

inclined to exercise again the authority he has assumed in my case. He did not perceive that, if such a power as Mr. Sutherland has arrogated to himself be allowed, that *then there does now exist in this country a power by which the press may be, and has been, debarred from the exercise of its proper functions; a power by which a restraint is laid upon the press previous to publication, and by which every printed paper that comes into the country from a foreign country, is liable to be intercepted, embezzled, and proscribed.*

But, although the shackles that it is in the power of government, by placing a puppet or tool of their own at the head of the post-office department in Canada, to throw upon the liberty of the press here, form the heaviest objection against such a system; and call, particularly at this juncture, most loudly for the reformation of the abuses which that system has produced; there is another part, of the post-office system that is highly deserving of public attention, requires thorough investigation, and calls for remedy. I mean the consideration of it as the means of levying an internal tax upon the inhabitants of Canada, contrary to the spirit of the declaratory act of 31 Geo III. c. 31, which is a tax, that can not be assimilated to the "duties expedient for the regulation of commerce;" and of which even, if it were, the net produce would be applicable alone to the use of the provinces in which it is levied, instead of being remitted annually to England, and there disposed of, along with the remainder of the post-office revenue, in payments, and for purposes wholly foreign to the colonies. This part of the question, as well as some remedial suggestions, I must defer till my next number.

L. L. M.

(To be continued.)

Resuming, from No. 19, the subject of the mode in which the famous projected Union-bill got into parliament, at length came to be said to be a measure originating with ministers, and now one that they were, on the 23d Dec. (before they could know the universal voice against it of the people here,) resolved to bring forward at an early period of the session of parliament, and to support it in full force; I must, in order to combat the inferences that have been drawn from Mr. Robinson's dispatches, that it was, even before his arrival in England, a favourite measure with government, narrate some further part of its backstairs progress to the table of the House of Commons.—When the London mercantile houses formerly mentioned, found the facility with which they could manœuvre parliament into the adoption of the fur-trade bill, one calculated solely for their individual benefit, and most hurtful and oppressive as relates to the interests of the Canadas, they were encouraged to