

religious services. The contrary party have, perhaps, been the greatest as they have been the oldest sinners against this law of liberty, but it cannot be doubted that there is a tendency in all parties and in all men "to cast out" those who refuse to think and act with them. *Combined* opinion and sentiment may mount the throne of tyranny. *All* despotisms are not in *single* hands. The multitude may cripple individual freedom. Impatient of contradiction and annoyed at opposition, the earnest crowd sometimes forget personal rights, and put down the man who has the courage and honesty to be singular. He is made the butt of ridicule, the finger of scorn is pointed at him, or he is indignantly denounced. Flaws in his character are searched for or imagined, and his good name is destroyed. The scourge of unpopularity is laid heavily upon him, while he is literally gibbeted before the public eye for the simple crime of daring to think for himself and to avow his convictions. And all this is done in the sacred name of freedom, and professedly at her shrine!

Now we contend that this course is not only in itself an outrage and a wrong, but the event will shew that the sin is retributively visited on the community in which it has existence. For it cripples and prevents mental progress. If you repress the movements, and put down even the erratic course of individual mind, a grievous mischief is inflicted on your generation. There is original greatness in all master spirits, but it will be found that the age in its circumstances and claims ordinarily develops and brings into exercise their peculiar energy. *Then* the great mind avails himself of the occasion, and sways these circumstances for the achievement of some noble issue. No generation advances of itself. A tame monotony leaves the many what their fathers were. The army may be large, well appointed, and thoroughly drilled, but it will lie in the camp inert, until the genius and energy of the commander call it to action, and lead it on to victory. So it is in the history of truth and morals. Some restless soul denounces an unsound principle, or strikes out a vital truth; at first it startles and perhaps offends, but ultimately it impresses and moves an entire people. Now, all intolerance of individual sentiment, out of the usual line of theory and in opposition to that of the multitude, is so far