

that is very frequently a positive evil. And that one is the strictly partisan organ. In order to subserve party interests, it misrepresents men and measures, falsifies facts, and scandalously traduces private character, and its editor apparently becomes so hardened in such shameful practices, that he does not seem to know that he is constantly offending against the most obvious standards of decency and rectitude, that his paper degrades instead of elevates, and that he prostitutes the high office of journalism by pardoning to the "lower range of feelings" in the human heart. Conspicuous amongst this kind of offenders, are many of the county party papers at the approach of every election. A few days since, a gentleman who had lately come into Centre county inquired of resident of long standing: whether it was true, as represented in the county newspapers, that the candidates for the various county offices are mostly men of villainous character. "Oh, no," was the reply, "they are generally good upright citizens, esteemed as such in their neighborhood, and some of them have already filled places of public trust faithfully and efficiently. No consideration can be given to what party newspapers say at election times; their course in such matters is only a part of the political game that must be played at each election season." Another gentleman of intelligence, active in local political affairs, discussing this subject, within a day or two said: "I give no heed to such newspaper statements; indeed I scarcely open the county papers which come into my house." The misfortune is, that the evil does not end with elections, and the newspaper "as the poor man's University," comes to his door *throughout the year* with its teachings distorted by misrepresentation of facts, and unwarranted conclusions respecting the most important political and social questions of the day. And thus instead of being a safe guide it is misleading and delusive.

If we could find out the number of patrons of these papers who rarely read them, the showing

would probably not be complimentary to the editors. It is clear that many newspaper writers under estimate the intelligence of their readers. They need to learn that many of their subscribers whom they seek to instruct, have a more level-headed estimate of affairs and men, than the partial and distorted one, served up to them every week in the party organ. The editors, who, to day shall have the courage to present the truth on all party questions regardless of where it may strike, would be surprised to find how quick and favorable a response to such a course they would get from the community.

Let them cease the snarling and snappish criticism which consists in contradicting and "giving the lie" to the opposite party, abandon the policy of misrepresentation, falsification and defamation, and "advance and dictate" to their own party with courageous, and if necessary, angry lips, instead of standing on the cowardly defensive.

Many of the great metropolitan dailies have adopted this course with a steady increase of readers and of influence. Stimulated by this independent journalism, the "independent voters" have grown in numbers and importance, so that the time is near, when men will no longer be maligned because they will not suffer themselves to be counted, numbered, and ticketed as servile partisans by political manipulators, and the silly boast that, "I have never scratched a name on my party ticket" will be a reproach, indicating narrow and ignorant partisanship, rather than intelligent, loyal and patriotic citizenship.

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* * Agar said, "Give me neither poverty nor riches;" and this will ever be the prayer of the wise. Our incomes should be like our shoes; if too small, they will gall and pinch us; but if too large they will cause us to stumble and to trip. Wealth, after all, is a relative thing, since he that has little and wants less is richer than he that has much and wants more. True contentment depends not upon what we have; a tub was large enough for Diogenes, but a world was too little for Alexander.