

of thought, in the shortest period of time, for a given purpose, is the highest class of means, and either for good or evil must exert the foremost influence.

Besides, there is a stability—a leading steadiness—a master tone given to a cause which is espoused and helped forward by the press. This arises from a variety of considerations, some of which may be very briefly hinted at. First of all, the very existence of a press is the result of firm resolves, settled design, co-operative ability, and more than a little outlay. The operating establishment, when called into being, requires a decision and steadiness of purpose superior to the shiftings of the wind, and more than a trifling investment. Stability, then, is really the origin, and subsequently the true result, of this commanding power. Next, it is evident, as well from fact as from argument, that the best minds are intimately connected and fairly interwoven with the workings of the press; and this centralization of intellectual ability constitutes for its friends generally a kind of advocating fortress, a source of reliance, and a permanent rallying point. Especially is this true in a cause where much opposition follows in its wake. Men are so constituted, that, while there reigns in their breast a desire for mastery, there is also a strong propensity to place dependence upon something which has the name and holds the rank of superiority. They look for help. They trust to authority. A directing power they must have, and this power, too, must be of such a character, that, while it directs, will likewise be a deposit of dependence and permanence.

We may also include in the above primary specification a host of direct answers to objectors, warnings, appeals, and incitements, carrying with them death to foes and life to friends. The press embodies and distributes the weightiest, the most numerous, the most enlightening, and the most convincing arguments. It grapples with the strongest, and lays open the fortresses of the mighty. It builds up and throws down. It tramples to the dust the whole race of snarlers, whose malicious lingo, from the lips of many-tongued rumor, sharpened by the quint-essence of prejudice, drowns the single voice however candid, truthful, and courteous. It furnishes the best logical weapons to all it advocates, and seals the lips of opposers by making every friend capable of defence.

But we cannot, in the mean time, specify further, lest we swell our remarks into tediousness. Let us now see, if indeed it be possible to