CHAPTER II
ORIGIN OF PERIODICALS

Book was the primary form of communication of knowledge from the fifteenth to the seventeenth century. It could be easily multiplied, readily handled and could cater to a large number of clientele, and thus it could meet the demands of society. But book could not keep pace with the rapid advance of human knowledge and scientific activity. Much time was taken for a book to come out in the printed form. The problem of time was greatly felt and possible remedies were considered. An important event in this chronology was the establishment of the first scientific societies in the 1660's. Scientific societies played a major role in changing the media of communication.

The earliest periodicals (considering this term in the modern sense) appeared in the mid-seventeenth century. The first known periodical (according to the generally accepted view), Journal des Scavans was founded in Paris in December 1664 or January 1665. According to Kronick, "it appeared in France on January 5, 1665".\(^1\) The aims of the periodical were stated in the preface. They were\(^2\) (1) to provide a list of the principal books published in Europe, together with a statement of their scope and findings; (2) to present obituaries of notable people and note their achievements; (3) to record contributions in

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Chemistry and Physics, as well as discoveries and inventions in the field of arts and sciences; (4) to cite decisions handed down in civil and ecclesiastical courts, in addition to censure of the Sorbonne and other universities; and (5) to inform readers on current events.

Denis de Sallo, founder of the Journal des Scavans started his work by having references copied out for himself and later for other interested persons. He also gathered book reviews, news relating to scholars, reviews of the work of researchers, publications of new results of experiments and judicial judgements.

The second was Acta Philosophica, commonly known as Philosophical Transactions. Its first issue appeared on March 6, 1665. The Philosophical Transactions were the work of Henry Oldenburg. He was a German. He served in Britain in a diplomatic position representing the City State of Bremen at the Lord Protector's Court from 1633-1655. Then he became a tutor to various families. Later on he became a student himself at Oxford University and developed interest in natural sciences.\(^3\) Scientific publication was very limited at that time. Scientists used to communicate with each other through private letters. For the benefit of wider community Oldenburg began to edit selections from his correspondence with scientists for publication. His intentions are clear from the introduction to the first number:

"Whereas there is nothing more necessary for promoting the improvement of Philosophical Matters, than communicating to such, as apply their Studies and Endeavors that way, such things as are discovered or put in practice by others. It is, therefore, thought fit to employ the press, as the most proper way to gratifie those whose engagement in such Studies, and delight in the advancement of learning and profitable discoveries, both entitle them to the knowledge of what this kingdom or other parts of the world, do, from time to time, afford, as well of the progress of the studies, labors and attempts of the curious and learned in things of this kind as of their complete discoveries and performances; To the end that such productions being clearly and truly communicated, desires after solid and useful knowledge may be further entertained, ingenious endeavours and undertakings cherished and those, addicted to and conversant in such matters, may be invited and encouraged to search, try and find out new things, impart their knowledge to one another, and contribute what they can to the Grand Design of improving Natural knowledge and perfecting all philosophical Arts and Sciences. All for the glory of God, the honour and advantage of these kingdoms, and the Universal Good of Mankind."

According to Mckie (1948), the journal provided the springboard for the London publication.

However the idea of periodical publication did not occur abruptly. Earlier than the periodicals there were news sheets, newswriters and newspapers. "As early as the fifth century B.C., there were writers of newsletters in Rome who furnished news to those who resided at a distance from the Capital, and written newsletters continued to be employed to supply intelligence to businessmen and political leaders until long after the invention of printing."\(^6\) It has been calculated that serial forerunners of one kind or another, including spoken newspapers (transmitting news by mouth) existed for more than three thousand years before Gutenberg's invention.\(^7\)

Possibly the earliest serial was represented some 4700 years ago by the annals transcribed on the tombs of the fifth dynasty kings of Egypt who reigned from 2750 to 2625 B.C.\(^8\) According to Suetonius, in 60 B.C., "Caesar's very first enactment after becoming Consul was that the proceedings both of the senate and of the people should day by day be compiled and published."\(^9\) This manuscript newspaper, which was posted in a public place before being copied by scribes was referred to by a variety of names like *Acta diurna*, *Acta populi* and *Acta publica*. It covered political affairs, and news of the emperor and his family. It also included daily happenings of all types.

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The earliest newspaper in China was Tipao. It began as a handwritten paper during the period of the Han dynasty, which extended from 202 B.C. to A.D. 220. It continued through the era of block printing and into the age of moveable type. The paper terminated in 1736 and was succeeded by Ching-pao (Peking Gazette). Ching-pao was printed both in a government edition, sent to officials throughout the Empire and in a popular edition, sent to regular subscribers. According to Fielding H. Garrison, "the earliest identifiable newspaper, as distinct from the ephemeral newsbooks and broad-sheets, was the Mercurius Gallo-belgicus which commenced publication in Cologne in 1594 and covered European news from 1588 to 1594."  

Further, newsletters were issued in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries by the Scriveners Company of London to supply people of rank with daily news of current events. It has been claimed that the first English newspaper to be published was the Corante or News from Italy, Germany, Hungarie, Spain and France. Its six issues were published in London with a weekly frequency during September and October 1621. According to Joseph Frank, the first truly English newspaper did not appear until the end of November, 1641. It was a weekly entitled The Heads of Severall...
Proceedings in This Present Parliament. However, according to Gable, British papers up to the date of the London Gazette (1665) were pamphlets and nearly two-thirds of all pamphlets published from 1641 to 1665 were either newsbooks or of similar type. The early papers consisted of one or more sheets folded into quarto pages, generally stiched and sometimes bound in dark blue paper. Hence an alternative name for a seventeenth century newsbook was a sheet or sometimes a pair of sheets.

*Oxford Gazette* was the first true newspaper in Britain which was printed, dated and numbered. It was first published in November 1665. The first issue was in fact unnumbered. However, the second issue appeared correctly numbered. The name was changed to *London Gazette* from issue number twenty-four in February 1666. The newspaper press in London grew and multiplied. It is not possible to state any firm date for the foundation of the first provincial newspaper. However, it is agreed by two authorities that *Norwich Post* was the first newspaper. According to Cranfield, September 6, 1701 is the starting date. But, according to Wiles, November 8, 1701 is the starting date. The first daily newspaper namely *Daily Courant* began in 1702.

The first American newspaper appeared in Boston on 25th September, 1690. It was called *Publick Occurrences*. It was suppressed after a single issue. *Boston Newsletter* began in 1704 and lasted for seventy-two years.

