

Do we realize the extent to which the modern world relies for its opinions on public utterances and the Press? Do we realize how completely we are all in the power of report? [Any little lie or exaggerated sentiment uttered by one with a bee in his bonnet, with a principle or an end to serve, can, if cleverly expressed and

distributed, distort the view of thousands, sometimes of millions. Any willful suppression of truth for party or personal ends can so falsify our vision of things as to plunge us into endless cruelties and follies. Honesty of thought and speech and written word is a jewel and they who curb prejudice and seek honourably to know and speak the truth are the only true builders of a better life. But what a dull world if we can't chatter and write irresponsibly, can't slop over with hatred or pursue our own ends without scruple! To be tied to the apron strings of truth, or coiffed with the nightcap of silence; who in this age of cheap ink and oratory, will submit to such a fate?

Report, I would almost say, now rules the world and holds the face of man on the sayings of its many tongues. If the good sense of mankind cannot somehow restrain utterance and cleanse report, democracy, so highly vaunted, will not save us; and all the glib words of promise spoken might as well have lain unuttered in the throats of orators. We are always in peril under Democracy of taking the line of least resistance and immediate material profit. The gentlemen, for instance, whoever he was, who first discovered that he could sell his papers better by undercutting the standard of his rivals, and appealing to the lower tastes of the public under the flag of that convenient expression 'what the public wants' made a most evil discovery. The Press is for the most part in the hands of men who know what is good and right. It can be a great agency for levelling up. But whether it is so or not, one continually hears is doubted. There ought to be no room for doubt in any of our minds that the Press is on the side of the angels.

Questions

- (a) Suggest an appropriate title for the passage. (5)
- (b) Choose FIVE of the following words, and give for each another word, or phrase, of similar meaning which might be used to replace the word in the passage: Utterances, Falsify, Unuttered, Glib, Levelling up.

- (c)** What can plunge us into miseries?
- (d)** Explain what is meant by any **THREE** of the following phrases as used in the passage:
- (i)** With a principle or an end to serve.
 - (ii)** This age of cheap ink and oratory.
 - (iii)** Undercutting the standard.
 - (iv)** On the side of the angles.

(i) (ii)

Suitable Title:

"Impacts of press reporting on public opinion"

(ii)

utterances: speeches, discussion, debate

Falsify: Blur, incoherent, wrong

Unuttered: Not spoken, ~~was~~ unspoken

Glib: Captivating but deceptive

levelling up: intellectual development

(iii)

Incoherent or shallow opinion on the issues can lead us to miseries. Information nowadays is full of lies. Such sugar coated lies serve some ideology or group but they make truth non perceivable. When these manipulated opinions become our opinion, they lead us to unending miseries.

(iv)

a- With a principle or an end to serve

The phrase in the passage means that lies are often spoken to serve an ideology. Lies are not purposeless and they are spoken to achieve some goals

c- Undercutting the standards

The phrase in the passage means that reduction in standards of language and reporting. According to author, the person who appealed these low standards committed irreversible crime.

b- This age of cheap ink and oratory

The phrase means that it is an era of

low intellectual standards and false

reporting, it is near to impossible for

any writer to remain unbiased and

free of prejudice