

the Country, upon a Supposition, that We have no Right to them, without so doing; and that We should miscarry in that Attempt, which is not impossible. it would be such an Argument against the Right we contend for, as we could not easily get over; besides the Danger of its being made a Handle, to overturn a great deal, that hath been heretofore done, by Virtue of the Statutes.

p. 30 Thus, I have endeavoured to prove The Right of the People of Maryland, to the Benefit of all the English Laws, of every kind, that have been instituted for the Preservation, and Security of the Subject's Liberty, from Reason, and Authority; and to represent to my Fellow-Subjects, the great Advantage they derive from the Laws of their Mother Country; and how highly they ought to esteem them.

And I beg leave to add, That Men, from a State of Nature and Equality, formed themselves into Society, for mutual Defence, and Preservation; and agreed to submit to Laws, that should be the Rule of their Conduct, under certain Regulations. Let us suppose the first Settlers of Maryland, to be a Society of People, united and combined together, for mutual Defence and Preservation; and sensible, not only of the Use, but also of the Necessity of Laws, and conscious of their own Incapacity, to make such as might suit their Occasions, and procure their Welfare and Safety: I say, suppose them under these Circumstances, without any Regard to their Rights, as English, or British Subjects, or by Charter: And that they actually agreed, to make the Laws of their Mother-Country, (of which it is to be presumed, they had a general, or at least, some Notion,) to be the Rule of their Conduct, with such particular Provision, as they should, at Times, find necessary to make, in particular Cases: And that upon long Tryal, and Experience, of those Laws; they became convinced, of the Equality, and Justice of them, and consequently, fond of them: Will any one say, that they are obliged, to change those Laws? Or, to have them upon other Terms, than they have always had them, without their own Consent, or the Interposition, of the supreme Authority, of their Mother Country. It is manifest, by the judicial Proceedings, (which my Lord Hale says, make one formal constituent Part of the Law: *) and the Manner of Transferring Property, in

(*) Hale's History of the Law.