

But it is in the channel of public opinion and religious thought that the press calls for more serious treatment. Men cease to think for themselves when they find everything cut and dried in their daily paper ; and herein lies the danger of a vicious press. As long as it remained a simple chronicle of passing events, there was little reason to be over critical of its shortcomings ; but since it has assumed the rôle which, in the beginning of its power, did not belong to it, that directing public opinion ; and since this rôle belongs to it now by right of prescription, there is no use trying to wrench it from its grasp. It is the part of prudence to accept the situation as an accomplished fact, and employ our energies to direct the work of the press into the proper channel.

This is a task that is not so easy of accomplishment as it would seem. The utter lack of responsibility there is in the modern secular press ; the craving after sensations ; the subserviency of principles to the exigencies of this or that political party ; the absence of religious convictions, make the task of direction a peculiarly arduous one.



While admitting theoretically the power of the modern secular press for good, we cannot but deplore the sad state of degradation to which it has fallen. The fault does not lie primarily with the readers, but rather with the class of men who, without mandate, have assumed the control of the press. What may be expected from men who are imbued with insane prejudices from childhood ; who have been taught and firmly believe that the Catholic Church is the home of the Antichrist and his satellites ? What may we expect from men who sell their personal convictions to the highest bidders, as is so frequently the case in the so-called political press ? And to touch another chord, what may we expect from writers