

and *Fall Rom.*, c. 2, c. 6, and c. 17; 1 *Niebuhr's Hist. Rome*, 340, 347. It is said that a census of the inhabitants of England was taken in the time of Henry the 8th, the returns of which have been lost. *Seybert Stat. Ann.* 17. In the year 1753, a bill was presented to the House of Commons proposing to have a census taken of the people of England, but was rejected. *Smollet's Hist. Eng. ch.* 8. Since that time, however, there have been three census taken, one in 1801, another in 1811, and a third in 1821. *Mil-ler's His. Gr. Brit.* 470, 569; *Seybert Stat. Ann.* 25, 28; 8 *Amer. Quart. Review*, 388. Before the adoption of the present Constitu-tion of the United States, Congress repeatedly recommended to the several States to take measures to ascertain the number of their inhabitants; *Journ. Cong.* 26 December, 1775; 1 April, 1782; 17 February, 1783; 24 September, 1785; with which recommenda-tion * Maryland and some other of the States complied. By an Act of the General Assembly of Maryland, the assessors and commissioners of the tax of the several counties were directed to make returns of the number of inhabitants in their respective counties to the clerk of the House of Delegates; 1785, ch. 83, s. 25; which returns, if ever made, are now lost. But it is believed, that in no country has there ever been taken a regular and periodical enumeration of all the people, like those taken under the Consti-tution of the United States. *Seybert Stat. Ann.* 17. The census thus required to be taken every tenth year, might be so ordered as to collect a great variety of the most authentic and useful in-formation, shewing, among other things, the average rate of mor-tality in each State, and indeed in each county of every State in the Union, as well as such other matters as are more immediately connected with its political objects. But hitherto little more has been done than to have returns made of the numbers of free per-sons and of slaves within certain specified ages. 2 *Price Obser.* 54, 210; 1 *Malthus Popu.* 457, note, 476; *Seybert Stat. Ann.* 17, 19.

From such information, however, as we possess, it may be con-fidently assumed, that the average rate of mortality is, in general, not greater here than in any part of Europe; and that taking into consideration all political and natural causes, as compared with England, in this respect, the most favored portion of Europe, 2 *Southern Rev.* 153; 1 *Malthus Popu.* 477; the circumstances of these United States are, in general, fully as favorable to the duration of human life as any other country of the world. For, after making the largest allowance for the accessions to our numbers by emigra-tion; *Seybert Stat. Ann.* 28, 30; and for the greater number of marriages here than elsewhere, it will be found, that in no country has the population increased so rapidly as in the United States. Marriages, although earlier and more numerous, are, on an ave-rage, not much more fruitful here than in other countries. 2 *Sparks' Franklin's Works*, 313; 2 *Price Obser.* 42; 2 *Malthus Popu.* b. 2, c.