

to prevent the rising up of such men. Many of the great and good who have stirring and noble thoughts, shrink from the storm of obliquy and abuse, which their avowal would create, where the opinion of the many is a tyrant, and these thoughts are as a consequence utterly lost to their generation.\* Besides this loss, it will be found that in these circumstances, the spirit of enterprize is repressed, and the people, hugging themselves in their superlative wisdom, and enwrapping themselves in a seven-fold robe of bigotry and prejudice, sublimely descend into a state as contemptible as it is inane. Look at those parts of Europe and Asia in which mental slavery is a characteristic of the people. What avails a fine climate, a fertile soil, mineral wealth, noble rivers, good harbours, in short, all natural advantages,—they have not the *mind* to use them, they have neither self-reliance nor independence of character, their souls are enthralled in a dreary serfdom, and they merely vegetate, where they ought to grow into dignity and importance. Anything, therefore, which tends to repress individual and then combined enterprize, ought to be eschewed by a community.

The subject is of more than usual importance in the present day among ourselves, from the fact that we are in a transition state commercially, and our prosperity as a people depends chiefly, under the blessing of the Almighty, on the practical wisdom, the spirit of enterprize and industry, and the vigour of self-reliance found in the midst of us. The free-trade policy of the Mother Country, of which we have not the slightest reason to complain, has cut us off from that profitable monopoly which heretofore we have enjoyed. Changes are therefore forced upon us, and those minds deserve well of the community that freely exercise their right of thought upon our condition, and looking to the right hand and to the left, devise a course of action. That there will be a difference of opinion on these matters, is not only to be expected,

\* The sentiments in this paragraph thus far, have already appeared through the press in an address delivered before the Theological Society of Dartmouth College in 1847. But, in addition to the consideration that a man is entitled to quote from himself, as that address was not published in Canada, I have not hesitated to insert them here. I may take this opportunity also of stating that the spirited lyrical effusion with which the lecture closes was given in the same address. That, however, is not my own, for alas! I am not a poet.