*Sydney Gazette* was the first newspaper published in Australia in 1803-42. It was censored by the Governors or their secretaries.16

**PERIODICALS**

**FRANCE**

Periodicals originated in France in 1665, but the idea dates back to 1631. Theophraste Renaudot, doctor, journalist and philanthropist, started the *Gazette de France*: a Political and Literary Review. It lived till 1792. During 1633-42 he published the "Bureau d'adresses": a series of reports of scientific conferences held at his home every Monday.17

**AMERICA**

The first two American magazines were issued within three days of one another. The first plan for an American magazine was Benjamin Franklin's, but Andrew Bradford anticipated Franklin's publication by three days. He issued in Philadelphia his *American Magazine, or A monthly view of the political state of the British colonies* on February 13, 1741. Then came


Franklin's General Magazine and Historical Chronicle, For all the British Plantations in America. This magazine, too, was published in Philadelphia. Both were published with the dating of January, 1741. Both were monthly miscellanies. Bradford's magazine lived for three months, whereas Franklin's for six months only. By 1765, most of the papers in the larger towns were being printed on folio or crown sheets; that is, they had four pages, each measuring 11 x 17 or 10 x 15 inches instead of the smaller pages and half sheets of the earlier newspapers. A few of them occasionally issued six or eight pages of this size to accommodate a large advertising patronage.

GERMANY

In the late eighteenth century, a number of periodicals designed to convey information in dialogue form sprang up in Germany. These were the first German periodicals as distinguished from the early pamphlets. They were succeeded by literary journals known as Gelehrte Zeitungen. In fact they were periodicals of local circulation and were published from several German towns.

ITALY

The *Journal des Scavans* had far-reaching impact on the early development of periodicals throughout Europe. It also served as a model for the first Italian periodical. The first Italian periodical was *Cardinal Ricci's Giornale de' Litterati* (1668-1679).

RUSSIA

Comparatively few periodicals were published in Russia in the eighteenth century. The papers of the Russian Academy of Sciences, serial publication of which was begun in 1755, were followed by a number of satirical essay periodicals of the Addisonian type, all of which were suppressed by Catherine II in 1773. The best of them were by the brilliant and courageous Nikolai Novikov.

CANADA

The first monthly in Eastern Canada was the *Novia Scotia Magazine* (1789-92), and in Canada proper, the *Canadian Magazine* (Montreal, 1823-25)\(^{21}\).

ORIGIN IN INDIA

India was a land of kings and emperors in past. It lacked wide-spread education, means of communication and transport. But the messages of the rulers had to reach every nook and corner in their vast territories. There was no newspaper (in the modern sense) at that time.

\(^{21}\) Encyclopaedia Britannica. v.17, p.513.
The medium of information in ancient India was inscriptions engraved on rocks or pillars. They served as a useful medium of communication. India, under her ancient Hindu rulers, maintained a vigorous intelligence department with agents at home and abroad. It consisted of employees with 'avowed' and 'unavowed' categories. To the avowed category belonged ambassadors and envoys accredited to foreign states and the members of their missions. These ancient Hindu ambassadors depended upon secret emissaries for collecting information which was to be sent home. To the category of 'unavowed' belonged spies, intelligencers, and messengers. They formed well-organised units and their principal duty was to keep their employers fully informed of everything occurring within their dominions. During the reign of the Mauryan emperor, Ashoka, the state received information from spies and the secret overseers attached to all departments of the state. Megasthenes, the famous Greek envoy at the court of Chandragupta Maurya (302 B.C.) writes about the Indian newswriters as follows:

"In accordance with the usual practice of oriental monarchies, the court kept watch over the more remote functionaries by means of special agents or newswriters, the akhbarnavis.

of modern times, who are called overseers and inspectors by the Greek authors and are mentioned in the Asoka Edicts as the Kingsmen (Pulisani, Pillar Edict VI), or reporters (pativedaka, Rock Edict VI). The duty of these officers was to superintend or oversee all that occurred in town or country and to make private reports to the government. Tiruvalluvar advised kings to employ efficient spies for knowing what was happening in the realm.

The record of history reveals an appetite for news and all kinds of information among early Indians and they used to seize all means in their power to gratify their curiosity. In early times, the market place served as a kind of exchange where bits of news, whether important, or of small value, were discussed. We also hear, time and again, that travellers were eagerly puffed of the news they brought from the places they had visited. It was at least a point of good manners, if not a duty for a traveller, to relate the news he had picked up; often it would seem as a fair return for hospitality. Travellers meeting on the road would exchange bits of news in a spirit of fraternity. The wayside caravanserais were also great percolators of news. Pilgrims and nomads wandering from place to place used to halt


* This evidence is summarised by Kax Muller in Indie, what can it teach us? p. 54.
** Even at present when there are so many other media of information for the people, the bazar (market) still remains the centre of obtaining news.
there and communicate gossip and news of varying degrees of authenticity about men and matters to their comrades.

Private letters were also used for circulating news. "The Renaissance times and later, a literate traveller abroad was sure to write the news of the countries he visited to his friends at home, was even charged to do so. Back home his letters would be passed round through many hands for the sake of news in them. Important or curious persons, politicians, courtiers, great merchants, particularly anxious to know what was going on abroad, established a regular correspondence with their friends or their agents in important cities and were thus left an courtant with events of the kind it was necessary for them to have knowledge of. As for official intelligence, news of affairs of state and matters touching the public interest, imparted by the government itself - from very early times, this seems to have been communicated by oral proclamations."26

SULTANATE PERIOD

The Delhi Sultans also had their intelligencers or news writers at the centre and in the provinces. The Barid-i-mamalik, the commissioner of intelligence, assisted by his naib, collected information about happenings in the empire. For controlling the activities and movements of the governors, the Sultans appointed secret service officials (Barids) or official reporters.

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(Akhbarnavis) in the markets and towns of the provinces, who reported every occurrence there to the Sultan.

Ziauddin Barni writes about Ghiyasud-din Balban, "In his efforts to secure justice he appointed confidential spies (barids) throughout his territories, also for great cities, and for important and distant towns. And that they might discharge their duties with efficiency and honesty, he did not give them too large a field of observation. He never failed to attend to what came to his knowledge through these spies, and had no respect for persons in administering justice. These spies were greatly feared by the nobles and officials, and neither they nor their sons or dependents dared to distress any innocent person".

Alauddin Khilji organised the system almost to perfection. His munhis (spies) communicated to the Sultan even the most trivial things about persons, high and low, entered their houses and troubled them for slight offences. Ziauddin Barni writes, "Alauddin provided so carefully for the acquisition of intelligence that no action of good or bad men was concealed from him. No one could stir without his knowledge, and whatever happened in the houses of nobles, great men and officials, was communicated to the Sultan by his reporters. Nor were the reports neglected, for explanations of them were demanded. The system of reporting went to such a length that nobles dared not speak aloud even in the largest palaces, and if they had anything...".

27. Barni, in Elliot and Dawson, III, 101, 112.
to say they communicated by signs. In their own houses, night and day, dread of the reports of the spies made them tremble. No word or action which could provoke censure or punishment was allowed to transpire. The transactions in the bazars, the buying and selling, and the bargaining made, were all reported to the Sultan by his spies...."28 There were informers to enforce the Sultan's ban on social union of the nobles. "Through fear of the spies, the nobles kept themselves quiet; they gave no parties and had little communication with each other. No man of a seditious nature, or evil reputation was allowed to come near them."29

Thus the mutual checking of informers and spies became an inexorable engine of the terror organisation of Alauddin.

