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## THOUGHTS

ON THE Increasing Wealth & National Oeconomy Of the United States of America.

### INTRODUCTION.

FROM the time of the establishment of our European Ancestors on the western side of the Atlantic Ocean, to the recent contest of the United States for Independence, all faithful representations of the rapid growth of the country, were in Europe deemed fabulous, and still there must remain a vast variety of opinions both in Europe and America on the rate of our annual increase.

To point out an eligible mode by which to answer the various subordinate questions comprised under the several heads of the Statistical Table annexed, and to consider the natural result of the whole, is the sole object both of the table and of the explanatory remarks.

The first Essays will be offered to the public in their crude state in the order in which they may arise, but if they should ever be considered of sufficient importance to call for a revision, method may be more attended to in classing the several remarks each under its proper head.

### No. I. ON POPULATION.

The very ingenious and indefatigable Dr. Morse, in his elaborate geographical work, makes the following remarks, which are warranted in fact both by the opinions and the experience of cotemporary writers of celebrity.

Admitting the population of the United States at present (1796) to be five millions, and that this number will be doubled in twenty years, and continue to increase in that ratio for a century to come, at that period, viz. 1896, there will be in United America one hundred and sixty millions, nearly twenty millions more than there are at present in all Europe.

Sir William Petty, in his Essays on Political Arithmetic, has given an average valuation for each inhabitant of Britain in his time; they are rated by him at 90 pounds sterling per head or 400 dollars; if this rule be applied to the present inhabitants of these States, they are now worth more than two thousand millions of dollars; in addition to this statement, the following will be more generally understood, and as far as it agrees with, must, strengthen the position formed from Mr. Petty's rule for a personal valuation.

The taxable property of the United States, per valuation under the recent law of Congress amounts to more than 750 millions, Which will authorize a valuation of personal property in stock, money shipping, &c. at as much more And about 500 millions of lands to average one dollar per acre

Total 2000 mil. dol.

An annual compound increase of 3 per cent will double the given number in about 24 years, by this rule the population has been averaged in the annexed table from the time of census in 1790, although the exports of merchandize and the tonnage have more than doubled in half that time; yet for a succession of years it may be safer to confide in the rule adopted for the rate of increase in population, more especially when it is found that under such prudential calculations the net amount of the increase of wealth for the last year only is at least three per cent. on two thousand millions or the sum of SIXTY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. When it is considered that the whole of this actual increase amounts in fact to a positive though in part a passive fund, and is therefore called a natural sinking fund to distinguish it from the visible operations of the ordinary revenues of the state. Hence it may not be difficult to conceive that the United States are within a short space to rank with the most powerful States on Earth both in Population and in general wealth. And further to consider the effects of population only it may be said with truth that by constant increase it has since the year 1796 reduced a public debt of 20 dollars for each individual to fifteen dollars and if the conjectural increase for 1896 should be verified the whole amount of eighty millions may then be redeemed by a capitation of fifty cents only, the ultimate population destined for the United States may be better imagined by a comparative view of the old world, where it will be found that France, England, Italy and the Netherlands will average about 160 inhabitants to each square mile, and China with no favourable difference, either in soil or climate, has above three hundred, which rate of population would give to the United States above three hundred millions: but experience has shewn that a population less than half that of China would be more conducive to health and to every rational enjoyment.

OBSERVATOR.

## A STATISTICAL TABLE

For the United States of America, for a succession of years, compiled chiefly from Official Documents.

Length of the United States, 3,250 miles—Breadth, 1,040 miles—containing more than one million square miles, or 640 millions of acres.

Year	Population.	Improved Lands, part of 640 mil. acres.	Militia.	Navy of the U. States.	Seamen.	Domestic Prod. U. S.	Total.	Tonnage merchant vessels.	Receipts, Revenue, &c.	Expenses.	Metallic Medium.	Public Debt Nominal.
1799	5,127,756	36,300,000	85,465	42	63,500	33,142,187	920,000	2,777,487	10,161,097	9,021,313	13,000,000	8,185,400
1798	4,978,404	36,100,000	829,734	13	62,200	27,921,412	898,321	10,161,097	9,021,313	13,000,000	8,185,400	
1797	4,833,402	35,600,000	829,734	3	62,200	24,052,571	876,911	8,758,780	8,367,776	10,500,000	8,367,776	
1796	4,692,624	35,100,000	829,734	5	62,200	22,024,621	876,911	8,758,780	8,367,776	10,500,000	8,367,776	
1795	4,555,946	34,550,000	759,324	—	62,200	18,064,057	876,911	8,758,780	8,367,776	10,500,000	8,367,776	
1794	4,423,249	34,000,000	759,324	—	62,200	15,200,102	876,911	8,758,780	8,367,776	10,500,000	8,367,776	
1793	4,294,417	33,500,000	759,324	—	62,200	12,200,102	876,911	8,758,780	8,367,776	10,500,000	8,367,776	
1792	4,169,337	33,000,000	759,324	—	62,200	9,420,102	876,911	8,758,780	8,367,776	10,500,000	8,367,776	
1791	4,047,900	31,000,000	694,889	—	62,200	6,500,102	876,911	8,758,780	8,367,776	10,500,000	8,367,776	
1790	3,939,000	30,000,000	677,650	—	62,200	4,600,102	876,911	8,758,780	8,367,776	10,500,000	8,367,776	
1789	3,829,000	29,000,000	654,086	—	62,200	2,800,102	876,911	8,758,780	8,367,776	10,500,000	8,367,776	
1788	3,720,000	28,000,000	631,000	—	62,200	1,000,102	876,911	8,758,780	8,367,776	10,500,000	8,367,776	
1787	3,610,000	27,000,000	608,000	—	62,200	—	876,911	8,758,780	8,367,776	10,500,000	8,367,776	
1786	3,500,000	26,000,000	585,000	—	62,200	—	876,911	8,758,780	8,367,776	10,500,000	8,367,776	
1785	3,390,000	25,000,000	562,000	—	62,200	—	876,911	8,758,780	8,367,776	10,500,000	8,367,776	
1784	3,280,000	24,000,000	539,000	—	62,200	—	876,911	8,758,780	8,367,776	10,500,000	8,367,776	
1783	3,170,000	23,000,000	516,000	—	62,200	—	876,911	8,758,780	8,367,776	10,500,000	8,367,776	
1782	3,060,000	22,000,000	493,000	—	62,200	—	876,911	8,758,780	8,367,776	10,500,000	8,367,776	
1781	2,950,000	21,000,000	470,000	—	62,200	—	876,911	8,758,780	8,367,776	10,500,000	8,367,776	
1780	2,840,000	20,000,000	447,000	—	62,200	—	876,911	8,758,780	8,367,776	10,500,000	8,367,776	

