

which means every single Person became subject, equally with other the meanest Men, to those Laws, which he himself, as part of the Legislative, had established; nor could any one, by his own Authority avoid the force of the Law, when once made; nor by any pretence of Superiority plead Exemption, thereby to license his own, or the Miscarriages of any of his Dependents. \* *No Man in Civil Society can be exempted from the Laws of it.* For if any Man may do what he thinks fit, and there be no Appeal on Earth, for Redress or Security against any Harm he shall do, I ask whether he be not perfectly still in the State of Nature, and so can be *no Part or Member of that Civil Society?* unless any one will say the State of Nature and Civil Society are one and the same thing, which I have never yet found any one so great a Patron of Anarchy as to affirm.

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## C H A P. VIII.

### *Of the Beginning of Political Societies.*

§95. **M**EN being, as has been said, by Nature, all free, equal, and independent, no one can be put out of this Estate, and subjected to the political Power of another, without his own Consent. The only way whereby any one divests himself of his natural Liberty, and puts on the *Bonds of civil Society*, is by agreeing with other Men to join and unite into a Community, for their comfortable, safe, and peace-

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\* *Civil Law being the Act of the whole Body politick, doth therefore over-rule each several part of the same Body.* Hooker, *ibid.*