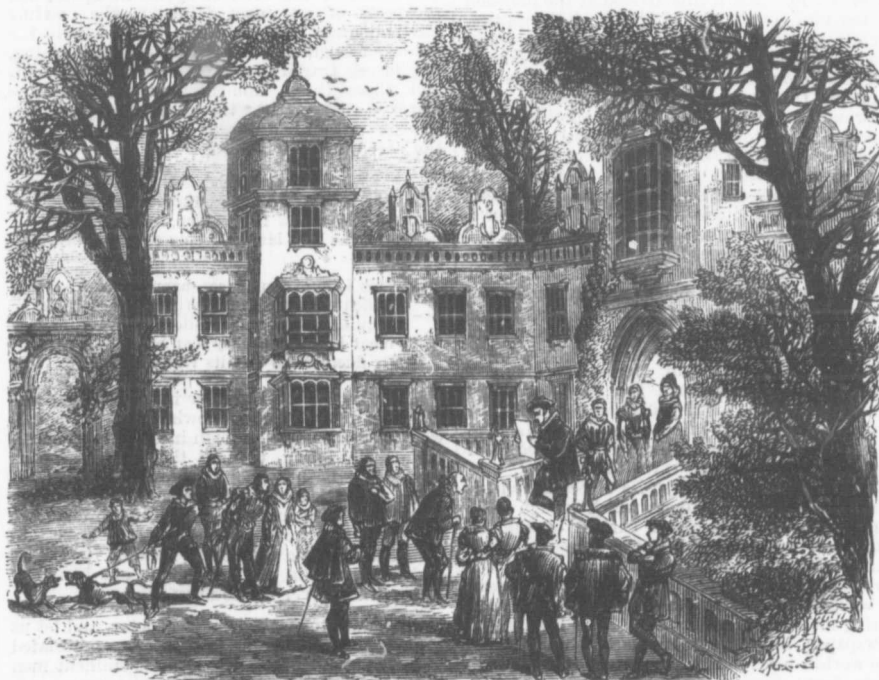


## NEWSPAPERS OF THE PAST AND PRESENT.

"They preach to the people daily, weekly; admonishing kings themselves; advising peace or war with an authority which only the first Reformers and a long-past class of Popes were possessed of; inflicting moral censure; imparting moral encouragement, consolation, edification; in all ways diligently administering the discipline of the Church. It may be said, too, that in private disposition the new preachers somewhat resemble the mendicant friars of old times; outwardly, full of holy zeal; inwardly, not without stratagem, and hunger for terrestrial things."—CARLYLE.

IN no department of modern history has such astonishing progress been made as in the development of the Newspaper Press. There is no doubt that some prevenience to a record of important public events has been made by various nations, and that some of these extend even to

remote ages. The ancient Romans had what they called their *Acta Diurna*, a kind of official chronicle of the government. After the decline and fall of that empire, however, even this appeared to be unknown. About the year 1536 the *Gazetta*—which derived its name from its



READING THE NEWS IN THE OLDEN TIMES.

price, a small coin—was published in Venice, but it was not until a century afterwards that the *Gazette de France* first appeared in Paris. Of course this could not be called a newspaper for the information of the masses, for it was under Royal patronage and control, and amongst its contributors were Louis XIII. and Cardinal Richelieu. The first real newspaper published in England was in 1603; it was entitled the *Public Intelligencer*, and lasted three years. In 1643, during the civil war between Charles I. and his Parliament, a variety of publications were issued from the press, but these were in no way entitled to the name of newspapers. Amongst their titles were some of a curious character;

for instance, there were—*England's Memorable Accidents*, the *Kingdom's Intelligencer*, the *Diurnal of certain Passages in Parliament*, the *Scotch Intelligencer*, the *Parliament's Scout*, the *Country's Complaints*, the *Weekly Accounts*, &c. A paper called the *London Gazette* was published on the 20th of August, 1642. The *Gazette* of the existing series was first issued at Oxford—<sup>1</sup>a Court being there on account of the plague—on the 7th of November, 1665, and afterwards in London on the 5th February following. But this was no newspaper, and indeed what was called unlicensed printing had to be carried on under the greatest difficulties. By an Act of Charles II., the printing of jour-