

and consisted of one page of two columns.

Newspapers were published as far back as 1642, and among the first places in which they were issued were Newcastle-on-Tyne, Bristol, Norwich, Exeter and Worcester. Manchester had no newspaper till 1730, when the *Manchester Gazette* was published, the name being afterwards changed to *Manchester Magazine*.

In 1795 there were seventy-two papers published in the provinces; now the number is about 1,293. There are no fewer than 470 papers published in London. Taking the United Kingdom as a whole, the number of papers issued each week, including dailies, weeklies and tri-weeklies, is about 2,234, and adding the magazines and reviews, they have a grand total of upwards of 3,000. It must be patent to all that the Press possesses a power which can only be described as tremendous. Canning said, "The Press pervades and checks, and perhaps, in the last resort, nearly governs England." Another writer said, "Through its assistance a whole nation, as it were, holds council and deliberation." Said Napoleon, "Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a hundred thousand bayonets." "It is the only instrument," said another distinguished Frenchman, "by which the same thought can be dropped into a thousand minds at the same moment." He might have said, had he been writing in the present day, tens, ay, hundreds of thousands of minds, in view of the enormous circulation of some of our leading newspapers. It is here that the influence of journalism is crystallized; it is in this fact that the power of this modern intellectual giant is seen; it is here that the Press becomes a mighty engine for good or evil. We might well congratulate ourselves upon the fact that the freedom which the Press enjoys is not abused to any great extent; we have reason to feel proud of the high tone which characterizes, for the most part, our great leading organs, both daily and weekly.



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