ACTIVE SINKING FUNDS.	DORMANT AND ACTIVE.
Specie, by law U. S. of Aug. 1790, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of Dec. 1791, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of May 1792, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of Sept. 1792, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of Dec. 1792, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of May 1793, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of Sept. 1793, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of Dec. 1793, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of May 1794, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of Sept. 1794, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of Dec. 1794, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of May 1795, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of Sept. 1795, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of Dec. 1795, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of May 1796, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of Sept. 1796, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of Dec. 1796, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of May 1797, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of Sept. 1797, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of Dec. 1797, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of May 1798, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of Sept. 1798, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of Dec. 1798, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of May 1799, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of Sept. 1799, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of Dec. 1799, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of May 1800, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of Sept. 1800, Dollars, 2,000,000	
Do. ditto, by law of Dec. 1800, Dollars, 2,000,000	

Note.—The several sums under the head of metallic medium, are necessarily conjectural, but are nevertheless of immediate importance to the completion of the table, and therefore inserted to be re-considered in the next annual statement, at which period the whole table will again be compared with the public documents and errors corrected.

## BOSTON, April 14.

Yesterday arrived here, ship John Adams, captain Tolman, in 54 days from Liverpool;—By her we have received London papers to Feb. 13th, which, though several days later than before come to hand, containing nothing of great importance.

In the British House of Lords, on the 12th Feb. Lord Holland, after a very

highly censured the preparatory proceedings of the British Ministers in the late expedition to Holland, moved, for a committee of the whole to inquire into the causes of its failure. This motion was negatived, after a short debate.

### For it, 6—Against it, 69

In the course of the observations made on this subject, it appeared, that the whole number of troops employed in the Dutch expedition, was 45,000; and that only 800 of the British troops were killed in the course of it. Lord Mulgrave, said, it was a question of climate, wind and weather; and that, to those alone were to be attributed the failure of the expedition.

On the same day, the army and navy supplies were granted in the House of Commons.—The whole number of the army voted, was 192,000, which is 2,000 less than that voted the last year; although the standing army is hereby augmented to 40,000.

The subject of the Legislative Union of Ireland with Great Britain, was laid before the Irish Parliament, the 6th February; by a message from the Lord Lieutenant. The union is to take place in January 1801, and the two Kingdoms after that period are to bear the name of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.—This message it was moved should be taken into consideration; and a debate ensued; when on a division, the numbers stood—Ayes 151—Noes 115—Majority 43, in favor of the Union.

Under the Hamburg date of the 4th of Feb. we find the following articles; "The intelligence is at length confirmed, that the Russian troops have, in consequence of the differences existing between Austria and Russia, received orders to return home. This event has caused considerable anxiety throughout Germany; and England is the only power that will be in a state, after the re-establishment of the usual communication, to effect once more a change in the determination of the Emperor Paul. Russia and England are on such terms of reciprocal friendship, that every thing may be hoped from the interference of the latter." By the comments on this article, in the London papers the fact appears substantiated, that the Emperor Paul wants to be coaxed by Great Britain, before he will again cordially take his Brother of Austria by the hand. This circumstance, however, has not abated the commanding tone which the British ministry here assumed.

It appears probable that the High Consul of France, is in treaty with the Sublime Porte; for we find by a Paris article, that the Turkish Ambassador at Paris, had conferred with Mr. Talleyrand, after the receipt of dispatches from Constantinople, and afterwards had dined with Buonaparte.

Mr Pitt has given notice he shall require a loan of 21,000,000l. sterling.

The Loire frigate, has captured a French frigate of 40 guns, after a smart action.

The King of Prussia equally resists the persuasions of France, as the threats of Russia, to urge him to relinquish his neutrality.

The Hetty, Meale, from New-York, is taken by the French, and carried into St. Andero. Loyd's lifts, Feb. 11.

The English channel fleet under Sir Allan Gardner, was at sea, Feb. 8.

A report was current at Liverpool, at the time of the sailing of the John Adams, that the American Envoys to France, had arrived at Paris; had been cordially received; and that in consequence, orders had been issued for the release of all the Americans confined in France. This Liverpool report is entirely groundless. Our Envoys were at Burgos, in Spain, on the 10th February; which is 770 miles from Paris. Having stated this geographical fact, we need give no other reason for contradicting the article. We have no doubt, as a preparatory measure, the French Consul has set our prisoners at liberty.

To many other respectful tributes of applause of the life, talents, and virtues of our WASHINGTON; it is with pleasure we add the following, the pathetic effusion of one of the French Legislators:—

### LEGISLATIVE BODY,

13 Pluviose, Feb. 2.

In speaking of Gen. Washington, Felix Faulcon said,

This is not the moment to retrace in this hall all that that great man has done for the freedom of Ame-