Muhammad Tughlaq also had his own system of getting reports about his dominions. The reporters played a major role in maintaining the authority of the Sultan and social and administrative stability in the Sultanate. The credit goes to the medieval newswriter for running a successful centralised government which presupposed the maintenance of close contact with different parts and provinces of the empire.

Thus, during the medieval period, espionage came to stay as an important department of administration and helped in

28. Barni in Elliot and Dowson, III, pp.179-80.
29. Ibid., p.185.
strengthening the despotism of the ruler. Mohammedans, after conquering India, adopted the Indian system of governing with the assistance of emissaries and news-agents. They improved it also by introducing into it a distinct sense of responsibility. They made it truly a workmanlike organization.

NEWS WRITERS IN MUGHAL INDIA

During the Mughal period, it took shape as a press. Waqia Nigar or news writers or intelligencers constituted a regular department of the state to supply news, description of events and ceremonies to the court at regular intervals in the form of Waqias or newsletters. The head of the department was called Waqia Nigar or State Intelligencer.

The system has been well described by Sir Jadunath Sarkar. According to him there was a four-fold organisation, i.e., the agency consisted of four categories of men, who sent reports of two kinds, written and oral. There were three categories of written reporters, viz., the Waqai 'navig or Waqai 'nigar, the Sawanih navis or Sawanih nigar and the Khufia navis or secret writer. The oral reporter was called harkarah. The Waqai 'navis or Waqai 'nigar was a public newswriter, transmitting all kinds of sundry information, the Sawanih navis or Sawanih nigar and the Khufia navis were both secret newswriters or reporters who also dealt with government officers. The harkarah was a spy who carried oral news and also sent secret newsletters. 30

30. Jadunath Sarkar, Mughal Administration (1963), pp.61-64.
This system was in fully developed form. It was the result of a slow, evolutionary process. The classification given by Sir Jadunath Sarkar tallies exactly with what Ghulam Hussain, the author of the *Seir Mutakherien* describes as the form under Aurangzeb and his successor, "No less than four persons have been appointed to discharge the duties of this one office of intelligence, to wit, the *Vacaay-nugar* or Remembrancer, the *Sevanah-nugar* or Gazetteer, the *Qhofiah-neviss* or Secret-writer and the *Harcara* or spy."\(^{31}\)

The gradual growth of the system to full development becomes clear to us when we scan through the sources of different reigns. The emperors had a great desire for news. They wanted to get as much information as possible. They also wanted to be on guard against all mischief in a growing empire. To make the system workable, it was not possible to entrust both the tasks to one hand. Thus a distinction was made between the public newswriters and the secret newswriters. The public newswriters were responsible for giving all kinds of sundry news and the secret newswriters for important and special news.\(^{32}\) Akbar further elaborated the system. He appointed special newswriters in various provinces. This practice was continued by Jahangir also. This is clear from his (Jahangir's) Memoirs, wherein he writes, "It had been made a rule that the events of subas should be

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reported according to the boundaries of each, and newswriters from the court had been appointed for this duty. This being the rule that my revered father had laid down, I also observe it and much gain are to be brought about by it."

Jadunath Sarkar pointed out that the term Waqai 'navis and Sawanih nigar mean the same thing. The Waqai 'navis was more regular and public reporter of the two, whereas the Sawanih-nigar was of the nature of a secret reporter on important cases only. The Waqai 'navis was attached to every field army, province and large town, and a Sawanih-nigar at special places and times only. Quoting Mirat-i-Ahmadi, Sarkar says that the Sawanih-nigar was intended to be a spy and check on the Waqai 'navis. Thus this double system ensured the correctness of news. It is not mentioned when the change took place. However, from the Alamgirnamah it may be inferred that it was Aurangzeb who appointed the Sawanih-nigar. "Besides these officials he has appointed the Sawanih-nigars whose duty is to send to the Emperor secret reports without informing the Waqai 'navis about them. If the Waqai 'navis, being interested in any party, fails to give a truthful account of any occurrence or event, or suppresses news which might be prejudicial to the party in which he is interested, the Sawanih-nigar would not fail in his duty and would inform the Emperor about it without concealing anything."  

The author of Seir Mutakherien thus writes on the State Intelligence Department as it flourished during the reign of

34. Alamgirnamah, 1081 (Quoted by Jagdish Narayan Sarkar op.cit. p.115).
Aurangzeb and his immediate successors:

"The Vacaanuviss or Remembrancer or Gazetteer and the Savana-nuviss, or Historiographer, and the Harcara or Spy, were appointed for writing down the events that might happen in the respective provinces, territories and districts of their residence. Their duty was to inhabit such cities and towns as were the seats of command and government, to the end that they might have it in their power, to write down at day-break such events as should have happened the whole day and night before, and to send the paper to the Emperor. There were posts established that carried the despatches, with all speed, and in all weathers, to court, where a daroga or inspector examined the same; after which he reduced to a concise exposition the substance of such as deserved the Imperial notice. Nevertheless, whatever amongst those papers was addressed personally to the Emperor, was sacred, and could not be set open by any other than his own hand. It was perused by the monarch himself, who alone could break the seal, who alone ordered what he thought proper about the contents. By these means the Emperor was informed of every private man's affairs." 35

However, it is said that the reports were not always accurate. Sometimes they were deliberately falsified at the expense of those who had a grudge against the Emperor. Francois Bernier, a French doctor, was employed by an emir. He served at the courts of Shah Jehan and Aurangzeb. He writes, "It is true

that the Great Mogul sends a Vakea-Navis to the various provinces; that is a person whose business is to communicate every event that takes place; but there is generally a disgraceful collusion between these officers and the governor, so that their presence seldom restrains the tyranny exercised over the unhappy people."  

John Fryer, a doctor served in India from 1672 to 1681, during the reign of Aurangzeb. He said that Aurangzeb's failure in the Deccan, notwithstanding his formidable armies, was partly due to the false reports sent by his news writers. He wrote, "the Generals and the vocanovices consult to deceive the Emperor, on whom he depends for a true state of things, it can never be otherwise but that they must be misrepresented, when the judgement he makes must be a false perspective; whereby it is apparent on what bases these kingdoms are supported."  

Niccola Manucci, a Venetian, lived at the court of Aurangzeb for a considerable time. He writes about the activities of these court newswriters. "It is a fixed rule of the Moguls that the Vaquia-Navis and the Cofianavis or the public and secret newswriters of the empire, must once a week enter what is passing in a Vaquia, that is to say, a sort of Gazette or Mercury, containing the events of most importance. These newsletters are commonly read in the King's presence by women of the Mahal at about nine O'Clock in the evening, so that by this means he knows

what is going on in his kingdom. There are, in addition, spies, who are also obliged to send in reports weekly about other important business, chiefly, what the princes are doing, and this duty they perform through written statements. The king sits up till midnight, and is unceasingly occupied with the above sort of business." 38 Manucci also tells us that Aurangzeb, when sending an embassy to Persia, sent with it the usual officials, a Waqi'ahnavis and a Khufiyahnavis. 39

There was also prevalent some form of system through which the public got news. The newsletters were carried by Caravan traders and travellers from one part of the country to the other. The traders were the sources of information for the public. The newcomer would naturally be curious to know all about the land he was visiting, and the informant expected to learn, in return, everything about the stranger's country and society. 40 But the Banjara system was the most important and efficient. Letters carrying private and public news were carried by them. This was the major agency for the public to send and receive news. However, the news of public importance, news affecting administration, society and people in general and the news of more exciting nature were delivered by the Banjara through word of mouth. So, it is evident that news journalism had started in our country even before press journalism.

