Mr. DICKINSON suggested that the friends of the substitute would also have the right to perfect that before the general question should be taken.

Mr. DAVIS, of Massachusetts. I do not know how the motion of the senator from Georgia [Mr. DAWSON] stands, but I suppose it embraces the tables also.

The VICE PRESIDENT. It is to strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the amendment proposed.

Mr. DAVIS. The effect of that would be to strike out the whole bill, including the tables, and to insert a bill without tables. I do not know that this is very material, however. It will only render it necessary that we should act again upon a question already decided by the Senate in committee. The Senate will recollect that in the outset of this business there was a proposition made to strike out the tables reported by the Senate's committee, and to insert certain other tables. That passed in the committee in the negative. Now there is a different proposition made; not only to strike out the tables, but the whole thing; and perhaps that motion is in order; I am satisfied that it should be, if the Chair thinks so. But striking out the whole bill, it includes the tables also. I have an amendment to make to the tables, before the Senate shall act upon the motion, and shall be glad to make a remark or two in regard to those tables, provided the Senate will bear with me in recapitulating the state of the case. I will occupy their attention but a few moments.

This subject was referred to the committee pretty early in the session. The only paper which came to them was the report made by the Census Board—a brief report made to the President, and accompanying the document sent here by the President, together with the message. That was all the paper that came before us. Nevertheless, when we came to meet in the committee-room, as I have stated before, there was a series of tables—six in number, I think—laid before the committee by the secretary of the Board of Census. Those tables he represented as being tables adopted by the board. The committee took up those tables, and proceeded to examine them; having, in the first place, inquired whether they had been stereotyped, and whether any printing had been done, or anything of that sort; and having learned that nothing of the kind had been done, they proceeded to examine them, and found that they were susceptible of various important amendments, which they made. And, finally, without any further knowledge of any tables, they made their report to the Senate, with the tables which they had agreed upon. Then, sir, for the first time, there was placed in my hands, by one of the Census Board, a set of tables, called the official tables of that board. I have them here; and they are open to the inspection of any person who wishes to see them. Those tables were represented as the doings of the Census Board. It turned out, by comparing them with the doings of the committee, that there were some variations—some which would be considered, perhaps, quite important, and some unimportant.

This leads me to call the attention of the Senate for a moment to these tables, that they may see the nature of the thing, and may understand the motion I am about to submit. The first table regards the white population of the country, and I thought it was one of the best tables I had ever seen. It has undergone some alteration, and perhaps in some points which might be considered material, but no very great alterations. The second table relates to slave population. This has undergone an entire alteration. I believe my friend from Kentucky [Mr. UNDERWOOD] has those original tables in his possession; and the table which the Board of Census propose to adopt, and which does not vary very materially from that proposed by the committee, is an entirely different table from that laid before us. The whole order of arrangement is different, and it may be considered throughout a different table. The third table in the order in which I am considering them—that which relates to adults—is not materially different from what it originally was. Some of the headings have been changed. The table, also, in regard to industry, including manufactures, and things of that description, I thought to be a very excellent table, and that has undergone very material changes. There have been some changes of the heading; others in the arrangement. I esteemed it a very good table, and I believe that was the view of the committee. Now, sir, the social table has undergone very large alterations. I believe there were some six or seven columns stricken out—I speak of the table adopted by the Census Board—and stricken out, as I suppose, upon a motion made by the honorable senator from Kentucky [Mr. UNDERWOOD] to introduce into the column of remarks in the first table the words "pauper and convict."

Now, Mr. President, I shall propose, before I sit down, inasmuch as there has been some printing done upon the first three tables, that those three tables be adopted according to the forms which the Census Board propose, together with the table with regard to the products. This is agreeable to the suggestion of the honorable senator from Kentucky, made long since. It is agreeable to my own views of the subject. I have been willing, at all times, to adopt them—to take them as they stand; though I thought they might be improved in some particulars. But, inasmuch as they are stereotyped, and there has been some printing from them, I am willing that they should be taken as reported by the Census Board. I propose, then, sir, that the Senate should adopt the other two tables as they are reported by the committee; that is, the table upon the agricultural products and the social table. I consider our tables better than the others, and I will state very briefly the reasons why I think so.

In the first place, the table reported by the Census Board is altogether too crowded. It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to put the number of figures into those columns which will be required in practice. The committee, with that view, have diminished the number of columns, by six, I think; the number in the table of the Census Board being fifty-two, and in that of the committee forty-six. The committee have transferred several of these columns, where it could be done with convenience and utility, to the social table. They have thus got the tables into a better form, as I think every gentleman will be satisfied who will take the trouble to examine them. By taking out these columns and putting them into the social table, you gain room for the other items which are left—quite an indispensable thing.

