

seems to me, will be developed, not along the lines of more pages and more pictures, but of more sincerity and more sense. The managing editor who will give his paper as delicate a conscience, and rules of conduct as correct as a gentleman would have in private life, will find, I think, the strange experiment a success. A newspaper whose statements could be relied upon under all circumstances, whose persistent good taste would become a proverb—might it not almost re-make our civilization?

From the nature and extent of its powers, the press should be almost omnipotent in directing and indicating public opinion. The masses must get their information about public questions from the newspapers, yet we find to-day that when the people acquire the facts from the news columns, they turn in strong dissent from the deductions set forth in the editorial columns. The reader has found that the same set of facts will be twisted, in rival newspapers, to support contentions diametrically opposed to each other. If gifted with average reasoning power, he finds that he can draw safer deductions than either of the two newspapers has done. Each paper is continuously engaged in bending facts to fit a political theory to which it is enslaved. If a truth comes to light which is inconsistent with the pre-existent theory, the editor proceeds to suppress or disfigure that truth. The reasoning reader is not deceived. He realizes that the newspaper is not an arbitrator, but an interested partizan, an in-

temperate wrangler in the tumult of contrary opinions. The guides quarrel as to the correct route to be pursued, efface the landmarks, destroy the signs and tokens, and leave the traveler worse than guideless. He strikes out a course of his own.

The men who write the political editorials in the daily newspapers are, under the present system, not necessarily in earnest. An editorial writer is employed by the manager of a newspaper, not for the warmth of his convictions, but because of his facility of expression, his extent of experience, or his volume of information. There are prominent editorial writers in Canada who have progressed from paper to paper, changing their points of view with every change of employer—championing the National Policy in one paper, tearing it to shreds in another; leading a crusade in one paper against the influence of French Catholicism in politics, rounding upon fellow-crusaders, a month later, in another paper. While editors continue to be hired and discharged like ordinary laborers, and approach their duties without conviction, the possibilities of the press must remain undeveloped. Daily intercourse between Canada and the United States, the systems of telegraphic news supply and other causes are drawing our newspapers into the wake of the great New York papers. This is to be regretted. The splendid newspapers of London, earnest, honest, respectable and dignified, present finer models to us.

