

Facts and ideas from anywhere



William C. Roberts, MD

SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE WISE

“The greater the ignorance the greater the dogmatism.” —William Osler

“The philosophies of one age have become the absurdities of the next, and the foolishness of yesterday has become the wisdom of tomorrow.” —William Osler

“The natural man has only two primal passions, to get and to beget.” —William Osler

“Tact is the saving virtue without which no man can be a success.” —William Osler

“We are here to add what we can to, not to get what we can from, Life.” —William Osler

“Humanity has but three great enemies: fever, famine and war; of these by far the greatest, by far the most terrible, is fever.” —William Osler

“Though a little one, the master-word [work] looms large in meaning. It is the open sesame to every portal, the great equalizer in the world, the true philosopher’s stone which transmutes all the base metal of humanity into gold.” —William Osler

“Things cannot always go your way. Learn to accept in silence the minor aggravations, cultivate the gift of taciturnity and consume your own smoke with an extra draught of hard work, so that those about you may not be annoyed with the dust and soot of your complaints.” —William Osler

“Nothing will sustain you more potently than the power to recognize in your humdrum routine, as perhaps it may be thought, the true poetry of life—the poetry of the commonplace, of the ordinary man, of the plain, toil-worn woman, with their loves and their joys, their sorrows and their griefs.” —William Osler

“I have had three personal ideals. One, to do the day’s work well and not to bother about tomorrow. . . . The second ideal has been to act the Golden Rule, as far as in me lay, towards my professional brethren and towards the patients committed to my care. And the third has been to cultivate such a measure of equanimity as would enable me to bear success with humility, the affection of my friends without pride, and to be ready when

the day of sorrow and grief came to meet it with the courage befitting a man.” —William Osler

“No man is really happy or safe without a hobby, and it makes precious little difference what the outside interest may be—botany, beetles or butterflies, roses, tulips or irises; fishing, mountaineering or antiquities—anything will do so long as he straddles a hobby and rides it hard.” —William Osler

“In the life of a young man the most essential thing for happiness is the gift of friendship.” —William Osler

“No bubble is so iridescent or floats longer than that blown by the successful teacher.” —William Osler

“It is one of the greatest blessings that so many women are so full of tact. The calamity happens when a woman who has all the other riches of life just lacks that one thing.” —William Osler

“It is much more important to know what sort of a patient has a disease than what sort of a disease a patient has.” —William Osler

“The desire to take medicine is perhaps the greatest feature which distinguishes man from animals.” —William Osler

“There are worse occupations in this world than feeling a woman’s pulse.” —Laurence Sterne

“God heals, and the doctor takes the fees.” —Benjamin Franklin

“The prime goal is to alleviate suffering, and not to prolong life. And if your treatment does not alleviate suffering, but only prolongs life, that treatment should be stopped.” —Christian Barnard

“As long as men are liable to die and are desirous to live, a physician will be made fun of, but he will be well paid.” —Jean de la Bruyère

“Wherever a doctor cannot do good, he must be kept from doing harm.” —Hippocrates

“The very first requirement in a hospital is that it should do the sick no harm.” —Florence Nightingale

“To avoid delay, please have all your symptoms ready.” —Notice in an English doctor’s waiting room

“Tis healthy to be sick sometimes.” —Henry David Thoreau

“Our doctor would never really operate unless it was necessary. He was just that way. If he didn’t need the money, he wouldn’t lay a hand on you.” —Herb Shriner

“Our judgments about things vary according to the time left us to live—that we *think* is left us to live.” —André Gide

“The immature mind hops from one thing to another; the mature mind seeks to follow through.” —Harry A. Overstreet

“Doctor, feel my purse.” —Jane Ace

“Visits always give pleasure—if not the arrival, the departure.” —Portuguese proverb

“A man must get a thing before he can forget it.” —Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.

“That which is bitter to endure may be sweet to remember.” —Thomas Fuller

“Not the power to remember, but its very opposite, the power to forget, is a necessary condition for our existence.” —Sholem Asch

“Memory is the thing you forget with.” —Alexander Chase

“Everyone complains of his lack of memory, but nobody of his want of judgment.” —François La Rochefoucauld

“Men build bridges and throw railroads across deserts, and yet they contend successfully that the job of sewing on a button is beyond them. Accordingly, they don't have to sew buttons.” —Heywood Broun

“The first human being who hurled an insult instead of a stone was the founder of civilization.” —Sigmund Freud

“Rudeness is the weak man's imitation of strength.” —Eric Hoffer

“The only time a woman wishes she were a year older is when she is expecting a baby.” —Marsha Marsh

“How many ‘coming men’ has one known? Where on earth do they all go to?” —Arthur Wing Pinero

“It's them that takes advantage that gets advantage in this world.” —Mary Ann (Marian) Evans (George Eliot)

“We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while others judge by what we have already done.” —Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

