

TABLE XIX.

Needs no special explanation.

It was deemed advisable to depart from the ordinary way of enumerating people, in regard of Indians; the objections to such a course were several, the primary one being the difficulties in regard to languages which was insurmountable; besides there is an excellent authority for stating that an attempt to enumerate the Indians in the regular manner would tend to excite them; that they would not understand the real object and would be sure to attribute it to a wrong and perhaps a mischievous motive, so that the only way was deemed to be to call in the aid of the different agents, who have a record of all Indians receiving supplies and treaty payments from the Government.

It may here be remarked that most of these Indians are heathens and many have several wives, but in the agents' books these are not so classed but, with the exception of one to each Indian, are put down as so many heads of families, sometimes with children and are called widows. Some of these squaws have either left or been dispensed with by the Indians after years of cohabitation, sometimes, taking their children and thus making a separate family. We thus found many marked as widows whom we knew were not widows but wives, but neither agent nor any one else could say whose wife.