Thus throughout the reign of the Mughals, there worked a huge machinery for collecting, writing, sending and carrying news.

No one can say with certainty about the vanishing of newswriting and Intelligence Department of the Mughals. It may be a case of gradual atrophy. However, something can be inferred from the laments of Ghulam Husain, "Now all those offices being suppressed, it comes to pass that, not only in villages, but in towns and in renowned cities, the servants, the favourites, the dependents, nay, very often, the very spies and emissaries of a Zamindar, having wriggled themselves into the service of Government commit upon the inhabitants a variety of oppressions and exactions, and always with the utmost safety; nor is there found a single man to ask them what they are doing; so far from there being any one to inflict a condign chastisement upon them. It is then worth any observer's while to examine what kind of Government existed then, and how matter stands now; and what were the circumstances of the subjects then, and what they are today."\(^1\)

However, the private newspapers or Akhbars continued to circulate and became numerous for purveying the stirring political events which frequently occurred in almost all parts of Hindustan during the troubled times.

There were also private persons stationed in various towns whose business it was to collect all the news they could and write it out in their letters (akhbars) to be sent to their

\(^1\) Seir Mutakherien. IlI. (Cambray ed.), p.175.
correspondents in distant places. They were called the newswriters or akhbar-navis. These newswriters were at every native court, who regularly transmitted newsletters to their masters. Colonel James Tod collected manuscript news sheets in Indie and sent these to the Asiatic Society in 1828. "Several hundreds of original manuscript news sheets of the Mogul court (about 1660 A.D.) are in the custody of Royal Asiatic Society of London. The size of these news-sheets is invariably 8" x 4½" and they are written in different hands."  

The native princess also maintained a regular system of official newsletters in their dominions, whose business was (like that of modern newspapers) to keep their superiors well informed of what was going on around.

The King of Oudh also maintained these newswriters. Sleeman writes that there were six hundred and sixty newswriters of this kind employed by the king, and they were paid three thousand one hundred and ninety four rupees monthly, or, on an average, between four and five rupees each.

Sleeman also relates how an overzealous British magistrate entered the Oudh territory at the head of a police force in pursuit of some robbers who had hidden themselves there, and how,

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apprehensive of the consequences, he sent for the official newswriter, and gratified him in the usual way. "No report of the circumstances was made to the Oudh Darbar and neither the king, the resident, nor the British government ever heard anything about it."45

Prominent merchants and other citizens had their own newswriters; they resided in chief cities and transmitted regular news letters to their employers. These newsletters were semi-public and were handed about and read out to large circles. "Thus a general curiosity for news was diffused through society in the Mughal age, by the provision of means for gratifying it."46

Even in 1773-74 the influence of Akhbars was felt very keenly at the court of the Peshwa and among the Mahrattas. The following is a striking illustration:

"There is a well known Poona anecdote, which though oftner told of Mehdoo Rao, was one from which the latter used to say his brother would become an enterprising officer. While spectators of an elephant fight, at the Gooltekree, a small hill in the environs of the city, one of the animals, when enraged, came full speed towards the spot where they sat. Most of the attendants, and all the principal people, whose fears overcame their politeness for the Peshwa, hurried off, and Narrain Rao jumped up to run with

the rest. Mahdoo Rao caught his arm; "Brother", said he, "what will the Ukhbars say of you?" He instantly sat down with composure, and the danger, which became imminent, was averted by the extraordinary bravery of a Mahratta Sillidar named Appajee Rao Phatunkar, who, drawing his dagger, sprung in front of the Peshwa, and turned the animal aside, by wounding him in the trunk." 47

Through the long period of destruction and reconstruction following the death of Aurangzeb and extending through the whole of the eighteenth century, the Moghul institutions, which were greatly developed during Aurangzeb's reign, were well maintained, paid for and protected. These were well followed by Europeans in Bengal. "In the early annals of the English in Bengal during the first half of the eighteenth century, the Company's servants frequently availed themselves of these news-agents at Hooghly, to bring their grievances to the court." 48

During India's first War of Independence in 1857, the manuscript newsletters and akhbars played a major role. These were distributed by the village watchmen among the sepoys in Northern India. Even after the manuscript newspapers came to be superseded by the growing use of cheap printed newspapers, these newsletters lingered on for sometimes among firms of merchants and bankers.

The starting of periodicals in India has been largely due to the enthusiasm and missionary zeal of individual sponsors. The reason for the late introduction of newspapers in India may be that a majority of the English residents were either covenanted servants of the Company or were connected in some other way. It would naturally be their duty to keep the authorities informed of any information in their possession, and the community being a small one, news quickly spread by word of mouth.\textsuperscript{49}

No doubt, there was interest in European events. It was satisfied by newspapers from England. The community gradually increased and there were differences of opinion due to individual interests. So the difference of opinion gave rise to the press.

\textbf{BOLT'S IDEA}

Busteed gives, in his valuable book \textit{Echoes from Old Calcutta}, which is full of first-hand research, the following curious appeal to the public affixed to the door of the Council House and other public places used for advertisements at Calcutta in September 1768.\textsuperscript{50}

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TO THE PUBLIC

"Bolts* takes this method of informing the public that the want of a printing press in this city being of a great disadvantage in business, and making extremely difficult to communicate such intelligence to the community, as is of importance to every British subject, he is ready to give the best encouragement to any person or persons who are versed in the business of printing, to manage a press, the types and utensils of which he can produce. In the meantime, he begs leave to inform the public that having in manuscript things to communicate, which most intimately concern every individual, any person who may be induced by curiosity or other more laudable motives, will be permitted at Mr. Bolt's House to read or take copies of the same. A person will give the due attendance at the hours of from ten to twelve any morning."

We look back now with surprise and amusement at this primitive method of public advertisement in a city then so rapidly striding into importance. Yet for about twelve years more did the want, thus so publicly demonstrated by Bolts, remain unprovided for, and not till 1780, the first newspaper in print with the object of conveying public intelligence came into being.

Bolt's notification came like a thunderbolt. It made the administrators alert. He was the first man to conceive a plan for starting a newspaper press in India. But his efforts were nipped in the bud by the Court of Directors.

