experience, and hence we have government before the original compact.   Not to speak of this intrinsic objection there are others more forcible.   The annals of the human race give no sign whatever that any thing of the kind ever happened.   The plain where the immense crowd is said to have collected and elected the first ruler exists only in the imagination of the first logician who found it necessary in order to give symmetry to his theory.   If history is to be consulted, it will be found not only is there no trace of an original compact, but every thing directly the contrary, and for the elucidation of a positive science we must be content with what is known.   Indeed the original compact in the Science of Government may be aptly likened to the primary rocks in that of Geology.   There may be both a compact and a primary rock, but we know about as much of the one as the other, and we are indebted for both to those men who think that it is necessary in every thing to have a starting point, and, if they cannot find one, manufacture it.

History furnishes, no doubt, many instances where this fiction has been used by men belonging to all parties.   It has been, in all ages, the fruitful theme of innovators and radicals, and has furnished an excuse for thousands of ambitious men, but there is no trace whatsoever of the thing itself.   Mankind has never been found ungoverned, there is seemingly no existence for humanity without government.   From the Digger Indian to the Patrician Roman, government seems a necessity.   As there are no means, therefore, of ascertaining the state of man without government, and as we always find him within its influence, we are bound to consider it from the positive materials at our command, and to eschew those theoretical surmises which, however necessary to the airy castles which we build up in our imaginations, have no place in the solid realities of life.

The history of mankind is a record of its actions, and from the review and contemplation of these actions, it is said, we derive benefit.   This depends a good deal upon