



Thomas Jefferson's Sayings

- *It is a part of the American character to consider nothing as desperate; to surmount every difficulty by resolution and contrivance.*
- *Harmony in the married state is the very first object to be aimed at. The happiness of the domestic fireside is the first boon of Heaven.*
- *The force of public opinion cannot be resisted when permitted freely to be expressed. Whenever the people are well informed, they can be trusted with their own Government.*
- *A wise and frugal government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned.*
- *It is while we are young that the habit of industry is formed. If not then, it never is afterwards. The fortune of our lives, therefore, depends on employing well the short period of youth.*
- *The boys of the rising generation are to be the men of the next, and the sole guardian of the principles we deliver over to them.*
- *With all the imperfections of our present government, it is without comparison the best existing or that ever did exist.*
- *I place economy among the first and most important virtues, and public debt as the greatest of the dangers to be feared. We must make our election between economy and liberty, or profusion and servitude.*
- *Honesty is the first chapter in the Book of Wisdom. Let it be our endeavor to merit the character of a just nation.*
- *... The God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time; the hand of force may destroy, but cannot disjoin them.*
- *... It is for the happiness of those united in society to harmonize as much as possible in matters which they must of necessity transact together.*
- *I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend.*
- *If we are forced into a war, we must give up differences of opinion and unite as one man to defend our country.*
- *Give up money, give up fame, give up science, give up the earth itself and all it contains, rather than do an immoral act.*
- *My confidence in my countrymen generally leaves me without much fear for the future.*
- *When tempted to do anything in secret, ask yourself if you would do it in public; if you would not, be sure it is wrong.*
- *If we can prevent the Government from wasting the labors of the people, under the pretense of taking care of them, they must become happy.*
- *As new discoveries are made, new truths disclosed, and manners and opinions change with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also, and keep pace with the times.*
- *No person will have occasion to complain of the want of time who never loses any.*
- *I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man.*
- *The bulk of mankind are schoolboys through life. Education is the true corrective of abuses of constitutional power.*

