

## REVIEW.

Lord Durham's object was to prove that as Americans were forbidden to hold land "it is of the more consequence that the country should be made as attractive as possible to the emigrating middle classes of Great Britain." Has Mr. Hagerman attempted to dispute the soundness of his Lordship's arguments? No! but with a puerility, utterly unbecoming in a statesman, he seizes upon the very slight inaccuracy of his Lordship "that a law had been passed immediately after the late war forbidding American citizens to hold land." Whilst we admit the inaccuracy we shall prove his Lordship to have been *substantially correct* in his statement. It is well known that under proclamations from Governors Simcoe and Gore, Americans were *invited into this Province* after its first settlement, and that it is owing to the exertions of these enterprising men, that the present emigrants are indebted for the great improvement of the country. Previous to the time alluded to by Lord Durham, the law, which Mr. Hagerman informs us, had always existed, "preventing foreigners from holding land, unless naturalised," was virtually a **DEAD LETTER**. Foreigners bought and sold land in the province at pleasure, and without obstruction. After the late war, however, at the time that Lord Durham thought that a bill had been passed, doubts were raised by the Family Compact Party in the province as to the right of these persons to their lands and other privileges although they had settled in the province on the faith of Royal proclamation. We need not enter into a history of the long contest which followed on the subject of the "Alien Bill," in which Chief Justice Robinson so eminently distinguished himself. A bill was finally passed in 1828, confirming to those American citizens, then in the province, their titles to property, and all other rights and privileges. To all new emigrants from the United States, the law against aliens has since remained in full force. It will clearly appear from the above remarks that Lord Durham's inaccuracy was only to this extent,—that he mistook the *revival* or *enforcement* of a law, heretofore a *dead letter*, for a new enactment, a most natural mistake for his Lordship to fall into, but one of not the slightest consequence to his argument.

It would be unprofitable on this occasion to discuss whether Lord Durham's doubts of the policy of excluding American citizens from the province are well-founded. We cannot, however, forbear to notice that but a very short time has elapsed since some of the members of the very Select Committee whose report is under consideration, were strenuous advocates for their admission. The encouragement of emigration from all quarters seems to be held by the Governments of all new countries, to be the soundest policy, and it is paying but a poor compliment to our system of government, that while our neighbours encourage emigrants from all countries to settle on their lands without any fear of their institutions being overturned, we are obliged to restrict ourselves to a class of emigrants whose prejudices will, we imagine, prevent them from being dissatisfied. It is, however, an egregious error to suppose that