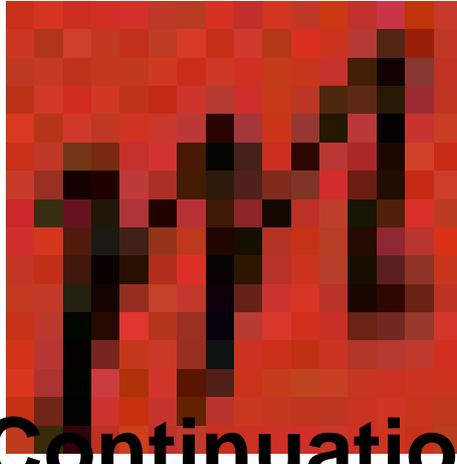


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XXIII.8 Continuation of the same subject

- The Spirit of Law - Book XXIII. On laws in their relation to the number of inhabitants -

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XXIII.8 Continuation of the same subject

In England, young women often abuse the law to marry as they wish without consulting their parents. This custom could perhaps be better tolerated there than elsewhere, for the reason that, monastic celibacy not having been instituted there by law, the only condition young women can assume is that of marriage, and they cannot say no. In France, on the contrary, where monachism is instituted, young women always have the recourse of celibacy, and the law which orders them to await their fathers' consent could be more appropriate there. With this thought, the practice of Italy and Spain would be the least reasonable : monachism is instituted there, and they can marry without their fathers' consent.