

# THE FREE PRESS.

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—*Libertas ultima mundi  
Quo steterit ferienda loco.*

LUCAN.

'Twas there at freedom's self the blow was aim'd,  
When by the power of arbitrary will,  
The press was curb'd, and none stood forth to save it.

## LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

(Subject continued from last No.)

Speaking of the duties of an editor, it is added in the *Times* ; "But, if, after all the fastidiousness of the public in respect to the abilities of the person whom they honour with their approbation, he is too much a coward to speak the truth when it comes within the scope of his duty, of what avail is it that he has natural powers and acquirements, which he suffers, through slavish fear, to lay (lie) dormant, when they might be exerted for the benefit of those who encourage him, and who, in return, expect that their interests will meet his attention, and call forth his talents in their behalf. If an editor deserts the stand he has taken in defence of any known right, because there is danger attached to the maintaining of it, *he* deserves to be deserted. As for ourselves, our determination is to speak *the truth*, and the whole truth : it may not be relished by those who would rather have falsehood prosper, but the majority, we flatter ourselves, will still remain on our side."

These are sentiments becoming every English editor, and it is sincerely to be hoped that, even when the ardour of youth abates, in the gentleman who is understood to take upon himself the literary department of that paper, he will not offer sacrifice to the idols of expediency, private interest, lucre, and worldly prudence : false gods to whom, before this eventful period, all the editors of papers in Canada were accustomed to bow down their time serving heads. If these sentiments are real, I am convinced that, had the *Canadian Times* been in existence at the period of the flagrant attack upon the liberty of the press, which I experienced last summer, in my quality as editor of the *Scribbler*, its editor would have taken up my cause, as the cause of every editor of every paper in every British North American colony. None, however, at that time, ventured into the arena, excepting the distant editors of