | 29.0 | 28,188,321 | 243 | 10,854,778 | 36.8 | 44.8 | |
| 1900..... | 175,994,575 | 545 | 24,992,199 | 32.9 | 33,553,630 | 285 | 14,656,083 | 41.7 | 44.2 | |

¹Includes population of Indian Territory and Indian reservations.