

him, they tell him, amongst other Arguments they had to submit to him as to their King, That he was in effect their King in Saul's Time, and therefore they had no Reason but to receive him as their King now. *Also* (say they) *in time past, when Saul was King over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel; and the Lord said unto thee, thou shalt feed my People Israel, and thou shalt be a Captain over Israel.*

§ 110. Thus, whether a Family by degrees grew up into a Commonwealth, and the fatherly Authority being continued on to the elder Son, every one in his Turn growing up under it, tacitly submitted to it, and the Easiness and Equality of it not offending any one, every one acquiesced, till Time seemed to have confirmed it, and settled a Right of Succession by Prescription; or whether several Families, or the Descendants of several Families, whom Chance, Neighbourhood, or Business brought together, uniting into Society, the need of a General, whose Conduct might defend them against their Enemies in War, and the great Confidence, the Innocence and Sincerity of that poor but virtuous Age, (such as are almost all those which begin Governments, that ever come to last in the World) gave Men one of another, made the first Beginners of Commonwealths generally put the Rule into one Man's Hand, without any other express Limitation or Restraint, but what the Nature of the thing, and the End of Government required: which ever of those it was that at first put the Rule into the Hand of a single Person, certain it is, no body was intrusted with it but for the publick Good and Safety, and to those Ends in the Infancies of Commonwealths they commonly used it. And unless those who had it had done so, young Societies could not have subsisted; without such nursing Fathers, tender and careful of the publick Weal, all Governments would have sunk under the Weakness and