

against erroneous *lives*. Error in the head tends to error in the heart, and both tend to error in action.

(7.) *A Christian Creed, published and expounded, tends to educate and elevate the masses up to its high standard.*

Words are things of power, because words are *ideas* or *thought's*, and what but ideas or thoughts are the latent forces that elevate man to all the heights of civilization, or degrade him to all the depths of barbarism? The simplest creed that contains the germ of a correct Christian theology is more mighty to elevate the human soul, than all the philosophy of all human sages and moralists of all ages. But all truth vitalizes and exalts the human mind. Any vital truth stated in terse words, whether it be religious, scientific, or political truth, if recorded, published, defended, explained and applied, has in it a force that tells on the destiny of man more than the massing and marching of the mightiest armies. Ideas or thoughts—not Presidents or kings govern the world. “Knowest thou not,” says Milton, “that truth is *mighty* next to the Almighty?”

As an illustration of this great principle, some of us have seen the effect of a few written words in the tragic history of slavery on this continent. Slavery was introduced and maintained in the United States *by a creed*—a perverse creed—conceived in blind ignorance, false philanthropy and godless political economy. And finally slavery was undermined and abolished *by a creed*. That creed was the “Declaration of Independence,” which, however objectionable to us in some respects, contained some sublime truths. That creed, printed and published, read and re-read, quoted and applied, and heard from press, pulpit, and platform, had more to do with the shaping of public sentiment and of political parties, than all the plots of politicians, and all the plans of statesmen. Take one article of this national “Confession of Faith,” that