

States, because a paragraph might have appeared in them reflecting upon the colour of his cat's tail. Setting aside the injury done to me individually, nay the injury he does to the post-office revenue, by refusing to take my money, he has thereby also presumed to dictate to a numerous body of the most respectable and intelligent inhabitants of Canada, what they shall, and what they shall not, read; to debar them from expending their money in the way they think proper; to abridge them of their rights and privileges of free subjects under a free government. And who is he? He is not a member of that government, not invested with either any judicial or ministerial power, in his quality as deputy post-master-general, he is merely the servant of the king's servants, in one of his Majesty's financial departments, And he it is, one individual alone, who thus has presumed to curb the freedom of the press, and destroy the liberty of individual opinion, and of individual discussion. He has taken upon himself what the king in council would not have dared to do; he has attempted to set himself up as a Licensor of the press, and to declare that, without his imprimatur, His Majesty's Canadian subjects shall not read, either a domestic or foreign essay. He has constituted himself an Inquisitor into what books shall be committed to the flames, or what suffered to go forth to the public; a Legislator to make laws for what passes through the press; a Star-chamber Minion to stamp with his permit, or stigmatise with his censure, the writings of all men; he has encroached upon the office of the Attorney-General, and has yielded, as it were, an *ex-officio* information against my work; he has set himself up as an Examiner and Dictator, without appeal, not only of what has issued, but of what is still to issue from the press, a Detector of unborn libels, an Infant murderer of embryo lampoons; nay he has assumed the Critic's chair, and pretends to be a Judge and Reviewer, by anticipation, of literary productions, that he has probably neither the brains to understand, nor the judgement to appreciate. I do not hesitate saying all this, though the consequence may be that he will equally stop the Free Press from going through the post office, (for which I have paid a composition in lieu of postage, for the first quarter,) because if he does so, he will be flying the more in the face of the public, acting more notoriously as an oppressor of the liberty of the press; and he will the sooner compel an alteration of the system; for if he does so with regard to this *political* paper, where is the honourable subscriber to it, amongst the truly English-hearted Canadians, who will not, with English indignation, loudly exclaim against the insolent abridgement of his rights which such a measure would be? and where is the honest editor, of any paper in any of these provinces, nay where is the *interested* editor, that will not see and feel how near he himself is to the verge of the precipice? and that should some