

induce it to be generally supposed that that amount was much below the reality. The novelty of such an undertaking in this Colony, the distance and difficulty of approach to many settlements in the new parts of the Province, and above all, a dread that the object of that Census was to establish a capitation tax, which induced many to conceal from the Commissioners employed the true number of their family, were all reasons tending to that belief.—The gross amount of the population as ascertained by the Returns of the last year, referred to your Committee, is 511,917. This your Committee consider to be the nearest approximation towards the truth, and, allowing for all defects, the population may be assumed to be nearly 520,000.

Assuming, then, the population of Lower Canada in 1760 to be upwards of 60,000, and in 1784 about 125,000 souls, it will thus be found that it has quadrupled itself in about forty-six years. The greatest increase will however be found in the six years which have elapsed since 1825. The Census Returns of 1831 show an increase of 88,287 over that of 1825, being an augmentation of upwards of twenty per cent. in six years. This exceeds the increase in the United States, as ascertained by the last Census, wherein the increase in ten years was 32 per cent.

Taking the Census of 1825 at 423,630, and the Census of 1831 at 511,919, and the increase in the interval at	88,289 souls;
Then 423,630 : 88,289 :: 511,919 :	106,689
Deduct from 106,689 a sixth part, because one term embraces six years } and the other five,	17,781
	Balance, 88,908
Which added to the population of 1831,	511,919
	600,827 souls.

OR, taking as a reasonable estimate that the population of Lower Canada is doubling in twenty-five years, to the population per Census of 1831, viz. about	512,000
add in 1836, one-fifth,	102,400
	Total, . 614,400

OR, taking with the Legislative Council of Lower Canada, a regular increase from 1825 to 1831, of 20 per cent. in six years; and supposing the population to have continued to increase at the same rate from 1831 to 1836, then 20 per cent. on 520,000 gives 104,000	
Deduct one-sixth, as the term embraces only five years,	17,333
	Balance, . . 86,667
Which added to the Council's Estimate for 1831, of	520,000
	forms a total in 1836 of 606,667

On the foregoing computations I considered myself justified in assuming the population of Lower Canada to be in the beginning of the present year 600,000 souls.

I subsequently was favoured by the Honorable Mr. McGill with the Tables marked F. 1 and F. 2, and learned from that gentleman that, including 39,000 emigrants who may have remained in Lower Canada, out of 195,000 who have landed since 1831 at Quebec, he estimates the population of Lower Canada at about 590,000 souls. J. M.