

**PUBLIC DOCUMENT NO. 1. TWENTY-FIFTH
REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE OF
MASSACHUSETTS, RELATING TO THE REGISTRY
AND RETURN OF BRITISH, MARRIAGES, AND
DEATHS, IN THE COMMONWEALTH, FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1866**

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GEORGE DERBY

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TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS,

RELATING TO THE

Registry and Return

OF

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS,

IN THE

COMMONWEALTH,

For the Year ending December 31, 1866.

PREPARED UNDER DIRECTION OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH,

WITH EDITORIAL REMARKS

By GEORGE DERBY, M. D.,

University Lecturer on Hygiene in Harvard University.

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1868.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, BOSTON, April 6, 1868.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

In compliance with the requirements of the laws of the Commonwealth, I have the honor to submit herewith the Annual Report relating to BIRTHS, DEATHS and MARRIAGES in Massachusetts, which have occurred during the year ending December 31, 1866, and have been returned, according to law, from the several cities and towns. This volume constitutes the Twenty-Fifth Annual Report upon the subject of the Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths in Massachusetts.

The accompanying editorial remarks and observations have been prepared by GEORGE DERBY, M. D., of this city, Surgeon of the City Hospital, to whom the Commonwealth is also indebted for like services in the preparation of the Report for 1865. His familiarity with the details of the undertaking and previous acquaintance with the subject have undoubtedly enabled him to present such deductions from the Tables as will render the present not inferior in value or interest to any Report of previous years.

The present document, while embracing Tables upon the same subjects, and formulated after similar plans with those of former years, contains also new features of interest. The abstract of the Census of Massachusetts, taken by State authority in 1865, having been issued during the past year, has for the first time been made available in the preparation of the Report, and constitutes a part of the Tables.

A new and elaborate Table, exhibiting the PARENTAGE of all persons deceased during the past registration year, is now first incorporated with the Report and presented to the public, and may be found at page 48. This Table will afford opportunity for comparison of the relative mortality among those of Foreign or American Parentage, and for securing information upon certain contested points which it has not heretofore been practicable to obtain—the returns from the several cities and towns, until recently, not having included the place of birth of the parents of deceased persons among the subjects of inquiry to be recorded or reported to this department.

It will be perceived that more than usual attention has in the present Report been devoted to the discussion of the means of *preventing* disease. The editorial observations upon this important subject will be found instructive and valuable.

Special pains have been taken the past year to secure accuracy and completeness of the Returns from the

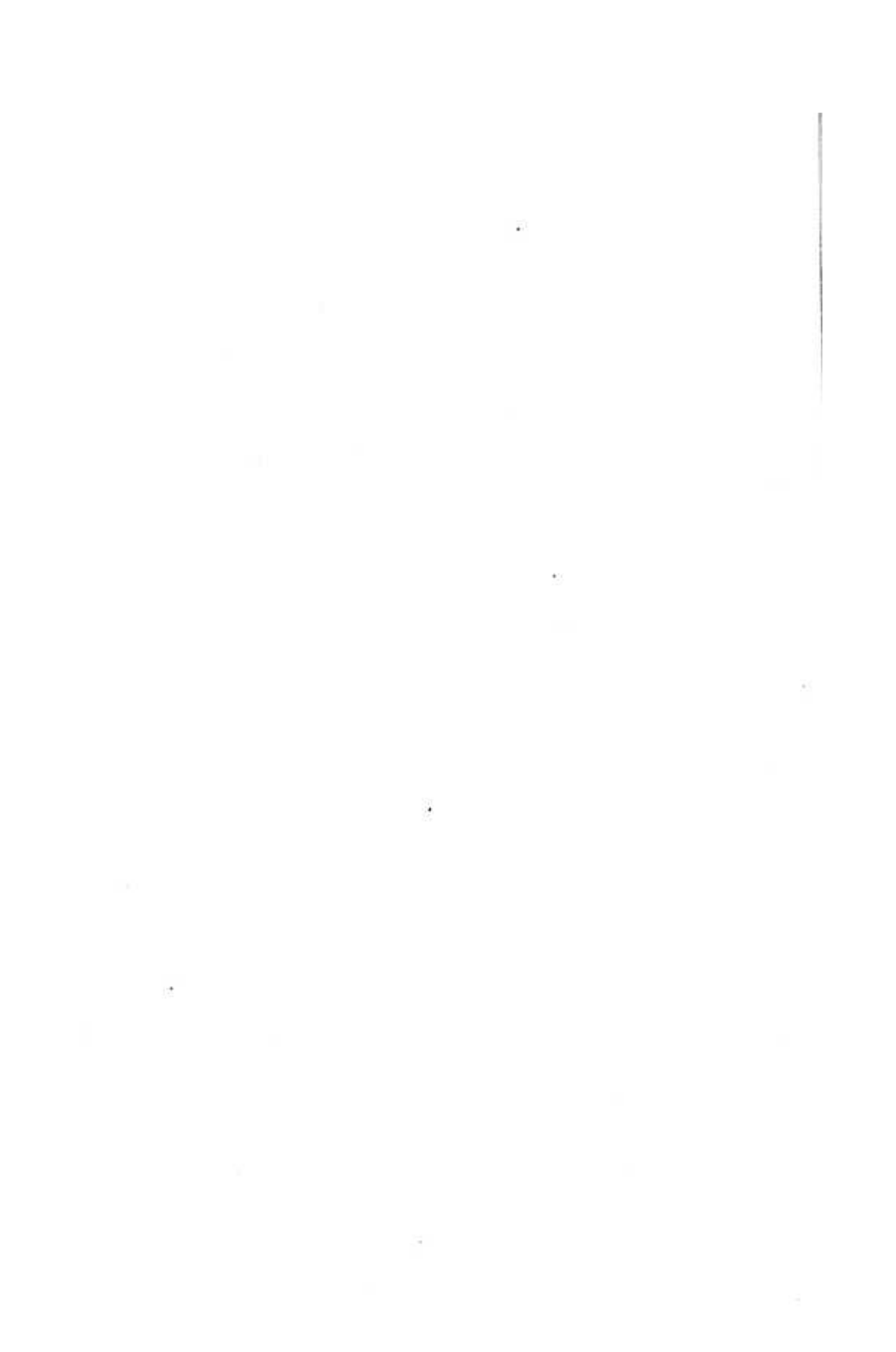
towns, by correspondence or personal communication with those disposed to delinquency in any respect. The laborious duties of the clerks in this office, in the preparation of the tables composing the bulk of this document, have been performed with great care and fidelity, and with a view to scrupulous accuracy.

