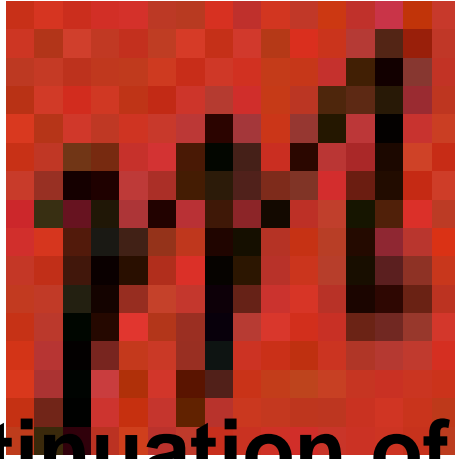


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XII.3 Continuation of the same subject

- The Spirit of Law - Book XII. On laws that constitute political liberty in its relation to the citizen -

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XII.3 Continuation of the same subject

The laws that send a man to his death on the deposition of a single witness are fatal to freedom. Reason requires two, because a witness who asserts and an accused who denies make a tie, and there must be a third to decide it.

The Greeks [1] and the Romans [2] required an additional voice in order to condemn. Our French laws require two. The Greeks claimed that their practice had been established by the gods, [3] but it is ours.

[1] See Aristides, *Oratio in Minervam* ['Oration against Minerva'].

[2] Dionysius of Halicarnassus, on the judgment of Coriolanus (book VII).

[3] *Minervæ calculus* ['Minerva's vote'].