

*Compact* that is, or needs be, between the Individuals that enter into, or make up a *Commonwealth*. And thus that which begins and actually *constitutes* any *political Society*, is nothing but the Consent of any number of free Men capable of a Majority to unite and incorporate into such a Society. And this is that, and that only, which did, or could give beginning to any *lawful Government* in the World.

§ 100. To this I find two Objections made.

First, *That there are no Instances to be found in Story, of a Company of Men independent, and equal one amongst another, that met together, and in this way began and set up a Government.*

Secondly, *'Tis impossible of Right that Men should do so, because all Men being born under Government, they are to submit to that, and are not at liberty to begin a new one.*

§ 101. To the first there is this to answer, That it is not at all to be wonder'd, that *History* gives us but a very little account of Men, that lived together in the *State of Nature*. The Inconveniencies of that Condition, and the Love, and want of Society no sooner brought any number of them together, but they presently united and incorporated, if they designed to continue together. And if we may not suppose Men ever to have been in the *State of Nature*, because we hear not much of them in such a State, we may as well suppose the Armies of *Salmanassar*, or *Xerxes*, were never Children, because we hear little of them till they were Men, and imbodyed in Armies. Government is every where antecedent to Records, and Letters seldom come in among a People, till a long Continuation of Civil Society has, by other more necessary Arts, provided for their Safety, Ease, and Plenty. And then they begin to look after the History of their Founders, and search into their *Original*, when they have out-lived the Memory of it. For 'tis with *Commonwealths* as with par-