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Figure 65: The Spirit of the Times, 29 Oct. 1825, an early nineteenth-century weekly.

Journal*), religious* papers (the Anglican *Guardian**), society* papers (*Vanity Fair**), family* papers (Dickens's* *Household Words**), papers for women (the *Lady's Newspaper**), and children's papers (*Boys of England**). Additionally, many specialized weekly organs emerged in the second half of the century to serve the followers of particular professions*, trades*, and hobbies.

Whether in terms of character of readership*, editorial content or physical format*, weekly issue probably represents the most diverse mode of nineteenth-century serial* publication. GL

Sources: Altick 1957, Brown 1985, Lee 1976, Vann and VanArsdel 1994.

WEEKLY CHRONICLE (1836-1867) The *Weekly Chronicle*, an illustrated broadsheet, was owned and edited by Henry George Ward (1797-1860), a successful diplomat and colonial administrator who was governor of Ceylon (1855-1867). Henry Ward was a staunch liberal and founded the *Weekly Chronicle* as a means to present his political* views to the general public. Despite his predominantly

political aims, the *Weekly Chronicle* featured a variety of material, such as foreign* and national news*, London news, outlines of the week, law intelligence, court* reports, insurance reports, book reviews* and literary criticism. Costing 6d in 1846, its price fell as taxes were removed (4d [1856] and 3d [1860]).

Although owned and edited* by the same person, the *Weekly Chronicle* was published by a succession of different publishers*. It appeared with varying frequency*: three times* a week during 1846 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday), twice a week during 1851 and 1856 (Saturday and Sunday) and once a week during 1860 (Saturday). The *Weekly Chronicle*'s sales also varied considerably: 17,000 to 21,000 copies were sold during the early 1840s, whereas in 1848 its circulation* peaked at 152,000 issues. After 1848 the numbers dwindled, although 1851 still saw the sale of 50,000 copies. OD
Sources: ODNB, *Waterloo*.

WEEKLY DISPATCH (1795-1961) This newspaper became renowned as the *Weekly Dispatch*, although it underwent numerous title changes* in its first three decades. Founded by Robert Bell* as *Bell's Weekly Dispatch**, it became the *Weekly Dispatch* in 1801, reverted to *Bell's Weekly Dispatch* in 1812, changed to *Kent's Weekly Dispatch and Sporting Mercury* (1814-1823), reverted to the *Weekly Dispatch* for over a century (1823-1928), ending up as the *Sunday Dispatch*. Robert Bell was the first proprietor*, and sometime editor* (1815, 1824), as well as publisher* (1813, 1824). Later proprietors included Ashton Dilke (1875), George Kent, Alderman Harmer, Alfred Charles Harmsworth* and George Newnes*. Pierce Egan* (1825), William Cox Bennett, George Gissing, John Stuart Mill* and Eliza Orme are among many notable contributors. As a Sunday* paper, aimed at working-class readers*, it specialized in sensational news* and sport* in its early phase, from vivid crime reports such as the supposed involvement of the preacher John Church in the London Vere Street homosexual brothel to Pierce Egan's noted boxing reports.

In 1840, with a circulation* of over 60,000, three times that of its closest rival, the *Weekly Dispatch* was clearly the most powerful metropolitan* newspaper in terms of sales. According to the journalist James Grant circulation rose 'with rapidity which probably had no previous parallel in the history of the Weekly World Newspaper Press' (Grant: 43). This was largely due to the proprietorship of Alderman Harmer who 'lost no time in greatly enlarging its size*', and adding new and attractive features to