

through all the earth? — objects that claim the first regard of every benevolent heart. Assuredly this vision is not imagination; and it looms up in the future, — and I would fondly hope not in the distant future, — a bright star of hope for this abused and down-trodden world. The little which has hitherto been contributed to raise man out of the slough of ignorance and sin has accomplished a great deal. What splendid results, then, will be witnessed when ample means shall be placed within the reach of every human being for the highest attainments in knowledge and holiness!

Although war has been thus preëminently instrumental in the perversion and waste of human intellect, there is a kindred evil scarcely less hurtful to man's highest interests, though more unnoticed in its operation. I refer to the various oppressions from tyrannical rulers and masters, under which the human family have been sighing and groaning for thousands of years. If I were to draw out in detail the physical sufferings which result from such oppression, I could reach a tender chord of sympathy in your bosoms. But when I merely calculate the intellectual loss which the world has thereby sustained, I feel that I can draw forth no responsive sigh. And yet this is in reality a darker part of the picture than the physical suffering presents; for in this way have unnumbered millions of minds been shut up in the hopeless dungeon of ignorance and sin. But the world is incapable of estimating its loss, because it has never enjoyed the blessing, and therefore it cannot feel that loss. Nor can I describe it. I will only refer you to one dark feature in that domestic oppression which reigns in our own country, and for which, therefore, we as a nation are responsible. In most of the states of this Union where slavery exists, the law forbids that the slave should be taught to read by severe penalties; and in one state,