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# XXII.4 On the quantity of gold and silver

- The Spirit of Law - Book XXII. On laws in their relation to the use of money -

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## XXII.4 On the quantity of gold and silver

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When the organized polities are masters of the world, gold and silver increase by the day, either because it is obtained domestically, or because it is fetched wherever it is. It decreases, on the contrary, when barbaric nations prevail. We know how scarce these metals were when the Goths and Vandals on the one hand, and the Saracens and Tartars on the other, had invaded every land.