

voluntary, to any of the thousand petty tyrants that, from the beginning, have lorded it over the human soul, and made merchandise of its lofty powers, and crushed its expanding energies. The wrongs which the human family have endured from slavery, technically so called, terrible as they have been, sink into comparative insignificance when we take this wider view of the subject, and behold, as I shall endeavor to show, not a few millions merely, but earth's almost entire and vast population, deprived of rights infinitely more precious than personal liberty — the right and the power of cultivating the faculties by which alone they are distinguished from the brutes that perish. Here is a chapter on oppression and slavery which has never yet been written. Indeed, what arithmetic can tell us the value of the rights which have thus been wrested from man, or the amount of the losses and sufferings he has endured! And yet, as I said above, unless we bring physical sufferings into the account, there is little sensibility among men to the subject. It will not need an armed police here to-day to defend me from violence while I discuss it. But on the other hand, I have reason to fear that the strong array of urbanity, and attention, and benevolence, and patience, which I know form a strong body guard around this audience, will hardly be able to defend them against drowsiness, or nervousness, as I proceed.

But I am dealing too much in enigmas. I denominate my subject **THE WASTE OF MIND**. It is not necessary, before this audience, to enter into an argument to show that, unless the intellectual powers are cultivated, man scarcely rises above the brutes; nay, in many respects, is their inferior. Nor will it be any more doubted that the Creator endowed us with these powers, with the precise design of having them cultivated; and of course, that he surrounded us with circum-