http://montesquieu.ens-lyon.fr/spip.php?article2979



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

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XXIII.10 What decides a marriage

Wherever there is a place where two persons can live comfortably, a marriage takes place. Nature provides enough motivation when she is not countered by the difficulty of subsistence.

Rising peoples multiply and grow quickly. For them it would be a great constraint to live in celibacy; it is not one to have many children. The contrary occurs once the nation is formed.

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