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VI.14 On the spirit of the Roman senate

- The Spirit of Law - Book VI. Consequences of the principles of the various governments with respect to the simplicity of the civil and criminal laws, the form of judgments, and the establishment of punishments -

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VI.14 On the spirit of the Roman senate

Under the consulate of Acilius Glabrio and Piso, the Acilian law [1] was made in order to put an end to intrigues. Dio says [2] that the senate got the consuls to propose it, because the tribune C. Cornelius had decided to have terrible penalties instituted against this crime, to which the people were much inclined. The senate thought that immoderate punishments would indeed plant terror in people's minds, but would have the effect that no one would be found any more to prosecute or condemn, whereas by proposing modest penalties they would have judges and accusers.

[1] The guilty were sentenced to a fine, and could no longer be admitted to the order of senators or named to any magistracy (Dio, book XXXVI).

[2] *Ibid.*