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## THE Toronto School Journal

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### Journalism.—Its Rise and Progress.

Ever since the first proof-sheet was issued, and criticized in Queen Elizabeth's reign, journalism has made that firm and steady progress, which, as a medium to express the views of the public at large, and maintain and vindicate law and order, it has rightly deserved. Through the dark ages, when the continent of Europe and all the national and political powers were engulfed in one scene of horror and bloodshed, journalism marched steadily onward, bearing within her that feeble germ, which has since given rise to a more glorious and stronger mode of expressing the views of the public and intelligent speaking people of the universe. We find the first paper ever published was issued in 1536 by the Venetians who were at war with the Turks. It was called the "Gazette" from the small English coin for which it was sold. The English "Mercurie" was also published in 1538 and is still preserved in the British Museum. The first paper started in

America was called the "Herald of Liberty," and published but 13,000 copies annually; now one-half that number is turned from the press in thirty minutes. In times when Europe's social and political fortunes were at stake, and witchcraft deluded the people to a great extent, it was good that they could have a good paper, and cultivate their minds, or seek to educate their offspring to a state of higher intelligence, and finer civilization, than that which consists merely in the riot or the tournament. In times when public opinion vindicated itself through the means of the bludgeon or the scaffold, and men shot at each other just for the sport, it was better that journalism should step in and proclaim that law and order should reign supreme, and crush down that infamous mode of asserting authority, and express public opinion in a milder form, than that which consists in the thumbscrew or the axe. England's greatest progress in science and art was originated and is prospering in the present Victorian era. With the steady progress of journalism, science and education have kept equal pace. In the near future, we prophecy that the paper will attain such high order of intelligence, as to be called the key stone of civilization. What was the state of the world before the paper was invented and the press sent forth its talk? Nations sunken in barbarity and ignorance and with no other advice than that of weak-minded monks, we have to pardon if they overstep the bounds of law, and amused themselves with other means than that which would tend to strengthen their intellectual faculties, and afford peace and comfort to body and soul. The Romans and Greeks, who were far in advance of other nations in science and philosophy, amused themselves in the amphitheatre, or laughed and cheered when the furious beasts of prey tore the Christians into fragments. Yet the Roman Empire

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