

privacy of others. He may not take what he chooses, if, by so doing, he invades the proprietary rights of his fellows. He may not interfere with his neighbour's manservant, nor with his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor with anything that is his. He may take nothing to his own use that is not freely given to him, either as a gift, or in return for goods, or money, or service, rendered. And the reason is, that if every man in a society pursues without restraint his own self-regarding desires, the society falls to pieces, and, as a society, ceases to exist. Even in the mere matter of physical propinquity, if each does as seems right in his own eyes, the community is dispersed. If each individual of a flock, or a herd, or a shoal, goes off in any direction, or at any speed, different from that of the others, the flock, or the herd, or the shoal, is dispersed, and no longer exists; and if the safety or welfare of the individuals depend on the preservation of the integrity of the community, with the integrity of the community is sacrificed their welfare or their safety. And as the preservation and continuation of the race, the *ultima ratio* of the existence of every individual, depends on the preservation of the individual,