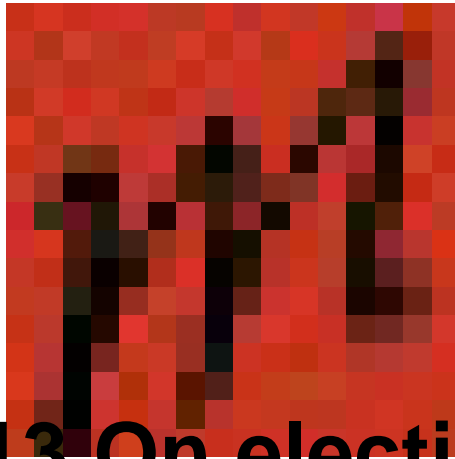


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XXXI.13 On elections to bishoprics and abbeys

- The Spirit of Law - Book XXXI. Theory of feudal laws among the Franks, in their relation to the transformations in their monarchy -

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XXXI.13 On elections to bishoprics and abbeys

The churches having become poor, the kings abandoned elections to bishoprics and other ecclesiastical benefices. [1] Princes were less concerned with naming the ministers, and the claimants made less appeal to their authority. Thus the Church received a sort of compensation for its properties that had been taken.

And if Louis the Debonaire left to the Roman people the right to elect the popes, [2] that was an effect of the general spirit of his time ; one governed oneself with respect to the See of Rome as one did with respect to the others.

[1] See capitulary of Charlemagne, year 803, art. 2, Baluze ed., p. 379, and the edict of Louis the Debonaire, 834, in Goldaste, *Constit. Imperiale*, vol. 1.

[2] This is said in the famous canon *Ego Ludovicus*, which is visibly supposed. It is in the Baluze ed., p. 591 on the year 817.