

manner in which their duties were discharged. On the whole the Census of Lower Canada has been taken with greater care than that of the Upper Province, where, unfortunately, many of the Enumerators proved themselves wholly unfit for the duties assigned to them; and the negligence and ignorance displayed in the work of these has added materially to the labours of the Office, in the classification and arrangement of the Tables. From this charge, however, a great number of the Counties are wholly exempt, and in many the work has been performed most admirably by both Commissioners and Enumerators.

In reference to the degree of accuracy which may be attributed to the Returns, it must be borne in mind that they are chiefly dependent on voluntary information,—tested, however, to some extent by the observation and local knowledge of the Enumerators. It is, however, a curious fact, and one to which most of them bear testimony, that a very general feeling was found to prevail throughout the Colony, that the Census had some direct or indirect reference to taxation—and in this belief the Enumerators were frequently received most ungraciously, and the information sought was, not only partially, but, in some cases, altogether withheld. It is much to be regretted that the value of this important work which displays the progress of a Colony, in which the elements of improvement are working with such increasing and almost unexampled energy, and which affords the only available means of satisfactorily proving the production, distribution, and consumption of its natural wealth, and the moral and physical condition of its people, should have been thus to some extent counteracted by ignorance and prejudice. It is, however, an evil which exists in other Countries, and in taking the last Census of the United States, it became necessary, in some districts, to put in force the Act of Congress for refusal to reply to the Interrogatories of the Enumerators. The only remedy for this, perhaps, is to be found in the increasing intelligence and education of the community.

With reference to a similar work in another Country, it was remarked that “People are slow to see that questions relating to themselves and their households can have any bearing on the general good, and forget that, in accounts of large numbers, the individual is wholly lost sight of in the average, but that the average can only be obtained by an accurate knowledge of all that pertains to the individual.”

In all countries, the interval between the taking and publishing of a Census is thought to be unnecessarily long, and at this time the complaint is made respecting that of Great Britain and the United States. Of the former, taken as that of Canada for 1851, the details of the numbers and distribution of the population alone were published, and we are told that all the information collected relative to the Ages, Occupations, Civil condition, and Birth places of the population, with the number of the Blind, the Deaf, and the Dumb, will not be published for a considerable time. In the United States, where the Census was taken in 1850, we believe that the publication is confined to General Abstracts, and that no detail has, as yet, been given to the public. In fact, the Abstracts have only very recently been published.

It must not be forgotten, that the materials for a Census are obtained by means of a personal return from each family, and each of such returns has to be passed in