

in the power of the local press ; to it the public rightfully look, and doubtless they will meet with an adequate response, as there are some evils, or inconsistencies there, as well as elsewhere, which merely require to be duly made known, in order to become at once eradicated. The press, moreover, being the legitimate leader, the censor and exponent of public and private opinion, having assumed a position somewhat above the average in the community whose interests it is its duty to watch over and protect, should, while it takes timely notice, and gives due warning of all that is from time to time taking place in the external world, be no less mindful of domestic details ; without, at the same time, ever suffering itself to be biassed, or led by local considerations, merely because they are such, nor even out of a foolish party spirit of opposition. Let us for a moment compare Protestant Britain with her free press, to her Popish neighbours where the tone and contents of the public journals are regulated (?) by police authority, and where no man dares, without personal risk, to put his thoughts into print, if they be materially contrasted with the present measures of the powers that be ; and then let us ask ourselves, as to what she owes her proud pre-eminence above all other nations of the earth, if it be not to the unexampled freedom of all reasonable expression of opinion, on which her constitutional liberty is based ? The representatives of authority there, as elsewhere, from the lowest to the highest, and from the minister of state down to the humble rank of the policeman, are placed in their respective stations merely for the purpose of acting—of seeing that the laws, which the voice of the people calls for, be strictly obeyed and respected—of seeing, that the majesty of the people be duly recognised—they regulate the working of the system in fact, while they, at the same time, are in their turn regulated thereby also ; and if this be true in one part of the British empire, must it not, in all consistency, be so acknowledged throughout all the several integral parts of that empire ? Most assuredly it must, despite of all that can be—not SAID, for few will be found to speak to the contrary—but, despite of all that can be involuntarily DONE to coerce the press. Circumstances—the having followed out a series of bad—or, which is the same thing only differently expressed, arbitrary measures, for instance—may at times make it appear, to the party or parties in power, that some slight degree of restraint is necessary ; but selfishness, at the least, is as sure of being proved to be the motive by which they are actuated ; for with a due regard to their own official dignity, they are afraid that those over whom they rule, may be made somewhat discontented—or disaffected, as the current phrase is, on learning precisely how