

But an odious feature which accompanies this anomaly, is the assumption, which we have seen practised, on the part of the deputy-post-master-general, the servant of the king's servants, of the right or power, to interdict printed papers from going through the post-office, ~~in~~ his arbitrary option. This, inasmuch as it strikes at the freedom of the press, and at the freedom of individual opinion, strikes also at the fundamental principles of liberty; and the subject is therefore, independent of its financial bearing, one worthy of the deliberation of a body of enlightened freemen.

*Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and*

*Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.*

I am convinced that every member of this legislature must regret that the progress of the public interest, for some years past, has been so materially interrupted; and happy are that part of you, I mean the gentlemen of the House of Assembly, who can acquit their own consciences of having been otherwise instrumental to that interruption, than the strict and severe sense of their duty prescribed to them. Hoping therefore, that you will now all concur to the same end, and that the Executive will see the folly, as well as the unconstitutionality, of attempting to coerce those, who, having the power of the purse wisely placed in their hands, can not be coerced, as long as they remain true to themselves and their country, I will not dwell upon past events; the remedy lies in your hands, for by perseverance and constancy, you can not fail to obtain all your legitimate ends, and to you I leave it, with the earnest recommendation that you will seriously consider the incalculable injuries, which the slightest departure from the principles of constitutional liberty, which the commons of Lower Canada have so honourably, gloriously, and I trust, victoriously, acted upon, would occasion to your individual prosperity, to the general welfare of the British empire, and to the cause of rational freedom throughout the world.

Many subjects of the greatest moment demand your consideration, on which I shall endeavour to communicate with you in detail; but I can not leave you without pressing upon you the essential policy of unanimity, not only in your own councils, but unanimity with your surrounding friends, my own surrounding sisters; cultivating their friendship, attending to their interests, and soothing even their foibles. Your brethren of the Eastern townships also, specially demand your attention; they will be a tower of strength in your favour, or a piercing goad in your side, according as you use them; and perhaps, at such a crisis as this, more concession and consideration is necessary, than either justice or propriety would, at any other time, warrant. Notwithstanding the ostensible rallying cry of *Union, Union!* the political maxim of your enemies is, *divide et impe-*