

Statistics of Population.

It is an established fact that the number of marriages in time of peace is greater than in time of war; and even when the chances of war are imminent the number of marriages is found to diminish. In 1823, 40,000 marriages were solemnized in France, more than in five years of the occupation of that country by allied forces. In Russia, notwithstanding the indifference to political affairs, there were in 1812 from 70,000 to 80,000 marriages less than in the years preceding.

A fact worthy of remark, and a very curious one, is the prodigious increase in population since the commencement of the present century. The following figures show a most remarkable disproportion between each other:

	Inhabitants.
In 1700 France contained	19,869,520
In 1762 France contained	21,769,163
In 1804 France contained	27,819,003

And at the present day the number of the inhabitants of that country exceeds 36,000,000. The great increase seems owing to the introduction of vaccination, which, by lessening the chances of death, has exercised by that means an indirect action on the number of births. As regards the mean duration of life in France, vaccination has certainly had a tendency to prolong it: for, before the great revolution, the mean duration was only 23 1-2 years, whereas it is now 31 1-2 years.

An infinity of cases may influence the number of births, but one of the principal, no doubt, exists in the state of the climate. It may be remarked that the nearer we approach the equator, the greater the fecundity of woman. The following table shows the result of observations made with regard to the number of children for each 1000 families in the different States of Europe:

	Children.
In the Kingdom of the two Sicilies	5546
In Venice	5454
In the Kingdom of Wurtemberg	5433
In the Kingdom of Bohemia	5236
In the Kingdom of Portugal	5184
In the Milanese	5007
In the Grand Duchy of Hesse	4815
In Austria	4725
In Holland	4670
In the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg	4639
In the Kingdom of Prussia	4570
In Russia	4537
In France	4148
In Hanover	4121
In Sweden	4112
In Norway	3965
In Holstein	3739
In Denmark	3501
In the Britannie Isles	3065

From the above table it is manifest that there is a decrease in fecundity as we advance towards the north. The difference is especially striking between Naples and Great Britain, which are at the two extremities of the scale. The results here shown, it will be seen, appertain only to the European States; but the difference will be found even more striking between countries more opposed in climate. Thus in Greenland, according to the accounts of travelers, 1000 families scarcely comprise 2000 children; whilst in Brazil, 1000 families include about 4400 children; and we may easily imagine with what rapidity populations would be doubled in hot climates if the terrible epidemics peculiar to them were not so frequently decimating them.

It is calculated that in all Europe the male population would, judging from the births, surpass the female by 4,000,000, if this excess was not daily counteracted by the numerous accidents to which the males are exposed, and which so materially diminish their number.

According to the statistical tables of Dr. Petermann, of Berlin, the population of Spain (or more properly the subjects of the Spanish monarchy) may be numbered at 15,514,397. Of these, 263,216 are the Balearic Islands, and 215,897 in the Canary Islands.

The census of the population of Egypt, taken by order of the Viceroy, has just been completed, and gives the following result: The population, which in 1798 was 2,500,000, amounting in 1817 to 3,700,000 in 1847 to 4,250,000, and is now 5,125,000. The inhabitants in Alexandria, which in 1798 only amounted in number to 30,000, and increased in 1817 to 230,000, are now near 400,000.

THE WEAK POINT.—One of Governor Corwin's pungent witticisms, in his Brooklyn lecture, a few weeks since, was in contrasting "Young America" of to-day with twenty years ago. Said he:

Children of the present day, who were but three or four years old, thought themselves endowed with more knowledge than their fathers had fifty years ago. Sir F. Bacon and Sir Isaac Newton, if they had children, they were born like other people's children, with gastric juice in their little stomachs, clamoring and crying for milk; and it was so with respect to every other animal.

He would relate to them a Mohammedan legend of the creation of man, which would exemplify what that gastric juice was.

Mohammed had a way of carrying knowledge to three hundred millions of human beings. In order to get this knowledge of the creation of man, he mounted his horse, which he called "Abbo Rock," and the horse galloped up with him into the third heaven, and there he was told singular things. Among others he was told about the creation of man, something similar to what was found in the Book of Genesis, but not exactly the same. (Laughter.) He then learned that when God made men of red clay, and set him up to dry, as our artists' model busts (laughter), he sent for the evil spirit to give him his candid opinion about him. He sent, he said, for his devil,

who was struck with admiration at so splendid a work. The devil told him it was the best piece of workmanship he had ever seen. (Laughter.) But, said Corwin, he (the devil) stepped up to the newly-made man and touched him here (pointing to his stomach), and, said he (the devil, not Corwin), "It sounds hollow here." (Laughter.) "Yes," said the Maker, "That is the place for the stomach." "Oh," said the devil, "the stomach! Will he thrust like an ox?" "Yes," "Hunger?" "Yes." "Well," said the devil, "it is here his weak point is—I'll attack him here." (Great laughter.)

LIFE IN SKYE.—During the last few weeks I have had the opportunity of witnessing something of life as it passes in the Skye wildernesses, and have been struck with its self-containedness not less than with its remoteness. A Skye family has everything within itself. The bare mountains yield them nut-ton, of a flavor and delicacy unknown in the south.

