

**A DENOMINATIONAL  
PRESS: SHALL THE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH USE THE PRESS?**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649265282

A Denominational Press: Shall the Presbyterian Church Use the Press? by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**VARIOUS**

**A DENOMINATIONAL  
PRESS: SHALL THE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH USE THE PRESS?**



*Presbyterian Publication Committee*

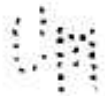
**A Denominational Press.**

**SHALL THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
USE THE PRESS?**

A PLEA FOR THE

**Presbyterian Publication Committee.**

—  
"IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?"  
—



PHILADELPHIA:  
PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATION COMMITTEE,  
134 CHESTNUT STREET.  
NEW YORK A. D. F. RANDOLPH, 68 BROADWAY.

•

•

•

•

•

•

## A DENOMINATIONAL PRESS.

---

IF there ever has been an age, or a land, demanding a living, acting, aggressive spirit in the Church, this is that age, and this is that land. An age instinct with life, in a land whose one characteristic is life, demands a living Church.

In the highest import of the term, the Church's life depends upon her vital union with her living head; and may God vouchsafe to her more and more of that life! But it is to that external life and activity by which the inner life is impressed upon the world, that reference is now had. It is in

this sense that a *living Church* is demanded by the land and age in which God has cast our lot. The Church that would make headway, that would be successful in doing its whole work, and leaving its mark upon our national life, must be a living, active, aggressive body.

The first element of power in such a Church, is a *ministry* with apostolic faith joined to apostolic enterprise. The second element is *the printed page*, the auxiliary of such a ministry, explaining, confirming, and supplementing its teachings.

The thought is a trite one; its obvious truth has made it trite. It is a pity that it is so. Axioms often weigh less with the public than paradoxes, not that they are less weighty, but less new. Men wonder at the tornado, who think nothing of their daily allowance of atmospheric air; the sunlight is less impressive than the light-



ning's flash. So, having often heard of "the power of the press," men drink in the words with no apprehension of the fact which they express. They daily see strange, beneficent, or horrid results, but have no notion of their unseen causes. The power of the printed page, as a bearer of thought and motive, its connection with daily history, is to them unknown, because unnoticed. They learn in the morning's journal of a munificent gift to a worthy object, but they know not that the *reading of a tract* lay back of that gift. They sicken at the report of bloodshed in the place of debauch, but they know not *the book* by which the mind of that young man was debauched before his feet had trod the path of overt sin. Like the engineer, who, with his wires and his galvanic battery, is far from the explosion of which he is the unseen cause, the author is not seen in

contact with the results of his labors. The press sends the electric spark of thought, flashing from the laboratory of the writer's brain, through sea and land. It flies unchecked by oceans and continents, and the catastrophe ensues; but to the world the connection is all unknown. We would that they on whose ears those words, "the power of the press," fall with a familiarity which has bred contempt, might learn their meaning. It is not our purpose at present to unfold the truth with regard to that power, but rather to assert it, and to invite our readers to some thoughts which it suggests as to the duty of our own Presbyterian Church to use the press.

How stand the facts as to the use of the press in America? Universal suffrage makes every citizen a politician, and hence a reader. The demand for books, papers, and periodicals, mostly confined in Europe

•

to the more affluent classes, here comes from the whole mass of the population. It is not only the scholar, the gentleman, the professional man, and the merchant, who read in America. The mechanic, also, must have his daily paper, and his sons and daughters must have their books. So it is with the tradesman. The farmer's table is well covered with magazines and periodicals. The laborers in our factories and shops read. The porter reads as he sits upon the curbstone waiting for a job, and the drayman reads upon his dray. The cook in the kitchen, as well as the lady in the parlor, reads. The old and the young, the high and the low, the rich and the poor, unite to swell the demand for the products of the press in all their forms. To meet this demand, millions of pages issue daily from thousands of presses. All conceivable topics—and some topics inconceivable by

•