

II. By virtue of the first of these powers the prince, or other sovereign magistrate, makes laws for the state, and ordains them to be in force either for a limited time, or for ever, as he thinks fit; and by the same power he amends, or abolishes, the laws already in being, as he sees occasion. By virtue of the second power he makes peace or war, sends ambassadors to foreign states, or receives ambassadors from them, takes the necessary measures for securing the dominions of the state from armed violence, and for preventing and repelling any invasions of them by foreign enemies. By virtue of the third power he punishes the crimes that are committed in his dominions, and decides the civil disputes that arise in them, or, in other words, administers justice both criminal and civil. This latter part I shall henceforth call *the power of judging* or *the judicial power*, and the other branch of executive power I shall call simply *the executive power of the state*.

The true notion of political liberty.

III. True political liberty in a member of any civil community, is that ease and serenity of mind which is the consequence of a firm opinion in the several members of the state that, so long as they abstain from offending against the