



Remarks on Longevity and the Expectation of Life in the United States, Relating More Particularly to the State of New Hampshire, with Some Comparative Views in Relation to Foreign Countries

Author(s): J. E. Worcester

Source: *Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, New Series, Vol. 1 (1833), pp. 1-44

Published by: American Academy of Arts & Sciences

Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/25057908>

Accessed: 03-04-2020 18:12 UTC

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <https://about.jstor.org/terms>



JSTOR

American Academy of Arts & Sciences is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*

MEMOIRS
OF THE
AMERICAN ACADEMY.

I.

Remarks on Longevity and the Expectation of Life in the United States, relating more particularly to the State of New Hampshire, with some Comparative Views in relation to Foreign Countries.

BY J. E. WORCESTER, A. A. S.

THE inquiry respecting longevity and the expectation of life, in the United States, compared with that of other countries, has never been very thoroughly pursued. We frequently meet with casual remarks or a short essay respecting some branch of the inquiry, but no one is known to have attempted an extended comparative view of the subject. It is to be regretted that there is a want of sufficient data for furnishing so full and satisfactory views of it as could be desired; and particularly that the census of the United States has hitherto been taken in such a form, as to be almost useless in the investigation. And a leading inducement with the author of this communication, in preparing and offering it to the Academy, has been the hope, that, by calling the attention of others to the subject, an improved mode of taking the census may in future be adopted.

The information contained or made use of in this essay, has been collected from a great variety of sources. The greater part of that which relates to New Hampshire, has been derived from the "New Hampshire Historical Collections," by Messrs. Farmer and Moore, from their valuable Gazetteer of that State, and from the communications of Mr. Farmer to the Massachusetts Historical Society. From these has been taken, with some corrections and additions, the list of persons in New Hampshire, who have lived to their 100th year or upwards.

For considerable information with respect to persons in the United States, who have reached the age of 110 years or upwards, the writer has been indebted to the politeness of the Honourable William Plumer, late governor of New Hampshire ; a gentleman who has paid much attention to inquiries of this sort.

It is not to be supposed that the names of all the persons, who have lived in New Hampshire to the age of 100 years, or in the United States to 110, are here collected, or that any means exist of collecting all of them. It is not improbable that the ages of some of the persons in the following lists are incorrectly stated. A considerable portion of those who live to extreme old age, are persons in the humblest walks of life, destitute of education, and in some instances ignorant of the time of their birth. There is also, in cases of this kind, a tendency in most persons to exaggerate from a love of the marvellous, as well as a readiness to believe on slender evidence. "Instances of long life," says Dr. Johnson, "are often related, which those who hear them are more willing to credit than examine. To be told that a man has attained a hundred years, gives hope and comfort to him who stands trembling on his own climacteric."

In a number of instances, the statements of age, as given in different publications, have been ascertained to be incorrect. It is stated in the Gazetteer of New Hampshire, and likewise in the 10th volume of the Second Series of the Massachusetts Historical Collections, that "*Mrs. Haley*" died at Exeter, in 1790, at the age of 101. In the Transactions of the American Philosophical Society [vol. v.], the name is "*Thomas Hayley*," and the age 101. In the 4th volume of the Massachusetts Historical Collections, the name is "*Benjamin Hayley*," and the age about 100. But by information obtained from the son of this man, it has been found that his name was *Thomas Hayley*, and his age only 98; and that no other person of the name of *Hayley* has died at Exeter at so great an age. In a Magazine, published at Philadelphia, in 1804, it was stated that *Samuel Bartrow* died at Boothbay, Maine, at the age of 135. But instead of this, it appears that a man of the name of *Barter* died at that place, at the age of 105. Several newspapers and journals, in 1823, mentioned the death of a Moor, of the name of *Yarrow*, at Georgetown, Columbia, at the age of 135; but it has been found that his age was only about 85. It was stated in a Magazine, published in London, and also in one of Philadelphia, that a Mulatto man died at Fredericktown, in 1797, said to be 180 years of age; but with regard to this statement, no information either to contradict or to confirm it, has been procured. In some publications *Sarah Norton*, a coloured woman, of Barnstable, Massachusetts, has been stated to have died, in 1818, at the age of 116; but it has been ascertained that her age fell short of this period by about ten years. Other similar exaggerations have been detected, which it is not necessary to specify; and it is probable that if all the instances, enumerated in the following lists, were thoroughly

investigated, some of them would be found not to be supported by any satisfactory evidence.

There are some things in this essay, particularly the notices of a few persons remarkable for longevity in foreign countries, which may, perhaps, be thought out of place, not sufficiently connected with the principal design of the article, and calculated to give it too miscellaneous a character. In reference to this, the writer would observe, that when he began to collect the information contained in this paper, he had no design to make it the subject of a communication to the Academy; and having collected most of these notices from sources not very common, he has thought proper to retain them, as it may, perhaps, be interesting to see some account of a few of the most singular instances of longevity in foreign countries, in connexion with those of our own.

Instances of Longevity in New Hampshire, with the Places of Residence, the Time of Decease, and the Age.

YEAR.	PLACE.	AGE.
1732 William Perkins	Newmarket	116
1736 John Buss	Durham	108
1739 James Wilson	Chester	100
1754 William Scoby	Londonderry	110
1754 James Shirley	Chester	105
1765 Elizabeth Hight	Newington	100
1767 Anna Glover	Pelham	106
1772 Howard Henderson	Dover	100
1775 William Craige	Chester	100
1775 Mrs. Craige (his wife)	Chester	100
1775 Mrs. Lear	Portsmouth	103
1775 Mrs. Mayo	Portsmouth	106
1787 Robert Metlin	Wakefield	115

YEAR.	PLACE.	AGE.
1789 Mrs. Ulrick	Hollis	104
1791 Jacob Green	Hanover	100
1791 Mrs. Davis		102
1791 James Shirley	Chester	100
1792 Mrs. Staggpole	Dover	101
1793 James Wilson	Chester	100
1795 Hugh Tallant	Pelham	101
1796 Mrs. Parker	Chesterfield	103
1798 Noah Johnson	Plymouth	100
1800 Sarah Newmarch	Portsmouth	101
1800 Thomas Wason	Chester	100
1801 Ezekiel Leathers	Durham	100
1802 Abednego Leathers	Durham	101
1805 Hannah Lovejoy	Amherst	102
1806 Abigail Sanborn	Canterbury	101
1808 Martha Chesmore	Dunbarton	101
1808 Daniel Davis	Allenstown	105
1808 Margaret Bacon		101
1808 Mrs. M'Clench	Merrimack	100
1808 Martha Porter	Lebanon	100
1808 Catharine Sherburne	Conway	101
1808 Mrs. Welch	Rumney	100
1809 Joshua Foss	Barrington	100
1810 Catharine Sanborn	Sanbornton	100
1810 Mrs. Hixon	Portsmouth	100
1810 Tabitha Bohonnon	Salisbury	101
1811 Mrs. M'Intire	Goffstown	106
1811 Ezra Deolph	Hopkinton	102
1811 Mary Bean	Sutton	100
1811 Nathan Blake	Keene	100
1811 Benjamin Conner	Exeter	100
1812 James Atwood	Hampstead	100

Mr. Worcester on Longevity.

YEAR.	PLACE.	AGE.	
1813	Joanna Hixon	Newington	105
1813	Mary Davidson	Goffstown	100
1815	Anna Leavitt	Hampton	100
1815	Sarah Morse	Salem	100
1815	John Shaw	Holderness	101
1815	John Crocker	Richmond	100
1816	Elizabeth Richards	Newington	101
1816	Phebe Dow	Seabrook	101
1816	Comfort Collins	Seabrook	105
1816	Deborah (a woman of colour)	Canterbury	102
1816	Zeno (a negro)	Nottingham	101
1817	Elizabeth Darling	Portsmouth	102
1817	Elizabeth Pitman	Epsom	100
1817	Abigail Craig	Rumney	105
1817	Mrs. Bunker	Barnstead	105
1817	Mary Fernald	Portsmouth	100
1818	Hannah Foss	Gilmanton	103
1818	Dorcas Rowe	Meredith	100
1818	Dye (an Indian woman)	Exeter	105
1818	Corydon (a negro)	Exeter	100
1819	Eleanor Pike	Meredith	100
1819	Jacob Davis	Sutton	105
1819	William Prescott	Gilford	102
1820	Dorothy Creighton	Epping	101
1820	Samuel Downs	Somersworth	100
1820	Patience Sibley	Poplin	101
1821	Jonathan Foster	Mason	101
1821	Joanna Aplin	Keene	100
1821	Jane M'Lellan	Wentworth	100
1821	Mrs. Godfrey	Deerfield	101
1821	Mary Smith	Salem	101
1821	Isaac Small	Canterbury	101

YEAR.	PLACE.	AGE.	
1822	Hannah Small (widow of I. Small)	Canterbury	102
1822	Reuben Abbot	Concord	100
1822	Thomas Walker	Sutton	103
1822	Hannah Bailey	Chesterfield	104
1823	Abigail Roberts	Durham	104
1823	Samuel Welch	Bow	112
1823	Sarah Dame	Newington	101
1823	Mary Barnard	Amherst	101
1823	Job Kidder	Goffstown	100
1823	Nathaniel Pallote	Canterbury	105
1824	Abigail Owen	Winchester	102
1824	Tryphena Stiles	Somersworth	103
1824	Sarah Smart	Sanbornton	101
1824	Francis Como	Sutton	100
1824	Hannah Wilson	Keene	103

Of uncertain date.

