

long it is advantageous for the Community that they should have Children ; for as the Children of those who are too young are imperfect both in body and mind, so also those whose Parents are too old, are weak in both : while therefore the body continues in perfection, which (as some Poets say, who reckon the different periods of life by sevens) is till fifty years, or four or five more, the Children may be equally perfect ; but when the Parents are past that age, it is better they should have no more. With respect to any connection between a Man and a Woman, or a Woman and a Man, when either of the parties are betrothed, let it be held in utter detestation on any pretext whatsoever ; but should any one be guilty of such a thing after the marriage is consummated, let his infamy be as great as his guilt deserves.