

can secure that unity in diversity from which harmony and happiness result.

The difficulty, however, of the task appears much less, when we consider that although man delights in freedom of thought, its unrestricted wanderings become to him a torment and a curse; and, that, under such circumstances, the very necessities of his nature speedily demand that lawless license shall give place to lawful liberty. When we reflect, indeed, upon the springs of human action, it will be found that voluntary subjection to fixed principles is by far the most powerful of them all. The mind of man is oppressed by the burden of an unlimited indefinite freedom, and exults even in the most submissive obedience, if allowed to think that its subjection has been voluntary. It is when it has submitted to the mastery of Truth, that it realizes and enjoys the precious freedom which Truth alone can give. Liberty can find no resting place upon a shoreless ocean, but must return, like Noah's dove, to the hand that sent it forth, until it shall be able to discover the *Terra Firma* of truth. Settled and fixed principles are the true home of Freedom. It is license alone that spurns the just restraints of law, and becomes a criminal, and a vagabond in the earth.

He who formed the human mind, knew well its character, and that it must have some haven of rest—some sure and steadfast anchorage, so as not to be forever tossed upon the billows of uncertainty. In giving to man the gospel, he has given to him, therefore, the very security he requires. We can imagine nothing more unshaken or enduring. Immoveable as the throne of Deity, and indestructible as his love, it can resist the fury of its adversaries, and the ravages of time. God has laid in Sion, a "tried stone;" a "sure foundation stone;" and he who believes in Him "shall never be confounded." Surely, there can be nothing less indeterminate than the gospel of Christ; nothing less transitory than the word of God "which lives and abides for ever;" nothing less unstable than the Christian confession,—the great central truth of Christianity—that rock on which Jesus declared he would build his church, and against which he promised that the gates of Hades should not prevail! The solemn sanction, even, which are thrown around the gospel, indicate its character and its importance. It becomes the savor of death, as well as that of life. "He that believeth not shall be condemned." Shall guilt attach to the disbelief of any thing that is doubtful! "Vengeance" shall be taken upon those who "obey not the gospel." Shall the