

# THE FREE PRESS.

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*Melius, pæus, prosit, obsit, nil vident nisi quod lubent.*

TERENCE.

Whether it be good or bad, profitable or hurtful, their eyes are shut against whatever they do not choose to see.

*Montreal, 4th Feb. 1823.*

MR. EDITOR,

You will oblige a large majority of the inhabitants of this city by inserting the following address

TO THE MAGISTRATES AND POLICE-OFFICERS OF THE CITY OF MONTREAL.

Gentlemen,

Permit me, on behalf of my fellow-citizens, and the public in general, to express to you that just sense of feeling, which a consciousness of the eminent services received at your hands, must necessarily have given rise to, in every honest breast. To your ingenuity, honesty, and philanthropy, the public, and especially the citizens of Montreal, are indebted for a system of police-regulations, specially devised by you for the security of their persons, and the protection of their property, which, I will venture to assert, stands, in many respects, unparalleled in the records of city-government; and bids defiance, as a *chef d'œuvre*, to the ingenuity of any country or people. Indeed, gentlemen, you are entitled to the exclusive merit of this curious and novel piece of workmanship; it is your own *in toto*.— And, when its peculiar qualities are duly considered, who, as a citizen of Montreal, the security of whose person and property is assigned to your especial care, can, for a moment, withhold that just tribute of respect to which such genius and political integrity, directed for his good, naturally lay claim.

It is not sufficient to speak of this system merely in the abstract; it is necessary to descend to particulars, in order to give the public a just conception of its merits, and to impress them with a proper notion of the extent of their obligations to you. Should I find it necessary, in performing this task, to notice things trifling in themselves, when separately considered, I shall make no apology for being prolix, because such things, as connected with a general system, are its constituent properties,