

might triumph over all rule, and move uncontrolled by moral influences acting as he liked, no one else could have liberty. So, if a man's fellows, free as they are, were not reduced to obligation and placed under law, they would exercise a license incompatible with *his* freedom. Let it ever be understood among first principles that *the reign of law is not only perfectly compatible with freedom, but is in fact essential to its existence.*

Having asserted the inherent freedom of the mind, and the absurdity of all attempts by force to interfere with it, we may be asked, "Is it possible to enslave it? Can it be brought into bondage? Is it susceptible of enchainment? May its liberty be laid prostrate, and be lost? This inquiry must be answered in the affirmative, but it must be added that *SELF is the only agent by whom the evil can be wrought.* It may be enslaved, but self must forge and rivet its chains. Its liberty may be laid prostrate and be lost, but only a suicidal hand can deal that blow, or effect that grievous ruin. And by what instrumentality do men bring on themselves this catastrophe? In what manner do they reach at length this fearful issue? The reply is by *vice*. But in giving this answer the word is employed in a large and comprehensive sense, including mental viciousness as well as physical,—a want of rectitude in the soul, as also a yielding to the tyranny of a sensual course. How often is the intellect enslaved by prejudice and bigotry! The persecutors of Galileo put the fetters on their own souls which they could not rivet upon his. He *demonstrated* that the Earth moved round the Sun, and not the Sun round the Earth. Had their minds been actively free, the proofs which convinced him could not have failed to have persuaded them; but they yielded to the influence of bigotry and prejudice,—they put a veil upon their intellectual eye, and then they *could not see*. The minds of many are brought into bondage by the tyranny of *fashion*. They will not allow themselves to think except in accordance with the dictates of this fickle and often grotesque goddess. Trifling and foolish as she is, and withal not a whit more steady than the weathercock, she, nevertheless, holds the many in a depressing slavery. Now she throws around her bondmen and bondwomen the chains of *caste*, which have no regard to intellect, or