to gain such an ascendancy to influence over our minds and our actions. Man is naturally an imitative being not only in action but in mind and sentiment. For this reason we see the son imbuing the sentiments of a father, a daughter possessing a predilection for the accustomed way of a mother, students acquiring the principles of their teachers. Thus by degrees the mind is imperceptibly diverted from its right channel; it loses every particle of its natural state. At other times, when influenced by the fascinating wiles of a base wretch whose sentiments attended with the most dangerous and pernicious consequences, no person can justly and impartially dispute or illuminate a question while his mind is fettered with the shackles of custom. Therefore let us diest ourselves of every prejudice that can sway or incline our mind in preference to one side or the other, let us lay open our hearts to convictions.