Without troubling the Senate much in this matter, I wish to make one remark more. It has been suggested by the Census Board, while they admit that certain alterations were made in these tables after they were laid before us by their secretary, that they never authorized those tables to be laid before us, and they were not their tables; that they did afterwards—after this had taken place—make alterations in their tables; but that they did not make these alterations at the suggestion of the committee. Now, sir, it is very manifest, upon the face of things, that alterations were made, and that they were numerous; so numerous, according to the statement of the senator from Kentucky, who conversed with the printer upon this subject, that he could not tell how many there were. It is manifest, upon the face of the tables themselves, that they were changed. But they say they did not do it at the suggestion of the committee. Very well; I am satisfied to take their word. All I have to say is, that there are one or two remarkable coincidences with regard to that matter. My friend from Kentucky moved in committee, as the committee will recollect, to place in the column of remarks in the first table the words "convicts and paupers." That struck out of the social table some eight columns, and transferred them into that other table. Now, you will find in the amended tables of the Census Board that they have done precisely the same thing. I know that minds can act independently of each other; that the same thought may be in two minds; and I am not disposed to question their statement in any respect.

Again, they say these amendments were slight. I am content to take that view of the subject. All I desire is, that facts as they are should appear before the Senate, that every man may judge for himself whether they are slight, or whether they are important. Now, sir, with regard to this agricultural table, there are not only the reasons I have assigned on account of the room, but the general arrangement is better in our tables. There seems to be some things in the table reported by the Census Board that will hardly bear examination. For example, they propose to take the number of cows and oxen that are over two years old, as if there were cows and oxen of a less age than that! I might add, also, that there are certain words and arrangements with regard to live stock, proposed by the honorable member from Kentucky, and which are also found in the Census Board's amended tables. We have no pride of opinion about this matter. But we think the public interest would be promoted and better subserved by taking these four tables which I have enumerated as reported by the Census Board, and taking the table called the agricultural table and the social table from those of the committee. I know how dry and uninteresting this subject is, and how difficult it is to comprehend it, unless the minds of gentlemen are directed to a particular object; but if I could draw their attention to details—which would be quite too tedious—I could show them, beyond all question, that the agricultural table reported by the committee, especially with one small amendment which I propose to offer, will be greatly superior to the other.

For example, let me state one fact in the table as reported by the gentleman. That proposed to take a list of the stock of the country, as it is, upon the first day of June, 1850; that is, they enumerate all the stock of different kinds, and classify it, so as to give the amount and kinds existing in the country at that day. Well, now, sir, that leaves out of sight, in the enumeration, all the animals slaughtered during the preceding year. What the committee aimed at is to get at the resources of the farm. For example, it is an important part of the resources of the farm to know the number of cattle slaughtered. My friend [Mr. MANGUM] suggests to me that we only give what is sold. I will state to senators, that if they will look at the tables, they will find that that remark is only applicable to certain classes of productions, such as vegetables, the products of the orchard and the garden, and things of that sort. We give the whole amount of wheat, of rice, of corn, of hay, of live stock, and animals fatted for the slaughter. We give the entire amount of everything, except some of those simple products which we suppose it very difficult to get at the amount actually produced, and in reference to which we contented ourselves, therefore, with taking the amount sold. With reference to all the great articles of farming, we take the whole amount produced, in the tables furnished by the committee. We make that distinction with regard to horticultural products and the products of the orchard, with regard to which it is obviously difficult to ascertain the amount actually produced; and it is sufficient, in the opinion of the committee, to get the amount sold.

Now, sir, if I thought I could add anything which would enlighten the Senate, or which would in any way compensate for my taking up their time, I would proceed; but I desire to be as brief as possible, and if any gentleman is at a loss upon any point, I am ready for one, and so is every member of the committee, to give any information which we have in our possession, and which he wants.

Mr. President, I send to the Chair tables No. 1, No. 2, No. 4, and No. 6—that is, the table upon the white population, the table upon the slave population, the table embracing deaths, the table embracing the products of industry, and the table embracing manufactures. I propose, sir——

Mr. BUTLER. I wish to know of the senator from Massachusetts whether the tables could be amended conveniently now?

Mr. DAVIS, of Massachusetts. The only objection is, that the tables are already stereotyped.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair did not hear distinctly the motion of the senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. DAVIS. My motion is to strike out the tables of the committee which correspond to the tables sent to the Chair, and to insert these in the same place. These are, the table on the white population, the table on the slave population, the table enumerating the deaths, and the table relating to the products of industry. Those are the four tables which I sent to the Chair. I propose to substitute them for the four corresponding tables of the committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair understands the proposition to be to strike from the present bill the tables numbered 1, 2, 3, and 5, and to insert those four tables instead, which are numbered 1, 2, 4, and 6.

Mr. DAVIS, of Massachusetts. That is correct.

Mr. BUTLER. Mr. President, I move to amend by striking out the "names of slaves," and inserting, in lieu thereof, the words "number of slaves." I do not understand why the names of slaves should be taken.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. To which of the tables does the senator from South Carolina [Mr. BUTLER] refer?

