

unlucky line offend the bashaw at the head of the post-office
then, like Shakespeare's Death in Richard the II,

— within the *paper crown*

That rounds the mortal temples of an editor,
Keeps *Ho his court*; and there the antic sits,
Allowing him a breath, a little scene—

— and, humour'd thus,

Comes at the last, and with a little *pen*
Bores thro' his *paper wall*, and—farewell editor.

As was properly observed in the extract from the Montreal Gazette in my last number, the liberty of the press does not consist in freedom from censure for any criminal matter that may be published, but in no *previous restraint* being laid upon *publication*. But to stop papers from being sent through the post-office is a *previous restraint*, for the time of their *publication*, in those places where they are not printed and distributed by hand, is the time when they are delivered from the post office, and to stop that delivery, is to lay a *previous restraint upon their publication*. That such a power in the hands of a post-master is virtually the power of a licenser of public papers, can not be denied; and it was farther most judiciously added in the same paper that "to subject the press to the restrictive power of a licenser, is to subject all freedom of sentiment to the prejudices of one man, and make him the arbitrary and irrevocable judge of all controverted points in learning, religion, and government." Why, the holy fathers of the inquisition constitute a more equitable and proper tribunal there there are many heads, many voices, all supposed to be upright men, however bigoted in matters of religion; but here is only one head, one voice, and that the head and the voice of a servant of servants, whose office, though he must be "a man of letters," does not require him to be "a literary man." I would next ask, whether, in the words before quoted from the Canadian Times, the grievance of which I complain is not "an encroachment upon the unalienable rights of the press, in a free country, and an indication of tyranny which can not be mistaken, being a distinct attack upon the rights of the community." Alas, when the editor of the last mentioned paper, alluding to his own individual case, said, "it is to be hoped that in this country, there never will exist a power by which the press shall be debarred from the exercise of its proper functions," he saw Scylla before him, but did not see the Charybdis behind; he did not recollect that

Dextrum Sylla latus laevum implacata Charybdis

Obsidit—

and that though the sergeant at arms, might be avoided by dexterous management, not ing can stop the whirlpool of the implacable veto of the deputy-post-master-general, should he be