

were faithful reports from the pens of such men, taking them collectively, than from that of any one salaried individual, whatever judgement might have been exercised in his selection. Now the case is widely different in these provinces: no such class of men does or can exist; and a single reporter, who might either be employed by all the papers (as suggested in No. 10 of the Free Press,) or might think it worth his while to employ himself in that way on his own account, were he even one of the best qualified, could scarcely fail of being partial, prejudiced, and at times incorrect; or he might be ignorant, unprincipled, and incapable, as Mr. Nichol took it for granted a reporter appointed by the House would be. But surely such an appointment would not be made without due consideration, and the House would not bestow it on an ignorant, unprincipled, and incapable person; or if they were misled so to do, it is folly to say he could not be punished, for he could be punished in the best way by dismissal from his office, upon any complaint, made and substantiated by a member, of misrepresentation, or incorrectness, in his reports. Now the jet of the argument is this. The publication of faithful reports of the debates is highly desirable; circumstances will not permit of their finding their way to the public in the manner they do at home; it is therefore fit that the best way that can be suggested should be adopted here; and it will not be denied that, if reports are to be published at all, the next best way, or indeed the only way in the present state of society and literature in these provinces, is that of an authorised reporter appointed by the assembly.

I may take another opportunity of enquiring what were the misrepresentations and libels which were printed with respect to Mr. Nichol's speeches last session; but I can not quit him, without enquiring why he has never published a second letter from Stamford on the subject of the letter he produced in the House, relative to the free importation of American flour; in the one he did publish he denied that he ever received, or made use in the House of any such letter from Mr. Richardson; it afterwards came out that the letter in question was one from Mr. Richardson's house of Forsyth Richardson, & Co and not from Mr. R. himself; and it was upon this jesuitical evasion that Mr. Nichol grounded, both his defence against the inconsistency that was on that occasion charged to him, and his denunciation of the assertion that he had made use of such a letter, as a *barefaced falsehood*: now his assertion was not exactly a *barefaced falsehood*, but is certainly something akin to *two faces under a hood*.

L. L. M.

As it is now probable that a correct census of the population of Lower Canada will soon be obtained, it is perhaps premature, to say much on the subject of the improvement in that