Mr. BUTLER. I understand the senator from Massachusetts [Mr. DAVIS] to move to substitute these new tables for those contained in the bill. I refer to the table which relates to the slave population. I move to strike out from it the words "names of slaves," and to insert the words "number of slaves."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. To amend the amendment?

Mr. BUTLER. Yes, sir.

Mr. DAVIS, of Massachusetts. It is quite immaterial to me what course is pursued in getting at this enumeration. The object in taking the names was to facilitate the action of the census-takers, as it is believed it would do, and that it would aid in procuring the other valuable information sought for. I do not know that it is very important; and if the senator has a choice in the matter, I do not feel disposed to go into a discussion on it.

Mr. BUTLER. It was never done in taking any other census. It will give no useful information, and I can see no possible good purpose that can be served by it. It has always been considered sufficient to take the number of the slaves, and it seems to me a wholly unnecessary waste of the time and labor of the census-takers. It would make an immense book to give a list of all the slaves in the United States, and when made it would not contain one particle of useful information. It would be of no possible use that I can see.

Mr. DAVIS, of Massachusetts. Does the honorable senator propose simply to take the aggregate number of the slaves on a plantation?

Mr. BUTLER. Yes, sir; the number of the slaves, instead of the names.

Mr. DAVIS. Then you will lose the benefit of the enumeration relative to the ages of the slaves.

Mr. BUTLER. Not at all. The age and the sex will remain, and be classified as before—so many under five years, so many from five to ten, so many from ten to twenty years of age, and so on. But what possible use is there in taking an immense list of names?

Mr. UNDERWOOD. If we learn the age and sex of each slave to be taken, it will be seen at once that the master and the census-taker will both have their attention called to each individual slave upon the plantation. Each one must be the subject of individual reference at the time, in order to ascertain the age and sex, and to satisfy the other inquiries which the census-taker proposes to make. Now, it seems to me that, in order to do all this, the very best way is to get at the name at once.

Mr. BUTLER. Why take it down? What use is there in it? Does anybody want a list of "Little Bill," and "Cuff," and "Pompey," and so on, until you have filled volumes with them? [Laughter.]

Mr. UNDERWOOD. There is certainly no very great necessity for those classical names for their own sakes, whether Ciceros, or Pompeys, or Cæsars, or Cuffies. But I have said that, in making the other inquiries, you must have your attention drawn to the individuals separately; and then it is certain that the census-takers can actually get on, and make better progress in their business, by taking the name of each individual, rather than to make a series of calculations with reference to the ages, sexes, &c. You will have, in the course of your examination, to take each child by itself, and consider its age and sex, and make a memorandum of each fact; and you will find, before you get through with a family or a plantation, and make your entries in the book, that you have a whole sheet of paper covered with quite complicated calculations—all of which will be avoided by taking the name of each individual as you progress, and entering the facts opposite the name, which will then furnish a body of information in such a shape that it can easily be classified afterwards. I do believe, after a free examination of the subject, that you can do it much faster and better by making an entry of each particular name, and passing on from one to another, saving all these complicated calculations.

Now, sir, this plan has been adopted with reference to the white population. The old system of proceeding was to put down the population according to classification, under 5 years, between 5 and 10 years, between 10 and 15 years, between 15 and 20 years, and so on, up to 100 years, and above that. The effect of that arrangement was to involve the census-taker in the confusion of all those calculations to which I have referred, to ascertain the particular classes to which the different individuals were to be assigned in making the entries in the book; and we thought that, in making the calculation, he would really expend far more time and more labor than he would in putting down the name and the age against the name of each individual. This seems, indeed, to be the very easiest and simplest way of attaining the object. I believe that by adopting it, you will save time, and get more accurate information than you can by the old plan.

Mr. BUTLER. Will you print all that mass of names?

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Not at all. There is a total mistake upon the subject. It is not proposed to print the names of the white population, and of course the names of the black population are not to be published either. You get the elements by this inquiry—you get the elements only upon which classification is subsequently to be based, and you get them in the simplest and most orderly arrangement which can be devised; by which subsequent classification you arrive at the ages of each particular class of persons, from birth upwards, from the lowest to the highest. It is this compendium which is to be published in the elementary tables, and the names themselves are not to be published at all.

Mr. YULEE. I would then ask the honorable senator what advantage there can possibly be in taking down the names of all the inhabitants of the United States, white and black, if they are not to be published? What advantage is there in knowing that there is a John Smith in New York, and another John Smith in Kentucky, and another in Georgia?

Mr. UNDERWOOD. No advantage.

Mr. YULEE. What benefit?

Mr. UNDERWOOD. None at all.

