

### The Influence of the Press.

AN article recently appeared in *Toronto Saturday Night*, dealing with the influence of the newspaper, which was rather of the pessimistic order. Following are a few extracts: . . . "Modesty has never retarded the development of the newspaper business. If anything, newspapers are a little too confident in claiming power and privilege. The influence of the press is ridiculously over-rated by the press itself, for in truth the main purpose of journalism to-day is not to direct public opinion, but to float upon its surface." . . . "Newspapers are gradually falling into such a bad moral humor that soon their only influence will be of the sinister kind." . . . "The press should be treated as an unauthorized meddler in many of its busiest undertakings. As at present constituted it is a recent development, unprepared for because unforeseen, and none of the later law-givers have had the courage to grapple with it. It has gone unwhipped too long. It respects nothing on earth, and recklessly charges all manner of offences against all men and bodies of men, while being itself venal to a degree. If the aldermen of Toronto were half as corrupt as their accusers the roof of the City Hall would fall and crush them." The article then goes on to advocate the muzzling of the press as far as public trials are concerned, "unless some general principle is involved." The general principle of the liberty of the subject is always involved. And it would be a good thing for the people if the press would go a little farther in its duty to the public and sit in judgment on many things that require remedy. For instance, instead of having the administration of justice run on the star chamber plan, it would be a proper move to review some of the decisions and actions even of our courts, so the public could know whether the law was always administered impartially or whether now and then our courts lend themselves to rank injustice through such human passions as prejudice or favoritism. It will be a sorry day when the press is debarred from giving publicity to court proceedings and from free criticism of judicial decisions.

THE duty collected upon type imported into Canada for the year ending June 30th, 1893, was only \$12,817.13. From the protection standpoint this is a mere bagatelle considering that about a quarter of a million dollars have been invested in Canadian type foundries, and that *Toronto Type Foundry* pays out in wages more than the entire amount of duty collected.

### Northwest Nuggets.

—THE *Miner Printing and Publishing Co.*, of Victoria, capital \$10,000 has been gazetted.

—FRIEND Dermody of the *Northwest Review* issued his paper the week of the 17th of March on green paper.

—T. R. CUSAC has established himself as a job printer at Victoria, B. C., procuring his outfit from the *Toronto Type Foundry*.

—W. SCOTT, who spent the winter in the east, has returned and taken full charge of things in the *Regina Standard* office, and is working like a good fellow.

—THE *Manitoba Mercury* is the name of a new sheet issued at Minnedosa by S. J. P. Chivers-Wilson. It is a six column folio, and covers the district well.

—THE *SOWER OF THE WEST* is the name of a monthly publication to be issued by the Bishop of Saskatchewan and Calgary. It has for editor Rev. W. H. Bonds, of Banff.

—J. CLEMENTSON of the *Sentinel*, Broadview, has been elected for the Broadview district in the Northwest Assembly. Two other candidates were in the field, but Mr. Clementson outstripped both.

—J. N. HUEHN, superintendent of the job department of the *Free Press*, has been on a visit to the Sunny South. He has returned recuperated and is now holding things down in his usual competent manner.

—RECENTLY the *Free Press* and *Tribune* reduced their subscription rates. The morning edition of the former is now \$8 instead of \$10, while the evening edition has been reduced to \$6. The *Tribune* publishes at the latter rate, as also does the *Nor'-Wester*.

—A CHANGE in the form of the *Patrons' Advocate*, the *Patrons of Industry* organ, has lately been made. It is now a six column quarto sheet, instead of the first-adopted pamphlet form. Friend Clay, who has charge of this organ, seems determined to make it tell in the farming community.

—*TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION* No. 191 of Winnipeg, has recently revised its constitution, and by-laws, and revised its scale of prices. Machine work is to be done by the week, the scale to be \$22 per week for morning and \$20 for evening papers. Day's work to consist of eight hours. Over eight hours and up to ten to be price and a half; over ten hours double price. All operators are to be members of the Union. Learners to be paid \$15 per week.