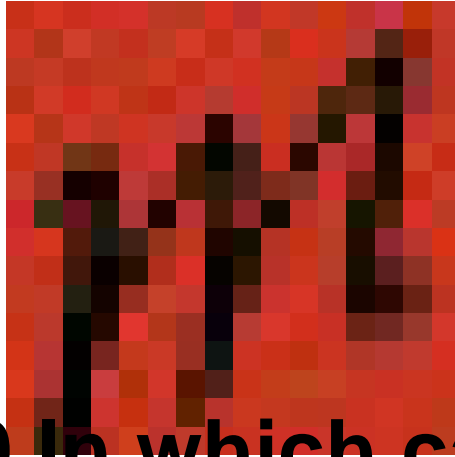


<http://montesquieu.ens-lyon.fr/spip.php?article3049>



XXVI.10 In which case one must follow the civil law which permits, and not the religious law which forbids

- The Spirit of Law - Book XXVI. On laws in the relation they must have with the order of things on which they bear -
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XXVI.10 In which case one must follow the civil law which permits, and not the religious law which forbids

When a religion that forbids polygamy is introduced into a country where it is permitted, we do not believe, speaking only politically, that the country's law should allow a man who has several wives to embrace that religion, unless the magistrate or the husband compensates them by in some way restoring their civil status to them. Otherwise their situation would be deplorable ; they would only have obeyed the laws, and would find themselves deprived of society's greatest advantages.