

and degradation of two thousand years, and which, from one end of Europe to the other, have kindled an unquenchable fire in the hearts of the oppressed, and loosed the knees of the oppressors with unwonted fear." *

Such is what may be called the inseparable trio — religion, education, and freedom. And such are the arguments by which it is proved how strongly linked together they are by a chain of influence that conveys with electric speed the strength and purity, or the weakness and corruption, of one to all the rest.

The subject suggests a multitude of important inferences; and with a brief notice of a few I will relieve your exhausted patience.

1. *It shows us the reason why arbitrary governments and corrupt religions have been so much afraid of the circulation of the Bible.*

Their supporters have usually been sagacious enough to discover that the Bible is a stern advocate for civil and religious freedom, and uncompromising towards all corruptions of its spirit. They know that the man who submits himself fully and sincerely to its principles and spirit becomes thoroughly republican, and hostile to false doctrine. Hence they sympathize with the priest of a perverted Christianity in England, soon after the art of printing had begun to multiply copies of the Scriptures: "We must root out printing," said he in his sermon, "or printing will root us out." This was a true prediction; and in these times we are witnessing its fulfilment.

2. *The subject shows us that the religious element is fundamental, in order to the support of free institutions.*

Nor is it a false religion, or a perverted Christianity, that

* Macaulay.