The period saw the rise of the political pamphlet and essay, but the leading genre of the Enlightenment became the novel. The prose style became clear, graceful and polished. Most of the writers of this time wrote political pamphlets, but the best came from the pens of Defoe and Swift. The second Period of the Enlightenment was the most mature period. The development of the newspaper and the periodical is an interesting literary sideline of the 17th.c. Defoe is, in many ways, the father of the modern periodical, purveying opinion more than news, and The Review, which he founded in 1704, is the progenitor of a long line of ‘well-informed’ magazines. This article is focused on English-language literature rather than the literature of England, so that it includes writers from Scotland, Wales, the Crown dependencies, and the whole of Ireland, as well as literature in English from countries of the former British Empire, including the United States. However, until the early 19th century, it only deals with the literature of the United Kingdom, the Crown dependencies and Ireland. It does not include literature written in the other languages of Britain.