



A National Congress

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National
The Weekly Congregational
newspaper.

What is ^{its} ~~the~~ place and
office? ~~of such a paper?~~

- (1) It is a medium of religious and especially denominational news. The Kingdom of Christ on Earth has its populations its provinces and its daily history. If news is necessary to the transaction of business, ~~or~~ to comprehend political movements, scientific discoveries and social events, it is equally necessary to an intelligent appreciation of religious duties and labors. A business man cannot safely be ignorant

of the state of the markets,
 a politician, or even a voter
 ought to know candidates, the
 utterances and the shifting
 policy of men parties and of
 men in public life. A Scientist
 would be ashamed to appear
 at his annual convocation
 ignorant of the weekly or
 daily discoveries and
 inventions that have dis-
 tinguished the previous year.
 He can form no just conception
 of the state of society in this
 or any country who is ig-
 norant of the forms which
 vices, crimes and their
 remedies are assuming. A
 Christian is certainly less
 wise than the children
 of this world if he fails
 to inform himself of the

Changing phases of unbelief.
 the prevailing character of
 religious teachings, the
 state and increase of Churches,
 the distance and extent
 of revivals and the progress
 of the great missionary
 movements throughout
 the world.

The religious newspaper ought
 to make religious news a
 perpetual specialty so that
 the reader interested in
 Christ's Kingdom may find in
 it the fullest most recent and
 trustworthy information.

But there is a narrower circle
 where interest is intensified
 by personal associations, eccle-
 siastical relations and
 common benevolent opera-
 tions. Without any central-
 izing government, Congregational-

ists, by mutual consent
and ^{with} real affection for
each other and common
devotion to the enterprise,
are laboring together for the
world's salvation. As a body
of believers they are one in
interest, affection, prayer
and pecuniary contribu-
tions ^{in the promotion of} ~~in the promotion of~~ Christian
work at home and abroad.

The most effectual prosecution
of these united labors make
mutual acquaintance desira-
ble. The names and characters
of the workers are of mutual
interest to each other. The
changes in fields of operation,
the opening of new opportuni-
ties, the ^{removal} ~~departure~~ by death
or other cause of revered
ministers and missionaries,

the names and ^{projects} ~~promise~~ of those just entering in the work; all these things serve to keep alive a denominational feeling and Esprit-de-Corps, which can be ^{done effectively} but inadequately ~~not less~~ by a large, well-edited and costly newspaper whose visits shall be weekly. Such a paper is a kind of circular letter, going the rounds of the brotherhood, giving tidings of common interest to the entire family of churches.

- 2- This leads me to mention the second ~~grand~~ great object of our weekly denominational press. It is to promote fellowship. The channels through which we now visit the frame

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of Fellowship have many of
 them already been mentioned.
 In addition to our general
 benevolent societies, there
 is a well-established system
 of "Conferences," "Associations,"
 "Clubs" and "Councils" whose
 express purpose is to cultivate
 and make ^{fellowship} effective. fellow-
 ship. The commerce of ideas,
 the spiritual quickenings, the
 close and often ^{and denominational} sharp discus-
 sion of individual opinions,
 the reexamination of heredi-
 tary beliefs, the friendly or
 sharp criticism of Church,
^{Abolition} School, Social and mission-
 ary work, which characterizes
 our meetings for Fellowship
 find their best record and
 report in the pages of a
 weekly newspaper in sym-

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with the ends proposed -
Local and State papers are
indispensable. They afford more
space for full statements of
matters in their neighborhood
than it is possible for a
National newspaper to give.
But they do not meet the
needs of the great body
of Congregationalists or
such. Each and all desire
glimpses of the entire
field and brief notices,
at least, of all its
parts. If our fellowship
is to be national in its
area, then our newspapers
must be something more
than local or provincial.

