

ascending scale ; and it is in these, that the strength and the knowledge of the nation will appear concentrated in a mass. They must and will guide the machine in every thing.

How important then is it that they be rightly informed ! For the diffusion of sound knowledge amongst them, is diffusing health and happiness and prosperity through the land, and entailing the Divine blessing upon our children's children to countless generations. And, as each class will copy from those who are immediately above them ; so must the highest classes, the aristocracy of the land, take likewise a similar lesson. We would preserve the different gradations of society, and willingly render to rank and wealth the deference and respect due to the station in which Providence has placed those who possess them. But it is most certain, that men will feel more respect and esteem for those who merit them by their intellectual and moral worth, than for those who rest their single claim to superiority on title, wealth or power. The privileged orders then must join in the general pursuit ; for as to resisting the wide spread of knowledge, they might as well attempt to stop the glorious flood of light, which the rising sun pours from the golden East. The impetus has been given—the mighty current has set in—it flows with deep, expansive and irresistible flood ;—and, to continue the metaphor, “we may as well attempt to hurl back the stream of the Nile to the Nubian Mountains, the Rhine to the Rhœtian Alps, the Ganges to the Himalaya,” the St. Lawrence up the Falls of Niagara to Lake Erie—as to stem the torrent of knowledge, and turn it back into the stagnant lake of ignorance.

Suffer me to remind you, in conclusion, wherein consists the perfection of wisdom. It is when Talent consecrates its powers, when Knowledge lays its stores at the foot of the cross, when the spiritual and intellectual faculty blend and act in unison. This is not the place, I know, for theological discussion : but I think I am privileged by my office—or rather a responsibility is laid