

nature of the cause with which it is associated. And the champion of the unfettered freedom of the soul in its approaches to Deity, stands on the utmost confines of human virtue; merits the love and veneration of his race, and will be crowned with the honors of eternity.

Many have been the martyr-heroes of this sublime principle; checkered have been their achievements, and mournful their sufferings. Often overwhelmed, but never defeated; crushed, but never destroyed; when they have retired from the field, it has been to gather up their energies for a fresh and more vigorous onset.

Against them and their cause, have ignorance and bigotry, false religion and tyranny, ever been allied. But boldly have they battled, aggressive and unflinching, accepting no compromise between liberty or death. Now scattered and single-handed, and now ranged in solid column, they have waged unceasing war. Nor has the struggle been in vain. One land, at least, is a trophy of their triumph—has emblazoned on her escutcheon the emblems of religious liberty. This liberty is ours—our richest boon; our cherished privilege; our happiness and our glory. Every encroachment on its sacred precincts, every approach of hidden foes, we should promptly repel, and sleeplessly guard, ever remembering that “eternal vigilance is the price of freedom.” “The removal of the yoke of soul-oppression,” said the first apostle of freedom on this continent,* “as it

* Roger Williams. Hireling Ministry.