

CENSUS OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

I.—ENUMERATION.

The last Census of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, was taken in 1861; that of Newfoundland in 1853. The population of these colonies was then found to be—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Upper Canada.....	725,575	670,516	1,396,091
Lower Canada.....	567,864	543,702	1,111,566
New Brunswick.....	129,948	123,099	252,047
Nova Scotia.....	165,584	165,273	330,857
Prince Edward Island.....	40,880	39,977	80,857
Newfoundland.....	65,118	58,170	124,288
Total.....	1,694,969	1,600,737	3,295,706

Since the previous Census, the population had been increasing at the annual rate of:—

In Upper Canada.....	4 34 per cent.	In Nova Scotia.....	1 82 per cent
“ Lower Canada.....	2 50 “	“ Prince Edward Island.....	2 07 “
“ New Brunswick.....	2 60 “	“ Newfoundland.....	1 50 “

Supposing the increase to have since continued at the same rate, in all the colonies excepting Newfoundland, where exceptional causes have interfered with the progress of population, the number of residents in British America in January, 1867, which may be taken as the starting point for the proposed Confederation, will be about *four millions*, distributed:—

In Upper Canada.....	1,802,056
“ Lower Canada.....	1,288,880
“ New Brunswick.....	295,084
“ Nova Scotia.....	368,781
“ Prince Edward Island.....	91,443
“ Newfoundland.....	130,000
Total.....	3,976,244

Were the same increase to continue until 1,900—just one more generation, the population of the new Union would be 11,977,000.

The natives of the Provinces largely outnumber those born abroad, the proportion of different origins being:—

Natives of British America.....	79 per cent.
“ of Ireland.....	9 “
“ of England and Wales.....	4½ “
“ of Scotland.....	4½ “
“ of Foreign Countries.....	3 “
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The numbers are shown in the following Table:—

	Natives of the Provinces.	Natives of England & Wales.	Natives of Ireland.	Natives of Scotland.	Natives of Foreign Countries.	Total.
Upper Canada.....	911,963	114,914	191,431	98,892	78,891	1,396,091
Lower Canada.....	1,017,925	13,821	50,337	13,204	16,279	1,111,566
New Brunswick.....	208,166	4,900	30,179	5,199	3,594	252,047
Nova Scotia.....	299,335	3,188	9,313	16,395	2,626	330,857
Prince Edward Island.....	66,800	2,619	5,171	5,903	364	80,857
Newfoundland.....	111,874	3,916	7,733	624	141	124,288
Total.....	2,616,063	143,367	294,164	140,217	101,895	3,295,706

It is not easy to ascertain with certainty the descent of the native population.

Those of French origin were enumerated separately in the census of Canada and Nova Scotia, and Mr. Rameau, in his work “*La France aux Colonies*,” gives a careful estimate for the other Provinces. Putting together the figures obtained from both these sources, we have as of French origin:—

In Upper Canada.....	33,287
Lower Canada.....	847,320
New Brunswick.....	25,000
Nova Scotia.....	20,859
Prince Edward Island.....	15,000
Newfoundland.....	20,000
Total.....	961,466

At the date of the last census, there were probably, in the various provinces, a million of people of Irish descent, and the remainder—say a million and a quarter, were about half of Scottish, half of English parentage.