

affections of youth, having the improvements of a later age
Such a state is one of perfect despotism.

It is in the train of all past experience, that
despotism begets discontent in the ruled; and discontent
begets assassination. And it is this fear of assassination
which leads the tyrant to cut off, one by one, the subjects
of his suspicion, & to indulge in acts of the most bar-
barous cruelty. The connexion between the gross incon-
gruity of the parties to a marriage contract & con-
summated misery, is as legitimate & easily traced, as that
between the despotism & ^{the} cruelty of political rulers.
Great disparity of years & personal accomplishment,
begets in the mind of the one having the disadvantage,
a very reasonable doubt of the ~~duration~~ stability
of the affections of the other. Doubt of affection begets
jealousy in the husband; jealousy begets disgust in
the wife, the sequel of which is misery - consummated
misery, the most deplorable of miseries, from which
deliverance cannot be had this side of the grave, save
at the peril of shame & disgrace.

Worse than all this is that unabating mortifi-
cation which will beset you every path, flowing
from the occasions of comparison furnished by so-
ciety, which will exhibit you aged & cast under
all possible disadvantages. It will even haunt you
bosom when retired within the solitude of your own dwell-
ing. To be at all satisfied with you let you must
break every connexion with the world, & bury your-
self in retirement. For be assured that every sea-
son of social festivity, even common intercourse, by
exhibiting to you vivid instances of female happi-
ness springing from the health, the manliness, the
personal graces & mental accomplishments of young
husbands, will give a deeper impression on your own
folly at every successive return. To others the usual
round of gaieties & amusements will pass with their
transient delights; while, to you, it will be as barren
of pleasure, as your own reflections will be fruitless of