

“Every man,” says Channing, in his argument against slavery, “has a right to exercise and invigorate his intellect, and whoever obstructs or quenches the intellectual life in another, inflicts a grievous and irreparable wrong.”* “Let not the sacredness of individual man be forgotten in the feverish pursuit of property. It is more important that the individual should respect himself, and be respected by others, than that national wealth, which is not the end of society, should be accumulated.”† “He (the slave) must form no plans for bettering his condition, whatever be his capacities; however equal to great improvements of his lot, he is chained for life to the same unwearied toil. That he should yield himself to intemperance we must expect, unused to any pleasures but those of sense.” “We are told,” says the same author, “that they are taught religion, that they hear the voice of Christ, and read in his cross the unutterable worth of their spiritual nature; but the greater part are still buried in heathen ignorance.”‡

“They may be free from care, and sure of future support, but their future is not brightened by images of joy; it stretches before them sterile and monotonous, sending no cheering whisper of a better lot.”§

An inhabitant of one of the six New England States, or of New York, where, in a population of five millions of souls, one teacher is now supplied for every thirty children, may be entitled to address this language to the southern slave owner; but does the state of the working classes, whether in Great Britain or the West Indies, authorize us to assume the same tone?

A merchant from New York told me, that in “The Union,” a semi-official journal published at Washington, and supposed to represent the views of the cabinet, an article had just appeared, headed, “The whole of Oregon or none,” which for the first time gave him some uneasiness. “A war,” he said, might seem too absurd to be possible; but a few months ago he had thought the election of Mr. Polk equally impossible, and the President might

* Channing's Works, vol. ii. p. 35.

† Vol. ii. p. 94.

‡ Vol. ii. p. 44.

§ Vol. ii. p. 89.