WHY I TAKE A RELIGIOUS NEWSPAPER

I had rather dispense with the luxury of tea and coffee, and take my morning and evening beverage from the running stream, than do without a religious newspaper. Let me say why.

1. Because, I believe with Solomon, that knowledge is better than choicest gold. The cost of such a paper, in nothing compared with the information it gives, I know. I learn more about the geography, the history, and customs of different and distant nations, than I can get from any other source. And the information I thus get, I know to be true, as I am personally acquainted with many of those who communicate it, and know them to be men of veracity. Besides the knowledge I thus gain of my own country, I see how institutions, domestic and foreign, interconnect, intermingle, assist our prosperity in different ways. But more than all, I thus learn about the prosperity of Zion throughout the world.

2. Because, I cannot repeat the Lord's prayer in intelligently without information. How can I pray, "Thy kingdom come." when I know so little, so nothing about that kingdom?

3. Because, I am unwilling to lose the employment, I thus obtain. Neither can nor will I enter the minister of my wife, see the profile of my children, make me more glad, than the steady work of a meritoriously born newspaper.

4. Because of the benefit to my family. My children read, and discover, about what they have read.

5. Because of its influence on the heart. I take my pen, and read, and dwell, and meditate on practical holiness—on habits of prayer, or in presence, in the conversion of the world—and my heart is softened. It beats quicker with sympathy for the perishing, and anxiousness here to find the man.

6. Because, of the influence on the community—Who can estimate the influence of a well-conducted religious newspaper on 200 subscribers, and on five times that number of readers? It is the law of hermeneutics, and the law that descends upon the inhabitants of Zion, that he who comes to the Lord's command. The blessing, even life everlasting.

7. Because, while a religious paper contains ten-fold more important matter to interest a paper exceedingly secular, it is ten-fold more difficult to sustain it. Secular papers are principally sustained by their advertising earnings. Religious papers sustain themselves through their advertising, and consequently derive influence from this source. With all the economy they can practice, not more than half a deen religious paper in the land, do anything more than just live. While many have died with starvation, many more have the symptoms of premature death.

For those, and many more reasons, I take a religious newspaper, demanding it neither part, nor prestige to myself, and use to my family, in the public, in the pulpit, that he should be left to hear and publish.