

MORTALITY STATISTICS

OF THE

SEVENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES,



1850:

EMBRACING—

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| I.—THE CAUSE OF DEATH, | IV.—THE NATIVITY, |
| II.—THE AGE AND SEX, | V.—THE SEASON OF DECEASE, |
| III.—THE COLOR AND CONDITION, | VI.—THE DURATION OF ILLNESS, |
| VII.—THE OCCUPATION, | |

OF THE

PERSONS REPORTED TO HAVE DIED IN THE TWELVE MONTHS PRECEDING THE FIRST OF JUNE
OF THAT YEAR,

WITH

SUNDRY COMPARATIVE AND ILLUSTRATIVE TABLES.

By J. D. B. DE BOW,
SUPERINTENDENT UNITED STATES CENSUS.

WASHINGTON:
A. O. P. NICHOLSON, PRINTER.
1855.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

The Mortality Statistics of the Seventh Census, prepared by the Superintendent of the Census, in compliance with the resolution of the House of Representatives of December 13, 1854.

DECEMBER 13, 1854.

“Resolved, That there be printed for the use of the members of the present House of Representatives, fifteen thousand copies of that portion of the returns of the Seventh Census which relates to the Mortality Statistics of the United States, to be arranged by the Superintendent of the Census: Provided, The same shall be printed in royal octavo form, and not to exceed three hundred pages.”

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Washington, November 23, 1855.

SIR: I herewith transmit to you the Mortality Statistics of the Seventh Census, as arranged by the Superintendent of the Census, under the resolution of the House of the 13th December, 1854.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. McCLELLAND,
Secretary.

To JOHN W. FORNEY,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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CENSUS OFFICE, *November 26,* 855.

SIR: I stated in my last official report that the mortality statistics of the Census were nearly ready for publication, and subsequently, at the instance of a committee of Congress, estimated that four or five months would be necessary for their completion in the shape in which they were required by that body.

The appropriation was made on the 4th of March. You will, therefore, perceive that a delay of several months more than was anticipated has occurred, for which I assign as reasons—first, the utter impossibility of estimating very closely where such an amount and kind of material are involved; second, the peculiar experience required, limiting necessarily the clerical force; third, the state of my own health, impaired by long, close, and arduous labors upon the Quarto and Compendium, putting it out of the question for me, during several months, to exercise any personal supervision of the work. My anxiety to see the volume completed has not been surpassed by your own, and to the extent of that anxiety I bear cheerful testimony.

To embrace the whole material within the compass of three hundred pages, exclusively of titles, required any constant superintendence of the press up to the present moment, and it is but fair to add, in this connexion, that the reading of proof was left entirely to the printers, the means at my disposal being inadequate to the employment of special readers, (as was done upon the tables of the Compendium,) familiar with statistics, and responsible to the office for their accuracy.

The calculations for the work were all made under my direction by persons approved for their capacity, who have been employed in the office from almost its first organization. This is the guaranty I have for their correctness; for I could not incur the expense of those frequent revisions by different sets of persons, resorted to in the report of last year, and it was plainly impossible for me to make them myself.

I believe the errors, however, will not be found more numerous nor important than are to be met with in statistical works generally; and although I know that the work is very incomplete, from the original deficiencies of the returns, and have so stated it in the introductory chapter, I am yet assured that its publication will subserve many and valuable purposes.

The Census Office, which was revived by the act calling for this report is, by its completion, again dissolved, and my duties as Superintendent of the Census, under your reappointment, are at end. I have endeavored to fulfill the trust faithfully and energetically, and, under all the circumstances, to secure the best results.

With high regard, your obedient servant,

J. D. B. DE BOW.

To Hon. R. McCLELLAND, *Secretary of the Interior.*