

nor can I comprehend the object of the enormous sums of money that are now expending upon that island* on which I should wish to have some elucidation from you.

Your obedient servant,

VERI CE.

As an encouragement to a young beginner, I print the following letter. Amidst rather a profusion of verbiage, he has some sound views of the consequences that may be anticipated should the union-bill pass without opposition in the next session of parliament. It is, moreover, the first letter that has been addressed

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREE PRESS.

Montreal, 12th October.

SIR,

Young, and unacquainted as I am with the intrigues of ministers and the disputes of politicians, otherwise than as unfolded in the pages of history, what I could say on the present ominous state of affairs, must, consequently, not be very interesting. Admitting, as all readily will, that coercive measures in the ad-

* It is undoubtedly a wise policy in every nation, in the midst of peace, to be prepared for war. The want of any strong hold in Canada, besides Quebec, was experimentally felt in the war of independence with America, when Arnold besieged Quebec; and it is with a meritorious regard to the future safety of Canada, that the British government have purchased the island of St. Helens, with the view of fortifying it, and making it a depot, and rallying point, on any future emergency; for which no spot could be better calculated. When fortified, it will be impregnable, and inaccessible to any hostile force, both summer and winter, and it is a commanding station both for defence and offence, for the protection of the country, and the controul of the navigation. Whether the expense both of the purchase and of the works carrying on, be not enormous, is another question. No doubt, as is the case in all government jobs, it is profuse and extravagant, but that is the affair of the ministry at home. We have nothing to do with that here. Nor need any fears be awakened that by erecting citadels and placing garrisons, through the country any idea is entertained of overawing or coercing the inhabitants in case they should be too bold in their opposition to the union bill. Matters are very far distant from such a crisis. or if they were not, what are citadels and garrisons? Every thing against a foreign enemy, nothing against a country itself.

L. L. M.

man, that had I been the proprietor, I would not have parted with it for twice £20,000.

L. L. M.