

Having thus stated what Sir George Prevost did *not* do, by way of preparation for the defence of the Canadas before the war, the Reviewer proceeds to point out what *was* done by him after the commencement of hostilities. And here we find the same want of candour which distinguishes the remarks to which we have already adverted.*

In order to form a correct opinion of Sir George Prevost's conduct at this period, it will be necessary to advert to the system which he adopted on the commencement of the war, and to the motives which induced him to pursue it.

The declaration of war by the United States of America, it is well known, was finally carried in Congress, after long debate, and a most violent opposition, by a comparatively small majority. The northern and eastern states, whose interests, it was acknowledged, were most affected by the British orders in council, the ostensible and avowed cause of the war, were constantly and strenuously opposed to hostile measures. It was apparent to every person at all conversant with what was passing in the United States at this time, that a contest undertaken in opposition to the sentiments and wishes of so considerable a portion of the Union, and for an object which Great Britain might, with-

* Review, p. 413.