Zaccheus Lovewell	Dunstable	120
James Otterson	Chester	103
Mrs. Belknap	Atkinson	107
Mrs. Beals	Keene	101
Mrs. Tucker	Rye	100
Mrs. Ela or Healy	Chester	100

There are known to have been at least *twelve* persons living in New Hampshire, in 1823, at the age of 100 years and upwards.

The above list, containing 98 persons, is numerous, considering it as limited to the small state of New Hampshire, and to the period of only 93 years. As the materials were collected from various unofficial sources, the enumeration is doubtless imperfect. This will appear evident from a little examination of the table

itself. Of the 93 years, there are only 37 for which any names are given ; and there are several periods of considerable length, as from 1735 to 1754, 1754 to 1765, and 1775 to 1787, including, in these three intervals, 35 years, during which none are enumerated. Less than a fourth part of the towns in the State are found in the table ; and it is observable, that of the first 25 persons mentioned, 7 belonged to the town of Chester. The disproportion between the several counties is also noticeable. Taking the divisions of the State as they were before the new county of Merrimack was formed, the 96 persons whose residence is given, will be distributed as follows : 47 to the county of Rockingham, 18 to Strafford, 16 to Hillsborough, 8 to Cheshire, 7 to Grafton, and 0 to Coos.

Dr. Belknap states that “in Londonderry, the first planters lived, on an average, to 80 years;” and it has been said that the earlier inhabitants of this country were a stouter, more vigorous, and longer lived race, than their descendants. This may probably have been the fact, as their circumstances and habits were more favourable to longevity than those of the present generation, inasmuch as they were more universally industrious, frugal, and temperate ; and possessed all the necessaries, but none of the luxuries of life. The preceding table, however, furnishes no evidence of a diminution of instances of longevity ; nor, on the other hand, can it be considered as affording any evidence of the contrary, as the table is undoubtedly more complete with regard to the later years than the earlier ones.

The five following persons, *Lovewell, Perkins, Metlin, Welch,* and *Scoby*, lived to the age of 110 years or upwards.

Zaccheus Lovewell is said to have reached the age of 120 years, which is the longest life that is known to have been attained

in New Hampshire. He was a native of England, and served as an ensign in the army of Oliver Cromwell ; but on the restoration of Charles II. he came to this country, and was one of the first settlers of Dunstable. He was the father of Zaccheus Lovewell, a colonel in the French war, and of Captain John Lovewell, the commander in the celebrated action at Pequawkett, known by the name of " Lovewell's Fight." But few particulars can be ascertained respecting his history, and the precise time of his death is not known.

William Perkins, of Newmarket, was a native of the west of England. Governor Burnet visited him at his residence, in 1729, and examined him respecting many facts and occurrences during the civil war in England. A son of his died in 1757, at the age of 87 ; and Thomas Perkins, of Wakefield, N. H., a great grandson, died in 1824, at the age of 92.

Robert Metlin (called by Dr. Belknap, Robert Macklin), who died at Wakefield, in 1787, at the age of 115, was a native of Scotland. He lived for some time at Portsmouth, and followed the occupation of a baker. The following anecdote respecting him is related by Mr. Adams, in his " Annals of Portsmouth," under the year 1787, the year of Metlin's death.

" He was a great pedestrian. He usually bought his flour in Boston, and always travelled thither on foot ; he performed the journey in a day, the distance being then about sixty-six miles, made his purchases, put his flour on board a coaster, and returned home the next day. He was eighty years of age the last time he performed this journey. At that time this was thought an extraordinary day's journey for a horse. The stages required the greatest part of two days. Col. Atkinson, with a strong horse, in a very light sulky, once accomplished it in a day. He set out

early in the morning, and before he reached Greenland, overtook Metlin, and inquired where he was bound. Metlin answered, to Boston. Atkinson asked if he ever expected to reach there; and drove on. Atkinson stopped at Greenland, and Metlin passed him; they alternately passed each other every stage on the road, and crossed Charlestown ferry in the same boat, before sunset."

Samuel Welch, who died at Bow on the 5th of April, 1823, was born at Kingston, N. H. September 1, 1710. His mother, and also a sister of his, lived each to the age of about 100 years, and a brother to the age of 90. He enjoyed hardly any advantages of education, was in very moderate circumstances, and followed the occupation of a farmer. For the last fifty years of his life he lived in Bow, in an obscure corner, and in an uncomfortable habitation, cultivating a little farm. He was a man of industry, temperance, and almost uninterrupted health. By a gentleman, who visited him the last year of his life, he was described as in person rather above the middle size, of Grecian features, with dark expressive eyes; his locks of a clayey white, looking as if they had already mouldered in the grave; his face fair, though wrinkled with the cares of a century and an eighth; his frame feeble, so that he was unable to walk; his mental faculties, however, but little impaired; his memory retentive, and his judgment sound. "His appearance," says one describing him just after his decease, "was truly venerable. Time had made deep inroads upon his frame; his locks had been touched by the silvery wand; his eye, originally dark and brilliant, gave evidence of decaying lustre; while his countenance, wrinkled with years, and his frame, tottering and feeble, could not but deeply impress the beholder. He spoke of life, as one weary of its burdens, and wishing 'to be away.' His death corresponded with his life;—it was calm and tranquil."

William Scoby, a native of Ireland, died at Londonderry at the age of 110 years. It is recorded of him, that when 100 years of age, he travelled on foot from Londonderry to Portsmouth, more than thirty-five miles, in one day; an exploit which many would find it difficult to do at any period of life.—The age of William Scoby is stated in the first edition of Dr. Belknap's History of New Hampshire at only 104; but at 110 in the second edition, as it is also in the New Hampshire Gazetteer, the Massachusetts Historical Collections, and likewise by a correspondent of the writer at Londonderry.

From a calculation on the bills of mortality of 32 townships, situated in different parts of New Hampshire,—the average length of the time for which the observations were made being 21 years, and in no instance less than 10 years,—it appears that the annual mortality in the State is only as 1 to 83. This ratio is so small as to excite, perhaps, reasonable suspicion respecting the accuracy of the bills. At any rate, however, the ratio of mortality in New Hampshire, compared with that of countries in Europe, is doubtless small. The proportion between the deaths and the number of inhabitants, differs greatly in different countries. With regard to large cities in Europe it is stated at the ratio 1 to about 22; in France, 1 to 30; Sweden, 1 to 39; England, 1 to 49; Russia, 1 to 59; Wales, 1 to 60; and in the counties of Anglesea and Cardigan in Wales, 1 to 71.

From this statement it appears that the ratio of mortality in Wales is much less than in the other countries of Europe, that are above mentioned. But on the supposition that the climate of Wales and that of New Hampshire are equally salubrious, the ratio of mortality in the latter must be less than in the former, for the

following reasons:—1st. The population of New Hampshire is almost wholly engaged in agriculture, whereas in Wales the number of inhabitants employed in agriculture, is to that employed in trade and manufactures, only about as 5 to 3. 2dly. A much greater proportion of the population of the latter country reside in towns and villages, than in the former. 3dly. Luxury, on the one hand, and extreme poverty on the other, are much less common in New Hampshire than in Wales. 4thly. In New Hampshire the poorer class of people are not only much better provided with the necessaries and comforts of life, but are also better educated and are of better morals, than the same class in Wales. For these reasons, it is believed, if the above statement of the law of mortality in Wales is correct, that respecting New Hampshire cannot deviate very widely from the truth.

On the supposition that the ratio of mortality in New Hampshire is as 1 to 80, the average annual number of deaths during 16 years, from 1808 to 1823 inclusive, by taking the mean of the two enumerations of 1810 and 1820, will be found to have been 2,866: total number of deaths during the 16 years, 45,856. Of these, 59 at least, as appears by the above list, were of persons of the age of 100 years or upwards;—equal to 1 in 789.

