

at least, that penalty, upon a repetition of the offence, is death. Now, if we admit all the reports that have ever been circulated as to the physical cruelties practised upon the slave to be true, they are hardly worth naming in comparison with this effort to stifle and crush the undying souls of two and a half millions of our inhabitants. Nor does the injury stop here; for when we find that the poor black man, whose intellect has been thus crushed into the dust from generation to generation, shows less of mental acumen than the free Caucasian, we proudly and presumptuously infer his intellectual inferiority, and hence justify his enslaved condition. We have, however, the testimony of missionaries from almost every tribe under heaven, which demonstrates that the minds of young children every where exhibit almost equal mental strength and aptness to learn. Hence the slaves of our own land might have risen as high on the scale of knowledge and civilization as the free white man; and the immense disparity in this respect which now exists may all be imputed to their degraded condition; and hence, too, the world must hold us responsible for all this mental waste, who keep the chains of slavery riveted upon these millions. O, this is a fearful responsibility! I leave out of the account the bodily sufferings of the slave. He who maltreats my body injures only what was once brute matter, and will soon be brute matter again. But he who mars and manacles my soul lays a ruthless hand upon that immortal principle which is an emanation of the Deity, which allies me to the Deity, and which a righteous God will not see abused with impunity.

In a free country like ours, there is a prodigious waste of mind in the excitement and discussions of party politics. The mental efforts devoted often to a gubernatorial, and especially a presidential, election would be sufficient, if turned into the