* Bolts was a Company's servant who had resigned from the service of the Company and taken to commercial pursuits in Calcutta. He amassed a fortune in a few years. He was eventually forcibly deported as an interpoler.
For a period of over eleven years there was no attempt to start a newspaper. The first newspaper to be published in India was the *Bengal Gazette* or *Calcutta General Advertiser*. James Augustus Hicky was the proprietor. He was a British born subject. Like many others of his countrymen of the times, he came to India to try his luck here and make a fortune. But success did not come to him. Considering himself unsuccessful in other fields, he took to the trade of printing and publishing a newspaper. It is very unfortunate that no comprehensive information is available about this pioneering genius except that the first pioneer journalist of India lived in poverty and distress in his later years. He is the forgotten hero of the Indian press.

The first issue of the paper appeared on **Saturday, January 29, 1780**, announcing itself as "A Weekly political and commercial paper open to all but influenced by none." Regarding the starting of the newspaper the founder explained, "I have no particular passion for printing of newspapers, I have no propensity; I was not bred to a slavish life of hard work, yet I take a pleasure in enslaving my body in order to purchase freedom for my mind and soul."

It was a two-sheet paper, about 12 inches by 8 inches, with three columns of printed matter on each side. It published extracts.

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* After having looked through various sources the consensus opinion is that this was the first newspaper.

** There is a copy of this newspaper in the National Library, Calcutta, in a tolerable state of completeness and preservation, from its commencement to the end of 1781.
from the English newspapers and correspondence from local and distant writers. The attractive features of the Gazette were: Addresses to the public from Mr. Hicky, a poet's corner, and all local gossip relating to the British community in Calcutta. The Gazette did not do any political harm in the beginning. It was styled after the pattern of British newspapers and chiefly meant for the British residents in the settlements. It took no account of the children of the soil and did not care to publish any news about them. The paper was a primitive one from the point of view of contents, printing and publication. But it has the significance of a historical newspaper.

Hicky's Gazette was published mainly for the British residents of the settlement who were corrupt to the core. The following was the advertisement of a house for sale by the auctioneers, Faria Williams and Hohler in 1803, "A garden house and ground situated in a Taltolah Bazar, which to any gentleman about to leave India, who may be solicitous to provide for an Hindoostanee female friend, will be found a most desirable purchase."

Much of the portion was devoted to advertisements. The following two advertisements also occurred in Hicky's Gazette:

(1) "Wanted by a gentleman, now in Calcutta, two very handsome African ladies of the true sable hue, by the vulgar commonly called Coffrees. They must not be younger than 14 years each, nor older than 20 to 25. They must be well-grown girls of their age straight-lined and
straight eyed and have rational use of all faculties - the better of (if) a little squeamish. But beware of spot or blemish. They will be joined in the Holy Banhs of Wedlock to two gentlemen of their own colour, caste and country. A dowry is not expected with them. As the master of these African gentlemen would not wish to have been disappointed, he hopes no ladies will apply but those who are really and truly spinsters."

(2) "Wanted two coffrees who can play well on the French horn and otherwise hardy and useful about a house relative to the business of consume (Khansama) or that of cook, they must not be fond of liquor. Any person or persons having such to dispose of will be treated with by applying to the printer, Hicky's Gazette".*

The second newspaper to come on the Indian scene was the India Gazette. It was of four pages, each 16 inches long with three columns and well printed. The appearance of this paper infuriated Hicky and drove him to desperate measures to meet competition. Grant of postal facilities was given to the India Gazette. "It excited Hicky and he explained to his readers that undue influence had been exerted on Warren Hastings through Mrs. Hastings; that the same privileges could have been his, had he approached Mrs. Hastings as he had been advised to do; that Mrs. Hastings had hinted her willingness to oblige but Hicky had

refused to do it. There was something so sneaking and treacherous in going clandestinely to fawn and take advantage of a good-natured woman to draw her into a promise to getting that done which I knew would be highly improper to ask her husband, though his unbounded love for his wife would induce him to comply with."

Hicky had exhausted the patience of Warren Hastings's Government. As a result of this his Gazette was denied postal facilities. This gave him a loss of Rs. 500/- per month. He started attacking Warren Hastings, his wife and Elijah Impey, the Chief Justice. He referred to Mrs. Hastings as "Mar:ian Al|yapore" and Impey as "poolbundy", hinting at a lucrative contract for maintaining bridges in order, which Impey had secured for a relative. He mainly published scurrilous attacks even on the privat lives of the servants of the Company, whom he described as 'Nobobs', and the head of the settlement as a 'Great Mogul'.

Some issues of the Gazette also printed the announcements of marriages and engagements. Later on, information regarding likely engagements was also given.

The Gazette was an instrument for Hicky to ridicule the men he disliked. One of Hicky's favourite methods to let down those whom he did not like was by making fun in the eyes of public. He used to publish the programme of an imaginary play or concert and to assign certain roles to his enemies. No doubt, their actual names were not there, but it was not difficult to guess.

their true identity. For this reason, the Gazette became popular amongst people who were opposed to those in power. As Hicky was no means a cultured man, so it was suspected that Sir Philip Francis was behind the attacks, the reason being that Philip Francis was Warren Hastings's enemy. It was certainly significant that Francis, whose record gave many opportunities, was never the object of Hicky's gibes. However, the Governor-General's indignation was roused by scurrilous allusions to Mrs. Hastings. Consequently, he promulgated the following order on 14th November, 1780:

"Public notice is hereby given that as a weekly newspaper called the Bengal Gazette or Calcutta General Advertiser printed by J.A. Hicky, has lately been found to contain several improper paragraphs tending to vilify private characters and to disturb the peace of the settlement, it is no longer permitted to be circulated through the channel of the General Post Office."

Hicky bitterly complained of the Governor-General's action. In the forty-fourth issue of his paper he declares that the order is the "strongest proof of arbitrary power and influence that can be given."

Two days before issuing the notice prohibiting the circulation of the Bengal Gazette through the General Post Office, Warren Hastings had received a letter from Simeon Droz requesting redress for "the unmerited and intolerent abuse bestowed on me in

52. Quoted in Margarita Barns, op.cit., p.47.
a weekly publication of Hicky's paper." Hicky was also criticised by people other than from Bengal. Colonel Thomas Dean Pearse, a friend of Warren Hastings, wrote to him from the Ganjam district of Madras on April 21, 1781:

"But I really wonder at your patience in suffering such a man as Hicky to publish loads of abuse every Saturday; we did not get the paper here nor have we for these six weeks. But we hear of his abuse from other quarters with the same expression of astonishment. It is true the man himself is not the author, but some pitiable fellow who dares not avow his insolence and wishes to stab in the dark. Yet still such a thing as that Gazette in such a place as this is not allowable, and such, good Sir, was my opinion when you too readily agreed to the first publication of a newspaper. I then told you that the year would not pass before it became the channel of personal and public abuse and so it is." 53

Another complaint was from John Zacharia Kiernander. In a letter dated May 13, 1782, he wrote to Warren Hastings that Hicky had published a most scandalous libel against him in the Bengal Gazette of March 31, 1781. The alleged libel stated that Kiernander was prepared to offer the main Church for sale. Being conscious that he was innocent of this charge, Kiernander requested the Board to favour him with evidence concerning the matter so that he might print and publish it. In his reply to this request, the Governor-General declares that it does not

appear that Kiernander ever made any offer of the main church for sale or hire to the Board. Eventually, the missionary brought a suit for libel and Hicky was sentenced to four months' imprisonment and a fine of Rupees five hundred, and imprisonment until the sum was paid.

