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XIV.9 Means of encouraging industry

- The Spirit of Law - Book XIV. On the laws in their relation to the nature of the climate -

Publication date: jeudi 6 septembre 2018

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We shall show in Book XIX that indolent nations are generally arrogant. One could turn the effect against the cause, and destroy indolence by arrogance. In the south of Europe, where people are so imbued with the point of honor, it would be well to give prizes to the plowmen who had best tilled their fields, or to workers who had advanced their industry. This practice has succeeded in our time in Ireland ; it has established there one of the largest fabric production plants in Europe.