

§ 105. I will not deny, that if we look back as far as History will direct us, towards the *Original of Commonwealths*, we shall generally find them under the Government and Administration of one Man. And I am also apt to believe, that where a Family was numerous enough to subsist by it self, and continued entire together, without mixing with others, as it often happens where there is much Land and few People, the Government commonly began in the Father. For the Father having, by the Law of Nature, the same Power with every Man else to punish, as he thought fit, any Offences against that Law, might thereby punish his transgressing Children, even when they were Men, and out of their Pupilage; and they were very likely to submit to his Punishment, and all join with him against the Offender, in their Turns, giving him thereby Power to execute his Sentence against any Transgression, and so in effect make him the Law-maker, and Governor over all, that remained in conjunction with his Family. He was fittest to be trusted; paternal Affection secured their Property, and Interest under his Care; and the Custom of obeying him in their Childhood, made it easier to submit to him rather than to any other. If therefore they must have one to rule them, as Government is hardly to be avoided amongst Men that live together, who so likely to be the Man, as he that was their common Father, unless Negligence, Cruelty, or any other Defect of Mind or Body made him unfit for it? But when either the Father died, and left his next Heir, for want of Age, Wisdom, Courage, or any other Qualities, less fit for Rule; or where several Families met, and consented to continue together; there 'tis not to be doubted, but they us'd their natural Freedom, to set up him whom they judg'd the ablest, and most likely, to rule well over them. Conformable hereunto we find the People of *America*, who (living out of the reach