

affections, nor does she enjoin us to extirpate them. They were inserted by the hand of nature for the most useful purposes ; and morality, instead of demolishing her work, applies the rule and compass to it for the construction of her own.

22. It was not justice which presided over the original distribution of property. It was not she who assigned to each man his separate field, any more than it was she who assigned to each man his separate family. It was nature that did both, by investing with such power those anterior circumstances of habit and possession, which gave rise—first, to the special love that each man bears to his own children, and secondly, to the special love that each man bears to his own acres. Had there been no such processes beforehand, for thus isolating the parental regards of each on that certain household group which nature placed under his roof, and the proprietary regards of each on that certain local territory which history casts into his possession ; or had each man been so constituted, that, instead of certain children whom he felt to be his own, he was alike loose to them, or susceptible of a like random and indiscriminate affection for any children ; or instead of certain lands which he felt to be his own, he was alike loose to them, or susceptible of a like tenacious adherence to any lands—had such been the rudimental chaos which nature put into the hands of man for the exercise of his matured faculties,