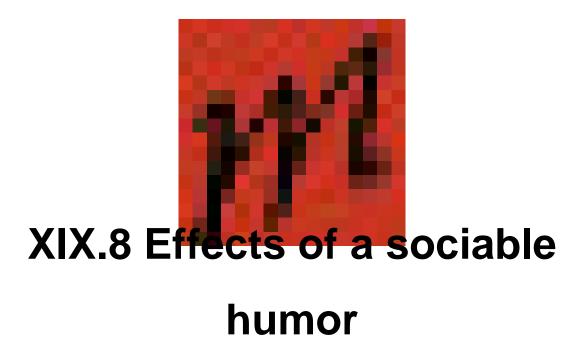
http://montesquieu.ens-lyon.fr/spip.php?article2888



- The Spirit of Law - Book XIX. On the laws in the relation they have to the principles that constitute the general spirit, the ethos, and the manners of a nation -

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## XIX.8 Effects of a sociable humor

The more communicable people are, the more easily they change manners, because each of them is more of a spectacle for another; the singularities of individuals are more visible. The climate that makes a nation communicable also makes it like change; and what makes a nation like change also makes it develop its taste.

The company of women spoils morals and develops taste; the desire to please more than others establishes ornamentation, and the desire to please more than oneself institutes fashions. Fashions are an important object: by dint of making one's mind frivolous, one constantly increases the branches of its interaction. [1]

[1] The Fable of the Bees.

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