In 1784, an order was issued by Kian Long, emperor of China, for assembling before him all the old men in his empire; yet throughout his extensive dominions, and out of a population estimated at about 200,000,000, *four* persons only could be found who were over 100 years of age. In Sweden, which is esteemed a healthy country, there were, according to the enumeration of 1815, in a population of 2,465,066, only 9 persons of 100 years of age, equal to 1 in about 270,000. In England, in 1821, in a population of 9,830,461, there were 168 centenarians; equal to

1 in 58,514 : in Wales, in a population of 700,210, 21 centenarians ; 1 in 33,343 : in Scotland, in a population of 1,956,706, 102 centenarians ; 1 in 19,183 : in Ireland, in 1824, in a population of 6,801,827, 349 centenarians ; 1 in 19,833. In New Hampshire, in 1823, in a population of 244,161, there were at least 12 centenarians ; equal to 1 in 20,000. It is stated by Larrey, chief surgeon in the French army in Egypt, that in the city of Cairo, there were, in 1800, 35 persons of 100 years of age, which, supposing the population to be 400,000, will make 1 to 11,428.—Dr. Ramsay, in his History of South Carolina, enumerates 9 persons who were living in that State, in 1809, at the age of 100 years or upwards ; and 9 who had died in that State at the age of 100 or more, from 1798 to 1809.

“ Russia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Scotland, Ireland, and Switzerland,” says Malte-Brun, “ are the countries which furnish the most numerous and the most authentic examples of men and women having had their lives extended beyond the period of 100 years. In these countries we may reckon one centenarian for every 3,000 or 4,000 individuals.” The New Edinburgh Encyclopedia observes : [Vol. XII. p. 561.] “ From a comparative view of many tables of mortality it results that * * * of 8,119, 1 may complete a century.” According to Duvillard’s table of mortality in France, only one in 4,830, in that country, attains the age of 100 years.

In the preceding quotation from Malte-Brun, the proportion of persons who arrive at the age of 100 years, in the countries specified, is probably stated too low.

The following *table* exhibits the results of observations for several countries and cities. The first column of figures represents the *number of years* for which the observations were made,

the second the *whole number of deaths during those years*, the third the *number of centenarians*, and the fourth the *number of deaths to one centenarian*.

	<i>Years.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Centenarians.</i>	<i>Deaths to 1 Cent.</i>
Diocesses of Bergen and Christiana	1	9,509	81	117
New Hampshire	16	45,856	59	789
Naples, City of, (1818)	1	11,471	13	882
Philadelphia	10	21,688	24	904
Sweden	9	791,501	710	1,114
Russia	3	2,615,316	1,997	1,309
Montpellier	21	23,366	13	1,797
Vienna (1823)	1	11,060	4	2,790
London	38	723,599	157	4,609

It is to be observed that the statements, in the above table, with regard to the cities of Naples and Vienna, and the diocesses of Bergen and Christiana, in Norway, are given for only a single year. The period is, therefore, too short, and the result deduced from too small a number of deaths to be safely considered as the general average. The statement with regard to New Hampshire is the result of calculations which have already been explained: that respecting Philadelphia is formed on the bills of mortality for 10 years, ending with the year 1816, as given in the Transactions of the American Philosophical Society: that with respect to Sweden from official returns for 9 years, ending with 1763: that respecting Russia from official returns of deaths of persons belonging to the Greek church, in that empire, during the years 1801, 1813, and 1820: that with regard to London from the bills of mortality during 38 years, ending with 1820.

From a comparison of the above results, it appears that New Hampshire furnishes a greater proportion of centenarians than Sweden or Russia, both of which countries are distinguished for

longevity. Philadelphia, also, in this respect, compares advantageously with Montpellier, and more especially so with London.

The statement in the table respecting the diocesses in Norway, relates to the year 1761, and indicates that country to be remarkably distinguished for longevity. The following statement, taken from Easton, furnishes further evidence of the same fact. There were, in the diocess of Christiana, in 1763, 150 married couples who had lived together upwards of 80 years ; 70 others who had lived together 90 years and upwards ; 12 from 100 to 105 years ; and one 110 years.

The following Table shows what proportion of 10,000 persons in the respective countries and cities mentioned, die at the several ages specified. The number standing over each column denotes the number of deaths on which the calculations, in the several cases, have been founded ; each being reduced to a radix of 10,000.

	918	15744	1519	210,476	23,366		
<i>Between ages of</i>	<i>N. Hamp.</i>	<i>Philadelphia.</i>	<i>Carlisle.</i>	<i>London.</i>	<i>Montpellier.</i>	<i>France.</i>	<i>Sweden.</i>
0 & 1	1739	2601	2119	(0 & 10)	2518	2325	2605
1 & 10	1821	1771	2777	4201	2922	2164	2165
10 & 20	567	432	424	335	272	489	458
20 & 30	930	1060	521	705	453	641	558
30 & 40	535	1311	473	902	481	687	599
40 & 50	599	974	641	1030	549	724	644
50 & 60	588	673	559	926	675	835	735
60 & 70	920	507	940	830	772	959	975
70 & 80	984	364	824	594	709	829	929
80 & 90	716	225	532	317	542	309	351
90 & 100	224	63	154	60	92	36	40
100 & upwards	32	11	22	2	5	2	7

In the above table the calculations respecting New Hampshire are founded on the bills of mortality of only three towns, those of

Deerfield for 20 years, Amherst for 15 years, and Epping for 5 years. These calculations, and also those respecting Carlisle, are founded on too small a number of deaths to be regarded a safe criterion, and particularly the proportion of centenarians, here exhibited, doubtless much exceeds, in both these cases, the general average; but with regard to the other ages, the deviation from the general law may not, perhaps, be very great. The column relating to New Hampshire, it will be seen, indicates a much greater expectation of life than either of the others.

“Carlisle,” says Mr. Milne, “is probably one of the healthiest towns in England for its size. The law of mortality in it, probably differs very little from the general law throughout the kingdom, taking the towns and country together, if we except children under 5 years of age, or at most under 10.”

By this table it would seem, that in the expectation of life, Philadelphia ranks below London and Montpellier, with regard to the principal results; although, in the proportion of centenarians, it ranks above London, both in this table and in the preceding one.

The following Table shows what proportion of the deaths in several countries and cities are of persons of 70 years of age and upwards; and also of 90 and upwards.

	Years.	Deaths.	Of 70 & upwards.	One in	Of 90 & upwards.	One in
New Hampshire	22	3756	708	5	124	30
Carlisle, England	6	1519		6½		57
London	11	210476	20514	10	1321	159
Sweden	9	791501			6227	127
Philadelphia	7	16000	1044	15	117	136
France				31		361

In this table, the statement with regard to New Hampshire, is founded on the bills of mortality of seven towns, as given for a series of years, amounting, on an average, to 22 years, including, in all, 3,756 deaths. From this it appears that one in 5 lived to the age of 70 years, and one in 30 to 90; a greater proportion than in either of the other cases.

According to Dr. Halley, in the city of Breslaw, of 1,000 persons 34 live to the age of 80 or upwards; that is, one in 29. In Berlin 1 in 37; in Philadelphia 1 in 40; in Edinburgh 1 in 41; in London (according to Dr. Price) 1 in 62; and in Vienna 1 in 66, are computed to complete their 80th year. According to the bills of mortality in Hingham, Mass. one in 13; and in Hamilton, one in 8, lives to the same age. Of the persons, who died in Russia in 1813, one in 106 was of the age of 85 years.

The following Table exhibits a list of such persons in the United States as have attained the age of 110 years or upwards.

