

Modern Journalism.

HUMBLE in its origin, but wonderful in its growth, Journalism is to-day the greatest of earthly powers. It sways nations as the wind sways the mighty oak. It sets up new rulers, causes and prevents war, instils content or discontent into the hearts of the people. Its influence for good and evil is predominant. Napoleon Bonaparte once said that he feared three newspapers more than one hundred thousand men.

Modern journalism may be said "to include the whole intelligent work comprised in producing a newspaper or a magazine." Newspapers are three in kind, according to publication,—daily, semi-weekly, and weekly. Nearly every journal supports its own political party. Magazines or periodicals are published monthly and semi-monthly, but unlike the newspapers they are very seldom the supporters of political factions. By this is not meant that they take no interest on politics. Far from it. They have the welfare of their country at heart, just as much as any private individual,—and more so in fact. The individual is often blinded by political bigotry, but the magazines, free from such a disease, pick the good, or what they consider to be the good, out of the platform of the different parties, and do all in their power to support their convictions. But the political side of a magazine is not the most important. The great majority of periodicals are literary, scientific, and diplomatical in their character. To read and to understand their contents, a well educated mind is essential.

As a rule weekly and semi-weekly newspapers are issued in the large towns. Very often a great daily prints a weekly also, in which a summary of the most important happenings of the past week is given, along with agricultural news and a magazine section. This is done to cater to the farmer. The daily is the production of the city. The larger the centre of population, the greater number of dailies there are. In important commercial cities such as New York, Chicago, and Montreal, where the population is cosmopolitan, each race has newspapers printed in its particular language.

The staff of a great daily is a wonderful machine in itself. It may be divided into the managerial side and the editorial side.