

THE SOFTENING INFLUENCE
OF USE.



THE heavy weight of custom," says Wordsworth ; and this enunciates one of the lessons, but one only, which our emblem can teach.

The heavy weight of custom. Yes! by it the slave becomes so used to his degrading slavery, that his mind ceases to revolt from its unworthy chains—nay, lowers itself so as to have no wish beyond. Just as the bird, although gifted with wings to soar, becomes contented enough with confinement to lift up its voice in song. Let those who are falling under the tyranny of the world, the flesh, or the devil, take the warning.

But now look at the picture from another point