

advantage arising from the establishment of such a body of nobles with a distinct share of the legislative power of the state, or a negative upon the resolutions of the assembly of the people's elected representatives.

The privileges of the nobles ought to be hereditary.

XXXIII. This body of nobles ought to be hereditary, or their privileges should be transmissible to their children in the same manner as their property is. This seems to be a natural consequence of the establishment of a body of nobility, or of the privileges allotted to them. For, since these privileges are allotted to them on account of their being more distinguished by their birth, and possessed of greater riches, than the other members of the society, there will be the very same reason for allowing those privileges to their children, whose birth will be at least equally honourable, and to whom their property will of course descend. For I must always be understood to be speaking of countries in which the hereditary succession of children to the lands and other property of their parents is, by the ancient and deep-rooted customs of the people, universally established. In these countries therefore, I say, the distinctions and privileges of the nobility, as well as the property which