

is again repeated in the charge given to Titus, "put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work." This subjection however, is not to the *man*, as such, but to the *Ruler*—not to the *individual*, but to the *power* which he represents. We are to be subject to the chief magistrate not because he is a *great man*, but because he is God's Minister, and wields the delegated authority of the State. We submit to him not merely as a *man*, but as the guardian and representative of *law*. The apostle does not say, "wilt thou not be afraid of the *man*?" But, "wilt thou not be afraid of the *Power*?" that is, the power with which God and the laws of his country have invested him as "a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil."

In connection with this subject, the question sometimes arises, "Is it lawful, under any circumstances, to resist the authority of the Sovereign?" I reply, most decidedly, it is not lawful so long as that Sovereign governs according to the constitution and laws of the country. If he fails to do so, the case is altered; and "the subject who is truly loyal to the chief magistrate will neither advise nor submit to arbitrary measures." There is no doubt but circumstances might arise when resistance would not only be lawful, but when it would become a positive duty. Such circumstances, for instance, as any "*overt attempts* on his (the ruler's) part, to *change the constitution*, or to rule *contrary to law*. When the ruler acts thus, he dissolves the compact between him and his people; his authority is no longer binding because illegal; and it is illegal because he is acting *contrary to the laws* of that constitution, according to which on being raised to the supreme power, he promised to govern. This conduct justifies opposition to his government; but I contend that no *personal misconduct* in the ruler, no immorality in his own life, while he *governs according to law*, can justify either rebellion against him or contempt of his authority. For his *political conduct* he is accountable to his *people*, for his *moral conduct* he is accountable to *God*, his *conscience* and the *ministers of*