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XIX.8 Effects of a sociable humor

- 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 -

Date de mise en ligne : jeudi 6 septembre 2018

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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*.