	PLACE.	YEAR.	AGE.
Flora Thompson, a negress	Harba Island, Pa.	1808	150
Solomon Nabit	Laurens Co. S. C.	1820	143
Abraham Paiba	Charleston S. C.		142
Cady la Fontaine	Bay of Baluxi, Mis.	1823	137
Matthew Bayley	North Carolina	1809	136
A Negro	Richmond, Va.	1817	136
Michael Dougherty	Goose Creek, Geo.	1808	135
Henry Francisco	Whitehall, N. Y.	1820	134
Francis Agne	Somerset Co. Md.	1767	134
James Thomas	Georgia	1804	134
Flora Ferguson, a negress	Smyrna, Del.	1819	130
—— Wright	Bryan Creek, Geo.	1805	130
Nell Courcey, a negress	Charlotte Hall	1821	130

	PLACE.	YEAR.	AGE.
Lucy Mainey, a negress	Maryland	1816	130
Lucretia Stewart, a negress	Falmouth, N. J.	1817	130
William M'Kim	Richmond, Va.	1818	130
John de la Somet	Virginia	1766	130
Elgebert Hoff	Fishkill, N. Y.	1764	128
Thomas Vance	Chesterfield Co. Va.	1767	127
Cæsar Augustus Wetherbee, a negro	Boxborough, Mass.	1808	126
Wonder Booker, a negro	Prince Edward Co. Va.	1819	126
John Dance	Chesterfield Co. Va.		125
Thomas Hathcooke	Richmond Co. N. C.	1818	125
Robert Cordley, a man of colour	Richmond, Va.	1820	125
John Gilley	Augusta, Me.	1813	124
William Dunkin	Fincastle, Va.	1805	124
Matthew Williams	Frankfort, N. J.	1814	124
Abraham Van Verts	Albany, N. Y.	1790	124
George Palmer, a free negro	Georgia	1813	121
Eleanor Spicer	Accomac Co. Va.	1773	121
Charles Layne	Campbell Co. Va.	1821	121
John Peter Fellow	Harrison, Pa.	1809	121
Mrs. Starr Barret, a Jewess	Charleston, S. C.	1820	121
Zaccheus Lovewell	Dunstable, N. H.		120
Pompey, a negro	Delaware	1804	120
Alexander Ross	Milton, N. Y.	1818	120
John Parker	Marlborough, Mass.	1817	120
Barnet Wier	Davidson Co. N. C.	1824	120
Charles Cotterel	Philadelphia, Pa.	1761	120
Martha, a Mohegan Indian	Mohegan, Ct.	1805	120
Jack Clement, a negro	Baltimore, Md.	1810	120
Davy, a negro	Charles Co. Md.	1818	120
Mrs. Strickland	Chesterfield Dist. S. C.	1819	120
Deborah, a negress	Talbot Co. Md.	1816	120
Joshua Brooks	Hudson, N. Y.	1822	120

	PLACE.	YEAR.	AGE.
Frederick Harpswell	Fishkill, N. Y.	1791	120
Uldrick Stower	Claverack, N. Y.	1810	120
John Camson	Patrick Co. Va.	1824	120
Mary Thompson, a coloured woman	Newark, N. J.	1822	119
A Negro (living)	Charleston, S. C.	1818	118
Jeremiah Ward	Cabell Co. Va.	1824	118
John Summers	Indiana	1822	117
Ephraim Pratt	Shutesbury, Mass.	1804	117
Mrs. Davis	Newton, Mass.	1752	116
John Gilleland	Pendleton Dist. S. C.	1817	116
Mr. Van Gelder	Piscataway, N. J.	1817	116
Mary Sutton	Bladen Co. N. C.	1810	116
Charles Roberts	Bullskin, Va.	1796	116
Mary Parks	Somerset Co. Md.	1823	116
William Perkins	Newmarket, N. H.	1732	116
George Harding	Winchester	1825	116
Jack Chambers, a negro	Middleton, Pa.	1805	116
Chloe, a negress	Delaware	1825	116
Philip Crull	Fairfax Co. Va.	1813	115
Thomas Brit	Near Georgetown, S. C.	1825	115
Mrs. Cotterel, wife of C. Cotterel	Philadelphia, Pa.	1761	115
Morris Wheeler	Readfield, Me.	1817	115
Orono, wife of the Indian chief Orono	Old Town, Me.	1808	115
William Metlin	Wakefield, N. H.	1787	115
Prince, a negro	New Rochelle, N. Y.	1819	115
Anne Bailey	Harrison, Ohio	1825	115
Samuel Dalton	North Carolina	1807	115
Dido, a negress	Vienna, Md.	1825	115
Mr. Lilly	Washington, N. C.	1815	115
Anna Lawton	Portsmouth, R. I.	1825	114
William Taylor	Pitt Co. Va.	1794	114
Lucy, a negress	Halifax, N. C.	1825	114

	PLACE.	YEAR.	AGE.
Mr. Neighbours	Laurens Dist. S. C.	1798	114
John Weeks	New London, Ct.	1798	114
Ephraim Bunche	St. James Parish, S. C.	1814	114
Frank, a negro	Woodstock, Va.	1820	114
Charles Jordan	North Carolina	1803	114
Adam Smith, a negro	Philadelphia, Pa.	1819	114
Alexander Berkley*	Charlotte Co. Va.	1825	114
Orono, a Penobscot Indian Chief	Old Town, Me.	1801	113
Mrs. Belknap†			113
Shenandoah, an Indian chief	Oneida Castle, N. Y.	1816	113
Dinah M'Intire, a negress	Philadelphia, Pa.	1819	113
Priscilla Carmichael	Surrey Co. Va.	1818	113

* Alexander Berkley was a native of Scotland, and came to this country at the age of 15 years. At the age of 110 he recovered the perfect use of his sight, which had been partially injured, and entire blindness ensued thirty days after. He died on the 22d of October, 1825, and his wife, whom he married at the age of 21, died on the 19th of January, 1826. They had lived together 93 years, and had 14 children, 12 of whom lived to mature age.

† Mrs. Belknap's husband is said to have come from England and settled in Haverhill in Massachusetts; but the time and place of the death of Mrs. Belknap are not known. Her daughter, Mrs. Sarah Newton, of Southborough, Mass. (mentioned in the *Am. Phil. Trans.* Vol. III. p. 46) died in 1790, at the age of 106. The following particulars are stated respecting five other children, viz.—that her son, John Belknap, died in Westborough, Mass. in his 101st year; that another son lived to upwards of 100; that her daughter, Mrs. Flagg, of Boston. (probably the same as Mrs. Hannah Flagg, stated in the *Am. Phil. Trans.* Vol. III. p. 47, to have died in Boston, in 1787, aged 102) lived to 101; and that two other daughters, Mrs. Cunningham and Mrs. Merrill, each exceeded the age of 100 years. The particulars respecting this extraordinary instance of family longevity, were communicated to the writer by a clergyman of respectability, who stated that he received them from two great grandsons of Mrs. Belknap, and that he has “reason to believe them to be substantially correct.”

	PLACE.	YEAR.	AGE.
Susan Ford	M'Intosh Co. Geo.	1821	113
Samuel Welch	Bow, N. H.	1823	112
George Reelman	Guilderlandt, N. Y.	1819	112
William Spicer	North Carolina	1823	112
Mrs. M'Allister	North Carolina		112
Mrs. Newby	Laurens Dist. S. C.	1806	112
Mrs. Poak	Biddeford, Me.	1770	112
Mrs. Blake	Portland, Me.	1824	112
Sarah, a negress	Kent Co. Md.	1822	112
Sarah Carter	Petersburg, Va.	1825	112
Catharine Rush	Philadelphia	1817	112
Mr. Ramsbottom (living)	Cape Elizabeth, Me.	1826	113
Mrs. Berkley (wife of A. Berkley)	Charlotte Co. Va.	1826	111
William Wootten	Virginia	1773	111
Peter Sine	Doylestown, Pa.	1820	111
Margaret Miller (living)	Philadelphia	1824	111
Angela Millet	Philadelphia	1825	111
Daniel Anderson	Tennessee	1818	111
Mrs. Moody	Portland, Me.	1824	111
Cato Overing, a negro	Newport, R. I.	1821	110
William Scoby	Londonderry, N. H.	1754	110
Richard Furniss	Cushing, Me.	1810	110
John Thomas, an Indian	Natick, Mass.	1727	110
Arthur Bibbins	Windham, Ct.	1786	110
Melchior Geiffer	Middletown, Ct.	1799	110
Mrs. Buroy	Rutland, N. Y.	1823	110
Morris Lawrence	Pennsylvania	1792	110
Catharine Carea	Chambersburgh, Pa.	1822	110
Hannah Dean	Concord, Pa.	1801	110
Alice Jennet	Benham, Pa.	1808	110
Abigail Cook	Baltimore, Md.	1802	110
Quashee, a negro	New York	1815	110

		PLACE.	YEAR.	AGE.
Mrs. Magdalene		Baltimore, Md.	1819	110
Catharine Cerla		Hagerstown, Md.	1822	110
Mrs. Harrison		Brunswick Co. Va.	1805	110
Robert Higgens		Kentucky	1805	110
Phebe Perry		Wilmington, N. C.	1818	110
Thomas Kilgore		Tennessee	1822	110
Abraham Eades*	(living)	Campbell Co. Va.	1793	110
Mrs. Layne	do.	Campbell Co. Va.	1821	110
Mrs. Jackson	do.	Santee Hills, S. C.	1809	110
Mary Miller	do.	Orangeburgh, S. C.	1809	110
John Cary, a man of colour		Petersburgh, Va.	1825	110

Of the persons in the above list, a large proportion of those, whose origin is known, were of foreign birth. Some short notices of a few of them may not be uninteresting.

