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## ILLITERACY IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

The Hon. James Monroe, of Oberlin, read an interesting paper on "National Government and National Education," before the Ohio Teachers Association last month, from which we purpose making a few extracts. In discussing the subject of "illiteracy" he gives the following figures from the census of 1870, which we quote in full:—

"By the last census, the number of persons over ten years of age in the United States who can no. write, is 5,658,000. The number of those who can not read is put at more than a million less; but the higher number is undoubtedly nearer the true measure of the illiteracy of the country. For obvious reasons, heads of families are not disposed to report to the census-taker more ignorance in the family than really exists. It may be safely assumed that they would sometimes be tempted to report less. Hence, the opinion has been held by eminent statisticians, that to obtain the true number of the illiterate in any state, thirty per cent. should be added to the number found in the census tables. It is also well

known that men admit inability to write more readily than inability to read. We are quite safe then in taking 5,658,000 as the real number of the illiterate in the United States. This, upon careful estimate, will be found to be something more than one-fifth of all our population above ten years of age. Of the whole number of illiterate, 2,790,000 are colored—being the largest single element. The number of native white illiterate is nearly three-fourths as large as this—amounting to about 2,087,000. Should we, at any time, be tempted to become boastful in regard to our intelligence, we have only to remember the more than two millions of illiterate of our native white race. Our orators sometimes speak of the danger which threatens our institutions from the influx of "ignorant foreigners." It may be well to remind these gentlemen, that our foreign born illiterate are only 778,000—a number only a little more than one-third as large as our native born white of the same class, and a little more than one-fourth of the number of illiter-