

unexperienced in the Heat of their giddy Age, would drive forward the Business of the World into such a Scene of Disorder and Confusion, as would make every one wish to have some Restraint laid upon human Actions, that did not wish to be miserable : And such Restraint therefore can never in Reason be deem'd any Abridgment of true Liberty, which every one that can foresee the hurtful Consequences of any Action, would voluntarily lay upon himself.

If then to Creatures, ignorant in many Instances of what is really best for them ; fallible in most, and on every Side beset with Frailty and Imperfection, some Rule of Action be necessary, the Happiness of every Individual, as near as possible, must in Reason be the only Mark to which this Rule should be directed : And if Happiness be the Measure and Boundary of our Liberty, it is Truth alone, which can discover wherein this Happiness consists. For as Truth arises out of the unchangeable Relations and Differences of Things, which constitute Good and Evil ; and as the Knowledge of the Truth (I am speaking of natural Truth only) consists in the Conformity of our Ideas with those Differences and Relations ; the more we know of these, the more clearly shall we discern between Good and Evil ; the more perfect shall we be in the Knowledge of the Way that leads to Happiness, and of Course  
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