Mr. YULEE. It would certainly be a great labor and expense.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Well, sir, I am endeavoring to answer that very question. I have said, and I repeat, that according to the old plan, the census-takers were sent out for the purpose of ascertaining how many males and how many females there were under five years; how many between five and ten, between ten and fifteen, and so on, until you get above one hundred. When this change was suggested to the census committee—for I acknowledge that this suggestion of taking names was a new one—I made the very objection which the senator from Florida has made. It struck me as a very monstrous sort of a proposition. It was something new, I confess—something that I had never heard of before, and departing from the usual course of getting up the census table from the beginning of the government until the present day; and it put me on the inquiry, which is just what I want the senator to do now. I began with the inquiry, as I have already suggested to the Senate, and it brought my mind to the conclusion that the census-taker could do their work faster, and it would form the elements of more accurate calculations than to pursue the old plan; and in reasoning about it, I imagined myself going along with the census-taker to a farmer, and holding a long conversation with the heads of the family, asking them about all their children, beginning at the youngest, and going up to the oldest; and I came to the conclusion that the work could be done much faster by taking down the name of the whole with the ages of each one placed opposite the name.

Mr. CLEMENS. Will the honorable senator allow me to suggest an insuperable difficulty? There are many planters who own as many as a hundred negroes or more, who know no more about their names than the senator himself. When the census-taker comes, therefore, the owner is unable to tell their names, and the result will be, that the census-taker may be obliged to spend a week at the plantation to obtain the information.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. All that matter has been talked over. I want to show my friend from Alabama that there are insuperable difficulties on the other side. If you cannot get the name of one of these children in the negro quarter, how can you get the age?

Mr. CLEMENS. Easy enough. Each planter knows that such a woman has so many children, and he can arrive at the ages of them, but cannot tell you anything about the names. He will say, for example: A negro woman, named Eliza, has four children, of such and such ages, when he will not probably know the name of one of them. He knows, perhaps, nothing about them, until they get to be twelve or fourteen years of age.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I cannot speak for the negro families at the South; I can only speak for that description of population—the owners of negroes—in my own State. I venture to say that there is no planter in my quarter of the country, but can tell you the name of every person on his plantation, and that without hesitation. We generally keep a record of the names of blacks and whites on the farms, and their ages; and I should suppose that, while the farmer at the South was recording, as was intimated by the gentleman from Alabama, the ages of the children of slave woman, named Eliza——

Mr. CLEMENS. I did not say he recorded it; only that he knew very well about the ages of the children.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Well, if there is any record kept of the age, I suppose it would be connected with the name. If there is none, then he has to guess at the age, and he might as well guess at the name; for it is wholly immaterial. But you must describe it in some way or other; and if you put down the children number one, number two, and so on, it will do just as well as by name, provided you mention them in some way in which we can get the elements of that calculation which we want to make. The whole difficulty is here: we require the name, when it cannot be given. We do not require an oath from the man as to the names; but if he can give the age of the children, he can give the name at the same time. If he gives the ages, he can give the names; and even if he has to put down a string of fictitious names, it will make no difference.

Mr. BORLAND. The senator says you have nothing but the labor of taking these tables. I would ask him if he has considered the number that would have to be taken? There are, I believe, about 3,000,000 slaves in the United States. Supposing there are a hundred to each page in which they are recorded, you would then have 30,000 pages of writing to do; which is one thing. Then, if the mass of all the inhabitants are taken as proposed, you will have 200,000 pages. Now, I suggest that the addition to the labor of 30,000 pages for the slaves and 200,000 for the whites will add very materially to the time and labor required. It appears to be proposed, moreover, to print these names; for I do not see the use of taking them unless they are printed to be laid before the country. Then, sir, you have 30,000 pages of printed matter which is of no sort of practical use.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. All that has been fully considered, and I will give the gentleman an illustration which entered into a consideration of the matter. You have 2,500,000 voters in the United States, the names of every one of whom were taken in writing at the last presidential election. This illustration came under consideration at the time. For the purpose of accuracy in the ballot-box, you take the names of 2,500,000 voters, and it will be increasing every four years at a very rapid rate in all time to come. There is no difficulty experienced in that matter. No printing grows out of it, and it is an every day's practice to do it.

Well, sir, let us take another illustration. We take all these things in our lists of taxable property in Kentucky, and we take down name after name, and there is no difficulty growing out of it.

Sir, we have considered the thing, and it started me at first just precisely in the same way as it did the other gentlemen. All these questions suggested themselves, and I endeavored to go into them and trace them down to their very elements; and the conclusion I arrived at is, that if you wish to insure accuracy and speed, it will best be done by taking the name and age down; and if the name is fabricated, it will not make the least difference. And as to the idea suggested, that a planter does not know the names of his slaves, it makes no kind of difference whether he knows them or not. He will know just as much about the name as the age. What we expect is, to get as near accuracy as possible; and this will be the speediest and most accurate way of getting information.

I have nothing more, I believe, to say upon that particular subject. I had some other matters to suggest, and perhaps I may as well say them all now as at any time. I wish the amendment offered by my friend, the chairman of the committee, should be adopted, and——

Mr. BADGER. I would suggest to my friend from Kentucky a kind of compromise: that with regard to these little verbal amendments to the bill, as we all have our own opinions, it might be as well to vote upon them without delay; for I assure my friend, if we take much time upon each verbal amendment, we shall not get this bill through in two months, and then it will be too late to obtain either the names or the ages. [Laughter.]