Later on, Hicky became more abusive and bitterly attacked Warren Hastings and Sir Elijah Impey, the Chief Justice. In defence of his publications, this tumultuous editor wrote: "Mr. Hicky considers the liberty of the press, to be essential to the very existence of an Englishman, and a free-... The subject should have full liberty to declare his principles, and opinions, and every act which tends to coerce that liberty is tyrannical and injurious to the community."

But evil days for Hicky were now close at hand. One day, in June 1781, an armed band consisting of several Europeans, some sepoys, and others came to arrest him under an order from the Chief Justice at the suit of the Governor. His gate having been battered in with a sledge hammer, he says, he sallied out on them with his arms, and, refusing to be forcibly taken away, undertook to attend the judge in court on being shown a legal authority for his arrest. The court having adjourned before he got there, that same day he was lodged in jail. Next morning he appeared before the Supreme Court to answer to two indictments lodged by Warren Hastings. He was not in a position to pay Rs.40,000* bail and was remanded in jail.\textsuperscript{54} The intention of this

\textsuperscript{54} H.K.Busteed, op.cit., p.192 (This is Hicky's own account given publically in his paper).
* In some books it is eighty thousand.
action was to extinguish his newspaper. Even in jail he continued editing the Gazette and even maintained the same standard. It appeared regularly, without any change in the style of its matter. Thus the crippled newspaper battled on through the rains and cold weather of 1781. In January, 1782 Hastings returned to Calcutta after some months' absence and the case against Hicky was heard by the Chief Justice. He was convicted to one year's imprisonment and Rs. 2000 fine on the first indictment. On the second indictment, the Chief Justice awarded Warren Hasting's damages to the extent of Rs. 5000, but the Governor-General waived this fine.

Hicky published the following statement in March, 1782:

"Mr. Hicky addresses his citizens and fellow subjects with heartfelt joy, and tells them that on 7th March (1782) the King's judges inclined to admit him to plead in forma pauperis in defending four fresh actions brought him this term by Warren Hastings, Esq., and that Mr. Counsellor Davis (for plaintiff) did make a motion and plea in bar of Mr. Hicky's types being exempted from seizure, setting forth that the said printing types did form a great part of Mr. Hicky's property and hoped their Lordships would not protect the said types from being seized upon, should judgement be obtained against him. This motion the honourable the King's judges strongly opposed as repugnant to the British legislature and constitution and treated it with the contempt it so very justly merited. Thus, by protecting the types, they had protected the liberty of the subject and the liberty of the press."
In the next number he makes this appeal to the public:

"A scene of continued tyranny and oppression for near two years having reduced Mr. Hicky very much in his circumstances, involved him more in debt, and injured his business considerably, though he is still immured in a jail where he has been there nine long months separated from his family and friends, at the suit of Warren Hastings, Esq., and where he still expects to remain as the said W.H. has brought no less than six fresh actions."

So all efforts to buy Hicky failed. Well planned steps were taken to crush him and Warren Hastings succeeded in ruining him. Ultimately the paper came to a sudden end; and both the paper and its editor disappeared from the public gaze in 1782.

Busteed described him as a worthless man, but, as the pioneer of the Indian press, his name and his story should have an interest for Calcutta. Sir John Kaye did not exaggerate when he wrote as follows, "Society must have been very bad to have tolerated such a paper. It is full of infamous scandal - in some places so disguised as to be almost unintelligible to the reader of the present day, but in others set forth broadly and unmistakably; and with a relish not to be concealed. We find it difficult to bring forward illustrative extracts, a clear impression of the state of society as represented in the journal can only be derived from a glance at the volume itself." But inspite of his weakness and eccentricities James Augustus Hicky will ever be remembered as the founder of the press in India,

55. H.E. Busteed, op. cit., p. 201.
whom threats and punishments could neither bend nor break. He refused all offers of bribes, open or secret, and fearlessly did what he believed to be his duty. He was of tenacious character, not particularly interested in money. He had launched the Bengal Gazette, not to make a fortune but to have enough to buy a small house in England and live a quiet life. It was a modest ambition for an age. So, he certainly deserves to be remembered as the father of Indian journalism. It is said that the last days of the first journalist of India were spent in poverty. About Hicky's Gazette, British historian Hunter has remarked, "For a full century after Charnock founded Calcutta, the power of the press was unknown in Bengal. Nor, indeed, did that power at first prove for good. The earliest Calcutta newspaper, hicky's Bengal Gazette (1780) was proscribed, not unjustly, within its first ten months, after which no copy might pass through the post office. Its later numbers, nauseous mixtures of dullness and indecency were written and edited in jail".

INDIA GAZETTE

The India Gazette started publication in November, 1780. It was the second newspaper of India. It was started by B.Hessink and Peter. The former was connected with theatrical companies, whereas the latter was a salt merchant. These two gentlemen had a keen eye for business, because, prior to the publication of the paper they wrote to the Governor-General and the Council as follows:
To

The Hon'ble Warren Hastings, Esq., Governor-General,
And The Council at Fort William,
Calcutta, October 4, 1780.

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

Understanding that our plan of an intended publication of a newspaper has met with the favour of your approbation, we are encouraged to take the liberty of requesting the additional one of your further patronage; by granting us permission to send it to our different subscribers, out of Calcutta; by the Dawk, free of postage; on our paying annually to the Postmaster-General such a certain sum as you shall think proper to direct; we likewise engage that no other article or writing whatsoever shall go under the said cover with the newspaper, or newspapers, and that each cover shall be endorsed India Gazette; as well as seal'd without joint names in Persian: or indeed complying with any regulations you may be pleased to order.

We also humbly beg leave to take this opportunity of soliciting the favour of our being appointed Printers to the Hon'ble Company, at Calcutta; which, should you think proper to confer, it shall be our study and endeavour to do our duty; by executing with correctness and dispatch, all orders sent to our care.

We have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient and humble servants

B. Messink
Peter Reed.
CALCUTTA GAZETTE

The third newspaper of India started publication in February 1784. It was in quarto size, and was published under the patronage of the Government. It carried notices in Bengali and Persian as well as in English.

