

culture, or worth, in the separations they effect, but purely to ancestry or to possessions. The mental crouching, and fawning sycophancy perpetrated under the despotism of this idol, are sad proofs that men may rob their own minds of the dignity and blessing of freedom. Respect for rank and station is one and a good thing, but a mental serfdom is another and very bad thing. The soul cannot flourish under such an incubus. It is not needful to illustrate the many grievous ways in which *sensuality* degrades and enslaves the soul. It is painful to reflect how low men may sink who give themselves up "to those hurtful lusts which drown them in destruction and perdition." They descend into the most abject and least hopeful state of slavery. And yet, all the while they are responsible for that perverted state of the affections by which the healthful action of the mind is prevented.

In view of all these qualifying considerations, we are entitled to plead for the freedom of the mind. We may assert its claim to the highest liberty. And this is done for the purpose of earnestly insisting on *the practical recognition of those rights which this inherent freedom imparts*. Our design is less of a speculative than it is of a practical nature. There has always been a tendency to denounce men for an unpopular opinion. Let the free soul in its independent investigations come athwart the thinking of some old school,—let it propound new views, or new modifications of existing sentiments, or let it see what it deems a better way than that trodden by others, of reaching a common end,—and he will often find the consequences of his temerity the reverse of pleasant. It often happens that the loudest declaimers on the rights of man and on the value of freedom, are the least tolerant of opposing sentiments. The men who assume *par excellence* the title of "liberals," are often most wrathful with those whose free minds decline subscription to all their doctrines, and refuse to draw in *their* harness. Some of the Cantons of Switzerland present, at this moment, illustrations of this fact. The party in power, being in the schools of politics denominated "radical," refuse to tolerate any dissent from the National Church, and persecute, imprison, and banish pastors and people who venture to hold private meetings for