In the Preface to the Report of the previous year, (1865,) it was mentioned that the Registration Reports of Massachusetts are constantly increasing in value, and have attained a high reputation at home and also in Europe. Allusion was also made to the fact that the methods employed here have repeatedly served as models for adoption in other States. During the past year a similar application received from another State, for information in regard to our Registration System, and for specimens of the blanks and documents employed in connection therewith, has furnished like testimony in favor of the plans here adopted.

Respectfully submitted.

OLIVER WARNER,

Secretary of the Commonwealth.



CONTENTS.

SUMMARY OBSERVATIONS.

	Page.
A quarter of a century elapsed since these Reports were commenced,	1
Their value to individuals and to the community,	1
Reference to a letter of Benjamin Franklin,	1
Value of Registration to physicians,	2
The study of death returns,	2
Need of great care in drawing inferences,	2
Analogy with chemical studies,	3
Our dependence on statistics in the common transactions of life,	3
Public health in Great Britain,	3
Prevention of disease in Massachusetts,	4
Danger of falling into serious errors,	4
Time required to demonstrate the truth and value of vital statistics,	4
Return of peace,	4
Total of Births, Deaths and Marriages, 1866,	5
Comparison with previous years,	5
Natural increase of population,	5
Ratio of Births, Deaths and Marriages, to persons living,	6
Births, Deaths and Marriages, for ten years— <i>Table</i> ,	7

POPULATION.

Number in 1866,	8
Population, by Counties, for 1855, 1860, 1865— <i>Table</i> ,	8
Tendency of population to manufacturing centres,	9
Population of Massachusetts, by Counties, at various periods— <i>Table</i> ,	10
Increase and decrease, where occurring,	11
Population of Boston and vicinity at various periods— <i>Table</i> ,	12
Loss of adult males by the war,	13
Ages of population at different periods— <i>Table</i> ,	14
Excess of females, greatly increased of late,	15
Different races making up the population of Massachusetts,	15
Difficulty of distinguishing them,	15
Numbers and percentages of foreign-born at different periods— <i>Table</i> ,	16
Emigration from and immigration to Massachusetts— <i>Table</i> ,	17

DISEASES.

Number for fifteen years— <i>Table</i> ,	18
Is the number as great as it should be?	18
Disparity between the sexes at marriageable ages,	19
True tests of the vital condition of a community,	19
A crowded population prolific,	19
A community in a condition of cleanliness and comfort not prolific,	19
Death-rate low in such a community,	19
Reason why our birth and death-rates cannot be fairly contrasted with European communities,	19
Opinions of Benjamin Franklin in 1751,	21.