

out its wings and poises itself in the air, it soars aloft ; it sails abroad through the unresisting element ; it faces the tempest and forces its way through, or soars above the storm, and moves almost with the freedom of an incorporeal spirit. So the human soul, not knowing or not obeying the great laws of spiritual thought and life, grovels helplessly upon the earth, the slave of its own ignorance or waywardness. But when it obeys those laws, it rises into higher realms of thought, it moves with a larger liberty, and spreads itself out into a wider and nobler sphere of being. Christianity, in revealing to us the highest laws of life and the highest truths on which the human mind can be engaged, prepares man for the largest liberty of which his nature is capable, if he will only submit to those laws and accept those truths. For here, as everywhere else, the maxim of the great master of modern thought holds true, "*parendo imperamus*" — "by obeying we govern."

We say that we must submit to the authority and the words of Christ as we find them in the New Testament. But there is a large field for free inquiry in determining what constitutes the genuine text of the New Testament. We cannot say precisely what amount of emendation and rejection in the received text will exceed the just limits of Christian liberty, and throw a man out of the pale of Christianity ; but we do know that there is all the difference in the world between one who rejects altogether the genuineness and the authority of the Constitution of the United States, and one who, admitting both, would correct certain obvious misprints in the copies of that instrument which he and his neighbors happen to have. So there is all the difference in the world between one who recognises the authority of Christ and of the Scriptures, while he doubts about the genuineness of particular passages, or the authorship of the Epistle to the Hebrews, and one who denies altogether the authority both of Christ and the Scriptures. It is idle and dishonest to say that they oc-