

attachment are more numerous. Far different is man from other animals : when he is born he hardly exists ; naked, feeble, incapable of action, his life depends on the assistance he receives. This state of infantine weakness continues for a length of time ; and the necessity of assistance becomes a habit, which alone is sufficient to produce an attachment between the child and parent. In proportion as the child advances, he is enabled to do without assistance ; the affection of the parent continues, while that of the child daily decreases ; and thus love ever descends in a much stronger degree than it ascends : the attachment of the parent becomes excessive, blind, idolatrous, while that of the child remains cold and indifferent, till, by the influence of reason, the seed of gratitude has begun to take root.

Thus society, considered even in the light of a single family, supposes in man the faculty of reason ; among animals which seem to unite together freely, and by mutual agreement, society supposes experience and sentiment ; and among insects which, like the bees, assemble together involuntarily, and without design, society implies nothing ; and whatever may be the effects of such associations, it is evident, they