

self, as the Good, Prosperity, and Safety of the Society shall require ; which is not only necessary, but just ; since the other Members of the Society do the like.

§ 131. But tho Men when they enter into Society, give up the Equality, Liberty, and executive Power they had in the state of Nature, into the hands of the Society, to be so far disposed of by the Legislative, as the good of the Society shall require ; yet it being only with an intention in every one the better to preserve himself, his Liberty and Property, (for no rational Creature can be supposed to change his condition with an intention to be worse) the Power of the Society, or *Legislative* constituted by them, can never be supposed to extend farther than the common good ; but is obliged to secure every one's Property, by providing against those three defects above-mentioned, that made the state of Nature so unsafe and uneasy. And so whoever has the legislative or supreme Power of any Commonwealth, is bound to govern by establish'd *standing Laws*, promulgated and known to the People, and not by extemporary Decrees ; by *indifferent* and upright *Judges*, who are to decide Controversies by those Laws ; and to employ the force of the Community at home, *only in the Execution of such Laws* ; or abroad, to prevent or redress foreign Injuries, and secure the Community from Inroads and Invasion. And all this to be directed to no other *End*, but the *Peace, Safety, and publick Good* of the People.

## CH A P. X.

### *Of the Forms of a Commonwealth.*

§ 132. **T**HE Majority having, as has been shew'd, upon Mens first uniting into Society, the whole Power of the Community naturally in them, may employ all that Power in making Laws for the