“The only way round is through.” —Robert Frost

“You cannot fly like an eagle with the wings of a wren.” —William Henry Hudson

“We promise according to our hopes, and perform according to our fears.” —François La Rochefoucauld

“Everyone must row with the oars he has.” —English proverb

“Let me tell you the secret that has led me to my goal. My strength lies solely in my tenacity.” —Louis Pasteur

“I am easily satisfied with the very best.” —Winston Churchill

“There is nothing so useless as doing efficiently that which should not be done at all.” —Peter F. Drucker

“Absences are a good influence in love and keep it bright and delicate.” —Robert Louis Stevenson

“An actor's a guy who, if you ain't talking about him, ain't listening.” —Marlon Brando

“There are two reasons for doing things—a very good reason and the real reason.” —Anonymous

“Mean to' don't pick no cotton.” —Anonymous

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands

at times of challenge and controversy.” —Martin Luther King Jr.

“Trouble will rain on those who are already wet.” —Anonymous

“When a man comes to me for advice, I find out the kind of advice he wants, and I give it to him.” —Josh Billings

“‘Be yourself’ is about the worst advice you can give to some people.” —Tom Masson

“The advice of the elders to young men is very apt to be as unreal as a list of the hundred best books.” —Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

“A good scare is worth more to a man than good advice.” —Edgar Watson Howe

“The worst thing, I fear, about being no longer young, is that one is no longer young.” —Harold Nicolson

“The young feel tired at the end of an action; the old at the beginning.” —Thomas Stearns Eliot

“Forty is the old age of youth; fifty is the youth of old age.” —Victor Hugo

“To me, old age is always fifteen years older than I am.” —Bernard Baruch

“A person is always startled when he hears himself seriously called an old man for the first time.” —Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

“How beautifully the leaves grow old. How full of light and colour are their last days.” —John Burroughs

“The young man knows the rules but the old man knows the exceptions.” —Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.

“Old age is not so bad when you consider the alternatives.” —Maurice Chevalier

“The trouble with the American public is that it thinks something is better than nothing.” —Alfred Steiglitz

“When angry, count four; when very angry, swear.” —Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain)

“Many people lose their tempers, merely from seeing you keep yours.” —Frank Moore Colby

“To his dog, every man is Napoleon, hence the constant popularity of dogs.” —Aldous Huxley

“Animals are such agreeable friends—they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms.” —George Eliot

“Anxiety is a thin stream of fear trickling through the mind. If encouraged, it cuts a channel into which all other thoughts are drained.” —Arthur Somers Roche

“Early in life I had to choose between arrogance and hypocritical humility. I chose honest arrogance and have seen no occasion to change.” —Frank Lloyd Wright

“It is not necessary to understand things in order to argue about them.” —Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais

“The test of a man or woman's breeding is how they behave in a quarrel.” —George Bernard Shaw

“Quarrels would not last long if the fault was only on one side.” —François La Rochefoucauld

“The most savage controversies are those about matters as to which there is no good evidence either way.” —Bertrand Russell

“All profoundly original art looks ugly at first.” —Clement Greenberg

"It is from the artist that society gains its loftier images of itself." —Joseph Wood Krutch

"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." —Pablo Picasso

"Grace is the absence of everything that indicates pain or difficulty, hesitation or incongruity." —William Hazlitt

"Husbands don't really count . . . in the miracle of birth." —Doug Spettigue

"Just the knowledge that a good book is awaiting one at the end of a long day makes that day happier." —Kathleen Norris

"The telephone book is full of facts but it doesn't contain a single idea." —Mortimer Jerome Adler

"In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you." —Mortimer Jerome Adler

"One man is as good as another until he has written a book." —Benjamin Jowett

"If a book is worth reading, it is worth buying." —John Ruskin

"The oldest books are still only just out to those who have not read them." —Samuel Butler

"The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them." —Mark Twain

"Where is human nature so weak as in the bookstore?" —Henry Ward Beecher

"Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested." —Francis Bacon

"The walls of books around him, dense with the past, formed a kind of insulation against the present world and its disasters." —Ross MacDonald

"Some people can stay longer in an hour than others can in a week." —William Dean Howells

"A bore is a man who deprives you of solitude without providing you with company." —Gian Vincenzo Gravina

"A bore is a man who, when you ask him how he is, tells you." —Bert Leston Taylor

"When people are bored, it is primarily with their own selves." —Eric Hoffer

"We often forgive those who bore us, but can't forgive those whom we bore." —François La Rochefoucauld

"A holding company is the people you give your money to while you're being searched." —Will Rogers

"Whenever you see a successful business, someone once made a courageous decision." —Peter Drucker

"Going to work for a large company is like getting on a train. Are you going sixty miles an hour or is the train going sixty miles an hour and you're just sitting still?" —Paul Getty

"Business is a combination of war and sport." —André Maurois

"Invest in inflation. It's the only thing going up." —Will Rogers

"Net—the biggest word in the language of business." —Herbert Casson

"It is not the employer who pays wages—he only handles the money. It is the product that pays wages." —Henry Ford