BENGAL JOURNAL

It was established in February 1785. Thomas Jones, the proprietor of the Bengal Journal was also a businessman. On March 15, 1785 he wrote to the Supreme Council requesting for postal concessions for his paper. He agreed to print any Government advertisement which the Board might think proper to order, free of charge.57

CALCUTTA JOURNAL

The memorable year in the history of Calcutta journalism was the foundation of the Calcutta Journal by James Silk Buckingham. It came out on the 2nd October 1818, first as a biweekly paper i.e. on Tuesdays and Fridays. From the beginning the journal became a financial success, because all the mercantile Houses of Calcutta became its patrons. The Indian community was so much attracted by this publication that "within a short span of three months, its returns of profit were sufficient to enable Buckingham to repay the whole of Rs.30,000 advanced to him to start his journal and leave a surplus beyond that in his possession."58

Almost from the beginning, Buckingham came into violent collision with the government of Lord Hastings. As an editor, he said, he conceived his duty to be "to admonish governors of their duties, to warn them furiously of their faults, and to tell disagreeable truths." He edited his paper fearlessly till 1823, when he was deported. The journal was suppressed. According to Majumdar, "the beginning of this press may be said to be have been the real beginning of the English liberal press in this country. In the history of journalistic ventures, this paper of Mr. Buckingham makes a new epoch."*59

**NEWSPAPERS IN MADRAS**

**MADRAS COURIER**

It was founded by a government printer named Richard Johnston on October 12, 1785. The paper was officially recognised. Government notifications were now published in the Courier. The orders were as follows:

"Ordered that the following resolution be published in The Madras Courier. It has been resolved and ordered that all advertisements which appear under the official signature of either of the Secretaries of this Government, or of any other officer of Government properly authorised to publish them, in the Madras Courier, are meant and must be deemed to convey officially and sufficient notification of the Board's orders and Resolutions in the same manner as if they were particularly specified to any servants of the Company or others to whom such orders and

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It was a weekly publication comprising four pages. Two pages were devoted to news items copied from European papers. One page was reserved as the reader's forum and news concerning Indian affairs. The last page was meant for pieces of poetry and display advertisements. The price of each copy was one rupee. It was allowed to circulate free of charge within the Presidency. The Government continued the approval of the paper and in March 1786, recommended that newspapers, types and materials, which Richard Johnston had ordered from England, should be permitted by the Honourable Court of Directors to be transmitted to India free of duty. Hugh Boyd became the editor of the Madras Courier in 1789, but resigned in 1791.

**HURKARU (Or Hircarrah)**

Hugh Boyd, who was the editor of Madras Courier in 1789 served the Company as Master Attendant. He resigned from the editorship of the Courier in 1791. He started independently a paper called Hurkaru in 1793. With the death of Boyd after a year, the publication of Hurkaru came to an end.

**WEEKLY MADRAS GAZETTE**

A new paper appeared in January, 1795 under the management of Robert Williams.  

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60. Jagdish Saran Sharma, op.cit., p.50.
INDIA HERALD

Humphreys made an application in September 1794 to publish a paper at Madras but permission was refused. So, an unauthorised paper named India Herald was published on April 2, 1795 at Madras, without the authority of the Government by Humphreys. He did not hold the Company's license. According to the Government, the India Herald contained "several gross libels on the Government and on the Prince of Wales". So, it was resolved to arrest and send Mr. Humphreys to England. He was, indeed, arrested but he escaped from the ship mysteriously and disappeared in Calcutta for some time.

In 1795, censorship was first introduced in Madras. Free postage facilities were withdrawn. On December 12, 1795, the editor of the Madras Gazette was prohibited from publishing copies of the General Orders of the Government until they had been submitted for the inspection of the Military Secretary.61

NEWSPAPERS IN BOMBAY

Although Bombay came under the British domination earlier than either Bengal or Madras, yet Bombay was the last of the Presidency towns to have its own newspaper.

THE BOMBAY HERALD

This was the first newspaper published in Bombay. It was a weekly publication which came out in 1789. After the appearance of the next two weeklies in close succession, the

61. Home Miscellaneous Series Ho.535, pp.172-3 and Ho.539, pp.159-60.
editor of the Bombay Herald decided to let his paper be absorbed by the Bombay Gazette in 1792.62

BOMBAY GAZETTE

This weekly newspaper started publication in Bombay from 1790.63 It absorbed Bombay Herald in its third year. It became biweekly in 1830. After a peaceful career of half a century, the last three years of which brought it disgrace and instability, it ceased publication in 1842.

BOMBAY COURIER

The next newspaper to be started from Bombay was the Bombay Courier. It was started by William Ashburner*. It became biweekly from 1831 and triweekly from 1837. It lived upto 1846 and was amalgamated with the Telegraph (started on 22.7.1846)64 and from 1.1.1847 began to appear as daily under the name Telegraph and Courier.

Thus we see that by the end of the 18th century, newspapers were gaining in popularity. They were now becoming useful to the government for record purposes. There were also editorials on subjects of interest, letters to the editor, government notices, social news, poet's corner, advertisements and fashion notes.


63. Ibid.

64. Ibid., p.12.

FIRST LEARNED PERIODICAL IN INDIA

The first true periodical to be published in India was *Asiatick Researches* in 1788 by the Asiatic Society* of Bengal. Sir William Jones was the main person behind it. He has contemplated the publication of such type earlier also but his efforts had not borne fruit.65 The communications of the periodical were expected to be polished, of some length, and the rules for their printing were quite stringent—indeed so stringent that instead of the annual volume envisaged by the founder, the publication interval averaged nearly three years between volumes.66 The history of this periodical is discussed in detail in Chapter IV.

SPECIALISED PERIODICALS

With the advancement and spread of literary, scientific and technical education, there came into being literary, scientific and technical periodicals also. Literary and Scientific Societies played a major role in the establishment of such periodicals. The Madras Literary Society was established in 1818 for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a complete public library, and to collect, record, and publish information relating to the physical, political and

* The idea of forming the Society was conceived by Sir William Jones in October, 1783.


The religious history of South India. In 1829, this Society was incorporated with the Madras auxiliary of the Royal Asiatic Society. *Journal of Literature and Science*, an organ of the Society, started publication in 1833.  

**Scientific Periodicals**

In Engineering the oldest periodicals are *The Indian and Eastern Engineer* (Calcutta, 1868), and *the Indian Engineering* (Calcutta, 1887). Bombay Natural History Society was founded in 1863. The Society started publishing a periodical named *Journal of Natural History* in 1886. *Stray Feathers* was the first ornithological periodical. It was started under the editorship of A.O. Hume.

**Factors Which Brought About Periodical Publications**

We have seen how the news were conveyed from one person to another and how the newspapers came into existence. The following factors may have been responsible for the birth and development of periodicals in India.

1. Influence of political thought.
2. Influence of religious thought.
3. Influence of social thought.

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(4) Spread of education.
(5) Development in Science and Technology.
(6) To cover the time lag of book publication.
(7) Emergence of societies of various kinds.
(8) Economic causes.
(9) Technical causes.

(1) INFLUENCE OF POLITICAL THOUGHT

With the political appearance of a new group of Indian liberals, the development of political-reform-minded journalism was natural. These liberals founded a number of newspapers and periodicals, mainly in English. They set forth their moderate political goals before a small but western educated public. They came mainly from the legal and teaching professions, some even from government service. There were several prominent personalities like Surenderanath Banerjee, Kotilal Ghosh, Harish Chandra Mukherjee, Keshab Chandra Sen, Sisir Kumar Ghose, Aurobindo Ghosh, Bhupendra Nath Dutt etc. The press in India had become the instrument of propagation of political and social ideologies of reformers. At the same time, it created a deep political awareness among its readers. The suppression of the uprising of 1857 proved to be a turning point in Indian political development. It changed the character and form of public opinion in India. "The moral, intellectual and material springs of political life permeated through all parts of the country and educated Indians sought expression both through press and
platform. Naturally, the influence of political thought resulted in the birth and growth of periodicals.

