

AMONG all nations, light has been deemed a fit emblem of knowledge. In the English language, to ENLIGHTEN, is to *instruct*; and in French, LUMIÈRE, is equivalent to *knowledge* or *understanding*. To ILLUSTRATE, and to ILLUMINATE, are words of Latin original, and primarily meant to convey *light* to an object. The Greek word from which the English term, IDEA, is derived, had a similar application to *light* and to *knowledge*. And the Italian, CHIARO, is applied exactly in the same manner. Were we to examine the practice of all languages, we should find traces of the same mode of reasoning in every one of them. By the unanimous consent of the human race, knowledge resembles the perception of light; ignorance is allied to obscurity and darkness. This consent could not be produced by education, nor extorted by power. It could not be occasioned by any exterior cause. It has its foundation in those natural, unrestrained, and undisguised feelings of the soul, which are common to all mankind. They who object to the diffusion of knowledge, ought to extend their objections to those things which the whole human race have connected with it; to the light of the Sun, and to the power of vision.

"EDUCATION," say the ancient poets quoted in the title-page, "is the fairest inheritance; it is an incorruptible possession; useful even to husbandmen, and humanizing all who obtain it. He who acquires this, sees twice; he alone has the true use of his eyes, and he is possessed of a superior understanding."