Mr. DAVIS. How would it meet the views of the mover of this amendment to place it in the alternative, name or number?

Mr. BUTLER. I cannot, for my life, see the use of names at all. My friend from Kentucky generally has my vote upon practical matters, but upon this question we see differently.

The question being taken on Mr. BUTLER's amendment, it was agreed to.

Mr. BELL suggested to the chairman of the Census Committee the propriety of making an amendment to the bill in the column of agricultural products, in relation to capital invested in farming materials, such as cotton-gins, sugar machinery, and machinery for other purposes. In his district of the country, there was a large amount of capital invested in such machinery.

Mr. DAVIS. If the honorable senator will allow me, I will state that the committee have had that subject under consideration, and there was a proposition to take an account of the value of agricultural implements. But it was seen at once that it would embrace all farming tools and utensils of every description, and would therefore be attended with a great deal of trouble. It struck our minds, on the whole, that it would not compensate for the trouble of the investigation which would necessarily be required. If it is desirable, however, to take a valuation of machinery used in the manufacture of sugar, or cotton, or any of these great articles, I think there may be an amendment made in the table.

The VICE PRESIDENT. That is not now under consideration.

Mr. BELL. I understood that it was. I will merely mention that a large investment of capital is made in this machinery—cotton-gins—and more particularly machines for the manufacturing of sugar. In relation to some of this machinery employed on sugar plantations, some gentlemen on the other side of the house can give more information than myself. I believe in some cases the amount of investment is about $20,000 on a single plantation. The cotton-gin is a machine of vast expense. I do not propose that the value of all descriptions of implements shall be enumerated in these tables but such as are of great value. The reason why I suggest it is, that I supposed this was the proper table.

Mr. DAVIS. The honorable senator will perceive that the agricultural table is not now under consideration.

Mr. BELL. We have them all under consideration, I believe.

The question being then taken upon the motion by Mr. DAVIS, of Massachusetts, to strike out the original tables 1, 2, 4, and 6, and insert corresponding ones reported by the committee, it was agreed to.

Mr. KING. I wish to turn attention to the amendment of the senator from Georgia. It relates to a matter with which I suppose many gentlemen are as well acquainted as myself. It is in regard to slaves. I see, sir, in that schedule that the place of birth is required to be given. Now, sir, there is not a gentleman here who does not know that it is utterly impracticable for any such information to be given which will be at all satisfactory.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Will the gentleman refer the Chair to the table?

Mr. KING. Table No. 2.

The VICE PRESIDENT. That has been adopted.

Mr. KING. I understood not—that it has only been amended.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The last motion was to strike out the original tables—1, 2, 4, and 6.

Mr. KING. When was that vote taken?

The VICE PRESIDENT. Just before the senator rose.

Mr. KING. I rose at the same time with the senator from Tennessee [Mr. BELL] to propose an amendment, and I hope it will be adopted, to correspond with his motion; for I tell senators it is utterly impracticable. I move for the present to reconsider the vote just taken, as far as relates to schedule No. 2.

Mr. DAVIS. There has been no vote taken, I believe.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The vote was just taken to insert those four tables.

Mr. KING. That was not the understanding; and I make a motion to reconsider that vote.

The question on the motion to reconsider being taken, it was agreed to.

Mr. KING. I propose now to amend the schedule by striking out "*place of birth.*" It is known that in the course of things great numbers of slaves are purchased, whose owners know nothing about their place of birth, and it is utterly out of their power to give this information. There would be no advantage in it. Their birthplace is in the United States, and in the slave States; but in which of them they do not know. There may be a few owners who can tell the age and number of their slaves, but they cannot tell where they were born, or anything about their parentage. I presume there is no idea of doing what cannot be effected, and which, if it could be done, would be of no earthly practical good.

The question being taken on the motion to strike out the "place of birth," it was agreed to.

Mr. KING. I have another proposition to make, the propriety of the adoption of which senators may perceive. It is in schedule No. 2, in the following words:

"If a female, the number of children she has had, who are known to be living—known to be dead."

Now it is impossible to ascertain the number of children that any woman may have. The woman herself, in nine cases out of ten, who has had fifteen children, does not know how many she has had. [Laughter.] She cannot tell. The owner certainly does not know. The managers of the estates do not know, because they are so often changed. One or two will be born while one manager has charge of the plantation, and two or three while another is overseer. There is no mode by which you can get the information, but by the medium of the woman; and I know, in many instances, that she cannot give it. Where is the necessity for it? It fills up a large space, and incurs considerable expense, and you get no certain information in the end.