Of Solomon Nabit, an old hunter, the following particulars have been stated ; viz. : that he was a native of England, where he lived till he was 19 years of age ; that he then came to this country, and resided in the state of Maryland till about 55 years before his death ; that he then removed to South Carolina, where he passed the remainder of his life ; that he never lost his teeth nor his eyesight ; and that a few days before his death, he joined a hunting party, and actually killed a deer.

Henry Francisco is stated to have been born in France, in 1686 ; but at the age of five years he left that country in company with his father, who fled from religious persecution, and went first to Holland, and afterwards to England. Henry was present at the coronation of Queen Anne, and was at that time sixteen years old. He

* The wife of Abraham Eades died at the age of 100. They lived together 80 years.

fought in the wars of that queen under the duke of Marlborough. In the early part of the last century he came to New York with his father. He was wounded in Braddock's defeat; was carried a prisoner to Quebec during the revolutionary war; and was much cut up by wounds. He died on the 26th of October, 1820, in the 135th year of his age, after an illness of forty-five days, brought on by an attack of the fever and ague.

In the latter part of his life he resided about two miles from the village of Whitehall, N. Y. The year before his death he was visited by Professor Silliman, from whose account the following extracts are taken.

“When we arrived at his residence (a plain farmer's house, not painted, rather out of repair, and much open to the wind), he was up stairs, at his daily work of spooling and winding yarn. This occupation is auxiliary to that of his wife, who is a weaver, and although more than eighty years old, she weaves six yards a day, and the old man can supply her with more yarn than she can weave. Supposing he must be very feeble, we offered to go up stairs to him, but he soon came down, walking somewhat stooping, and supported by a staff, but with less apparent inconvenience than most persons exhibit at eighty or ninety.

“His stature is of middle size, and although his person is rather delicate and slender, he stoops but little, even when unsupported. His complexion is very fair and delicate, and his expression bright, cheerful, and intelligent; his features are handsome, and considering that they have endured through one third part of a second century, they are regular, comely, and wonderfully undisfigured by the hand of time; his eyes are of a lively blue; his profile is Grecian, and very fine; his head is completely covered with the most beautiful and delicate white locks imagina-

ble; they are so long and abundant as to fall gracefully from the crown of his head, parting regularly from a central point, and reaching down to his shoulders; his hair is perfectly snow white, except where it is thick in his neck; when parted there, it shows some few dark shades, the remnants of a former century.

“He still retains the front teeth of his upper jaw; his mouth is not fallen in, like that of old people generally, and his lips, particularly, are like those of middle life; his voice is strong and sweet-toned, although a little tremulous; his hearing very little impaired, so that a voice of usual strength, with distinct articulation, enables him to understand; his eyesight is sufficient for his work, and he distinguishes large print, such as the title page of the Bible, without glasses: his health is good, and has always been so, except that he has now a cough and expectoration. He is really a most remarkable and interesting old man; there is nothing either in his person or dress, of the negligence and squalidness of extreme age, especially when not in elevated circumstances; on the contrary, he is agreeable and attractive, and were he dressed in a superior manner, and placed in a handsome and well furnished apartment, he would be a most beautiful old man.

“He has had two wives, and twenty-one children; the youngest child is the daughter, in whose house he now lives, and she is fifty-two years old; of course he was eighty-two when she was born. They suppose several of the older children are still living, at a very advanced age, beyond the Ohio.

“Henry Francisco has been all his life a very active and energetic, though not a stout-framed man. He was formerly fond of spirits, and did, for a certain period, drink more than was proper, but that habit appears to have been long abandoned. In other respects he is remarkably abstemious, eating but little, and particularly ab-

staining, almost entirely, from animal food ; his favourite articles being tea, bread and butter, and baked apples. His wife said, that after such a breakfast, he would go out and work till noon ; then dine upon the same, if he could get it, and then take the same at night, and particularly that he always drank tea, whenever he could obtain it, three times a day. Except his cough, which they told us had not been of long standing, we saw nothing in Francisco's appearance that might indicate speedy dissolution, and he seemed to have sufficient mental and bodily powers to endure for years to come.

“The old man manifested a great deal of feeling and even tenderness, which increased as we treated him with respect and kindness : he often shed tears, and particularly when on coming away, we gave him money, he looked up to heaven and *thanked God*, but did not thank us : he however pressed our hands very warmly, wept, and wished us every blessing, and expressed something serious with respect to our meeting in another world. His character appears remarkably sincere, guileless, and affectionate.”

Wonder, a negro belonging to George Booker of Prince Edward county, Virginia, died March 15, 1819. He was born in April, 1693, and he was named *Wonder* from the circumstance that his mother was in her 58th year at the time of his birth. He was of great strength of body, and his mental powers, which were far superior to that of people of colour in general, he retained in a surprising degree. He was a constant labourer in his master's garden till within eight or ten years of his death.

John Gilley was born in Ireland, about 14 miles from Cork, in 1690. He came to America about the year 1750 ; resided on the Kennebec, near Fort Western, upwards of 50 years, and died at Augusta, July 9, 1813, aged 124. He was of small size,

weighing usually from 112 to 116 pounds—in his best health, 124 pounds ; but possessed considerable strength and activity of body till a short time before his decease. He was illiterate, of moderate intellect, and cheerful disposition. There was nothing peculiar in his diet ; he was not remarkably temperate, nor yet intemperate ; he was of industrious habits, and was accustomed to hard labour and coarse fare.

Ephraim Pratt, the grandson of one of the early settlers at Plymouth, in Massachusetts, was born in East Sudbury, in the same state, in 1686 or 1687. The last 50 years of his life, he passed in the town of Shutesbury, where he died, May 22, 1804. He married at the age of 21, and, it is stated in Dr. Allen's "American Biographical Dictionary," that he could number, before his death, among his decendants, about 1500 persons. In 1801 four of his sons were living, the oldest of whom was 90 years of age, and the youngest 82. He was through life remarkable for temperance, and drank no wine or distilled spirits during his last 50 years ; and for 40 years he ate no animal food, living mostly upon bread and milk. He enjoyed such uniform health, that he was not known to have ever consulted a physician ; and he was able to walk several miles in a day till a few years before his death.

John Summers, was born in Virginia, near the Potomac, July 12th, 1706. About the year 1785 he removed to the state of Kentucky, where he resided till 1820, when he again removed to the state of Indiana, where he died on the 29th of March, 1822. At an election in Kentucky, in 1818, being then 112 years of age, he walked from his residence to the town of Mount Sterling, a distance of five miles, in order to exercise his right of suffrage. He was described then to be in sound health,

and of considerable activity ; his hearing good, and his sight such that he was able to read without spectacles. Two years afterwards, when he left Kentucky for Indiana, he travelled on foot from twelve to twenty miles a day.

He had been twice married, and had had 19 children, of whom 14 were living in 1818, one of them only eleven years of age ; and he had had upwards of 300 descendants. He was a man of firm health, never known to be sick ; of cheerful disposition, and temperate habits. He was a professor of Christianity, of the Baptist denomination. He was a poor man, and was employed as a school master for 68 or 70 years.

In England there was published, a few years since, a list of such persons as were known to have lived, in different periods and countries, to the age of 120 years or upwards. The number amounted to 145, distributed as follows :

63 to England and Wales,	29 to Ireland,
23 to Scotland,	30 to other countries.

The table inserted above contains the names of 48 persons who have reached this age in the United States, and 37 of them have died since 1800. This country, therefore, considering its age and population, can produce its full share of instances of remarkable longevity,

It has been asserted by European philosophers, “ that the principle of life is deteriorated in the climate of America.” Smith, in his History of New York, says, that “ the inhabitants of this colony are shorter lived than Europeans.” Whitehurst likewise observes, that “ Englishmen in general are longer lived than Americans ; and that a British constitution will last longer even in that

climate, than a native one." It is doubtless true that a large proportion of those who have attained to extreme old age in this country, have been of foreign birth. Change of climate is esteemed favourable to long life ; and many Englishmen, as well as other Europeans, by coming to America, have undoubtedly lived to a greater age than they would have done, had they remained in their native land. But the supposition that Europeans are longer lived than Americans, has been adopted by many on slender evidence.

