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Susan Oliver

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Susan Oliver

Transatlantic influences in periodical editing: from Francis Jeffrey's *Edinburgh Review* to Horace Greeley's *New-York Tribune*

In the 2 April 1836 number of the *New-Yorker* the editor Horace Greeley, who was just 25 years old and in the early stages of his career, remarked on the relevance of British Periodicals to the North American public. He singled out the *Edinburgh Review* for particular tribute: 'We believe the general opinions and spirit of "the Edinburgh" are more consonant with the feelings and tastes of the educated classes of this country than those of either of its rival Quarterlies.'¹ There are some key words in that brief declaration. Greeley's concern with 'opinions,' 'spirit' and 'taste,' and the pointed emphasis he places on their location within the nation's 'educated classes,' suggests an area of common ground between him and the editors of the *Edinburgh*, though his publications were of a very different format and style. Whig politics, abolitionism and an agenda of social reform, though significant, were not the only areas of concurrence. Looking back over thirty-four years of the *Edinburgh*, and forwards to an American age of journal publication and literary growth, Greeley was poised at a turning point in which the transatlantic tables of influence were about to be dramatically revised.

This essay cannot take account of all of the British and North American periodicals that were significant to transatlantic relations during the first half of the nineteenth century, but it aims to make some interesting comparisons. Most of all, I want to highlight crucial networks of reciprocity and exchange that emerge. We can then begin to see a clearer picture of how a distinctive,

1. Horace Greeley, *New-Yorker*, 2 (2 April 1836).