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XIX.6 That not everything must be corrected

- 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.6 That not everything must be corrected

Let us be as we are, said a gentleman of a nation that much resembles the one we have just been suggesting. Nature repairs all. She has given us a vivacity capable of offending and prone to make us lack all respect ; this same vivacity is corrected by the refinement it procures us, by inspiring in us a taste for society and especially for the friendship of women.

Leave us as we are. Given our indiscreet qualities, combined with our lack of malice, laws that would constrain our sociable humor would not be appropriate.