

turns. The spelling of the names is an exact transcript of the original; it is needless to say that the enumerators in this respect frequently made ludicrous mistakes, which the editor has not attempted to rectify, preferring that the returns should stand on their own merits, as other historical documents in these *Collections*. Where errors are apt to be misleading, explanatory foot-notes have been given, although most of the phonetic renderings explain themselves.

It will be noticed that the size of some of the "families" is phenomenal. This is doubtless due to several causes: (1) A man like John P. Arndt, of Brown County, who had extensive fur-trade connections, doubtless included in his "family" of 74, all his wandering crews of clerks and *voyageurs*; (2) Daniel Whitney, of Brown, for instance, is credited with a "family" of 49,—these no doubt including his far-scattered workmen in frontier sawmills, lumber camps, and at the Helena shot-tower; (3) to Capt. Low, also of Brown, is assigned a "family" of 114, no doubt his entire military household at Fort Howard; (4) here and there is recorded a man with an enormous "family," which probably represents a newly-arrived colony, perhaps a boat-load, of agricultural settlers; for in 1836 there poured into Wisconsin a steady stream of such, in that year being laid the foundations of several of our cities; and (5) it is probable, especially in Milwaukee, that some of the large "families" represent the census of a boarding-house, for in no other way can we account for the absence from the returns of several prominent men,—I. A. Lapham, for instance,—who are known to have been in the county at the time the census was taken.

The alphabetical arrangement is an editorial device, for convenience of reference,—in the original returns, there is no attempt at this; had there been, the enumerators would have avoided frequent duplication in the accounting, to which reference will be made in the foot-notes.

The following map, showing the density of population in July, 1836, as ascertained from this census, was pre-