

ter it; every power exercised against it; every influence that tends to overawe it whencesoever they may originate, ought therefore to be opposed and combatted. It is not however the intention here to support the licentiousness of the press, nor to enter into a discussion on the distinctive characteristics between the true and the false liberty of emitting our opinions into the public by that contrivance, the end of this is solely a kind of Apology for publishing the following lines at this particular juncture. They were intended like many others for insertion in some of the Newspapers of this City, but their admission was refused.

The writer has seldom met with any refusal of that sort, and it has only been in cases when he dared to bring before the public some Controversy, that had the tendency of counteracting and opposing doctrines and pretensions, which he thought *bona fide*, to be contrary both to the letter and spirit of that admirable Constitution under which we as British Subjects happen to live. These doctrines or pretensions are advanced and insisted upon by the ruling party, and our presses here in Quebec are under the influence of that party. One, although the Government's paper, is directed by a gentleman who appears to belong to it, and therefore does not lend a willing hand to the dissemination of principles in opposition to those which he professes. The Second press is the property of, and conducted by another person who, whatever might be his political opinions, is dependant on that ruling party, and therefore dares not to be the means of propagating opinions in opposition to theirs; so that the Editor of the Newspaper is under the real and positive censure of the owner of the Press where it is printed. As to the third periodical paper here published, its circulation is so limited that the insertion in it of any matter of importance would be tantamount to *vox in deserto*!

Nevertheless public affairs have come to that degree of importance, that any exertions to arrive at the discovery of the real causes of irregularity in the movements of the Administration of this Province, and to point out the remedy to the impending if not already existing evil, far from being opposed ought to be strenuously supported by the sincere well-wishers to their Country.

No kind of selfish or interested motive guides the pen of the writer: he does not belong to this or that party: his sole and only end is to challenge a fair and impartial discussion on principles of the greatest import to the welfare of this Province, and on which the relative duties of every one, being fairly stated and pronounced, the rights of all can be effectually secured and protected. Such was the object of the following lines dictated by the reflections naturally brought on the mind by a most authentic document, namely a Speech from the Throne. To the public, to the fair and candid reader, to the cool and impartial perusal of every one is left, to judge whether there is any thing reprehensible in their contents and whether in them, any thing can be construed as a dereliction from that respect due to