

appropriate none ; but it is to restrain the men who, but for her checks and prohibitions, would monopolize all.

28. Such then seems to have been the purpose of nature in so framing our mental constitution, that we not only appropriate from the first, but feel, each, such a power in those circumstances, which serve to limit the appropriation of every one man, and to distinguish them from those of others—that all, as if with common and practical consent, sit side by side together, without conflict and without interference, on their own respective portions, however unequal, of the territory in which they are placed. On the uses, the indispensable uses of such an arrangement, we need not expatiate.* The hundred-fold superiority, in

* “The effect (of the abolition of property) would be as instant as inevitable. The cultivation of the fields would be abandoned. The population would be broken up into straggling bands—each prowling in quest of a share in the remaining subsistence for themselves ; and in the mutual contests of rapacity, they would anticipate, by deaths of violence, those still crueller deaths that would ensue, in the fearful destitution which awaited them. Yet many would be left whom the sword had spared, but whom famine would not spare—that overwhelming calamity under which a whole nation might ultimately disappear. But a few miserable survivors would dispute the spontaneous fruits of the earth with the beasts of the field, that now multiplied and overran that land which had been desolated of its people. And so by a series, every step of which was marked with increasing wretchedness, the transition would at length be made to a thinly scattered tribe of hunters, on what before had been a peopled