"A study of economics usually reveals that the best time to buy anything is last year." —Marty Allen

"What costs nothing is worth nothing." —Anonymous

"Cheat me in the price but not in the goods." —Thomas Fuller

"When you buy, use your eyes and your mind, not your ears." —Czechoslovakian proverb

"The harder you work, the luckier you get." —Gary Player

"I think we consider too much the good luck of the early bird, but not enough the bad luck of the early worm." —Franklin D. Roosevelt

"There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots; the other, wings." —Hodding Carter

"Children need love, especially when they do not deserve it." —Harold S. Hulbert

"God will forgive me. That's his business." —Heinrich Heine

"In the field of observation, chance favours the prepared mind." —Louis Pasteur

"Every new adjustment is a crisis in self-esteem." —Eric Hoffer

"Talents are best nurtured in solitude; character is best formed in the stormy billows of the world." —Johann von Goethe

"The ideal committee is one with me as chairman, and two other members in bed with flu." —Lord Milverton

"A committee of one gets things done." —Joe Ryan

"The only man who can change his mind is the man who's got one." —Edward Noyes Westcott

"It is a perplexing and unpleasant truth that when men already have 'something worth fighting for,' they do not feel like fighting." —Eric Hoffer

"The great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving." —Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.

"The first virtue in a soldier is endurance of fatigue; courage is only the second virtue." —Napoleon Bonaparte

"The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn." —Ralph Waldo Emerson

"No matter how old you get, if you can keep the desire to be creative, you're keeping the man-child alive." —John Cassavetes

"Capital punishment is as fundamentally wrong as a cure for crime as charity is wrong as a cure for poverty." —Henry Ford

"He has a right to criticize, who has a heart to help." —Abraham Lincoln

"His words leap across rivers and mountains, but his thoughts are still only six inches long." —Elwyn Brooks White

"Never criticize a man until you've walked a mile in his moccasins." —American Indian proverb

"To escape criticism—do nothing, say nothing, be nothing." —Elbert Hubbard

"Habit is stronger than reason." —George Santayana

"Laws are never as effective as habits." —Adlai Stevenson

"A cynic is a man who, when he smells flowers, looks around for a coffin." —Henry Louis Mencken

"Epitaph, n: an inscription on a tomb showing that virtues acquired by death have a retroactive effect." —Ambrose Bierce

"There is no man so blessed that some who stand by his death-bed won't hail the occasion with delight." —Marcus Aurelius

"I'm not afraid to die. I just don't want to be there when it happens." —Woody Allen

"Death is the next step after the pension—it's perpetual retirement without pay." —Jean Giraudoux

"A man's dying is more the survivors' affair than his own." —Thomas Mann

"All charming people have something to conceal, usually their total dependence on the appreciation of others." —Cyril Connolly

"Deceive not thy physician, confessor, nor lawyer." —George Herbert

"Frank and explicit—this is the right line to take when you wish to conceal your own mind and to confuse the mind of others." —Benjamin Disraeli

"The worst form of inequality is to try to make unequal things equal." —Aristotle

"What men value in the world is not rights, but privileges." —Henry Louis Mencken

"One of the disadvantages of wine is that it makes a man mistake words for thoughts." —Samuel Johnson

"There are more old drunkards than old physicians." —François Rabelais

"He is . . . like many other geniuses, a greater friend to the bottle, than the bottle is to him." —William Lyon Mackenzie

"The schools ain't what they used to be and never was." —Will Rogers

"Educate a man and you educate an individual—educate a woman and you educate a family." —Agnes Cripps

"There is that indescribable freshness and unconsciousness about an illiterate person that humbles and mocks the power of the noblest expressive genius." —Walt Whitman

"If you think education is expensive—try ignorance." —Derek Bok

"The ultimate goal of the educational system is to shift to the individual the burden of pursuing his education." —John W. Gardner

"Fathers send their sons to college either because they went to college, or because they didn't." —L. L. Hendren

"If a man empties his purse into his head, no one can take it from him." —Benjamin Franklin

"In England I would rather be a man, a horse, a dog, or a woman, in that order. In America I think the order would be reversed." —Bruce Gould

"To be able to use leisure intelligently will be the last product of an intelligent civilization." —Bertrand Russell

"That man is richest whose pleasures are the cheapest." —Henry David Thoreau

"To really enjoy the better things in life, one must first have experienced the things they are better than." —Oscar Homolka

"No one in this world needs a mink coat but a mink." —Anonymous

"All the things I really like to do are either immoral, illegal or fattening." —Alexander Woollcott

"There are three ingredients in the good life: learning, earning and yearning." —Christopher Morley

"Experience is the name so many people give to their mistakes." —Oscar Wilde

"Good judgment comes from experience, and experience—well, that comes from poor judgment." —Anonymous

"From error to error one discovers the entire truth." —Sigmund Freud

"Experience teaches only the teachable." —Aldous Huxley

"Fame usually comes to those who are thinking about something else." —Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

