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XXI.14 A particular statute

- The Spirit of Law - Book XXI. On laws in the relation they have to commerce, considered in the transformations it has seen in the world -

Date de mise en ligne : jeudi 6 septembre 2018

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Yet the law of the Visigoths [1] included one provision favorable to commerce : it required that merchants who came from beyond the sea be judged, in the disputes that arose between them, by the laws and by judges of their nation ; this was based on the practice established among all these intermixed peoples, that every man should live by his own law, a matter I shall address at length further on.

[1] Book XI, tit. 3, §2.