

## THE HISTORY OF FREEDOM IN ANTIQUITY

*Michael Patrick O'Connor*

Liberty,  
next to religion,  
has been the motive of good deeds  
and the common pretext of crimes  
from the sowing of the seed at Athens  
until the ripened harvest  
was gathered by men of our race

It is the delicate fruit  
of a mature civilization

In every age  
its progress has been beset  
by its natural enemies  
by ignorance and superstition  
by lust of conquest  
and by love of ease  
by the strong man's craving for power  
and the poor man's craving for food.

(found in Lord Acton)