Instances frequently occur of persons living to a great age in the Southern States, and a considerable part of the examples in the table, are from that portion of the Union. Such persons, in most cases, were natives of the States further to the north, or of Europe, or were people of colour. Dr. Ramsay, in his "History of South Carolina," observes: "Some emigrants from Germany, France, Ireland, Scotland, England, and the Northern States, have survived their 100th year, and a few their 110th. A few natives of the low country survive to from 80 to 89 years, beyond which no native but one, as far as can be recollected, has been known to live, who made the low country his or her residence." "Satisfactory evidence can be produced that at least one negro, born in Carolina, has approached to the age of 120."

The instance of the greatest age attained in America, in support of which authorities deserving much regard can be adduced, is perhaps that of Louisa Trexo, a negress, of Tucuman, in South America, living, in October, 1780, at the age of 175. Humboldt mentions a Peruvian Indian, who died at Lima while he was there, at the age of 147 years, having been married 90 years to the same woman, who had lived to the age of 117. Till he had attained the age of 130, this venerable personage was able to walk three or four leagues every day.

Both the Peruvian Indians and the Creoles are remarkably long lived, and retain their vigour and bodily faculties to a very advanced age. It is stated in the *Mercurio Peruviano* that in the small province of Caxamarca, containing hardly 70,000 inhabitants, there were eight persons living, in 1793, whose ages were 114, 114, 121, 131, 132, 135, 141, and 147; and the same year a Spaniard died in his 145th year, leaving 800 lineal descendants.

“Within these last eight years,” says the Canadian Spectator, “there have died in the village of Coghawaga [which contains less than 1000 inhabitants] 10 Indians, each of them upwards of 100 years of age. It may be worthy of remark that the life of these people is made up of a regular mixture of idleness and hardship, and upwards of ninety meals in a hundred consist of Indian corn cooked in a manner peculiar to Indians.”

The two most celebrated instances of longevity that have occurred in England, are those of Thomas Parre and Henry Jenkins, both of which cases are recorded in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society. Parre, a peasant of Shropshire, died, in 1635, at the age of 152. He was twice married; the first time at the age of 80, the second at 120; and had offspring by each marriage. In 1635, he was brought to London, and introduced to Charles I., but the change of situation, and his altered mode of life, particularly his drinking wine, soon proved fatal to a constitution hitherto supported by more temperate and abstemious habits, and he died the same year. According to Easton, [“On Longevity”] a son of his reached the age of 113 years, one grandson that of 109, another that of 127, and a great-grandson the age of 124 years.

Henry Jenkins, a native of Yorkshire, died in 1670, at the age of 169. He was a fisherman the last century of his life, and often swam in rivers after he had attained 100 years. At the age of 157, he was produced in a court of justice and deposed as a witness of what had passed within his knowledge 140 years before. "Though he had not the use of his eyes nor much of his memory several years before he died ; yet he had his hearing and apprehension very well, and was able, even in the 130th year of his age, to do any husbandman's work, even threshing corn."

Sir William Temple observes, that "Many of the Brachmans among the old Indians, and of the Brazilians at the time that country was discovered by the Europeans, were said to have lived two hundred, some three hundred years."—"It was in the Punjâb," says Malte-Brun [Geog. vol. III. p. 26], "and these other elevated countries, that the ancients collected numerous examples of Indian longevity. The *Cyrni*, and the subjects of prince *Musicanus*, often lived to the age of 130 or 200 years. The moderns have gone still further. The Portuguese historian, Faria, states that an inhabitant of Diu attained the age of three full centuries ; and he adds that, according to the accounts of the natives, several individuals of 200 were to be found in Guzerat."

Captain Riley, in the "Journal of his Shipwreck," mentions an Arab of the Great Desert of Africa, who, according to Sidi Hamet, was nearly 300 years of age ; and in connexion with this fact, he adds, "I am fully of opinion that a great many Arabs on this vast expanse of desert actually live to the age of 200 years and more."—Mr. Neumark, of Ratisbon, in a treatise recently published, on the "Means of Attaining to Advanced Age," has quoted one example of a person who had lived to the age of

200 years, two of 296, and one of 300. The individual, who is said to have attained the last mentioned age, was John de Temporibus, who was equerry to Charlemagne.

Such statements as the above are too extraordinary to gain belief, unless supported by the most unquestionable evidence. Of the person mentioned by Neumark, Lord Bacon speaks in the following manner: "Joannes de Temporibus, amongst all the men of our latter ages, out of common fame and vulgar opinion, was reputed long lived, even to a miracle, or rather even to a fable; his age hath been counted above three hundred years: he was by nation a Frenchman, and followed the wars of Charles the Great.—Being asked how he preserved himself so long, he is said to have answered, 'By oil without and honey within.'"

We know of no evidence that there has been any great change during the last three thousand years, with regard to the frequency of longevity. Human life among the Jews, the Greeks, and the Romans, appears to have been of about the same duration as among modern nations. The following statement, quoted from Lord Bacon, is perhaps as extraordinary as any that is to be met with:—"The year of our Lord 76, falling into the time of Vespasian, is memorable; in which we shall find, as it were, a calendar of long lived men; for that year there was a taxing (now a taxing is the most authentical and truest informer touching the ages of men); and in that part of Italy which lies betwixt the Apennine mountains and the river Po, there were found 124 persons, that either equalled or exceeded an hundred years of age; namely,

54	persons of	100	years of age.
57	"	110	"
2	"	125	"
4	"	130	"
4	"	135 or 137	"
3	"	140	"

“Besides these, Parma, in particular, afforded five, whereof three had fulfilled 120, and two 130 : Brussels afforded one 125 years old : Placentia, one aged 131 : Faventia, one woman aged 132 : a certain town, then called Velleiacium, situate in the hills about Placentia, afforded ten, whereof six fulfilled 110 years of age ; four, 120 : lastly, Rimino, one of 150 years, whose name was Marcus Apponius.”—Clodia, the wife of Ophilius, who lived to the age of 116 years, is mentioned by Pliny, the naturalist, as the oldest female who had died in ancient Rome.

The most extraordinary instance of longevity in modern times, with regard to which satisfactory information is to be found, is that of Peter Tortin, or Zorten, a native of Kofrock, four miles from Temesvar, in Hungary. He died January 5, 1724, at the age of 185. A few days before his death, he walked, with the assistance of a stick, to the post-house in Kofrock, to ask charity of the travellers. He had then but little sight, and his hair and beard were of a greenish white colour, like mouldy bread, and few of his teeth remained. Being a Greek by religion, the old man was a strict observer of fasts, and his food consisted of pulse, milk, and bread, with a little brandy. His youngest son, born of his third wife, was living at the time of his father's death, at the age of 97.

John Rovin and his wife, natives of Stadowa, in Temesvar, Hungary, both died in the place of their nativity, in 1741, the former in his 172d year, the latter in her 164th ; having been married 147 years. They left four children living at the time of their death, the youngest being 116 years of age. These instances are the more extraordinary, as the climate of Temesvar is not esteemed very salubrious.—See *Sir John Sinclair's "Code of Health and Longevity,"* Vol. II. pp. 274-276 ; also *Easton "On Longevity."*

It is a well established fact that more women than men live to old age. According to the observations of Dr. Price, of the persons who attain the age of 80 years, the proportion of females to males is as 49 to 34. Yet it has been observed, that of the few who have lived beyond the age of 110 or 120 years, there are more men than women. The preceding tables of instances of longevity in this country, furnish evidence of the correctness of both of these principles. With regard to the 93 persons, in New Hampshire, who reached the age of from 100 to 110 years, 59 were women, and 34 men; while all the five who arrived at 110 or upwards were men. A large majority also, of the persons above enumerated, who, in the United States, lived to the age of 110 or upwards, were males.

Of the 145 persons who reached the age of 120, enumerated in an English publication [see the article "Longevity," in Gregory's Dictionary of the Arts and Sciences], before referred to, two thirds were men, yet the following statement of the number of males and females of advanced age in Great Britain, in 1821, shows that aged women in that country are much more numerous than aged men.

	Men.	Women.
Between the ages of 80 and 90	34,964	43,049
" " 90 and 100	2,873	4,046
" " 100 and upwards	100	191

The following statement of the number of aged persons of each sex, who died in Sweden in 9 years, ending in 1763, illustrates the same principles.

	Men.	Women.
Above 90	2,036	3,440
Above 100	284	424
Above 110	23	20

Among centenarians are found few persons of rank or fortune; few professional men, or men of science and literature. Monarchs have not often exceeded the age of 70; and of about 300 popes, only 7 are said to have reached the age of 80. By far the greater

part of those, whose lives have been extended to a period beyond 100 years, have been persons of humble rank in society ; such as enjoyed few of the luxuries or accommodations of life, but were accustomed to hard labour and coarse fare. Such are the persons, who, if temperate, are more likely to enjoy health and long life, two of the things most coveted by man, than those who are possessed of affluence, and occupy more enviable stations.

