

I ADMIT that the principle, on which this argument is founded, is of great importance: Its importance, however, is derived from its tendency to promote the ultimate end of all government. But if the application of it would, in *any* instance, destroy, instead of promoting that end, it ought, in *that* instance to be rejected: For to admit it, would be to sacrifice the end to the means, which are valuable only so far as they advance it.

ALL men are, by nature, equal and free: No one has a right to any authority over another without his consent: All lawful government is founded on the consent of those, who are subject to it: Such consent was given with a view to ensure and to encrease the happiness of the governed above what they could enjoy in an independant and unconnected state of nature. The consequence is, that the happiness of the society is the FIRST law of every government.*

THIS rule is founded on the law of nature: It must control every political maxim: it must regulate the Legislature itself. || The people have a right to insist that this rule be served; and are entitled to demand a moral security that the Legislature will observe it. If they have not the first, they are slaves; if they have not the second, they are, every moment, exposed to slavery. For "civil liberty is nothing else
" but natural liberty, divested of that part which constituted
" the independance of individuals by the authority which it
" confers on sovereigns, attended with a right of insisting
" upon their making a good use of their authority, and with
" a moral security that this right will have its effect." †

LET me now be permitted to ask—Will it ensure and encrease the happiness of the American Colonies, that the Parliament of Great-Britain should possess a supreme irresistible uncontrolled authority over them?—Is such an authority
consistent

* The right of sovereignty is that of commanding finally—but in order to procure real felicity; for if this end is not obtained, sovereignty ceases to be a legitimate authority. BURL. 32.

|| The law of nature is superior in obligation to any other. BLACKSTONE 41.

† BURLAMAQUI.