The coppers swarm with rabbits; and if a net is set over-night at the Black Island, there is abundance of fish to breakfast. The farmer grows his own corn, barley, and potatoes; digs his own peats, makes his own candles; he tans leather, spins cloth shaggy as a terrier's pile, and a hunchbacked artist on the place transforms the raw materials into boots or shepherd garments. Twice every year a huge hamper arrives from Glasgow, stuffed with all the little luxuries of house-keeping—tea, sugar, coffee, and the like.

At more frequent intervals comes a ten-gallon cask from Greenock, whose contents can cunningly draw the icy fangs of a northeaster, or take the chill out of the clammy mists.

"What want they that a King should have?"

And once a week the *Inverness Courier*, like a window suddenly opened on the roaring sea, brings a murmur of the outer world, its politics, its business, its crimes, its literature, its whole multitudinous and unsleeping life, making the stillness yet more still.—"In a Skye Bothy," in Macmillan's Magazine.

THE ARMY OF MOROCCO.—It is scarcely possible that either France or Spain can contemplate the conquest of the entire Empire of Morocco, as the result of the present impending crises, the superficial extent of the territory being 219,420 square miles, and the population nearly 8,000,000, (according to Xavier Darrien,) of which a large proportion live in a state of perpetual warfare, occupying inaccessible mountain fastnesses, from whence they only descend to the plains for the sake of plunder. The inhabitants may be classified as follows:—4,000,000 Moors and Arabs, 2,000,000, Berbers, 500,000 Jews, and the remainder are of the Negro race.

The regular army consists of less than thirty thousand men, but every Arab is an expert irregular horseman, and the Berbers make good foot-soldiers. These indeed are, in ordinary times, rarely to be depended on by the Emperor, but so powerful an incentive is religious fanaticism that, were he to raise the standard of the Holy War, a large army would quickly rally around him, deficient perhaps in discipline, yet living by plunder, and marching without the encumbrance of baggage, it would prove a formidable opponent.—[Travels in Morocco.]

MULTIPLICATION OF SPECIES.—There is no exception to the rule that every organic being naturally increases at so high a rate, that if not destroyed, the earth would soon be covered by the progeny of a single pair. Even slow-breeding man has doubled in twenty-five years, and at this rate, in a few thousand years, there would literally not be standing room for his progeny.

Linnaeus has calculated that if an annual plant produced only two seeds—and there is no plant so unproductive as this—and their seedlings next year produced two, and so on, then in twenty years there would be a million plants. The elephant is reckoned to be the slowest breeder of all known animals, and I have taken some pains to estimate its probable minimum rate of natural increase: it will be under the mark to assume that it breeds when thirty years old, and goes on breeding till ninety years old, bringing forth three pair of young in this interval; if this be so, at the end of the fifth century there would be alive fifteen million elephants, descended from the first pair.—[Chas. Darwin, M. A.]

BEAUTY.—Aristotle called beauty one of the most precious gifts of nature; Socrates, a short-lived tyranny; Plato, the privilege of nature; Theophrastus, a mute eloquence; Dio-genēs, the most forcible letter of recommendation; Corneades, a queen without soldiers; Theocritus, a serpent covered with flowers; Bion, a good that does not belong to the possessor, because it is impossible to give one's self beauty, or to preserve it.

The beauty of a woman does not always consist in the purity of the outline of her features, but rather in the charms of her mind—in graceful gestures, in the good taste displayed in her toilette, and in that indescribable something that consists in abandon and coquetry!

Every seed of beauty is sown by modesty.

—M. Camille Vert, a Parisian, has invented a flying machine in the shape of a fish, which, while in the air, he can guide in any direction. The Emperor was present at the trial trip, which took place under the high ceiling of the Industrial Palace, and has authorized a public exhibition of the machine.

OH, GIVE ME BACK MY MOUNTAIN HOME

We've roved through many a weary round;
We've wandered east and west,
Pleasure in every clime we've found,
But sought in vain for rest;
While glory sighs for other spheres,
We feel that one's too wide,
And think the home that love endears
Is with the world beside.

Oh, give me back our mountain home,
Its shady nooks and rills,
Its craggy rocks, its lofty pines,
And chain of towering hills;
Our childhood's home was 'neath its bower,
Our gambols there we played;
Mid noonday suns and twilight hour
We parted in the glade.

Then give me back the mountain green
When smiling summer comes
And tips the blushing rose with red,
That twined around our home;
Here nature wears her softest hue,
Perfumed with fruits and flowers;
And here in this sequestered spot,
We spent our happiest hours.

Let others boast of verdant plains,
And fields of golden flowers,
And sing in music's sweetest strains
Of Eden's blooming bowers.
We want not those brighter climes,
Nor wish again to roam,
But feel content to live and die
In our dear mountain home.

