

Origin of the Newspaper.

The well-known *Acta Diurna* in Rome in the time of Cæsar has no historical connection whatever with latter day newspaperdom, says an exchange.

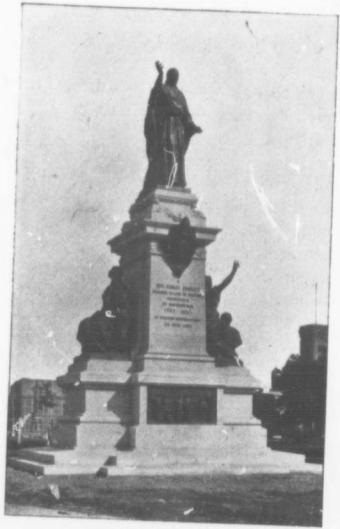
Modern journalism is not of Roman, but chiefly of Germanic origin. In fact, what are now newspapers are really only developments of a kind of circulating letters, which, as early as the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, passed between business houses principally in the interests of trade.

These "Zeitungen," or "Tidings," were written, not printed.

In the greater centres of population were found men who made it their occupation to send out these reports, usually to business houses, but often also to political and other authorities. Of the famous Fugger Zeitung twenty-eight volumes are preserved in the university library at Heidelberg. These written circular letters, both "ordinari" and "extraordinari," as occasion required, became almost a regular institution as the postal system became generally introduced.

Probably the strangest thing in connection with the history of journalism is the fact that it was exceedingly slow to make use of the art of printing for its purposes. Indeed, almost the whole sixteenth century had passed before this innovation was thought of, although during the reformation period questions of public prominence were brought before the people in countless tracts, pamphlets, etc., often with illustrations, but never in the shape of a regularly printed periodical.

The transition to this stage was caused by the publication, in 1583, of the *Relatio Historica*, by Michael von Aitzing of Cologne, the success of whose printed account of a Cologne church controversy first suggested the idea of publishing



BOURGET MONUMENT.

Unveiled on June 23rd, 1903, by Archbishop Bruchesi.

every month, at the time of the Frankfort messe, a general report of the news. This undertaking soon stimulated rival enterprises.

The oldest venture of this kind, however, is not, as has been generally supposed, the Frankfort Journal, but a certain *Relation*, which appeared probably in Strassburg, and fifty-two numbers of which, dating from the year 1609, are found in Heidelberg.

The Journal was not published till 1615, the first English paper, the *Weekly News*, in 1622, and the first French journal in 1630.



Tact does not remove difficulties, but difficulties melt away under tact.



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