

# THE FREE PRESS.

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*Plebs sic jussit.*

LIVY.

Such is the will of the people.

“It is not for kings, O Lemuel! it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes strong drink; lest they drink and forget the law, and pervert the judgement of any of the afflicted.”

PROVERBS, XXXI. 4. 5.

In No. 36, speaking of the custom of the *Charrivarri*, I claimed to myself the merit of being the only publisher in Canada who stood forward to vindicate the custom itself, and to reprobate the outrages and injustice that had been committed in the attempts made to suppress it. I am happy to withdraw that claim, and acknowledge the editor of the *Literary Miscellany*, as entitled to rank amongst the fearless writers, who are not to be frowned into silence, by men in power, or by men of influence, by the clamours of foreigners and upstarts, the pompous virulence of the Hon. John Richardson, or the guns, swords and bayonets of those “well disposed” bellwethers, who, to preserve the peace of the city, have undertaken to be authorised peace-breakers. He has anticipated that proposition which I announced my intention of maintaining, that this custom was not only harmless and innocent, but laudable, proper and moral; and I shall not find much to add to what he says, on that head, which I therefore take the liberty of extracting.

He dissents in opinion, he says, “from those officious scribblers, who, to make themselves conspicuous as champions for public order, raise an outcry, affecting to be offended with the ancient custom of *Charrivarri*, and blaming the conduct of the magistrates for having suffered it to take place in Montreal to the annoyance of the orderly and peaceable inhabitants. Now it remains to prove that *Charrivarri*, so far from deserving to be considered in so odious a light by impartial and disinterested minds, ought to be ranked among the noblest institutions of the ludicrous kind, if its object and design be rightly understood. Experience has frequently demonstrated that nothing is more destructive of domestic concord than marriages founded, not on the pure, generous, ardent, free, and constant, passion of mutual love, but on the sordid, servile, and corrupt, desire of filthy lucre, whence proceed those jealousies, jars, and quarrels,