

the time of Christ they had become a province of the Roman empire, and their religion had degenerated into the whited sepulchre of phariseeism, or the yet more repulsive carcass of sadduceeism.

Look now at an opposite example, in the effort made in France, near the close of the last century, to establish freedom and education without religion. It was like an attempt to erect a noble edifice without any foundation. It was worse; it was like placing such an edifice upon ground that was already rocking and heaving by the stifled fires of a terrific volcano. The fires of ferocious passions, fanned into a sevenfold heat by the sirocco breath of atheism, did soon break forth beneath that temple of liberty, and it was blown to atoms; while streams of scorching lava were belched forth over every European nation, and the gloom of a military despotism settled down upon the fairest portion of the globe, the whole forming a memento of the terrible retribution that follows an effort to dethrone God and deify human reason.

Another fact which history furnishes, illustrative of this subject, is the intimate connection that has ever existed between despotism, ignorance, and false or perverted religion — *par nobile fratrum*. I am not aware of a single exception, in the whole annals of our world; and where the tyranny has been the most grinding, the religion has been the most corrupt, and the ignorance the most profound. As illustrations of this statement, in ancient times, memory shows, imprinted on her tablet, Assyria and Media, Persia and Egypt; in the middle ages, almost the whole of Europe; and in modern times, nearly all of Asia; over whom the triple-headed monster above named is seen enthroned in gloomy sovereignty — a snaky Gorgon, converting every thing fair and lovely to stone by his hideous aspect. On such a soil,