

existing usages in the name of God, who would count it as service done to himself; he no less earnestly inculcated on masters, husbands, and fathers, a set of duties, till then little thought of or practised, and that, upon the ground that there was in the heavens A MASTER of the master; and that there was no respect of persons with Him.

So effectual was this teaching that none, even of the enemies of Christianity, have ever brought forward an instance of domestic insubordination consequent upon the new doctrine: the Christian servant, wife or child was but the more anxious to fulfil, "as unto God" all the duties which his or her situation on the then social system imposed: no servile war followed the proclamation of equal rights; and the slave bore his fate patiently, looking for the freedom of a better world. The profound wisdom of these injunctions cannot but be instantly recognised; for persons unaccustomed to self guidance are unable at first to exercise new rights with discretion; and the mind must be formed to thought by long training, ere it becomes capable of acting under new circumstances. The slave, brutalized by hardships and severity, had no self command; and even as late as the time of Clement of Alexandria, we find that writer anxiously endeavoring to teach some few of those decencies of life which even a common laborer of modern England would not wholly disregard. So too, the Greek woman, shut up within the walls of the Gynæceum, without literature or mental culture, would have found in the freedom to mix in men's society

* We shall see at a later period a husband suing his wife, she having embraced Christianity, for denying him conjugal rights. She herself hereupon pleaded her cause before the emperor, and proved that he had demanded of her such vicious compliances, that she was held justified by her judge in the course she had pursued.