POPULATION—SAN FRANCISCO, 1870-71.

Few subjects referred to in this work possess greater importance than the population of this city, and every movement calculated to develop its extent, wealth and character is of public interest and its results eagerly anticipated. Fully appreciating this feeling, and believing that he possessed peculiar advantages therefor, the compiler of this work has annually prepared and published a statement of the population of this city, which has been accepted generally in the absence of "official figures" as a fair approximation to the actual number. In the preparation of these statements, the greatest care has been observed to consult only data of a reliable character—the experience obtained by carefully noting the progress of the city since its foundation and the annual observations of able and experienced canvassers have been, however, chiefly relied upon for the figures contained therein.

In no other section of the United States were the results of the Ninth Federal Census awaited with more interest than in the State of California, for the reason that the two previous censuses had failed to do justice to the State. Various causes had contributed to produce that result, which time and a more perfect organization of society had, to a great extent, cradicated; and so far as the City of San Francisco was concerned, it was expected that there, at least, a reasonable showing would be made and the true rank of that city established by official authority. While anticipating the most favorable results from the labors of the Census Marshal, the community was surprised at the first published estimate (Morning Call of July 23d, 1870) of the population of this city at 125,000, of which 10,000 were Chinese. The publication of this statement in the face of the returns of nearly 59,500 adult males in the City Directory and 45,617 children under 15 years of age in the School Census, of that year, was received with universal surprise and disappointment. These figures were subsequently increased in the columns of the daily press to 140,000, then to 145,000, and finally, by the publication of the official returns, to 150,361, which are in excess of the number (149,482) reported by the Census Bureau at Washington.

Census Returns for San Francisco for 1870.														_
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