

## THE TERRITORIAL CENSUS FOR 1836.

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BY THE EDITOR.

In the act of Congress approved April 20, 1836, establishing the Territorial government of Wisconsin, it was provided (sec. 4) that "Previously to the first election, the governor of the Territory shall cause the census or enumeration of the inhabitants of the several counties in the territory to be taken or made by the sheriffs of said counties, respectively, and returns thereof made by the said sheriffs, to the governor." Upon the basis of this census, the governor was to make an apportionment "as nearly equal as practicable among the several counties, for the election of the council and representatives, giving to each section of the territory representation in the ratio of its population, Indians excepted, as near as may be."

The returns of this first Wisconsin census, taken in July, 1836, are preserved in the office of the secretary of state. No printed blanks were furnished; the sheriffs were instructed simply to report, in writing, the names of heads of white families, with the number of persons in each family, divided into the usual four groups:

- I. No. of males under 21 years.
- II. " " females " " "
- III. " " males over " "
- IV. " " females " " "

The returns made to the governor were in tabular form, and for the most part on ordinary foolscap paper. In the case of Crawford County, the enterprising sheriff exceeded