(2) **INFLUENCE OF RELIGIOUS THOUGHT**

Great men like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Swami Dayanand, Dadabhai Naroji, Sir Pherozeshah Mehta, Mahadev Govind Ranade, Surender Nath Banerjee, R.C. Dutt, Bankim Chandra Chatterji, Aurobindo Ghosh, Lala Lajpat Rai, Swami Shrachenand, C.R. Das, Mahatma Gandhi and many others, in order to raise their voice against the British regime, had started various cultural, social, educational, religious and political organizations like the Brahmo Samaj, the Arya Samaj, the Theosophical Society, the Indian National Congress etc. They also started various periodicals and newspapers in order to convey their feelings to the public. So, with the development of religious consciousness in the mind of the people, some periodicals were born.

(3) **INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL THOUGHT**

Christian missionaries were also spreading the message of Christianity. India was passing through a stage of social crisis at that time. Western influences were working hard against Hindu and Muslim institutions. Raja Ram Mohan Roy was the first Indian to use the press services introduced into the country by Englishmen. He wanted to spread his ideas of social reform amongst Indian intellectuals. He stood for the abolition of prem Shanker Khare. *The Growth of Press and Public Opinion in India* (Alahabad: Piyush Prakashan, n.d.), pp. 24-25.
of Sati. Ram Mohan Roy and his followers asserted that "most of the Sati cases were not voluntary but forced." They argued that the Sati system was designed more to secure the temporal happiness of the surviving relatives than the spiritual welfare of the deceased and his wife. The Atmiya Sabha, founded by Ram Mohan Roy in 1815, used to discuss, among other social evils, the system of Sati. Ram Mohan Roy, with James Silk Buckingham, planned the publication of a vernacular weekly at Calcutta. In November 1821, the prospectus of the new journal, which was to be known as the Sambad Keumudi, was circulated both in English and in Bengali.

Other social leaders like Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Sir R.G. Bhandarkar, Agarkar, D.K. Karve etc. raised their voice against the social evils of society. In order to spread their views and to bring about social reforms, they decided to take the help of the press. The result was the origin and growth of periodical literature.

(4) SPREAD OF EDUCATION

Missionaries undertook educational activity as an integral part of their work in India. "Portuguese established the first Jesuit college in 1575 at Goa in India. In 1580 colleges were established at Goa and other places too." The honour of being

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the first Protestant mission to work in the territories of East India Company goes to a Danish mission. Ziegenbalg and his colleagues did considerable missionary and educational work. An institution for training teachers was opened at Tranquebar in 1716, and in the following year, two charity schools were opened in Madras - one for the Portuguese and the other for Tamil children. "Like Calcutta Madrasah, Jonathan Duncan founded the Benaras Sanskrit College for the Hindus in 1791. The Fort William College was founded in 1800 A.D." Three universities were established in 1857 in India at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. Later on, two more universities were established, one at Lahore (now in Pakistan), in 1882, and the other at Allahabad, in 1887.

So, it may be assumed that with the spread of education people developed a taste for reading, and periodicals came into being in larger numbers to satisfy the needs of the growing number of educated people.

(5) DEVELOPMENT IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

With the development in Science and Technology, scientists felt the need of knowing what other persons were doing in the same and related fields. Previously there were only a few persons engaged in scientific research and they used to communicate by personal correspondence. But planned research greatly increased the quantity of research-output. So, there was development of periodicals in science and technology. Scientific,
technical and research societies helped a lot in the development of scientific periodicals. The Asiatic society of Bengal was founded in 1784. It started publishing *Asiatick Researches* in 1788. An important institution named Madras Observatory came into being in 1792. Private scientific periodicals were also started. Thus, the inner urge of the scientists to know what other persons were doing in the field of Science, and to publish the results of their own researches led to the birth and development of some periodicals.

(6) TO COVER THE TIME LAG OF BOOK PUBLICATION

In India the first book was printed in 1556, while the first newspaper came into existence in 1780, and the first learned periodical was published in 1788. It is beyond doubt that after over two centuries of the publication of the first book, people must have realized that there was great time lag in conveying ideas in book form. So, in order to reduce the time lag, they started periodical publications. It takes a lot of time to write a book and then to print it. Still more time is needed to popularise it, so that the readers are induced to buy it. The idea of a periodical was perhaps initiated to cover the time lag between the publication of a book and the day-to-day ideas conceived by writers, thinkers and research scholars.

(7) EMERGENCE OF SOCIETIES OF VARIOUS KINDS

In the early days, dissemination of information was mainly a matter of personal communication either verbally or by correspondence. In India by the end of the eighteenth and the
beginning of the nineteenth century, scientific societies had been formed at which members read out papers, describing investigations they had carried out. So scientific periodicals began to be published to make discoveries known to a wider field.\textsuperscript{76}

(8) \textbf{ECONOMIC CAUSES}

The total expenditure required for the publication of a book is much higher than that on a periodical. To publish a book is even risky. "In case of periodicals there is a fixed number of subscribers and safe return of money is assured."\textsuperscript{77} It is not possible for most of the scientists to publish their results independently in the form of a book. This responsibility is taken by the periodicals. So, this factor also resulted in the birth and development of periodicals.

(9) \textbf{TECHNICAL CAUSES}

Development of modern techniques in printing is another factor leading to the establishment and development of periodicals. To economise printing by fast working printing machines, higher printing number is essential. "Coupled with this fact is the commercial risk involved in the production of large scale publication."\textsuperscript{78} This resulted in the tendency to print small units

such as articles grouped together in periodicals. Further, the fixed number of subscribers assured some sale. The result is the birth and development of periodicals.

Growth of periodicals has kept pace with the growth of knowledge. We have seen that in India during the eighteenth century the periodicals acquired the characteristics of "periodicals" in the modern sense. They became numerous during the nineteenth century, and are available in almost all the fields of specialization during the twentieth century. Estimates vary regarding the total world production of periodicals, but according to one reliable guess, there are 35,000 periodicals in science and technology alone, and these are increasing at the rate of 5 to 10 percent every year. George Andreia observes, "Some 10 to 12 million authors are regularly or occasionally producing new information in the exact and human sciences, technology and engineering, medicine and education. Their papers are published at an increasingly rapid rate in some 50,000 to 1,00,000 journals and form the subject of more than 1,50,000 abstracts every year, which in turn are issued by more than 1,800 services of specialising in bibliographical description." The periodicals have gained so much popularity that at one stage it was thought that the good

80. Ibid.
days of books were gone and they would be completely replaced by periodicals. But with this another problem was created for readers. The explosion of scientific literature was so terrific that it became difficult for the readers to cope up with this huge literature. To meet this problem secondary periodicals like Indexing and Abstracting periodicals were published.