

Freeman naturally hath, and by that Permission resigning up to him a monarchical Power whilst they remain'd in it. But that this was not by any *paternal Right*, but only by the Consent of his Children, is evident from hence, That no body doubts, but if a Stranger, whom Chance or Business had brought to his Family, had there killed any of his Children, or committed any other Fact, he might condemn and put him to Death, or otherwise have punished him, as well as any of his Children; which it was impossible he should do by virtue of any paternal Authority over one who was not his Child, but by virtue of that executive Power of the Law of Nature, which, as a Man, he had a Right to: And he alone could punish him in his Family, where the Respect of his Children had laid by the Exercise of such a Power, to give way to the Dignity and Authority they were willing should remain in him, above the rest of his Family.

§ 75. Thus 'twas easy, and almost natural for Children by a tacit, and scarce avoidable Consent, to make way for the Father's Authority and Government. They had been accustomed in their Childhood to follow his Direction, and to refer their little Differences to him; and when they were Men, who fitter to rule them? Their little Properties, and less Covetousness, seldom afforded greater Controversies; and when they should arise, where could they have a fitter Umpire than he, by whose Care they had every one been sustained and brought up, and who had a Tenderness for them all? 'Tis no wonder that they made no distinction betwixt Minority and full Age; nor looked after one and twenty, or any other Age that might make them the free Disposers of themselves and Fortunes, when they could have no Desire to be out of their Pupillage: The Government they had been under, during it, continued still to be more their Protection than Restraint: And they could