The great educational
work which goes on in
colleges and seminaries
of various names; the church

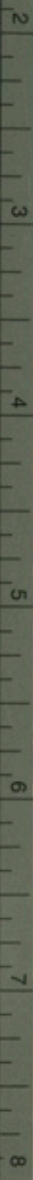
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Erection enterprise which
is peculiarly denominational
and covers a broad area,
has neither of them a
periodical by which they
can frequently set forth the
facts or the claims of these
noble enterprises. People
care little for things of
which they have heard or
read little. To enlist the
the greatest number of
Christian people in
fighting any of the battles
against ignorance, error,
or sin, they must be
informed of the distance and
danger of such things, and
rallied to their overthrow.
Such a rally for praying and
giving ~~and~~ practically im-
possible where no denomina-
tional newspaper is read.

the most common of all diseases
is the one which is called
the "common cold". It is
caused by a virus which
enters the body through the
nose or throat. It is
usually accompanied by
sneezing, coughing, and
a sore throat. It is
usually cured by rest,
drinking plenty of
fluids, and taking
aspirin or other
fever-reducers. It is
usually a mild disease,
but in some cases it
can lead to more serious
complications, such as
sinusitis, bronchitis, or
pneumonia. It is
usually a self-limiting
disease, and it usually
disappears within a
week or two.


(3) A national denominational paper furnishes the best channel by which intelligence on denominational or even secular subjects can reach our Christian households. He who tells news, consciously or unconsciously, colors it. History ones about as much for its character and conclusions to its motives as it does to its facts. The genius, motives, industry, candor, ^{logic} and moral tone of the historian appear on every page of his book.

Editors are the contemporary historians of facts and opinions. A volume of the Advance is an epitome of the world's acts for a year.

If it be important that a
~~any~~ book should bear
 the impress of candor,
 conscience and sympathy
 with everything good, it is
 of equal moment that
 a newspaper should exhibit
 the same. If our Colleges,
 Seminaries for the information
 and training of ^{the} young men
 need to be denominational
 in order that our young
 people may grow up in
 the best spiritual atmos-
 phere and get the best
 possible ^{preparation} ~~fit~~ for their life
 work. then it is of equal
 importance that our families
 should receive their impressions
 of the world's progress through
 a newspaper that sympathizes
 with that which
 is the highest and best-



in it. It ^{seems to me} ~~is~~ inconsistent
 for Congregationalists to
 practically insist upon the
 control of their own benevo-
 lent Societies and Educa-
 tional institutions and
 yet hand over ^{to undermanning a local paper} the weekly
 frequent and influential
 immeasurable influence of
 the press exerted upon their
 homes by a weekly religious
 journal. Conducted as it
 should be, it is not only
 the best medium for ^{Church} news
 and ^{Christian} fellowship, but the
 best channel through which
 whatever political, scientific
 literary and social informa-
 tion can enter a home.


 It is evident no such paper as I have described can exist without ^{a good deal of both} expense money and interest. It must appeal for its support not chiefly to denominational loyalty or Christian sentiment. It must deserve good opinions and warm affections. It must be worth the money it costs. It must make itself ^{so} necessary to the intellectual furnishing and religious life of ministers and people, so that he who neglects to read it shall be ^{on that account} ~~circumstantially~~ ^{manifestly} weaker for his work.

If Congregationalists cannot make a newspaper, on the whole the best for themselves

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and their families, they
certainly give evidence
that their attempts to
found the best colleges;
to establish the best
churches, to furnish the
highest class of ^{religious} litera-
ture and preach the
best sermons are possible
failures. If they have not
failed in such enterprises,
why should they abdicate
the Newspaper Chair in
favor of other denominations
in ^{confer} ~~send~~ ^{form and} ~~send~~ their ^{editorial}
^{trained} Editors to ^{find} work on other
than a Congregational
papers. But they have not
failed in either case. They
have not reached perfection.
Who has? But their papers
today compare favorably with

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Any and all others and
they only need ^{to give enough papers a} ~~need for~~ ^{and universal}
more enthusiastic support
~~by themselves~~ ^{in order} to make ^{and keep} them
the peers of the best
periodicals of the world.

