

The male population of this city, according to the returns of the census,* is 75,824; of this number 23,722 are under 15 years of age. No separate figures are presented of the adult portion or the number between 15 and 21, and in order to arrive at an approximation of these elements, about 35 per cent. of the number under 15, the ratio according to the census returns of 1860, of Massachusetts, Ohio, and Oregon, should be added thereto, and the aggregate made thereby, taken from the entire census of males, will produce the following result: Under 15, 23,722, add 35 per cent., 8,302 for those between 15 and 21; total under 21, 32,024, which deducted from 75,824 will leave as the adult population, 43,800.

Satisfied from the above examination of the imperfections of the census, the canvassers engaged upon the San Francisco Directory for 1871 were instructed to make note of such information connected with that work, as would facilitate a more thorough investigation of the accuracy of its returns, than the published aggregates afforded. The result of their labors has been the collection of a variety of data of an important character, which has been used in testing the accuracy of a part of the enumeration in the following manner:

The names of the adult male population contained on the official rolls of the Third, Fifth, Sixth and Eighth Wards, deposited in the office of the County Clerk, have been copied and arranged for easy reference. To each of these Wards attention has been directed, with the following results:

Third Ward.—Male Adults: Census, 1798. Voters' names on poll list, election September, 1870, 1,305; votes cast, 869, of which 343 appear on the census rolls. Deficiency of census from poll list, 962; from votes cast, 526. Of the latter, 253 are recognized as having been residents of the Ward during the progress of the census, and of this number, 163 remain there, and their addresses can be found in the present volume. The general accuracy of the census returns of this Ward may be estimated by the fact that there are residing, at the different hotels and lodging houses alone, an average permanent adult population throughout the year of over 1,400. In addition to this element, there are the occupants of private dwellings, and a considerable number of persons living in the vicinity of the water front; also a numerous class engaged in navigating the Bay, who claim this Ward as their residence, of whom but a small percentage has been enumerated. Houses: Number census, 832; empty, 481. Directory count, March, 1871: Number, 607; excess of census, 225, or 37 per cent.; empty, 37. At no period during the year 1870 has the number of empty houses exceeded 50. The figures of the census set forth that there were 481, fifty-eight per cent. of the houses of this Ward, empty in July and August, 1870, while the average percentage of the remaining Wards was only nine per cent., an interesting "official" fact to be referred to in illustration of the general prosperity of the city, and the Third Ward in particular.

Fifth Ward.—Male Adults: Census, 1,852; poll list, 1,538; votes cast, 889, of which 353 are on the census rolls. Deficiency: From poll list, 1,185; from votes cast, 536. Of the latter, 332, and of the former, who did not vote, nearly 100, a total of 432, are recognized as having been residents of the Ward during the progress of the census. Of this number, 305 are still residents of the Ward, and their addresses can be found in the present volume. Average number of adults residing at the hotels and lodging houses, 1,520. Houses: Census, 204; Directory, 289. Deficiency of census, 85. The list of omitted names in this Ward embraces many of the most prominent residents. Merchants, public officers, and others engaged in almost every walk of life appear to have been overlooked, and in several instances, buildings containing from 10 to 20 occupants each, entirely omitted. An intimate acquaintance obtained by an annual canvass of the residents of this Ward for the past twelve years, warrants the statement that, not to exceed 65 per cent., of the adult population has been enumerated by the census.

Sixth Ward.—Male adults, census, 2,336; poll list, 1,797; votes cast, 1,023, of which 635 are on the census rolls. Deficiency from poll list, 1,162; from votes cast, 388; of the latter, 182, and of those on the poll list who did not vote, 73, a total of 255, are still residents of the Ward, and their addresses can be found in the present volume. In the list of omissions, the names of a large number of the oldest residents are recognized; and a comparison of the names enumerated with the votes cast at the last election, develops, when the character of the voting population is considered, almost as imperfect a canvass as that of the Fifth Ward. Houses, census, 1,450; Directory count, 1,063; excess of census, 387, or thirty-six per cent.

Eighth Ward.—First Precinct, male adults, census, 2,496; poll list, 1,239; votes cast, 890, of which 511 are on the census rolls. Deficiency from poll list, 728; from votes cast, 379; of the latter, 168, and of those on the poll list, who did not vote, 33, a total of 201, are still residents of this precinct, and their addresses can be found in the present volume. Second Precinct, male adults, census, 2,416; poll list, 1,977; votes cast, 1,423, of which 734 are on the census rolls. Deficiency from poll list, 1,243; from votes cast, 689; of the latter, 301, and of those on the poll list who did not vote, 76, a total of 377, are still residents of this precinct, and their addresses can be found in the present volume. An examination of the 578 unenumerated names of the two precincts, exhibits the same want of care as that of the preceding Wards. No district in this city presents fewer obstacles to a thorough enumeration than this Ward. Its population is of a permanent character, and the yearly changes are much below the average throughout the city. Houses, First and Second Precincts, census, 2,804; Directory count, 2,063; excess of census, 741, or thirty-six per cent.

* In addition to the aggregates contained in the table, on the preceding page, the official returns embrace also the following: Attending school, white males, 11,796; females, 11,756; colored males and females, 97; total, 23,649. Cannot read or write, males, 3,370; females, 4,297; total, 7,667. Number of blind, 52; deaf and dumb, 24; insane, 33; idiots, 17. Number of Chinese families keeping house, 255.