

the missing and lost records and the places where the various records were kept.

Where I specified each volume, he lumped them together. But there is some doubt how far Mr. Wright is responsible for this. He never had any training for such business. He was a lawyer and insurance agent in School street, Boston, living at Reading, before going into the census business. He needed practical knowledge of the art. His men told me that, when he tried to get facts about the wages of laborers, he made a total failure. They refused to tell their private business, as any experienced man would have known they would. I suspect Mr. Wright did not do any of the compiling of the Record Commission report. A man by the name of Swan was the compiler. He wrote me that he found mistakes in the Cambridge returns. The trouble was he did not comprehend my plan and system. But I wish to say that I found three of Wright's census books in Lynn, which his men on the State Census had left there six months or a year before. The official clerk said no one had ever called for them. They were full of statistics. I never had much use for such statistics, but I suppose they cost the government an enormous amount of money, which we all have to pay. Scarcely anybody ever reads them, except politicians and demagogues who want to prove something that is true or false.

In spite of all the facts in census reports, the great evils of foreign immigration and labor troubles all over the country have constantly increased, till they have almost caused civil war in some localities. Our Massachusetts State, county and town records are used every day and are of vital importance. Yet they are sometimes abused. The Suffolk county records relating to taxes I found in a room over the Boston City Hall, a very dangerous and unhandy place. But I took account of them. Why did Wright omit my report of them?

The old treasury records at Cambridge were not to be found, and the county treasurer told me they had all been lost. But Col. Wright did not print my report about these matters. While I was the Boston school census-taker for eleven successive years, my work was always perfectly satisfactory. No person whatever found any fault with it during the whole time. I never exceeded the month allowed for it, and was promptly paid by the city treasurer. At last there were about 70,000 children. One characteristic in mankind causes me to think unfavorably of human nature, and that is, their want of gratitude for favors, and even hatred of those to whom they are under obligations. While a person will sometimes kindly acknowledge a trifling favor, he will entirely ignore a deep and indispensable obligation. This is illustrated often in the ingratitude of children towards parents. But I have seen it in one to whom I had given great proofs of my