

his demonstration, borrowed from Holy Writ, it made no difference. It was Grotius' system not to locate the point of departure for his revolutionary idea in the faith, but in the social disposition of man. In this the Deists were his followers, and soon after, the school of the Encyclopedists in France. And thus was born the doctrine, the dogma of the rights of man which tried to graft the Calvinistic liberties, cut from their natural root, into the wild trunk of human self-sufficiency and caprice. Striking was the imitation of the structure above ground, but in the fundamentals was hidden the antithesis. In Calvinism is recognized the sovereignty of God, the sinfulness of man, and the claims of a stern morality; and in the clubs of the Parisian September heroes God's sovereignty was superseded by the doctrine of the sovereignty of self. Man was flattered in his self-esteem, and unchained his unholy passions.

This movement set France, and presently all Europe, on fire. Whatever stood, toppled over. Man and his home, society and state, were turned upside down. The rabble broke loose. And after the first wild song of unbounded revenge was over, Robespierre's terrorism and then Napoleon's grasp made the nations feel what becomes of the liberty of the people, which has been declared sovereign, when faith and *magistratus inferiores* are wanting. But under the animating leaderships of the Pitts and the Steins, Europe raised herself from so great humiliation. As said above, there is no room in Europe for Asiatic despotism; but there is less room yet for the African-Timbuctoo-blood thirst. The frenzy of the Septembrists was checked, and from the battle-field at Leipzig was raised the cry of salvation. A just judgment had come upon the kings and the great ones in the earth as well as upon our patricians and rulers; the blood and tears of downtrodden nations found their *sera vindicta* in the French Revolution; the honor of liberty was saved. With its perpetrators remains the guilt of the sinful principle of this rev-