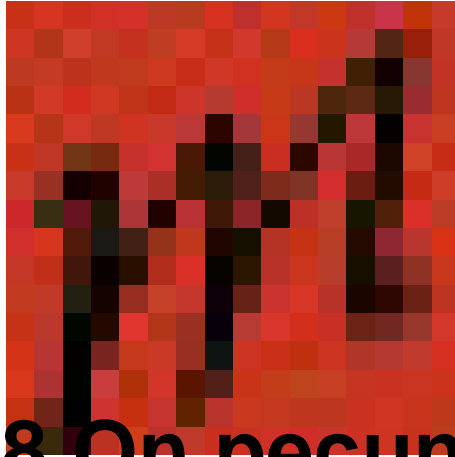


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VI.18 On pecuniary punishments and corporal punishments

- The Spirit of Law - Book VI. Consequences of the principles of the various governments with respect to the simplicity of the civil and criminal laws, the form of judgments, and the establishment of punishments -

Date de mise en ligne : vendredi 24 août 2018

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VI.18 On pecuniary punishments and corporal punishments

Our forefathers the Germans allowed almost nothing but pecuniary punishments. Those warlike, free men judged that their blood should be shed only with weapons in hand. The Japanese, [\[1\]](#) on the contrary, reject these sorts of punishments, under the pretext that the rich would elude punishment. But do the rich not fear the loss of their property ? Can pecuniary penalties not be proportionate to fortunes ? And finally, can we not add infamy to those punishments ?

A good legislator takes a happy medium : he does not always order pecuniary punishments, and he does not always impose corporal punishments.

[\[1\]](#) See Kaempfer.