

Thomas Jefferson's *Notes on the State of Virginia*, which he authored in 1781, elaborates on the subject of slavery, responding to a resident foreigner's question on manners as follows –

### **QUERY XVIII**

#### **Manners:**

THE *particular* customs and manners that may happen to be received in that State?

It is difficult to determine on the standard by which the manners of a nation may be tried, whether *catholic*,\* or *particular*. It is more difficult for a native to bring to that standard the manners of his own nation, familiarized to him by habit. There must doubtless be an unhappy influence on the manners of our people produced by the existence of slavery among us. The whole commerce between master and slave is a perpetual exercise of the most boisterous passions, the most unremitting despotism on the one part, and degrading submissions on the other. Our children see this, and learn to imitate it... This quality is that germ of all education in him. From his cradle to his grave he is learning to do what he sees others do...

\*universal