ning under the oppression of Lords and Kings civil liberty scarce existed even in name. But the spirit of freedom was not (ever) to be repressed forever; and causes were ever long in operation to effect slowly but surely the emancipation of Man from this unnatural thraldom. The necessity of civil law became apparent from the increasing and more complicated interests which began to exist among between Man and his fellows. These laws were to be expounded and applied; and thus learning became a pathway through which the diligent however humble, might work their way to stations of distinction in the state. Commerce too and the mutual jealousy of the King and Nobles tended vastly to elevate the people in the scale of national existence. The (Printing) Press by diffusing the triumphs of Mind excited a spirit of intellectual inquiry, And the Reformation while it privileged men to examine investigate matters of Religion, and taught them of equality? in Heaven induced them to speculate upon Matters of Government and to indulge the idea of an equality upon Earth. Thus stood the world at the advent of the century to which we have alluded.

The germ of civil liberty which in

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