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“SECESSION NEWSPAPERS AT THE NORTH”

We rejoice in the action of the New York Grand Jury in presenting as nuisances five newspapers in New York and Brooklyn which sympathize with the rebellion. It is time that this were done. We shall not enlarge upon the power of the press; it is a trite subject, though even though with all that is said, its true influence is not half known. Let the reader conceive some keen, sharp, rebel-at-heart editor sitting down in his office in New York, and so writing just to keep his neck out of a halter, just clearing a declaration of allegiance to Jeff. Davis, and poisoning twenty thousand unsuspecting men and women at once with fainthartedness toward their own government, laudation of the South, and falsehood generally as to the whole bearing of the war in both America and Europe. Suppose this to be systematically carried forward, every day, for months. Are not such papers the most powerful aids the rebels and can have?

Add to this, what is true in some of these cases, that the most “sugar-coated” sentiments – to use the President’s word – are mixed up with these articles, sentiments about patriotism, religion, humanity, bloodshed, mercy and the like, the whole together meaning no more or less than *treason*.

We hope the Court will promptly on this presentment of the grand jury. The investigation may very properly be carried on to other cities. And to begin at home: Have *we* a Secession paper among *us*, here in Philadelphia? Are we all right? Does every article ring clear of the true metal? Does every paper rejoice over the success of our arms and sorrow in our sorrow? Let the matter be looked into. Honest men will not be afraid of an investigation, and if there are not any honest, the sooner we know it the better.