

and newspaper press, speed their way to innumerable homes and various minds, and produce at each issue thousands of intellectual, moral and social consequences. This power, however modest its early *debut* and its early claims, is now become so mighty and sometimes so arrogant, that a corrective can be found not without but within itself. The press itself furnishes the balance wheel that preserves the safety of society, and restrains the power of this branch of our social machinery. Private interests and public questions are safe in its hands, because, while it criticises others, it also criticises itself. Amid the rival contests of periodicals there is a chance of safety and comfort for the weak, and truth at last prevails.

And is it then true that the despot with his army which he numbers by hundreds of thousands is not so powerful as the printer with his types? Can Napoleon afford with six or seven hundred thousand soldiers to fight against the public opinion of Europe? Is this a time in which brute force can triumph over intellectual and moral force; the animal trample under foot the man? Has not God given man dominion over the beasts of the field? These things may indeed happen for a time, and when the press is crippled, such a state does exist, but, leave the press free, and the despot that contends with it and does not respect the principles of our common humanity, of which it is the acknowledged advocate, is sure to fall. The press represents free discussion and the exercise of that moral responsibility, which is inherent in man. It embodies principles in human nature, which despotic power ignores or violates. The printed sentiment of the world may in its separate sections become the advocate of what is false, but in its general advocacy, it will be as a whole on the side of truth and virtue.

All honor to this powerful and yet safe institution, where it is not emasculated by censorship or smoothed down to inanity, by the tender mercies of "parental governments." Unjust though it often be, it atones for its errors by quick redress and its important services to society. The periodical is the friend of the sick man, who, while perusing his paper, can in his chamber mix with the world, without stooping under its burdens or smarting under its abuse. It is the choice companion of the old warrior, who, while he reads the stirring recitals of modern fights, feels his

blood stirred in its dried channels and his heart beating with valor as he imagines himself again on the tented field or on the deck of the gallant ship. It is the bosom friend of the patriotic emigrant, whose memory is filled with other scenes, and who sings the songs of home, as he welcomes the breezes that blow from his fatherland, and whose eyes fill with tears as he thinks of the brooks, whose murmur he once heard beside the cot that sheltered his childhood, or of the gray mountain giants whose shadow he often watched lengthening under the rays of the setting sun, or of the dear familiar faces beaming with fond and genial love; the press is his friend, as it carries him back to these scenes, and mentions names, which call up visions of the past. Let us rejoice in the increase of its fruits and the spread of its influence. Surely it ought to be our endeavor to enlist it on the side of Christianity, to make its influence Christian, and to employ its machinery for the advancement of our holy religion. As the standard of enlightenment varies in every age and no family can be considered an enlightened family at the present day without literature, we should rejoice in the increase of a literature, suitable for the homes and hearts of our people, and endeavor in every way to promote its circulation. It must specially be congenial with the functions of a minister of the gospel, to use his influence in the introduction of useful literature into the family circles of his congregation. Without this, his congregation will not keep pace with others in the march of intellectual and moral improvement. Wherever such an engine within their reach, the churches of Christ would fail in their duty, if they neglected its aid. Let us rejoice however, that we possess a Christian literature, and endeavor as a church and as Christians, to bring it within the reach of our own people and all whom it may be of service.

THE PAROCHIAL AND MISSIONARY MISCELLANY.

It was matter of regret to members of the church: at Home and in the Colonies, that, for some cause, the *Edinburgh Christian Miscellany* ceased at the close of last year to make its monthly visit to our homes. We can never remember how heartily it was welcomed in Scotland when first ushered into the world.