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ERA.

(Continued from page 311.)

It was amid the members of a social system thus constituted that the christian teacher had to teach the liberty of the gospel, and the equality of all men before God: he had to announce that the slave was not less than his master in the sight of the Deity;—had equal duties to perform, equal rewards to hope for;—that woman, very generally degraded to a mere *thing*, was an intellectual being, accountable before her Creator for the rational soul bestowed on her, which no bondage could extinguish:—and that children, who, in the most ancient states, were mere chattels of the father, liable to be sold to pay his debts or supply his needs, were the especial favorites of the Deity, and the model on which the christian was to form his own character. It was a difficult task to make this doctrine palatable to the dominant portion of society,