

the York Observer, and Niagara Gleaner, who each threw down a glove in my favour, as recorded in No. 74 of the Scribbler.

All the others seemed insensible to the danger they themselves ran, (should they ever be taken with a fit of independence,) of being liable to the same arbitrary controul which was exercised towards my book by the deputy-post-master-general, at Quebec. Mindless that

*Proximus a tectis ignis defenditur ægre,*

they thought perhaps that the partywalls of their own servility and timidity, would secure them from the conflagration, without reflecting that when despotism and tyranny get ahead, they are like the devouring element, and will level the bold and the fearful, the honest patriot, and the cringing flatterer, in one black and indiscriminate ruin.

It is necessary that I should now briefly state the circumstances of the grievance of which I had to complain; then expatiate upon the shameful and unconstitutional nature of the conduct pursued in order to stop the publication of my work, and the consequences to be apprehended from it by the public; and conclude with the recommendation of such measures as I conceive would be most efficacious in preventing in future such outrages upon the LIBERTY OF THE PRESS, and the rights and privileges of individuals.

As usual with the editors of papers in Canada, upon setting up the Scribbler, understanding that the regulations of the post-office in British North-America, did not admit of printed papers going free of postage as they do at home, under the act of 4 Geo III. c. 24,\* I addressed the deputy-post-master-general at Quebec, enquiring at what rate per annum I should be

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\* According to the strict letter of that act they could not be conveyed free of postage in Canada, unless directed to some member of the British Parliament at any place whereof he shall have given notice in writing to the post-master-general; but such notice is always dispensed with at home, and papers directed to any M. P. to any place where he never was, go free under this form,

Wm. Smith, Esq.  
M. P.

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Mr. J. Thompson,  
Carlisle.

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which is an evident subterfuge, which the general post-office have authorised, in order to give facility to the circulation of papers; and the strict attention to the letter of the act in Can-