

signification ; which if any body dislike, I consent with him to change it for a better.

## CHAP. XI.

### *Of the Extent of the Legislative Power.*

§ 134. **T**HE great end of Men's entring into Society, being the Enjoyment of their Properties in Peace and Safety, and the great instrument and means of that being the Laws establish'd in that Society ; the *first and fundamental positive Law* of all Commonwealths, is the *establishing of the Legislative Power* ; as the *first and fundamental natural Law*, which is to govern even the Legislative it self, is the *preservation of the Society*, and (as far as will consist with the publick good) of every Person in it. This *Legislative* is not only the *supreme Power* of the Commonwealth, but sacred and unalterable in the hands where the Community have once placed it ; nor can any Edict of any body else, in what form soever conceived, or by what Power soever backed, have the force and obligation of a *Law*, which has not its *Sanction* from that *Legislative*, which the Publick has chosen and appointed. For without this, the Law could not have that which is absolutely necessary to its being a *Law*, \* *the consent of the Society*, over whom

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\* The lawful Power of making Laws to command whole politick Societies of Men, belonging so properly unto the same intire Societies, that for any Prince or Potentate of what kind soever upon Earth, to exercise the same of himself, and not by express Commission immediately and personally received from God, or else by authority derived at the first from their Consent, upon whose persons they impose Laws, it is no better than mere Tyranny. Laws they are not therefore