"A celebrity is one who is known to many persons he is glad he doesn't know." —Henry Louis Mencken

"The thing that impresses me most about North America is the way parents obey their children." —Edward VIII, Duke of Windsor

"Who of us is mature enough for offspring before the offspring themselves arrive? The value of marriage is not that adults produce children but that children produce adults." —Peter de Vries

"The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." —Theodore Hesburgh

"Fashion can be bought. Style one must possess." —Edna Woolman Chase

"Whatever limits us we call Fate." —Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Destiny, n: a tyrant's authority for crime and a fool's excuse for failure." —Ambrose Bierce

"Just as courage imperils life, fear protects it." —Leonardo da Vinci

"Dinner, a time when . . . one should eat wisely but not too well, and talk well but not too wisely." —W. Somerset Maugham

"More die in the United States of too much food than of too little." —John Kenneth Galbraith

"Fish, to taste right, must swim three times—in water, in butter and in wine." —Polish proverb

"Let us be thankful for the fools. But for them the rest of us could not succeed." —Mark Twain

"There are some people that if they don't know, you can't tell 'em." —Louis Armstrong

"None but a fool worries about things he cannot influence." —Samuel Johnson

"It is said that a wise man who stands firm is a statesman, and a foolish man who stands firm is a catastrophe." —Adlai Stevenson

"There are three faithful friends: an old wife, an old dog, and ready money." —Benjamin Franklin

"He makes no friend who never made a foe." —Alfred, Lord Tennyson

"A friend that ain't in need is a friend indeed." —Frank McKinney "Kin" Hubbard

"Never exaggerate your faults; your friends will attend to that." —Robert C. Edwards

"Don't tell your friends their social faults; they will cure the fault and never forgive you." —Logan Pearsall Smith

“Chance makes our parents, but choice makes our friends.”
—Jacques Delille

“One must care about a world one will not see.” —Bertrand Russell

“You can only predict things after they’ve happened.” —Eugene Ionesco

“Doing easily what others find difficult is talent; doing what is impossible for talent is genius.” —Henri-Frédéric Amiel

“Genius develops in quiet places, character out in the full current of human life.” —Johann von Goethe

“All rising to great places is by a winding stair.” —Francis Bacon

“The world stands aside to let anyone pass who knows where he is going.” —David Starr Jordan

“We are all here on earth to help others; what on earth the others are here for I don’t know.” —Wystan Hugh Auden

“I have found men more kind than I expected, and less just.” —Samuel Johnson

“If a friend is in trouble, don’t annoy him by asking if there is anything you can do. Think up something appropriate and do it.” —Edgar Watson Howe

“The only gift is a portion of thyself.” —Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Gossip is when you hear something you like about someone you don’t.” —Earl Wilson

“A gossip is one who talks to you about others; a bore is one who talks to you about himself; and a brilliant conversationalist is one who talks to you about yourself.” —Lisa Kirk

“The majority is the best way, because it is visible, and has strength to make itself obeyed. Yet it is the opinion of the least able.” —Blaise Pascal

“We are all worms, but I do believe that I am a glow-worm.”
—Winston Churchill

“The highest and most lofty trees have the most reason to dread the thunder.” —Charles Rollin

“The greatest truths are the simplest, and so are the greatest men.” —J. C. and A. W. Hare

“Most of the trouble in the world is caused by people waiting to be important.” —Thomas Stearns Eliot

“The greatest happiness you can have is knowing that you do not necessarily require happiness.” —William Saroyan

“We act as though comfort and luxury were the chief requirements of life, when all that we need to make us really happy is something to be enthusiastic about.” —Charles Kingsley

“Happiness is the interval between periods of unhappiness.”
—Don Marquis

“The secret of happiness is not in doing what one likes, but in liking what one has to do.” —James M. Barrie

“Happiness to a dog is what lies on the other side of the door.” —Charleton Ogburn Jr.

“Happiness? That’s nothing more than health and a poor memory.” —Albert Schweitzer

“Happiness makes up in height for what it lacks in length.”
—Robert Frost

“One of the best things people could do for their descendants would be to sharply limit the number of them.” —Olin Miller

“A man’s rootage is more important than his leafage.”
—Woodrow Wilson

“Heredity is an omnibus in which all our ancestors ride, and every now and then one of them puts his head out and embarrasses us.” —Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.