Mr. DAVIS. I hope the honorable senator will permit that to stand. I do not know that the column which has been struck out is very material, but it is very desirable—inasmuch as representation on the basis of population has to rest upon that—that the enumeration should have some pretension to accuracy, as far as it can be obtained. Now, I do not suppose it is possible to get at an enumeration that is not very full of error; still there must be an enumeration, and it must be such as can be carried into practical operation. Why should we not adopt means to make them as accurate as we can? Whether this little circumstance, that has been adverted to, will tend to increase the information—to show the state and condition of that population, and show the numbers on different farms, is for gentlemen to judge. I would rather, if the gentleman pleases, inasmuch as the tables have been stereotyped, and some printing has been done, unless he sees very serious objection to it, that he would permit it to stand.

Mr. KING. The honorable senator says he does not see any practical good to be attained by the amendment. I want the census to be taken as accurately as possible, as far as it goes, and I do not want to throw any obstacle in the way of a fair enumeration of all classes of population—the white and the black—and the proportion of them ascertained. But there is no reason for incurring the expense and trouble to ascertain what will be of no earthly service. Does it render it more certain? You have to get the name of every slave—man, woman, and child. Now, does not that render it as certain as it can be ascertained, by learning how many children a woman may have, and how many are dead? I state again, that this information cannot be obtained, so as to render it at all certain. It will swell volumes, without any earthly benefit to be derived from it. And if it is to do no good, why incur the expense? I hope, sir, the amendment will be adopted.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I have a few remarks to make, Mr. President, and but few. These tables, in reference to the population, have been adopted, so far as I am concerned, in a great degree, from the wishes of a southern gentleman. I will explain the objects in part that were had in view in presenting these tables as a whole, and then the Senate will see that every mutilation that is made will in all probability operate against the object which is sought to be obtained. That the names to be stricken out will be a loss, will be seen in this connexion. Now, sir, of the information which we are in pursuit of, the mere enumeration of the inhabitants upon which the representation in Congress is to be based, is not the only object. A number of philosophical matters are to be sought, as well as the basis of representation. The condition of the country, in reference to its resources, is an element upon which legislation is to occur. Every one knows how the resources of different sections of the country operate upon its legislation. We know it is important in a military point of view; we know it is important in almost every point of view connected with the operations of society; and hence it is that, in acting upon this subject, the committee were not confined simply to the number of inhabitants for representation. The effect of health, the effect of longevity, the climate, the condition of the colored races, all become objects of interest in reference to conversations upon the subject. You will find, therefore, that in those tables we require not only the age and the sex, but the color of the person, and in another column the degree of removal from the pure blood is required to be found. This inquiry in reference to the number of children, I can inform my friend over the way, was inserted, so far as I know, at the instance of a southern gentleman, with a view of ascertaining certain facts, about which he suggested to me a theory which I do not think it worth the while to go into now. Now, the only question is, whether you are willing to take all this information with a view to ascertain the laws of longevity between the two races—the degrees of blood, and other physical laws connected with our race. The tables have been constructed, as senators will perceive, in reference to the age, the degree of blood, the number of children, and other tables to go into the matter of longevity. Now, if this information can be obtained, every senator will see at once the deductions that can be made from it. If you do not intend to get all the information in all the ramifications which I have suggested, you might as well strike out all except that with regard to representation. The honorable senator from North Carolina made a motion, at the very first, to get clear of all these other questions, and I suppose that the honorable senator from Alabama voted with him, and I am not surprised that the honorable senator should take the course that he has taken now.

If he succeeds in these amendments, and we strike out all these things, you will cut down the bill till it becomes a mere enumeration for representation. If you give this information, you will be able to give these gentlemen an opportunity to overturn or uphold their theories upon this subject. I hold, therefore, that you ought to retain the names, age, number of children, and other matters, if you wish to get to anything hereafter in reference to this class of population. There is one practical use to which this information can be applied, as everybody knows, and that is the insurance of life. The whole of the tables in reference to this matter will furnish information upon which valuable tables can be constructed, if you will continue them for a series of years; and to do anything practicable, you must take not only this year, but other years. This year will be the commencement. But if it is not proper to begin at all, you may strike out the whole, and go to what my friend from Alabama wants—the number of blacks.

Mr. BORLAND. Mr. President, I think that the remarks that my friend from Kentucky has made show the propriety of striking out of these tables everything that does not relate to the subject of representation. He has opened a field of inquiry which is unlimited, and which would take all the science of the country to explain. Unless explored by the most scientific men of this country, the information obtained would be of no value. Why, sir, who is there now that depends upon the statistics of the census of 1840? I am not aware that there is an individual in the United States who can confidently rely upon the information contained in it. So far as I am informed upon the subject, it is erroneous, and has led to some most ridiculous conclusions. Instead of limiting the information the deputy marshals are to obtain to the subjects that we usually require, we have the whole field of natural science opened to us; and they are required to go into the most delicate questions mooted.