HOW TO IMPRESS NIGGERS.—When I can't swade 'em, I frittens 'em—that is great art, and white preacher don't always understand de natur ob colored folks. Now, Pompey, dere is one natur ob nigger and one natur of Massa Buckra. You can't scare our people by telling 'em dey'll go to berry hot place if dey is sinners, for no place is too hot for dem dat sleep on pillow of hot roasted sand in de boiler heat ob day, wid dere faces turned up to it like a sunflower. I scare dem by cold: I talk ob frozen ribbers dat dey must walk on bare-foot, and ob snow-drifts, and ob carryin' great junks ob ice on dere bare heads for eber and eber, like dischargin' cargoes of Yankee ice from Boston vessels, which kills more ob dem dan yaller fever. I can't talk book larnin', 'cause I can't read; nor eberlasting long words, 'cause I can't pronounce 'em. But I fritten dem to death amost, so dey call me Old Scare Crow.—[The Season Ticket, in the Dublin University Magazine.]

LONG OR SHORT SWEETENING.—Two young officers were traveling in the Far West, when they stopped to take supper at a small roadside tavern, kept by a very rough Yankee woman. The landlady, in a calico sun bonnet and bare feet, stood at the head of the table to pour out. She inquired of her guests if they choose long sweetening or short sweetening. The first officer, supposing that "long sweetening" meant a large portion of the article, chose accordingly. What was his dismay when he saw their hostess dip her finger deep down into an earthen jar of honey that stood near her, and then stir the finger round in the coffee. His companion seeing this, preferred "short sweetening," upon which the woman picked up a large lump of maple sugar that lay in a brown paper on the floor beside her, and biting off a piece, put it into the cup. Both of the gentlemen dispensed with coffee that evening.

DECYPHERING HIEROGLYPHICS.—A gentleman, who for forty years has been engaged in the investigation of Egyptian hieroglyphics, lately unraveled the inscriptions upon the coffin of a mummy in the London Museum. The zodiac with the exact position of the planets was delineated upon the coffin, and the date to which they pointed was the autumnal equinox in the year B. C. 1722, or nearly 3,600 years ago. Professor Mitchell had a calculation made to ascertain the exact positions of the heavenly bodies, on the autumnal equinox of that year. On a comparison of the diagrams they were found to coincide exactly with the moon and planets on the 7th of October, 1722 B. C., occupying the exact points in the heavens marked on the coffin in the London Museum.

A FRENCH DESCRIPTION OF THE ENGLISH.—A correspondent, writing in the *Moniteur*, thus characterizes the English nation:—"A mixture of German and French blood, the English display in everything their double origin. Their Government is a compound of royalty and aristocracy, their religion less pompous than the Catholic, but more brilliant than the Lutheran; their soldiers are at once robust and active. Their literature and their arts, and finally their language, their very persons and features, partake of the two sources from which they are descended. With German simplicity, sedateness, good sense, and deliberation, they combine the fire, impetuosity, vivacity, and elegance which distinguishes our own country."

LOUIS NAPOLEON'S stables in the new Louvre are described as something marvelous. Accommodation has been provided for ninety horses, with coach houses, a riding school, and every necessary dependence. The partitions of the stalls are carved oak, the racks bronze, the mangers marble, and the chains steel. The columns are covered with a new kind of stucco, equal to marble for smoothness and polish. In the Cour Henri III. there is an iron staircase of a very gentle slope, by which the horses go up to the riding school, situated on a level with the picture gallery.

A LARGE SHIP.—Ptolemy Philopater who lived some two hundred years before Christ, had a ship with forty banks of rowers, being 500 English feet in length—110 feet longer than the *Persia*, and only 180 feet shorter than the *Great Eastern* 76 feet from one side to the other, in height, to gunwales, it was 96 feet, and from the highest part of the stern to the water-line, it was about a hundred feet; it had four rudders each 60 feet long. When put to sea, it held more than 4,000 rowers, and 4,000 supernumeraries, and on the deck were 3,000 mariners. And besides all these, there was a large body of men under the decks, and a vast quantity of provisions and supplies.

SPECIAL CERTIFICATE.—The following certificate was duly granted to the parties therein named and signed by an embryo justice of the peace, in Peora county, Illinois:—"To all the world greeting, know ye that John Smith and Peggy Myers is hereby certified to go together and do as old folks does, anywhere in corporass precinct, and when my commission comes, I am to marry 'em good, and date 'em back to kiver accidents."

—The day fixed for the meeting of the National Democratic Convention, the 23d of April, is the birthday of President Buchanan and Senator Douglas. The former will then be 69 and the latter 47.

—The New Orleans papers estimate the losses by fire in that city for last year to have been one million seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

—Jenny Lind has made up her mind to endow and erect an asylum for decayed singers. Otto, her husband, it is said, renders her uneasy—he "fights the tiger" fiercely—the wretch!

DESERET ALPHABET.

Long	Short	Y	h	L	eth
o	e	7	p	8	the
3	a	g	b	8	s
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* In the following example when the name of a letter occurs, as for instance 7 in TEARS, instead of 7046 it is 746.

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L746, 704 06 L746 04 742647
8704 747 46; 4 77 8 832 YW7C
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