“Gentility is what is left over from rich ancestors after the money is gone.” —John Ciardi

“The best blood will sometimes get into a fool or a mosquito.”
—Austin O’Malley

“The man who has not anything to boast of but his illustrious ancestors is like a potato—the only good belonging to him is under ground.” —Thomas Overbury

“Being a hero is about the shortest-lived profession on earth.” —Will Rogers

“One murder makes a villain, millions a hero.” —Bishop Beilby Porteus

“History never looks like history when you are living through it. It always looks confusing and messy, and it always feels uncomfortable.” —John W. Gardner

“Most of us spend too much time on the last twenty-four hours and too little time on the last six thousand years.” —Will Durant

“The history of almost every civilization furnishes examples of geographical expansion coinciding with deterioration in quality.” —Arnold Toynbee

“One of the lessons of history is that nothing is often a good thing to do and always a clever thing to say.” —Will Durant

“History, an account mostly false, of events, mostly unimportant, which are brought about by rulers, mostly knaves, and soldiers, mostly fools.” —Ambrose Bierce

“Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in.” —Robert Frost

“A man builds a fine house; and now he has a master, and a task for life; he is to furnish, watch, show it, and keep it in repair the rest of his life.” —Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Men are cruel, but man is kind.” —Rabindranath Tagore

“Man is a wanting animal—as soon as one of his needs is satisfied, another appears in its place. This process is unending. It continues from birth to death.” —Douglas McGregor

“Man is a reasoning, rather than a reasonable animal.”
—Robert B. Hamilton

“There is one way to find out if a man is honest—ask him. If he says ‘yes,’ you know he is crooked.” —Groucho Marx

“A man should be careful never to tell tales of himself to his own disadvantage. People may be amused at the time, but they will be remembered, and brought out against him upon some subsequent occasion.” —Samuel Johnson

“It is better to deserve honours and not have them than to have them and not deserve them.” —Mark Twain

“A man has honour if he holds himself to an ideal of conduct though it is inconvenient, unprofitable or dangerous to do so.”
—Walter Lippmann

“Fame is something which must be won; honour is something which must not be lost.” —Arthur Schopenhauer

“Hope is itself a species of happiness, and, perhaps, the chief happiness which this world affords.” —Samuel Johnson

“Hope is the poor man’s bread.” —George Herbert

“The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them; that’s the essence of inhumanity.” —George Bernard Shaw

“Only the person who has faith in himself is able to be faithful to others.” —Erich Fromm

“A loving person lives in a loving world. A hostile person lives in a hostile world: everyone you meet is your mirror.” —Ken Keyes Jr.

“Do not do unto others as you would that they should do unto you. Their tastes may not be the same.” —George Bernard Shaw

“It is well to remember that the entire population of the universe, with one trifling exception, is composed of others.” —John Andrew Holmes

“Everything is funny as long as it is happening to somebody else.” —Mark Twain

“Humour is emotional chaos remembered in tranquility.” —James Thurber

“Mirthfulness is in the mind and you cannot get it out. It is just as good in its place as conscience or veneration.” —Henry Ward Beecher

“The total absence of humour from the Bible is one of the most singular things in all literature.” —Alfred North Whitehead

“Wit is far more often a shield than a lance.” —Anonymous

“Laughter is the sensation of feeling good all over, and showing it principally in one spot.” —Josh Billings

“We are all here for a spell; get all the good laughs you can.” —Will Rogers

“One loses so many laughs by not laughing at oneself.” —Sara Jeannette Duncan

“There is no adequate defense, except stupidity, against the impact of a new idea.” —Percy W. Bridgman

“No army can withstand the strength of an idea whose time has come.” —Victor Hugo

“It is no rest to be idle.” —Paul Peel

“It is impossible to enjoy idling thoroughly unless one has plenty of work to do.” —Jerome Klapka Jerome

“The hardest work is to go idle.” —Jewish proverb

“Nine-tenths of the miseries and vices of mankind proceed from idleness.” —Thomas Carlyle

“The trouble ain’t that people are ignorant: it’s that they know so much that ain’t so.” —Josh Billings

“There is nothing more frightening than ignorance in action.” —Johann von Goethe

“The good Lord set definite limits on man’s wisdom, but set no limits on his stupidity—and that’s just not fair.” —Konrad Adenauer

“Everybody is ignorant, only on different subjects.” —Will Rogers

“Were it not for imagination, a man would be as happy in the arms of a chambermaid as of a duchess.” —Samuel Johnson

“Agesilaus, the Spartan king, was once invited to hear a mimic imitate the nightingale, but declined with the comment that he had heard the nightingale itself.” —Plutarch

“Lack of something to feel important about is almost the greatest tragedy a man may have.” —Arthur E. Morgan

“The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in time of greatest moral crisis, maintain their neutrality.” —Dante Alighieri

“A fly, Sir, may sting a stately horse and make him wince; but one is but an insect, and the other is a horse still.” —Samuel Johnson

“He that flings dirt at another dirtieth himself most.” —Thomas Fuller

“It is often better not to see an insult, than to avenge it.” —Lucius Annaeus Seneca

“Intelligence is quickness in seeing things as they are.” —George Santayana

“As we acquire more knowledge, things do not become more comprehensible, but more mysterious.” —Albert Schweitzer

“I do not pretend to know what many ignorant men are sure of.” —Clarence S. Darrow

“Every great advance in natural knowledge has involved the absolute rejection of authority.” —Thomas Huxley

“Knowledge is power.” —Francis Bacon

“To know that we know what we know, and that we do not know what we do not know, that is true knowledge.” —Henry David Thoreau