Now, as to questions of physiology, health, longevity, &c., the degree of removal from the white and black races, I would respectfully suggest that this would require a very high degree of science and of discrimination, and a knowledge of all the subjects. I am not aware that men who have devoted their whole lives to this matter could well fulfil the task. And then to suppose that a young man, taken indiscriminately, is qualified for business of that sort—is, while he gets the statistics concerning these individuals at two cents a piece, to find out their pursuits, health, longevity, purity of blood, &c—why, it seems to me to be the most extraordinary proposition that I ever heard in my life. I say it with all respect to the committee. It may be very true, it is true—and no one appreciates it more than I do—that the information is very valuable. But suppose that it is valuable, and that it can be attained in the way proposed: I submit to the Senate that it is not in the power of the general government to go into questions of that sort. Are we here a great college of natural history and internal science, and are such matters to be investigated and reported upon by the general government? I think that we have gone far enough in the celebrated Patent Office that we have, and we propose to go still further, and establish agricultural bureaus; and now the circle of science is to be completed by the government, and we are to bring in all the principles of physiology, natural history, the effect of trades, professions, and pursuits upon the health and longevity of the human race, and not only the race in general, but the distinctions in particular cases, and their effect upon different sections and classes of men. It is undertaking to do, in my opinion, what we cannot do, and by authority which we do not possess. I understand that the duties of the Congress of the United States, in regard to the taking of the census, are limited by the terms of the constitution to the enumeration of the inhabitants. Not one word is said about the statistics, about one of these matters that have been crowded into this bill. I would suggest to the honorable senator from Kentucky that, if he wishes to have the bill passed soon, and have it go into operation as soon as possible, he is doing all that he can to defeat his object. If he wishes to get the bill passed in a practicable form, so that it can go before the country, and have its requisitions fulfilled, my opinion is, the manner in which it should be done is, to strike out everything but that which relates to the enumeration of the inhabitants. If this is not done, it will not go to the country, and cannot go into the various parts of the country, in time to do what he wishes to be done.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. A few words in reply to the senator. This is not the first time that the government has ever expended money to obtain scientific information, even if that was the object of this bill. Why, some years ago, sir, they sent an exploring expedition around the world hunting muscle-shells, and everything of that sort, for scientific purposes. Look a little to the west of us, and you will see a capacious building erected and dedicated to the purposes of science, supplied on the inside with scientific instruments of every conceivable size, form, and cost. Here is your practice, and here is your conduct, in times past; and now the gentleman comes up, and seems to be very much alarmed if we shall direct these census-takers to collect a few facts not upon which they are to give a speculative theory in science, but upon which facts gentlemen who are disposed to inquire into physiological subjects hereafter may make their own speculations. And now we are to be alarmed at the idea of sending out a set of beardless boys in pursuit of scientific investigation. Why, it is a total misconception of the whole object and plan of the bill; and it is not now, sir, upon the motion of the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. BADGER] to strike out of those tables which we reported, and this bill which came from the committee of which I was an humble member, everything but the mere enumeration of the inhabitants. I supposed that the gentleman's questions on those points were all settled by the vote of the Senate. I, sir, am not responsible, as the gentleman intimates, for the non-action of this body in passing this bill.

It is not my conduct which has defeated the passage of this bill thus far, and perhaps for weeks and months to come. I am endeavoring, in a very humble way, to show the Senate the reasons and views upon which the committee acted in presenting the tables. The census-takers can inquire into the age, color, and number of children. These are facts of every-day inquiry, and can be ascertained just as well as whether the individuals are deaf or blind—just the same; and if it be important for them to inquire whether they are deaf or blind, and that information would be of any sort of service, they can just as well make the other inquiries into mere matters of fact, and it is not a matter of science at all; but a report to the country of a matter of fact as it exists, whether the individual person is mulatto, quadroon, or any other proportion of blood. It is a matter of fact, and it is not supposed that these individuals are to go very minutely or elaborately into an investigation as to the precise degree. My friends need not expect anything of that sort. The census-taker will make an inquiry, and get an answer, and put it down without delaying about it. The idea that he is going to be minute in every case, and summon witnesses to make a thorough investigation, is utterly unfounded. There need not be any expectation of that kind; and I do not think we need to be alarmed upon the idea that we are becoming too scientific, or are to employ too scientific a corps. I think there is not much danger of that.

Mr. BORLAND. I certainly did not intend anything of that sort. I did not intend to reflect at all upon the senator from Kentucky, [Mr. UNDERWOOD.] He says his only object was to explain reasons which he had in reporting this bill. It was certainly my object to animadvert upon the reasons which governed the committee, or, rather, upon the result of those reasons in their own minds. The senator has referred to the past history of the country—the practice of the government on this subject. So far from that being an argument in favor of doing this thing now—of extending the limits of operation—it is a very strong reason why we should put it down. If we have done wrong in the past, I think it is high time to stop that doing wrong. We have done enough of it—too much of it, in my opinion. I think, sir, there are too many operations paid for by this government, which might well be dispensed with; and I think the time will come when we shall dispense with them. I think there is no better time to begin than now. Now is the time. The previous error is no argument in favor of an increase of the error; but it is an argument why we should commit no more. The senator has referred to the building over the way, sir. I apprehend that the government has had very little to do with that, if he refers, as I suppose, to the Smithsonian Institute.

