

there the printed words do reach, and people read them who never hear a sermon." \*

It is a truism that the influence the public press wields in the world for good or evil is enormous.

The Pontiff feels that the Catholic Church should find her profit in this power, and this is the reason he asks all friends of the Sacred Heart, during the month of April, to make the Catholic Press the object of their special intention in prayer.



Looked at from a merely utilitarian standpoint, the press is a power in the land. Material progress, in all its phases, has no greater champion. Not to speak of the arts and sciences, which have received an extraordinary development under its fostering influence, agriculture, commerce, industry under various forms, have found in the press a powerful aid. In illustration, we have only to cite the case of our own country. In the development of Canada's resources, the press has done admirable service. And it is only fair to contribute the MESSENGER'S mite to the praise already lavished on those Knights of the Pen, who have struggled, year in and year out, to colonize our vast uninhabited regions, or who have endeavoured to create centres of human activity in places already settled. There are few of us who will fail to recognize in the press an important factor in the development of a nation's material interests; and were the press to be crushed out, a most potent means of civilization and advancement would cease to exist.



If the rôle of the press were restricted to the material welfare of a nation, the task of guiding it would be easy.

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\* In obedience to such a wish, the Jesuit Father Zocchi has been placed on the staff of the *Civiltà Cattolica*.—*London T blet*, Feb. 22.