

# THE LANCE.

## THE LANCE

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## LANCE.

SINE SALES SINE VILITATE.

TORONTO, SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1878.

### The Irresponsible.

Some forty years ago, 'tis said,  
A many-headed monster bred  
Of Tyranny and foul oppression  
From Liberty received a lesson ;  
The Beast *she* baffl'd, bound and tam'd  
"The Irresponsible" was named,  
And from future wrong secured,  
Was in a loathsome den immur'd.

This beast once came to ev'ry door,  
To squeeze the rich, or grind the poor,  
And absolute, with insolence  
Essay'd to root out common sense ;  
He by refusal never daunted,  
The more he gained the more he wanted,  
Where e'er he chose his path to tread,  
Stalking the land he ruin spread ;  
Whole Provinces in ruin laid,  
No more the arts of Peace essay'd ;  
And Industry and Honest Toil  
Quitted the uncongenial soil ;  
Untill'd and desolate the field.  
The lands could not their produce yield ;  
The flocks and herds no more were seen  
To glad the eye, or deck the scene ;  
And sour, and gloomy men became,  
With silent tongue, but eye of flame.  
And Right and Justice even quail'd  
Where e'er the savage beast prevailed.  
He seem'd to think his will was law,  
And took whate'er he wish'd or saw ;  
He recognized no private right,  
And nothing gave him such delight,  
As when his dreaded form he rear'd  
All opposition disappear'd,  
And vilest passions brought dismay  
And held o'er man degrading sway :  
Where selfishness decided right,  
And Law became the will of might.

Ev'n Nature the oppressor spurn'd,  
Her back on social life she turned.  
In cavern, or secluded dell,  
The victims of oppression dwell,  
Without the means their toil to store,  
From Industry laps'd more and more,  
With craft and cunning are their guide,  
Soon into savage life they glide.

But Liberty arous'd at length,  
Against the Beast essay'd her strength.  
Through years of contest, often foiled  
And often of her conquests spoil'd,  
The balance hovering in suspense,  
At length was turned by common sense.  
The monster having qualms of fear,  
And growing weaker year by year,  
And feeling Freedom stronger grow,  
Resolv'd to strike a desp'rate blow.  
The contest he severely fought,  
And Liberty was often brought  
Unto the very verge of life,  
But Common Sense renewed the strife,  
Its youth and vigor e'er supplied  
A power that tam'd despotic pride.  
"This monster," vanquish'd, bound and tam'd,  
("The Irresponsible" is nam'd),  
Was led in triumph and secur'd  
Within some gloomy den immur'd,  
By bonds and bars and checks attach'd,  
The beast thus kept, is over-match'd.  
While Liberty around him watch'd.---

When people of more recent day  
The Monster's ravages survey,  
They wonder that his cringing shape  
Such power and arrogance could ape,  
Or he had force to perpetrate  
The wrongs that histories relate.  
They often at their hearths retreat,  
The ancient prophecy repeat :  
"The Beast exists in every clime,  
"His power co-equal is with time,  
"He yet will steep the *Globe* in crime,  
"E'er striving to acquire control  
"Of Liberty assumes the role,  
"And, leaguings with some charlatan,  
"Will often scourge the race of man."  
For Liberty must never sleep,  
But constant guard and vigil keep,  
For should repose but close her eyes,  
The Irresponsible will rise,  
And bursting from his noisome den,  
Again will scourge the sons of men.

How oft some noisy demagogue,  
Wrapt in wordy clouds and fog,  
Spouting imaginary wrongs,  
With stand'rous speech exciting throngs  
Of thoughtless men to civic strife,  
Till they, with angry passions rife,  
Proclaim they war "for Liberty,  
As slaves won't live—will freemen die,"  
Till Common's sense shall intervene,  
And quell the fierce tumultous scene.

And oft the Agitator's theme,  
Is but a mad enthusiast's dream,  
Opposed to common sense and reason,  
Against humanity a treason—  
Led on by self's ambitious view,  
The course of lying cant pursue,  
Asserting wrongs that ne'er exist,  
Arraying facts in doubt and mist ;  
Stirring the passions of mankind,  
Till license social ties unbind,  
And moral sense is overthrown,  
And hatred sits on reason's throne,  
Thus in the name of Liberty,  
Restore the reign of Tyranny.

E'en as we write a demagogue  
Has set his fellow men agog,  
And in the name of Liberty,  
Restores the reign of Tyranny ;  
He claims the honor and renown,  
Of having beat the Monster down ;  
Of having dragg'd his acts to light,  
And chain'd him with his arm of might,  
And in some den made safe and strong  
Curtail'd his power of working wrong,  
So men can live in trust and peace,  
While industry their store increase—  
With Freedom ever on his tongue,  
The Demagogue his praises sung.

The Irresponsible o'erthrown !  
My arm of might the Beast restrain'd,  
To me, give honor and renown,  
My Captive lies in fetters chain'd ;  
The Irresponsible immur'd,  
No more shall Freedom's sons assail,  
Their rights to man I have secur'd,  
And Liberty shall hence prevail.  
The Irresponsible no more  
Again his hydr' heads shall rear,  
And with oppression as of yore,  
Afflict mankind with brutal fear ;  
Hail me his victor ! brave and pure,  
Let ev'ry tongue my prowess tell ;  
My might men's Liberties secure,  
I rule the Irresponsible.

Hypocrisy within his heart,  
The demagogue assumes his part.  
Active in search for wealth and power,  
Scarce waits to seize the fitting hour,  
When he the mask can lay aside,  
And safely o'er his victims ride,  
And absolute in power, command  
Resources for a "Grandstand,"  
And his inveigled dupes compel  
To loose "the Irresponsible."

Meantime he is their friend and guide,  
To battle down the ranks of Pride,  
And raise them by his providence,  
From poverty to competence.