

Let us take an account of a murder or a suicide committed in a new or novel way; these are often so clearly described that we seem involuntarily to be able to picture the murder or suicide ourselves. On some weak-willed and weak-minded persons who read them, these accounts produces such a disastrous result that if we attentively follow the papers for a month or so we find a description of a murder or suicide tallying very closely with the other if it does not exactly coincide with it. The conclusion is obvious. The first account given by the paper was so sensational that the murder or suicide became so imprinted on a person's mind and on his imagination that he wilfully took his own life or deprived some one else of God's most precious gift.

Often times a reader picks up an editorial with a flashing headline and reads for perhaps fifteen minutes a detailed account of some revolutionary uprising in Mexico, but when he lays the paper down does he feel satisfied? No, he does not. He feels as though he had wasted his time over a column or two of brilliant nonsense with a news-value of about five lines.

Again the evil tendencies of the press are very noticeable in our politics. A certain paper will take such a stand for one party, and publish such slurring, slander-giving accounts of the character of the opposing party, that the readers become prejudiced and fail to see the beneficial results liable to be produced under their administration.

We have been dealing with all newspapers in general. Now let us look at those papers coming under the heading of "Yellow Journalism." These papers are of a cheaper form than the others, they consist of extremely poor news, warmed up into cheap sensational forms with the minimum of special reporting and the maximum of splash.

Noisy methods are resorted to, in so great a measure that the thing becomes one continuous shriek. Every item of news is accompanied by its own yell, with such a confusion of noises that nothing makes itself heard. The editorials are occasionally able, but without scruple or principle. They appeal to class hatred, to the anti-British sentiment of the Irish, the anti-capitalist sentiment of the laborers, to the hatred of the orderly administration of justice, always latent in the ignorant and discontented. All these methods are continually employed to fill up space, and consequently the real end for which the paper is published is entirely lost sight of. These papers usually have comic supplements made up for the most part of cartoons which, quite as unscrupulous as the rest of the paper, are often-times true.