

*never looks up* ; never looks above himself—never sees any thing to admire or love, but what is in self, or a reflection of self. If this be adverse to intellect in its higher developments, it is still more adverse to the moral health of the bosom. The intense vanity from which this springs, deeply vitiates all that is pure, noble and generous in the heart and conscience. The self-conceited person has seldom intellectual greatness to command respect, and never those qualities of heart that secure love and esteem. In the eyes of all right thinking men, he is an exceedingly poor creature, and whenever he happens to possess any power, is to the last degree troublesome and mischievous. He is, indeed, the one “who is wiser in his own conceit, than seven men that can render a reason.” Now, although the elements of moral courage are wholly wanting in the self-conceited ; yet, he is almost sure to fancy himself possessed in no ordinary degree of the thing. His readiness to assume any undertaking, his pertinacious adherence to his own opinion, in opposition to the reasoning of wise men, and his entire complacency in his own conclusions on the most difficult subjects, not to speak of his supreme contempt for the judgment of others, must have a natural tendency to beget in him the notion that he is possessed of singular decision of character, of great firmness of purpose, and of unbending adherence to the dictates of conscience. The self-conceited man is, in his own eyes, a hero, and when he happens to suffer for his conceit, *he fancies himself a martyr*. Would to God that such men would condescend to ask, whether the path which they pertinaciously pursue, be that of duty, or merely their own way which blind self-willfulness chooses to take. Whether their adherence to what they call great principles be not the adherence of a vain mind to its own fancies ; and if their firmness, for what they call conviction, be ought else than the stubbornness of pride. Like many others, the self-conceited man if he would mend, must begin by throwing away much ; and first of all, he should throw away the notion that he is a man of moral courage. On the whole, not much can be made of him. But surely it were a vain attempt to try to make a moral hero out of a piece of foolish presumption and stubborn conceit. No, verily, this is not the greatness that can save the world. Young men, be not deceived, he that goes to the devil for qualities to make him great, is nearly as far