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## THE DAILY NEWSPAPER.

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WHEN a publishers' association recently offered a prize for the best allegorical figure of The Press, that keen-sighted little paper *Life* came out with a full-page drawing in satirical response. The daily press was represented by a tall hag with wild locks and insane eyes standing in the middle of a public square. She towered above all other figures; in her upraised and talon-like fingers she clutched masses of the dripping filth which formed a bed at her feet, and her occupation consisted in pelting this stuff at all who came within aim. Men, women and children were flying in terror, or had fallen, done to death, along the boulevards or in the gutters. The publishers' association did not award to *Life* the prize for the best allegorical figure of The Press.

Yet, there is in almost every city a daily newspaper of which this is a telling likeness. Its business manager has no enterprise that rises above the level of blackmail. Its editor is alert for stories of crime, and sleepless in quest of scandal. The hanging of a criminal would call forth a special edition, while a Pentecost would be noted in a paragraph. A newspaper, we are told, should have news and views in admirable balance, yet the

news of this paper is unclean and its views purchasable. It keys its news to the tone of the vulgarian who delights to read of lust and murder, and its views are determined by bargains made and cheques received in little rooms at the rear of saloons.

This kind of daily paper is not so prevalent in Canada as in the United States, but that we have papers that approach perilously near to the description, cannot be denied. The tendency of the time is downward, for while the daily press, conscious of its unworthiness, puts on a pretense of increased righteousness, its practices are constantly growing more indefensible and its influence more baneful. There is nothing now too sacred for attack, nothing too secret for exposure. There is probably not a daily newspaper of the first grade in Canada that would decline to avail itself of an item of news that one of its reporters secured by deceit, lying, eavesdropping or any other dishonorable manner. News is obtained every day through the perfidy of men who are trusted, through breaches of confidence, through the treason of employés, and no one, apparently, pauses to think of the effect upon morality of such an institution as the press growing ever more