

Institution for the Deaf & Dumb
New York June 28. 1852.

Dear Sir,

On looking over the Table of the deaf and dumb, as classed according to age and place of nativity, for which I am greatly indebted to your kindness and courtesy, I observe that, while in twenty nine of the thirty one States, there are 130 white deaf mutes of the age of seventy and upward, about one sixtieth of the whole number in those States, there are returned for Massachusetts fifty four deaf mutes over seventy, more than one tenth of the whole number in that State; and for Pennsylvania, sixty eight, nearly one eighteenth of the whole number. Such proportions as the two last are utterly incredible; the average population of ~~white~~ ~~sextuagenarians~~ white persons over seventy being in 1840, in Massachusetts, about one thirty-sixth part, in Pennsylvania, about one sixtieth part, and in the whole Union, one sixty seventh part. It is utterly improbable that in any large State the proportion of septuagenarians among the deaf and dumb should be nearly four times as large as the same proportion among the aggregate population of the same color.

I should have supposed that, the clocks,

who collated the deaf mutes of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, must have included those over sixty in the number represented as over seventy, but on examination I find those states have their full proportion, and even more, returned as deaf and dumb between thirty and seventy. I can then only account for the singular result above detailed, by supposing that some of the Assistant Marshalls, in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, must have erroneously marked as deaf and dumb either some aged idiots, or a number of old people who had simply become deaf by age.

I would suggest a re-examination of the returns for those ^{two} states, in order to ascertain whether this large number of deaf mutes over seventy is not chiefly returned from a few counties or towns. If it should be found to be mainly confined to the original returns of a few Assistant Marshalls only, by inquiring of them, as to the description of persons they returned as deaf and dumb over seventy, the error, which must exist in the present returns, may be corrected.

I notice also that from Illinois, one hundred and seven deaf mutes are returned whose ages are not given, and one hundred and twelve ^{whose place of birth} is unknown. Are these all from one county or town? If, as I suspect, they are from the town which contains the Illinois Institution for the deaf and dumb, Jacksonville in Morgan County, the particu- (Lars

lars which are wanting can be ascertained from the Principal of the Institution, Mr. Thomas Officer.

Has a table of the population of the several states, as classified according to age, been made out yet? I am desirous to possess such a table to enable me to compare the numbers of deaf mutes of different ages with the whole population of the same age, color, and place of nativity.

Is there any prospect that Congress will order the printing of all the deaf and dumb in the United States? and if they should not do so, will it be practicable to furnish me with a manuscript copy?

I am,
Very Respectfully
Yours Obt. Servt.
H. C. Peet

Joseph C. G. Kennedy Esq
Census Office
Washington City.

How shall I account for the things of which
Mr Peet speaks?
June 30/52. Billings

New York, 28 June 1852.

H. P. Peck.

Relating to statistics
of Deaf and Dumb.

Rec^d & ans^d July 1/52.

Ref^d to Mr Irving
for examination in rela-
-tion to the discrepancies
spoken of.

July 2/52 B.