Summary of the Ages of Persons in Great Britain, as returned by the Census of 1821.

	Under 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100	100 or upwards
England.													
Males	739,762	645,735	562,209	475,052	706,755	555,713	452,514	320,092	215,263	106,797	27,052	1,995	57
Females	725,202	636,604	530,226	499,638	845,469	607,867	468,336	328,077	230,009	114,572	32,564	2,888	111
Wales.													
Males	51,817	48,123	41,404	34,534	49,023	37,949	29,815	22,112	16,246	8,335	2,535	258	3
Females	49,487	45,853	39,140	35,931	55,869	41,640	32,641	24,083	19,175	10,076	3,751	392	18
Scotland.													
Males	137,956	125,298	115,183	95,319	137,615	101,107	82,695	60,014	42,309	19,977	5,377	620	40
Females	133,711	121,573	109,247	108,306	182,712	124,380	96,991	73,518	51,868	23,298	6,734	766	62
Islands.													
Males	6,160	5,672	4,758	4,128	6,104	4,946	3,976	2,892	1,894	873	255	14	—
Females	6,027	5,689	4,821	4,893	7,983	5,923	4,627	3,548	2,596	1,221	428	29	—
London.													
Males	61,284	48,030	41,072	37,937	75,385	67,938	52,824	32,058	15,513	5,639	986	74	9
Females	60,993	49,907	41,835	48,136	103,433	78,604	54,806	34,663	19,505	7,849	1,738	197	16

	England.	Wales.	Scotland.	Islands.	London.
Males	4,808,898	342,154	923,540	41,073	438,749
Females	5,021,563	358,056	1,033,166	47,785	501,682
Excess of females	212,665	15,902	109,626	6,112	62,933

The census was imperfect as it respects the *ages* of the inhabitants ; and consequently the above table does not include the total of population. The following statement exhibits the total enumeration, and also the number of those whose ages were returned.

	Total enumeration.	Ages returned.
England	11,261,437	9,830,461
Wales	717,438	700,210
Scotland	2,093,456	1,956,706
Islands	89,508	89,458
London	1,225,694	940,431

Summary of the Ages of the Free White Persons in the United States, as returned by the Census of 1820.

	Under 10.	10 to 16.	16 to 26.	26 to 45.	45 and upwards.
Males	1,344,263	612,102	755,520	765,546	494,735
Females	1,279,622	604,912	780,865	736,068	462,449
Totals	2,623,885	1,217,014	1,536,385	1,501,614	957,184

The following Table shows what rate per cent. of the whole White Population of several of the States, situated in different parts of the Union, together with the whole white population of the United States, were of the several ages specified, according to the census of 1820.

	Me.	N. H.	Mass.	Ct.	N. Y.	Pa.	Va.	S. C.	Geo.	Ohio.	Ind.	U. S.
Under 10	32.2	28.8	27.1	27 0	32.8	33.6	33.6	34.8	36.5	37.7	39.2	33.4
10 to 16	16.3	15.8	14.8	15.1	15.4	15.2	15.2	15.5	15.4	15.6	15.2	15.5
16 to 26	19.9	19.5	19.7	19.8	19.9	20.0	20.1	20.0	19.7	19.1	19.2	19.6
26 to 45	18.8	20.0	21.7	20.4	20.1	18.8	18.8	18.1	17.7	17.9	17.8	19.0
45 & upwards	12.6	15.7	16.4	17.5	11.5	12.2	12.2	11.4	10.6	9.6	8.3	12.2

The following Table exhibits the number of White Inhabitants in the same States, under and above the age of 16 ; the excess under and above 16 ; the ratio of the excess to the whole white population ; also the rate per cent. of the increase of the respective States, in ten years, from 1810 to 1820.

	Under 16.	Above 16.	Excess under 16.	Excess above 16.	Ratio of Excess.	Ratio incr. for 10 years from 1810 to 1820.
Maine	144,292	153,048		8,756	2.9	30.4
N. Hampshire	108,636	134,500		25,864	10.6	13.8
Massachusetts	217,134	299,285		82,151	15.9	10.9
Connecticut	112,652	154,529		41,877	15.7	5.1
New York	644 822	687,422		42,600	3.2	43.1
Pennsylvania	499,566	519,528		21,962	2.1	29.5
Virginia	293,976	309,097		15,864	2.5	9.3
S. Carolina	116,794	115,218	1,576		0.6	21.1
Georgia	98,301	91,265	7,036		3.7	31.5
Ohio	307,683	268,889	38,794		6.7	152.0
Indiana	97,472	66,274	13,198		9.0	500.0
U. States	3,843,653	4,017,977		174,324	2.2	34.0

The irregularities observable in the last two preceding tables, are to be ascribed chiefly to the following causes. 1st. *Emigra-*

tion from the old states to the new. Among the emigrants there is a large proportion of the young and active, and but a small one of those advanced in life. This circumstance tends to increase the proportion of the aged in the old states, and to diminish it in the new.

2dly. *Difference in the ratio of increase of population.* In newly settled countries, where every man may easily obtain the means of living in as good a style as that of his neighbours, early marriages are almost universal. Of course the number of births, provided the country is tolerably healthy, greatly exceeds that of deaths, sometimes in the ratio of three or four to one. Those, therefore, in the early stages of life, will, in these circumstances, bear an uncommonly great proportion to those drawing near its close.

3dly. *Difference of climate.* It is to this cause that the differences observable in such of the old states as increase in nearly an equal ratio, is chiefly to be ascribed. But it is owing principally to the two former reasons, that in the newly settled states, there is found so great a proportion of the population under the age of 10 years, and so small a proportion upwards of 45. In addition to these there are other causes, of a moral nature, of more or less influence, arising from the difference in the condition and habits of the people in the several states.

Dr. Dwight, in his "Travels" [see Vol. I. Letter VI.], has given a view of the comparative healthiness of New England and some of the Southern States; and comes to the conclusion that the chance of living to the age of 45 in Connecticut, is to the chance in Georgia, as 2 to 1. That the chance of living to this age in Connecticut, is greater than in Georgia, is doubtless true; but the difference is by no means so great as stated by Dr. Dwight. Indeed it

could not be without making the chance of living to that period in Connecticut nearly a certainty. Dr. Dwight finds his estimate on the proportional difference in the ages of the inhabitants, without regard to the fact that this difference is affected by a difference in the ratio of increase. He also makes an allowance in *favour* of Connecticut on account of emigration; whereas the effect of emigration is the opposite of what is assumed. His calculation likewise implies, contrary to all experience, that the mortality of females is equal to that of males.

Dr. Williams, in his "History of Vermont," after giving a table exhibiting a comparative view of the inhabitants under and above 16 years of age, of the Northern, Middle, and Southern States, according to the census of 1790, makes the following remarks. "From this result it should seem that the Middle and Northern States are the most favourable to longevity and the preservation of life; and that the Southern States are most favourable to rapidity of production and increase. Whether these circumstances will not balance each other, and produce an equality in the period of doubling, cannot be determined without further observations."

These remarks are evidently made with but a very limited view of the subject. If the ages of the inhabitants, as given by the census, were a criterion, by which, without reference to any other circumstance, we could determine the comparative healthiness of the climate of the several states, or the chance of living to advanced age, Indiana would rank much lower, in this respect, than Georgia, or than any other state exhibited in the preceding tables. Of the inhabitants of Indiana only $8\frac{3}{10}$ in 100 are of the age of 45 and upwards; while in Connecticut $17\frac{5}{10}$, that is, more than twice as many are of this age. This difference is not to be ascribed chiefly to difference of climate, but to the fact that Indiana

is augmenting in population much more rapidly than Connecticut, by natural increase, as well as by accessions from the other states. Of the states enumerated in the above tables, Indiana and Ohio have the greatest proportion of their inhabitants under the age of 10 years, and the smallest over the age of 45 ; and these are the two states which increased in population, from 1810 to 1820, much faster than the others,—the former at the rate of 152 per cent., the latter at the rate of 500 per cent.

The rates of increase from 1810 to 1820, in Maine and New Hampshire, are 30.4 per cent. and 13.8. The mean of these, 22.1, differs but little from the rate of increase in South Carolina, which is 21.1. In South Carolina, according to the above table, only $11\frac{4}{10}$ in 100 of the inhabitants are of the age of 45 and upwards ; while in Maine and New Hampshire, taking the mean, $14\frac{1}{10}$ in 100 have reached this age. In South Carolina, likewise, more than half of the inhabitants are under the age of 16 years ; while a large majority in Maine and New Hampshire are above this age. These differences may be ascribed chiefly to the circumstance that the probability of life is greater in the New England states, than it is in the Southern.

