

great national interest at stake. Yet the reverse is the case. The debates and speeches, both in Parliament and elsewhere, and the articles in print, with few exceptions, only serve to show a profound ignorance of the real nature and origin of the disturbances in Canada, of the position of those colonies and of the inhabitants, and an almost incredible misapprehension of the question in all its bearings.

Much, consequently, of the nonsense uttered and published on the Canadian question, is doubtless the *bonâ fide* result of sheer ignorance; but much misrepresentation was, and is, put forward to suit party views—to ground attacks upon the ministers, or are the *ex parte* statements of certain persons in Canada, repeated in Parliament and elsewhere. The mass of the community in England have in general little clearer idea of the Canadas, than the lady who is accused of explaining to her daughter that “Canada is a place over in America, where people go about in boats, and sing ‘Row, brothers, row, and all that!’” Even Messrs. Leader, Hume, &c., do not sometimes evince much more accurate knowledge of the inhabitants of those colonies, and of their neighbours in the United States.

Unfortunately, with one or two exceptions none of those connected with the Colonial Office and the administration have had opportunities