THE FREE PRESS.

' You 've offer'd, sir, a base unworthy thing,
Unworthy of yourself, your ancestors and Thebes :
You 're in a state where laws and justice reign,
And yet you think to do whate'er you please,
And carry all before you, without regard
To piety or manners."————

Barnes's *fragm. Euripides.*

———— *Mensuraque juris*
Vis erat————   Lucan.

The law was meted out by brutal force.

To the Editor of the Free Press.

Montreal, 12th July, 1823.

Sir,

There is a report currently circulating, and generally believ-
ed, that my lord Dalhousie, has, through the medium of our
magistrates, caused it to be intimated to the persons who have
lately fled from Montreal, in consequence of the verdict of *wil-
ful murder* brought against them by a coroner's jury, that it is
advisable they should return to Montreal, and take their trials ;
with the understanding, and in fact with a positive promise, that
when taken up on their return they shall be *immediately admit-
ted to bail ;* and, if they should happen to be found guilty by a
jury of their country, his lordship will *use his influence in their
favour.* These are stated to be the very words, and if true, it
amounts to a Royal pardon without a trial! for since it is only
at a Court of Oyer and Terminer they can be tried, (the Court
of King's Bench for criminal cases, as you know, having re-
mained, most inexcusably and unconstitutionally, suspended, for
the last three years,) the governor must sanction every decision,
of the Court and Jury, before any judgement can be carried in-
to execution. But, although this is not a whispered report,
but one broadly and roundly asserted to be the fact by those
who are supposed to know all that goes forward in the state-ma-
chine, I can not persuade myself to believe it. I have too high
an opinion of the noble earl, to think he would so far deviate
from the line of his duty, so far abuse the sacred prerogative of
the Royal mercy, which is entrusted to him, as to promise in-
demnity beforehand, for a crime, which, in the first instance, is