

relating to matters of sense, taste, and good behaviour, when condemned. Of Eccentricity, in particular, Crabb says, in several different places, as follows: "Oddness, eccentricity, and strangeness are never taken in a good sense." He says, "They consist in a violation of good order and the decencies of human life, and cannot be justified;" and avers in the following strong language, "An eccentric character, who distinguishes himself by nothing but the breach of every established rule, is a being who deserves nothing but ridicule, or the more serious treatment of censure and rebuke." As to the source of Eccentricity, the author above quoted says, "Eccentricity, which is the excess of singularity, arises, commonly, from the undisciplined state of strong powers," and gives Rousseau as an example.

Now, with certain safeguards and limitations, we do not know that we have anything to object to the above; but then, some people are so deplorably enslaved to what is called the usages of good society as to extinguish any little spark of individuality there might have been originally in their composition. It has so crushed out all independence of thought, so crippled every tendency to original expression, and so effectually stifled every ebullition of vivacity, that they may be said to be more dead than alive. I do not know a more intolerable bore than the company of such people, if it can be called companionship at all. Of such persons it may be truly said, according to the homely but strong phrase sometimes used, "They are afraid to say their souls are their own." What more enlivens human society, or gives a greater charm to intercourse of man with man, than that each should utter his own perceptions of any given subject of conversation, and in those forms of expression that are natural to him. How pitiful it would be to see a person of Sidney Smith's constitutional humour endeavour to deliver himself with the sage philosophy of Coleridge, and in his elaborate forms of expression. No two productions of God's material creation are exactly alike, and the same may be said of human minds, if the individuality were not crushed out of some by the tyranny of social law, which requires that all should be cast in one rigid mould. What some people call eccentricity of mind, is nothing more than a Heaven-imprinted personality; and to try to suppress such individuality must only