Mr. UNDERWOOD, (in his seat.) No, sir; the Observatory.

Mr. BORLAND. That I understand is connected with our naval establishment; and, as long as we have a naval establishment, it is absolutely necessary that we should have connected with that naval establishment an efficient observatory to prepare the information necessary for the use of our naval officers. If that is what is meant, I do not understand it at all. I do not consider that this comes at all in that category. If we abolish that, it is in my opinion a sufficient reason for abolishing the navy itself, for I consider it an indispensable part of the naval establishment.

Mr. SEWARD. I hope that the motion to strike out will not prevail. I think that the information sought to be obtained by the clause objected to is very essential. It is interesting to us all as a question of political science to know the condition, the actual condition, of every class of our great and growing population; and certainly it concerns the cause of humanity as well as the government to know the actual relative condition of the different masses. As I understand the proposition of the committee, they propose to obtain data to determine the relative longevity of the races—a question full of interest and involving inquiries concerning the white race as well as the African race, and the races of red men. The questions objected to are these: If a female, how many children she has had?—the number of children living, and the number of children who are dead? No one objects to obtaining the information in regard to the white and red races. It is equally desirable, if possible, in regard to the black, to see how the respective conditions of these masses affect their social condition and development. But there is another point of view which I wish to present to the Senate. With great deference to the senator from Alabama, [Mr. KING,] there can be no woman who has forgotten how many children she has had.

Mr. KING. Will the senator speak louder? I cannot hear him.

Mr. SEWARD. I say with great deference to the distinguished senator from Alabama, [Mr. KING,] that I think no woman can have forgotten the number of children she has borne. If it be true that there is a woman who does not know whether her children be living or dead, or even how many she has had, I should like to ascertain how many such there are of that class in our country. I think this information important, because we have all cherished the hope that the condition of African servitude in this country was a condition of transition from a state of barbarism to a state of improvement hereafter. I believe it cannot be possible that there is any woman in Africa who has forgotten the number of children she has borne; and if there be not a woman in America of the African race who has forgotten that important and interesting fact in her history, I wish to know it, in order to ascertain the operation of the social system of the United States upon the improvement of that race. I wish to know whether they are advancing towards that better condition which constitutes the only excuse for holding them in servitude.

Mr. KING. I am not at all surprised to see the senator from New York [Mr. SEWARD] attempt, what he frequently does, to throw an imputation upon the South, to answer his own purposes. What I stated was, that, in many instances, you could not get from the mother a correct knowledge of the number of children she had had. Go into the white settlements in any portion of the country, and you will find many women in the same situation. It is the duty of the owner of the slave to give the information, as required by the law as it now stands; and I stated that the information was not in his possession, and could not be obtained in many instances, even by going to the mothers, as to the number of their own children. Will the senator say that in his own State there are not many such women? That they are so well instructed, so bright in their recollection, so good, or who have had so few, that there are none who cannot give that information?

The remarks of the honorable senator tend much to discord. I have listened to them. I will not characterize them with respect to himself or this body. I see on all occasions he comes forward here, when he has the slightest opportunity to do so, in order to produce a feeling of prejudice in the country in which he lives, and to minister to that miserable fanatical spirit which governs many, too many, throughout the country.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair thinks it is not in order to impute improper motives.

Mr. KING. Let the senator keep himself within the bounds prescribed, and not by indirection attempt to produce an effect which he dare not produce directly. Sir, as regards the amendment which I proposed, the object was simply nothing more nor less than to save expense. I attempted to arrest the difficulty in obtaining the information, which could not be obtained through the medium of the owner; and I simply stated the fact, that in many instances it could not be ascertained even from the mother; she could not tell the number of her children accurately and correctly. Was there anything in that remark which justified the honorable senator, the gentleman from New York, in making the remarks he did? He would like to know whether any Africans were so ignorant, that they could not give correct information as to the number of children they have had. Sir, I should like to know if the women of New York are so well informed, their minds so properly instructed, or who have lived in such a way as to justify an application to them, to know how many children they have had. Go into New York city—go anywhere throughout the country, and you will find persons of that description; and I repeat again, sir, that the honorable senator had no justification in the insinuation he has made—none. I, for one, sir, will not be made the subject of them.

Mr. SEWARD. I have not attacked the senator from Alabama, and therefore have no explanation to give. I will only say, as the senator has asked me a question with regard to the women of New York, that they can read his question, and they will read it; and I believe you will never find one, white or black, that will answer that she has forgotten the number she has had. That is my judgment. For the rest, I repeat that I think the information called for important for political, social, and benevolent purposes, and I am sincere in my desire to obtain it.

[Mr. RUSK here made a few remarks, which will appear to-morrow.]

Mr. BUTLER. I do think, sir, that the remarks of