

on his treatment of news reporting. His definitions of the socio-political responsibilities of the colonial newspaper are lucidly stated in the following passage which also illustrates the anecdotal quality of some of the editorials.

The chief business of a newspaper, indeed, as its very name implies, is not so much to promulgate opinions as to communicate facts; to furnish information of what is passing around us and in the world at large, or, as it is usually called, to give the domestic and foreign intelligence; to supply a want which the spread of education is constantly making more and more a necessity of civilised life; although the need has been felt by society in all its stages, in its primitive and barbarous state as well as in the most refined and enlightened communities. In the hut of the savage, or in the tent of the Arab, the traveller has always been welcomed with a ready and profuse hospitality; but, his hunger once satisfied, he is surrounded by an eager crowd of inquirers, excited and insatiable in their thirst for news; he is overwhelmed with questions, and wearied out by the frequent demands to repeat over and over again what they are never tired of hearing, until, in the midst of the din, he falls asleep with the comfortable conviction that he has given an honest equivalent for his food and lodging a dozen times over. Again, the Athenians, the most polished and intellectual people of antiquity, were accustomed, as Demosthenes tells us, to assemble daily in the marketplace, for the one great and principal purpose of hearing and telling the news; and the perpetual repetition of the question, 'What news?' gives the great orator occasion for one of his finest bursts of eloquence and indignation.

This, then, is the first and principal object of the periodical press—it is a chronicle of passing events; of those which happen in the same locality in the first place, as most likely to interest the great majority of its readers; and next, of those movements in the great world outside, whose real importance and relative value become more correctly appreciated, as the community becomes more enlightened, more free from self-conceit, and more capable of connecting itself with those great interests of society on which its own welfare really depends, and of which it forms an integral although sometimes a very insignificant portion. Nor are these interests of one kind only. The producer and consumer, the buyer and seller, communicate together in our columns; the wants of trade are made known, and the resources of commerce; the disputes which arise upon our relative social rights, and the decisions of the law; the crimes which disturb the peace of society from time to time, the punishments which follow them, and the precautions which are to prevent their recurrence; the convulsions of nature; the movements of politics; the discoveries of science, and its applications to general use; the conclusions of thoughtful and the inventions of practical men: all these form some items only of vast and ever-accumulating mass of human knowledge which the press is engaged in distributing. But while it thus furnishes information and solid materials for thought, it has a secondary function, scarcely less important. It reflects the opinions of society upon the past, its hopes and wishes for the future; it furnishes the battle-field on which they wage war, and brings their real worth and value to the test of free discussion. But in doing this work, in giving its views and passing its judgement upon the various topics which, one after another, arrest public attention, and which it has now become an established part of its duty to discuss; and still more in the letters of its correspondents, who occasionally assist in the task, and correct, or dispute, or confirm its conclusions; it has to be guided as to the comparative space and attention it shall give them by the general demand and feeling of its readers; and by the means they have at their command of obtaining the same information from other sources. In a large community, each party has its organ, which supplies what it requires, and excludes what it objects