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THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE" AND EARLY VERMONT PRINTS. The death of a conscientious and long-lived journal is a
public calamity, A paper, like an individual, may not live up to all its opportunities but all long established journals must have had periods of genuine public service, even though
they die after over a century of useful work, like the Spy of Worcester, Mass.
A journal worthy of the name is more than a piece of
property; more than a business enterprise. Thoroughly identifled with its community and its commonwealth, it becomes an institution, guided by high ideals and inspired by
lofty thought. Loyal to these standards, it acquires grand associations, while ever alive to new purposes and nobler aspirations. Men may come and men may go but "the paper" must live up to its splendid traditions.
Consciously or unconsciously the ple voices the composite sentiment of its constituency. Only when a newspaper becomes strong in determination or repopular opinion it must often defy in advocating what it must ever keep in mind, the true interests of the people as a whole.
The Spirit of the Age of Woodstock, which, according to its own announcement, will go out of existence next
Saturday, is published in a small community, but its loss may mean much more for its region timm would the
dropping out of one of the many strong papers of a great clty like New York, for the metropolitan district, especially if we regard its long period of varied service. anique individuality. It was founded as a den Age had a and for this reason, if for no other womld neressarily hering to anti-democratic principles twithe is was established seventy-three years rgo, its fivet rumber having ap-
peared on May 8, 1840, it long remained steadfastly democratic in sympathes, except for a brief support of the Free
Soiles when the ald Demseratic party split on the slavery question One of the nost wholesome infuences in government
and politics is a strong opposition journal, constantly alive to the duty of prodding the party in power up to the best possible the That Charles G. Eastman, the founder of the Spirit of
the Age, was well qualified by nature and acquired sym-
pathies to put and keep "on guard" the old Whig party of his time is indicated by his course in the national campaign of
1844. In addition to his regular issue of the Age in his support of James K. Polk for president Editor Enstman printed
a campaign edition called the "Coon Hunter," and he also issued against the Whig candidate a quarto publication entitled, "Henry Clay's Duels." the paper was changed to the Woodstock Age, but when Mr. Eastman was succeeded by A. E. Kimball in 1845 the old - time. In 1847 Mr . Kimball was succeeded by E. M. Brown and the latter in turn by W. D. McMaster who conducted it
for thirty-four years, making it a political power in that region.
Mr . Edward C. Dana, the present editor, has made a gallant struggle in the face of competition which constantly Spirit of the Age and the substitution of a monthly to be called the Elm Tree Monthly, he yields to conditions which
are being felt in many of the rural regions, not only in Vermont but also throughout the nation.
In this connection it may be well to recall the birth of printing in the Connecticut valley, the cradle of Vermont
journalism, not many miles distant from the home of the Spirit of the Age and almost coincident with the Declaration tion. According to E. P. Walton, former editor of the Montpelier Watchman, the first printing press in Vermont was
probably brought here by Samuel Gale, an Englishman, who was married in Brattleboro in 1773 and appointed county
clerk of Cumberland, now Windham county. In the Westminster massacre he was of course on the court side, and the ment finding refuge in Canada. The first newspaper in the Green Mountain region was towns on the east side of the Connecticut was then included in Vermont territory, these towns being represented in the resolved that Judah Paddock and Alden Spooner be and are hereby appointed printers for the General Assembly
State", The printing office in question was moved in 1779 tw Westminster from Dresden which with other New Harap.
shire towns was set off from Vermont for the first time in February, of the year named, the manifest purpose being to put the office within the boundaries of the State for which
the firm were public printers.
The first newspaper printed in what is now Vermont, The Vermont Gazette or Green Mountain Post-Boy, was isa copy of volume one of this paper dated Monday. April 2 , 1781, is now preserved, together with the press on which it
was printed, in the rooms of the Vermont Historical Society at Montpelier

It is believed that this press was the first one brought Henry Dunster, first president of Harvard College. used by Samuel Green, a printer in Cambridge, Mass,, one of whoge descendants, Timothy Green, wa
Spooner in the publication of the Post-Poy Well may the newspapers of the twentieth century live ple: "Pliant as Reeds, Where Streams of Fredom glide; firm
$\underline{\text { as the Hills to stem Oppression's Tide." }}$

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