

**Excerpt from Thomas Jefferson's Letter to Dr. Walter Jones**  
January 2, 1814

This excerpt was found in The World Book Encyclopedia Vol. 21, 1993

The entire letter is found in The Writings of Thomas Jefferson Vol. IX

His mind was great and powerful...as far as he saw, no judgment was ever sounder. It was slow in operation, being aided by invention or imagination, but sure in conclusion....

Perhaps the strongest feature in his character was prudence, never acting until every circumstance, every consideration, was maturely weighed; refraining if he saw a doubt, but, when once decided, going through with his purpose, whatever obstacles opposed.

His integrity was most pure, his justice the most inflexible I have ever known....

He was, indeed, in every sense of the words, a wise, a good and a great man...On the whole, his character was, in its mass, perfect...it may truly be said, that never did nature and fortune combine more perfectly to make a man great....

His temper was naturally high toned; but reflection and resolution had obtained a sound and habitual ascendancy over it.