

almost every American writer on the subject. These were evidently written to sell, and to tickle the natural palate of spread-eagleism. Even Ingersoll, the most voluminous writer on the war, and one of the latest, is totally wanting in veracity on many points. Two authors have proved honorable exceptions. Mr. Roosevelt's recent work on the Naval War of 1812 is one that deals with the subject in a calm and dispassionate manner, and in the two works published in 1813 and 1814 by Mr. Smith (an American resident in Canada when the war broke out, but who immediately returned to the States) we not only find his statements moderate and fairly accurate, but also many details which appear in no other work.

In England only one author—James—devoted special works to the subject; he published four—one in Halifax, N.S., in 1816, and three in England a few years later. These are much more reliable than the American ones, and Roosevelt himself is obliged to acknowledge that James has spared no pains to get at the actual official record of the various phases of the war. Still, he errs in allowing his British prejudices and contempt for Americans generally, to crop out unnecessarily in nearly every page of his works. The fact of only one author in Great Britain—that land of authors—writing upon the history of this three years war, shows how completely overshadowed its events were by the gigantic struggle of the Peninsular campaign; and this is further borne out by reference to the Annual Registers for those years, where the trouble with America does not occupy 5 per cent. of the space devoted to foreign occurrences.

Until 1814, practically no troops were sent out, none could be spared: and when we consider the victories won by the other half of the regular regiments then stationed in Canada and the scanty and undisciplined militia, against forces three to five times more in numbers, one cannot help thinking that if England had been in liberty to