The legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people, whatever they need done, but can not do, at all, or can not so well do, for themselves in their separate and individual capacities.

In all that the people can indemnify or as well for themselves, government ought not to interfere.

The desirable things which the indemnity of a people can not do, or can not do as well for themselves, fall into two classes, those which have relation to usage, and those which have no part of them having off into an infinite variety of subqueries. The first in relation to usage are those all crimes, misdemeanors, and nonperformance of contracts. The other involves all which, in its nature, are without any relation to the common action, as public roads and highways, public schools, charities, penitentiaries, orphanages, estates of the deceased, and the machinery of government itself.

From this it appears that if all men were put these still would be some, though not coming need of government.