In agreement with these observations, it will be found that in European countries, where the increase of population is very moderate ; in other words, where the deaths are nearly equal to the births, the number of inhabitants in the earlier years of life, bears a much smaller proportion to those more advanced, than in the United States. These differences, in some instances, it will be seen, are very remarkable.

In France the proportion of the population under 10 years, is estimated at but a little more than $\frac{1}{4}$: under 20, a little more than $\frac{2}{5}$. In Naples, according to the census of 1818, in a population of

5,052,262, there were under 10 years 1,347,045, a little more than $\frac{1}{4}$: under 20 years, 2,073,288, a little less than $\frac{2}{5}$. In Sweden, according to the census of 1815, in a population of 2,465,066, there were under 15 years, 778,647, less than $\frac{1}{3}$. By comparing the numbers of the several ages in the population of England and the United States, as given in the above tables [pp. 34 and 35] we find the following proportions of the different classes, to the whole population :—

England—Under 10, less than $\frac{1}{4}$; under 20, less than $\frac{1}{2}$; under 30, less than $\frac{2}{3}$; upwards of 50, less than $\frac{1}{4}$.

United States—Under 10, less than $\frac{1}{3}$; under 16, less than $\frac{1}{2}$; under 26 more than $\frac{2}{3}$; upwards of 45, less than $\frac{1}{3}$.

The tables are so dissimilar, with regard to ages, as not to admit of an accurate comparison ; but it will be readily seen from the view here given, that the proportion of persons in the early stages of life in the United States, is much greater than in England, or in either of the other countries enumerated. Had the comparison been made with regard to the Western and Southern States, to the exclusion of the rest, the difference would have been still greater ; for in those states more than half of the inhabitants are under the age of 16 years.

Another striking difference between the population of the United States and that of countries in Europe, relates to the proportion of the sexes. It is a well established fact, that in all countries where accurate observations have been made, there are more males born than females ; in Europe, the proportion is stated as 21 to 20, or 26 to 25. The mortality also is greater among males in childhood, as well as in subsequent periods of life, computed to be in the proportion nearly as 27 to 26. Hence it

follows that at the age of 15 years, an equality in the numbers of persons of the two sexes, is nearly established. Afterwards war and other causes of the destruction of human life, which fall most heavily on the males, occasion the difference to be reversed, and the females to outnumber the males. But in the United States, where the waste of life by war and unhealthy occupations, is less than in Europe, the males outnumber the females. The majority, however, of males in this country, is increased in some measure by European emigrants, more than half of them being males. In several of the old states which annually lose a considerable number of their inhabitants by emigration, there is found a majority of females; while in the newly settled states there is a great excess of males. In France the proportion of females to males is computed as 17 to 16.

The following Table exhibits a comparative View of the Number of Males and Females in several Countries.

	Males.	Females.	Excess of Females.	Excess of Males.
Sweden	1,176,967	1,288,099	112,132	
Naples	2,423,295	2,628,967	205,672	
England	5,483,679	5,777,758	294,079	
Wales	350,487	366,951	16,464	
Scotland	983,552	1,109,904	126,352	
London	438,749	501,682	62,933	
United States	3,995,053	3,886,657		128,396

From the sum of the excesses of females in England, Wales, and Scotland, 426,895, deduct 319,300 (the number as officially stated in 1821) for the army, navy, and seamen, and 117,595 will be found the true excess of females above the males in Great Britain according to the census of 1821.—In the census of the United States, the army and navy appear to have been omitted. If they had been included, the majority of males would have been considerably greater than is stated in the above table.

It is a matter of regret that the census of the United States, from the manner in which it has hitherto been taken, affords so little satisfactory information in relation to the principal topics which have been here considered. The successive enumerations of the inhabitants of this country, by the rapid increase which they have exhibited, have attracted the attention of the philosophers of Europe, and have given them new views respecting the principle of population. But the census might be taken in such a manner that it would furnish a document vastly more interesting and useful both to them and to ourselves.

Since the first census, that of 1790, some valuable alterations have been made ; yet every one who will duly consider the subject, will be readily convinced that further important improvements might be introduced. In the census of 1790, the inhabitants were divided into the five following classes.

1. Free white males under 16 years of age.
2. Free white males of 16 years and upwards.
3. Free white females of all ages.
4. All other free persons.
5. Male and female slaves.

In the last census, that of 1820, the free white males and females were each divided into the five following classes.

1. All those under 10 years of age.
2. All those of 10 and under 16.
3. All those of 16 and under 26.
4. All those of 26 and under 45.
5. All those of 45 and upwards.

In addition to these divisions, the free white males between 16 and 18 were placed in a separate column.

In the three former enumerations, the free people of colour were thrown into one mass, without distinction of age or sex; and the same course was adopted respecting the slaves. But in the census of 1820, each sex of both these descriptions of persons, was distinguished into the four following classes.

1. All those under 14 years of age.
2. All those of 14 and under 26.
3. All those of 26 and under 45.
4. All those of 45 and upwards.

Another important addition in this census, was a statement of the number of persons engaged in agriculture, commerce, and manufactures, in each state and territory.

The reasons why all the above divisions, with respect to age, were adopted, are not very obvious; nor why different divisions were made with regard to the whites, the free people of colour, and the slaves. When the next census shall be taken, it is to be hoped that a more minute, uniform, and philosophical division will be formed. If, instead of the above divisions, the three descriptions of the inhabitants, the whites, the free coloured persons, and the slaves, were all divided respectively into classes of *fives* from the period of birth to the age of twenty years; and into classes of *tens* from that age to the close of life, in the same manner as the population of Great Britain* in the table inserted above, (page 34) the census would then become a highly interesting document, and would furnish data for various important calculations relating to the science of statistics and political economy. And although, on account of the migratory habits of our population,

* In taking the census of Sweden, the population is divided into classes of persons under 5 years of age, from 5 to 10, 10 to 15, 15 to 20, 20 to 25, and so on in classes of *fives* from the period of birth to the close of life.

and the difference in condition between the old and the new states, there would be found, in the census, many irregularities in the different classes of the inhabitants, produced by various disturbing causes, which Europeans, if we may judge from past experience, would not well understand, and some of which might not admit of easy and satisfactory explanation among ourselves; yet, notwithstanding these circumstances, the census, thus taken, would furnish the means of presenting interesting comparative views with regard to longevity, or the chance of life, in different parts of the Union. It would also afford the means of confuting the unfounded assumptions of European theorists respecting the unhealthiness of our climate and the infrequency of longevity; and would probably furnish evidence, that among the agricultural population of the Eastern and Middle states, the chance of life is as great as in any country on the globe, of which the statistics are well known, of equal extent and population.

Other matters in addition to those which relate to the number of the different classes of the inhabitants, might be properly and advantageously embraced in the census, as the number of families; the number of married persons, male and female; the number of inhabited houses, distinguishing those of stone, of brick, and of wood, whether framed houses or of logs; houses of public worship; academies or grammar schools, and common schools, together with the number of pupils. Were these several matters embraced in the census, we should have, laid before us every ten years, a highly interesting view of the state of the country in all its parts: and a comparison of each new census with those that preceded it, would afford a correct, and, should the prosperity of the country continue, an animating view of the progress of improvement. In addition to a mere numerical increase of the inhabi-

tants, we should then see log houses giving place to framed houses and those of brick; school-houses and academies built, and filled with pupils; churches erected; and the whole machinery of civilized society advancing with a rapidity hitherto unknown, and corresponding to the progress of population.

Had the four past enumerations been made on the plan here suggested, they would have presented a mass of information more interesting and valuable to the present and future generations, than all that will probably be preserved from destruction by our Historical and Antiquarian Societies (useful as their labours are acknowledged to be) during a century. The views which they would have afforded of many parts of the country, at the first settlement, would have rendered them peculiarly interesting in future ages, and it may be presumed that they would have become incomparably more important and celebrated in the future history of the country, than Doomsday-Book is in that of England.

Exact enumerations of the population of the most improved countries of modern Europe, are of but recent date. The population of France was not accurately determined till since the French Revolution; nor that of England till 1801. The government of the United States is entitled to the honour, we believe, of having, at its first institution, set the example of establishing a system of an official census of the inhabitants, at regular periods. The results of this census, inasmuch as they exhibit a view of the strength and growth of the nation, are highly interesting, not only to the statesman and philosopher, but to every patriotic citizen; and it is desirable that, at this early period of the history of the country, the best method of taking it should be fixed upon, and that it should be carefully adhered to in all subsequent enumerations.

[Presented to the Academy in 1825, and printed in 1826.]