

## INTRODUCTION.

THE Census of the United Kingdom in 1871 was taken under the provisions of three separate Acts of Parliament passed in the Session of 1870. In England and Scotland the duty of taking the Census was entrusted, as in 1861, to the English and Scotch Registrars-General; in Ireland to a Royal Commission, presided over by the Irish Registrar-General.

It may be well to record here, that during the progress of these measures the "trouble and inconvenience which arose from having three separate Census Bills for the different parts of the United Kingdom" were referred to in the House of Commons, and hopes were expressed that when the Census of 1881 was taken, a single Act for the United Kingdom would be passed, so as to secure uniformity both of procedure and of results.

The scope of this present publication does not comprehend an exposition of the facts relating to Scotland and Ireland, except in so far as is necessary to present a summary view of the movement of population in the Kingdom as a whole.

And before proceeding to deal with the English Census of 1871, it will be convenient to give a brief retrospect of former inquiries of a like nature in this country.

### CENSUSES 1801-1861.

The first Census was taken in 1801, under the superintendence of Mr. Rickman. It showed the number of persons (distinguishing the sexes) in the various Counties, Hundreds, and Parishes of Great Britain; the number of Houses and of the Families by which they were occupied; and a rough statement of the occupations of the people, under three classes, viz., (1) "Persons chiefly employed in agriculture," (2) "Persons chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft," and (3) "All other persons not comprised in the two preceding classes." It also included an abstract of the Parish Registers from returns made by the Clergy, giving in each Hundred, or Wapentake, &c., of England and Wales, the number of Baptisms and Burials at every tenth year from 1700 to 1780 and in each year afterwards, and the number of Marriages in every year since 1753.

The Census of 1811 was taken upon the same plan as that adopted in 1801, and the same particulars of information were given; the only difference being, that in 1811 the number of Families occupied in the three above-mentioned classes was shown, instead of the number of Persons, as in 1801; and in 1811, the number of Houses *building* was shown separately from the number of other uninhabited Houses.

In 1821, information was for the first time attempted to be supplied respecting the Ages of the population, giving the numbers in quinquennial periods up to the age 20, and thence in decennial periods; but as it was left optional, both to the Census Officers and to the parties themselves, how far the investigation should be pursued, the return upon this point proved, to a considerable extent, deficient and unsatisfactory. In other respects the particulars inquired into at this Census were precisely the same as in 1811.

The Census of 1831 embraced several additional particulars, principally in elucidation of the various classes into which the people are divided by their different occupations. While the classification of 1811 and 1821 was still retained, a further subdivision of the classes was made, as to the male population of 20 years of age and upwards. In the printed Abstract of Returns was given, at the end of each County, a detailed list of the particular trades or handicrafts included in the 3rd of the above classes, and the number of persons employed in each. The inquiry as to the ages of the population was not repeated in 1831 beyond the distinction of males above and under 20. The *area* of each parish and township was given for the first time, being the result of a computation made by Mr. Rickman from maps.

At the Census of 1841 several alterations and additions were introduced. The number of Families was not given, and the statement as to occupations was not made, as before, for each Parish, nor was