“If there were no bad people, there would be no good lawyers.” —Charles Dickens

“The lazy are always wanting to do something.” —Luc de Clapiers, Marquis de Vauvenargues

“A frightened captain makes a frightened crew.” —Lister Sinclair

“A half-truth is a whole lie.” —Jewish proverb

“A liar should have a good memory.” —Marcus Fabius Quintilian

“My definition of a free society is a society where it is safe to be unpopular.” —Adlai Stevenson

“People hardly ever make use of the freedom they have, for example, freedom of thought; instead they demand freedom of speech as a compensation.” —Søren Kierkegaard

“Life consists in what a man is thinking of all day.” —Ralph Waldo Emerson

“The joy of life is variety; the tenderest love requires to be renewed by intervals of absence.” —Samuel Johnson

“Life is what happens to us while we are making other plans.” —Thomas la Mance

“Life is a progress from want to want, not from enjoyment to enjoyment.” —Samuel Johnson

“Life is a long preparation for something that never happens.” —William Butler Yeats

“You only live once —but if you work it right, once is enough.” —Joe E. Lewis

“Measurement of life should be proportioned rather to the intensity of the experience than to its actual length.” —Thomas Hardy

“Birth, copulation and death. That’s all the facts when you come to brass tacks.” —Thomas Stearns Eliot

“There is no cure for birth and death, save to enjoy the interval.” —George Santayana

“It is not the years in your life but the life in your years that counts.” —Adlai Stevenson

“The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.” —William James

“Without a measureless and perpetual uncertainty, the drama of human life would be destroyed.” —Winston Churchill

“It is better to wear out than to rust out.” —George Whitefield

“It is not true that life is one damn thing after another—it’s one damn thing over and over.” —Edna St. Vincent Millay

“Medicine is my lawful wife. Literature is my mistress.” —Anton Chekhov

“The lonely one offers his hand too quickly to whomever he encounters.” —Friedrich Nietzsche

“No one has ever loved anyone the way everyone wants to be loved.” —Mignon McLaughlin

“The greatest love is a mother’s; then comes a dog’s; then a sweetheart’s.” —Polish proverb

“Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking together in the same direction.” —Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

“Love is a gross exaggeration of the difference between one person and everybody else.” —George Bernard Shaw

“If you want to be loved, be lovable.” —Ovid

“The one thing we can never get enough of is love. And the one thing we never give enough of is love.” —Henry Miller

“There is a radicalism in all getting, and a conservatism in all keeping. Lovemaking is radical, while marriage is conservative.” —Eric Hoffer

“Only two things are necessary to keep one’s wife happy. One is to let her think she is having her own way, and the other, to let her have it.” —Lyndon B. Johnson

“If thee marries for money, thee surely will earn it.” —Ezra Bowen

“Love is a fever which marriage puts to bed and cures.” —Richard J. Needham

“Let there be spaces in your togetherness.” —Kahlil Gibran

“One of the best things about marriage is that it gets young people to bed at a decent hour.” —Morris McNeil Musselman

“No matter how happily a woman may be married, it always pleases her to discover that there is a nice man who wishes she were not.” —Henry Louis Mencken

“Any married man should forget his mistakes—no use two people remembering the same thing.” —Duane Dewel

“A man who has been the indisputable favourite of his mother keeps for life the feeling of a conqueror.” —Sigmund Freud

“There are three classes of men—lovers of wisdom, lovers of honour, lovers of gain.” —Plato

“Flirtation—attention without intention.” —Max O’Neil
“Our minds are lazier than our bodies.” —François La Rochefoucauld

“A minority may be right, and a majority is always wrong.” —Henrik Ibsen

“The nail that sticks out is hammered down.” —Japanese proverb

“Things could be worse. Suppose your errors were counted and published every day, like those of a baseball player.” —Anonymous

“Money is the most egalitarian force in society. It confers power on whoever holds it.” —Roger Starr

“With money in your pocket, you are wise, and you are handsome, and you sing well too.” —Jewish proverb

“If the rich could hire other people to die for them, the poor could make a wonderful living.” —Jewish proverb

“It is often easier to fight for principles than to live up to them.” —Adlai Stevenson

“Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without.” —Confucius

“The difference between journalism and literature is that journalism is unreadable and literature is not read.” —Oscar Wilde

“The eye sees only what the mind is prepared to comprehend.” —Robertson Davies

“You can observe a lot just by watching.” —Yogi Berra

“People only see what they are prepared to see.” —Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Predominant opinions are generally the opinions of the generation that is vanishing.” —Benjamin Disraeli

“A difference of opinion is what makes horse racing and missionaries.” —Will Rogers

“When it is dark enough, you can see the stars.” —Charles A. Beard

“When liberty destroys order, the hunger for order will destroy liberty.” —Will Durant

“It is preoccupation with possession, more than anything else, that prevents men from living freely and nobly.” —Bertrand Russell

