

corrupt system of religion dreads a pure system of education, lest its hypocrisy should be detected. It knows very well that education must be so modified as not to admit of freedom of discussion or freedom of opinion; and that the great body of the people must be kept in comparative ignorance, or they will not submit to the trammels of a perverted Christianity. And, therefore, it will be hostile to any system of education that is not clipped and moulded to conform to its own degraded standard.

Equally jealous of freedom you will find every false system of Christianity. Religious liberty, especially, cannot be tolerated; for, in such a case, the perversions of the truth, made by an unholy priesthood, or designing politicians, would soon be exposed, and then resisted. Uncomplaining conformity to the prevailing system is the imperious demand of every corrupt religion. And since nearly every such system links itself with the state, it can enforce conformity; if not, at this day, by swords and fagots, yet by the almost equally powerful engines of governmental favors and disabilities. Hence, to pervert Christianity is to put a muzzle upon the mouth of freedom.

Suppose a defective system of education to prevail in a country; one, for example, where the majority of the people are uninstructed, and only the wealthy and aristocratic have access to the fountains of knowledge. The most inevitable result would be, that the educated few would encroach upon the rights of the ignorant many; while the cunning priest would easily *exalt himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that, as God, he should sit in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God*, and thus persuade the multitude that they must go to him for pardon and life eternal, instead of Jehovah.