

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

A question has been raised, since the issue of the second volume of this work, in some of the journals of the province, the *Montreal Courier* in particular, whether the expedition to Plattsburgh, in 1814, by the forces under Sir George Prevost, were pursuant to orders from England, or undertaken by that officer on his own responsibility ; and the author having been cited to solve it, it is due, he feels, in courtesy to the intelligent editor of the *Courier*, as well as to the public, to respond to the invitation as far as his knowledge of the subject extends. In answer, then, he has to observe, that Sir George Prevost's policy, from first to last, as governor in chief and commander of the forces in Canada, it is well understood was defensive ; and that such also were his instructions from home at the outset of the war declared in 1812, by the United States against Great Britain, there cannot be a doubt. The british government was neither inclined, nor in fact had the necessary means in Canada at the outbreak of hostilities against us, to carry on offensive warfare against our neighbours. Recent events had soured the temper of the great body of the french canadian population, and the american government built upon the circumstance, expecting that far from opposing they would hail the invad-