

There was more of quality in the news  
Some fifty years ago  
Than, with all their prattle of 'progress,'  
The current journals show.

The modern newspaper has come to be  
A kind of pedler's pack,  
With less grip of Life's moving unities  
Than rules the pedler's clack.

The clean sense of convincing relation  
Is wholly lost to view  
In the hodge-podge of undigested slop  
Served in the daily stew.

## XLIX

THE thought of integrity in news  
(The truth entirely freed)  
Is one with the notion of government —  
The social daily need,

Communication parallels Commerce,  
And Commerce, or the State,  
Never reaches full organization  
Till all the facts are 'straight.'

The unreflective action of men  
Is ever in advance  
Of him whose trade is to put it in words —  
While viewing it askance!

To profess that fact cannot be ordered  
Thro' systematic plan,  
Is an insult to the unified mind  
Of any thinking man:

In the work of buying and selling it,  
Ignorance is a crime,<sup>11</sup>  
For the basic questions of social peace  
Hinge on fact all the time.