

quarter, as he had hitherto done. Mr. *Porteous*, acting for Mr. *Stayner*, and by his orders, refused to send the papers which were directed to the Country subscribers ; upon this my Father protested, and eventually rather than ruin his business, he granted the note required under protest. It is upon this that the action for damages has been instituted. Similar proceedings were taken against Mr. *Stayner*, in January 1831. My Father has also laid his complaint before Sir *Francis Freeling*, the Secretary of the Department in *Great Britain*, but no answer has as yet been received from him.

Has the circulation of Newspapers been affected by the charge made by the Post-Office Department?—The Petition proceeds from almost every individual in the Province connected with the press, and contains a declaration, that the charge made and complained of prevents the diffusion of knowledge throughout the country. To the circulation of Newspapers it is particularly injurious, as it is equal to one quarter of the whole cost of a semi-weekly paper. The greatest hardship of the case, however, is that the Proprietors are called upon to defray the postage in advance, when perhaps, they are never paid either for the Paper or for the postage they have advanced. If the charge for postage is legal, which is very doubtful, it certainly is not equitable to call upon individuals to pay for the labor ere it is performed, and from persons for whom the work is not performed. I contend that the receiver should pay for the postage of papers in the same way as for letters ; but a charge for postage on Newspapers in a new Country like *Canada*, is exceedingly injurious. As the Post-Master General has Deputies in every portion of the Provinces, it is much easier for him to collect his postage from the receivers than from the Proprietors of papers who are all settled in the Towns, and the charges for agency on small sums from distant parts are very heavy. I have not the slightest hesitation in saying, that the charge made for postage has materially affected the circulation of the provincial journals. I have understood that the charge was only