“Whatever is not nailed down is mine. Whatever I can pry loose is not nailed down.” —Collis P. Huntington

“You must lose a fly to catch a trout.” —George Herbert

“To become a father is not hard, to be a father is, however.” —Wilhelm Busch

“The first half of our lives is ruined by our parents and the second half by our children.” —Clarence S. Darrow

“The thing about having a baby is that thereafter you have it.” —Jean Kerr

“What the mother sings to the cradle goes all the way down to the coffin.” —Henry Ward Beecher

“Your children need your presence more than your presents.” —Jesse Jackson

“Never cut what you can untie.” —Joseph Joubert

“Peace is not an absence of war, it is a virtue, a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, confidence, justice.” —Benedict Spinoza

“The prettiest dress and the finest suit is ideal body weight.”
—William Clifford Roberts

“Science is what you know, philosophy is what you don’t know.” —Bertrand Russell

“The philosophy of one century is the common sense of the next.” —Henry Ward Beecher

“Clothes and manners do not make the man; but, when he is made, they greatly improve his appearance.” —Henry Ward Beecher

“There’s no money in poetry, but then there’s no poetry in money either.” —Robert Graves

“Writing free verse is like playing tennis with the net down.”
—Robert Frost

“[Politeness is] a tacit agreement that people’s miserable defects, whether moral or intellectual, shall on either side be ignored and not be made the subject of reproach.” —Arthur Schopenhauer

“Questioning is not the mode of conversation among gentlemen.” —Samuel Johnson

“Good breeding consists in concealing how much we think of ourselves and how little we think of the other person.”
—Mark Twain

“This is the final test of a gentleman: his respect for those who can be of no possible service to him.” —William Lyon Phelps

“The attributes of a great lady may still be found in the rule of the four S’s: Sincerity, Simplicity, Sympathy, and Serenity.”
—Emily Post

“If we are strong, our strength will speak for itself. If we are weak, words will be of no help.” —John Fitzgerald Kennedy

“A disposition to preserve, and an ability to improve, taken together, would be my standard of a statesman.” —Edmund Burke

“More men have been elected between Sundown and Sunup than ever were elected between Sunup and Sundown.”
—Will Rogers

“If you ever injected truth into politics, you would have no politics.” —Will Rogers

“Power corrupts the few, while weakness corrupts the many.”
—Eric Hoffer

“Praise to the undeserving is severe satire.” —Benjamin Franklin

“Applause is the spur of noble minds, the end and aim of weak ones.” —Charles Caleb Bolton

“Only man, among living things, says prayers. Or needs to.” —Peter Bowman

“Everyone is a prisoner of his own experiences. No one can eliminate prejudices—just recognize them.” —Edward R. Murrow

“I have no expectation of making a hit every time I come to bat.” —Franklin D. Roosevelt

“Every gain made by individuals or society is almost instantly taken for granted.” —Aldous Huxley

“A thousand things advance; nine hundred and ninety-nine retreat; that is progress.” —Henri-Frédéric Amiel

“Behold the turtle. He makes progress only when he sticks his neck out.” —James Bryant Conant

“The art of progress is to preserve order amid change, and to preserve change amid order.” —Alfred North Whitehead

“Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell.” —Edward Abbey

“Every year it takes less time to fly across the Atlantic, and more time to drive to the office.” —Anonymous

“Statistics are no substitute for judgment.” —Henry Clay

“It is a sobering thought, that when Mozart was my age, he had been dead for two years.” —Tom Lehrer

“He has all of the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire.” —Winston Churchill

“A verbal contract isn’t worth the paper it’s written on.”
—Sam Goldwyn

“Include me out.” —Sam Goldwyn

“In California everyone goes to a therapist, is a therapist or is a therapist going to a therapist.” —Truman Capote

“If Roosevelt were alive he’d turn in his grave.” —Sam Goldwyn

“Inferiors revolt in order that they may be equal, and equals that they may be superior.” —Aristotle

“Puritanism—the haunting fear that someone, somewhere may be happy.” —Henry Louis Mencken

“As for a future life, every man must judge for himself between conflicting vague possibilities.” —Charles Darwin

“If I die, I forgive you; if I recover, we shall see.” —Spanish proverb

“Anyone who goes to a psychiatrist ought to have his head examined.” —Sam Goldwyn

“Sanity is very rare; every man almost, and every woman, has a dash of madness.” —Ralph Waldo Emerson

“What is research, but a blind date with knowledge.” —Will Henry

“The great tragedy of Science—the slaying of a beautiful hypothesis by an ugly fact.” —Thomas Huxley

“In science the credit goes to the man who convinces the world, not to the man to whom the idea first occurs.” —William Osler

“Pollution is nothing but resources we’re not harvesting.”
—Buckminster Fuller

“Being in a ship is being in a jail, with the chance of being drowned.” —Samuel Johnson

