

sometimes half fancying them real, and at other times placing them among the expectations of the future. Active planning and scheming succeeds, and then follow the disappointments of a more sober reality. Experience at length instructs him that castle-building in the air lacks the essential feature of stability, an actual foundation! But amid all this wildness or sobriety of thinking, the consciousness of coercion never for a moment intrudes itself. What son or daughter of man holds the check rein by which this thinking could be restrained? Whose voice other than that of the Almighty, may pronounce the fiat "hitherto shalt thou proceed, but no further?" It is true that by judicious education you may direct these currents of thought into channels wherein profit and reputation may be obtained, but education consists not in force applied to the mind; it rather *leads* than *drives*;—controlling what remains perfectly free, by the persuasive influence of motive. Should the educator deem punishment requisite, in order to induce diligence in a prescribed course, yet this agency cannot affect the freedom of the mind; it can only suggest a motive whereby it may be induced to exercise its liberty in one department rather than in another. The same is true of the full aged man. Tyranny may chain his body, and oppress his interests, and lacerate his feelings, but it cannot lay its iron grasp upon his soul,—she laughs the despot to scorn, and moves as she pleases. Persecution of opinion may force men into hypocrisy; under its goading they may be tempted to *pretend* to think under authority, but it is only pretence, for thought is not to be thus coerced. Amid the gloom of the latter part of the middle ages, Copernicus with conscious mental freedom examined the several theories of the universe, which had been propounded by ancient astronomers, and astonished at the complication of their systems, as well as at their discordance and want of symmetry, he set himself to frame out of them one that could be established. He was an Eclectic in respect of the then state of science, and by independent thought and research, taking out of each system whatever was true, and rejecting whatever was false and complicated, he at length composed that admirable whole, which is now called after him, the "*Copernican System*," and which is, in reality, the true arrangement