Population.

In my report to Capt. Mc. Clellan I made an attempt to compare all the estimates of the Indian population of the Territory which were within my reach. Since then, an actual count or census of most of the tribes in this part of the Territory has been twice attempted, once by myself, and once by Col. Simmons. The last, which is given in the appendix, is as near the truth as can be arrived at. In considering the different statements, which have been made from time to time, I am well satisfied, that none of them can be taken, as the basis of any accurate calculations, respecting the ratio of increase or diminution, and I am further inclined to the opinion that the aggregate former population, taking one period with another, has never been very much greater than within our knowledge of it. In arriving at any conclusion, it is necessary to regard, not merely the actual facts of increase or mortality, known to us, but the capacity of the country to furnish subsistence, the modes of obtaining it followed by the Indians, their general character and habits, their fecundity, their wars and various other circumstances, directly or indirectly bearing upon life. That the estimates were of residents can not be relied upon with confidence, has been made sufficiently evident, by the discrepancies in our different attempts, at an actual enumeration, and