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XXIII.3 On the condition of children

- The Spirit of Law - Book XXIII. On laws in their relation to the number of inhabitants -

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XXIII.3 On the condition of children

It is reason that dictates that when there is a marriage, the children follow the father's station ; and when there is none, they can only concern the mother. [\[1\]](#)

[\[1\]](#) This is the reason why, in nations that have slaves, the child almost always follows the mother's station.