“Nothing is so burdensome as a secret.” —French proverb

“We judge ourselves by our motives and others by their actions.” —Dwight Morrow

“Self-confidence is the first requisite to great undertakings.”
—Samuel Johnson

“Nobody knows what’s in him until he tries to pull it out. If there’s nothing, or very little, the shock can kill a man.”
—Ernest Hemingway

“A show of envy is an insult to oneself.” —Yevgeny Yevtushenko

“No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.”
—Eleanor Roosevelt

“I have been a selfish being all my life, in practice, though not in principle.” —Jane Austen

“A man must learn to forgive himself.” —Arthur Davison Ficke

“That man’s silence is wonderful to listen to.” —Thomas Hardy

“I believe in the discipline of silence and could talk for hours about it.” —George Bernard Shaw

“Silence propagates itself, and the longer talk has been suspended, the more difficult it is to find anything to say.” —Samuel Johnson

“Better silence than stupid.” —German proverb

“I have noticed that nothing I never said ever did me any harm.” —Calvin Coolidge

“The true definition of a snob is one who craves for what separates men rather than for what unites them.” —John Buchan

“A highbrow is a person educated beyond his intelligence.” —Brander Matthews

“Society is composed of two great classes: those who have more dinners than appetite, and those who have more appetite than dinners.” —Sébastien-Roch Nicolas De Chamfort

“There are four varieties in society: the lovers, the ambitious, observers, and fools. The fools are the happiest.” —Hippolyte Taine

“The classes that wash most are those that work least.” —Gilbert Keith Chesterton

“Every man is a consumer and out to be a producer.” —Ralph Waldo Emerson

“One can acquire everything in solitude but character.” —Henri-Marie Beyle (Stendhal)

“One of the greatest necessities in America is to discover creative solitude.” —Carl Sandburg

“All the great speakers were bad speakers at first.” —Ralph Waldo Emerson

“The object of oratory alone is not truth, but persuasion.” —Thomas Babington Macaulay

“Blessed is the man who, having nothing to say, abstains from giving us wordy evidence of the fact.” —George Eliot

“Look wise, say nothing, and grunt. Speech was given to conceal thought.” —William Osler

“In Maine, we have a saying that there’s no point in speaking unless you can improve on silence.” —Edmund Muskie

“If you have an important point to make, don’t try to be subtle or clever. Use a pile-driver. Hit the point once. Then come back and hit it again. Then hit it a third time—a tremendous whack!” —Winston Churchill

“You can’t think and hit at the same time.” —Yogi Berra

“Pro football is like nuclear warfare. There are no winners, only survivors.” —Frank Gifford

“If you watch a game, it’s fun. If you play it, it’s recreation. If you work at it, it’s golf.” —Bob Hope

“Becoming number one is easier than remaining number one.” —Bill Bradley

“If you aren’t fired with enthusiasm, you’ll be fired with enthusiasm.” —Vince Lombardi

“Golf is a good walk spoiled.” —Mark Twain

“Success is that old A B C—ability, breaks and courage.” —Charles Luckman

“The successful people are the ones who think up things for the rest of the world to keep busy at.” —Don Marquis

“The toughest thing about success is that you’ve got to keep on being a success.” —Irving Berlin

“When you win, nothing hurts.” —Joe Namath

“Taste is the enemy of creativeness.” —Pablo Picasso

“A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.” —Henry Adams

“Thoroughly to teach another is the best way to learn for yourself.” —Tryon Edwards

“Television has proved that people will look at anything rather than each other.” —Ann Landers

“We only think when we are confronted with a problem.” —John Dewey

“The extra calories needed for one hour of intense mental effort would be completely met by eating one oyster cracker or one half of a salted peanut.” —Francis G. Benedict

“It is human nature to think wisely and to act in an absurd fashion.” —Anatole France

“Men use thought only to justify their wrongdoings, and speech only to conceal their thoughts.” —François-Marie Arouet (Voltaire)

“The thoughts that come often unsought, and, as it were, drop into the mind, are commonly the most valuable of any we have.” —John Locke

“When you sit with a nice girl for two hours, you think it’s only a minute. But when you sit on a hot stove for a minute, you think it’s two hours. That’s relativity.” —Albert Einstein

“The only true time which a man can properly call his own, is that which he has all to himself; the rest, though in some sense he may be said to live it, is other people’s time, not his.” —Charles Lamb

“Time goes by: reputation increases, ability declines.” —Dag Hammarskjöld

“[Airplanes] may kill you, but they ain’t likely to hurt you.” —Satchel Paige

“It is better to suffer wrong than to do it, and happier to be sometimes cheated than not to trust.” —Samuel Johnson

“To be trusted is a greater compliment than to be loved.” —George MacDonald

“The man who speaks the truth is always at ease.” —Persian proverb

“Nobody has a right to put another under such a difficulty that he must either hurt the person by telling the truth, or hurt himself by telling what is not true.” —Samuel Johnson

“It makes all the difference in the world whether we put truth in the first place, or in the second place.” —John Morley

“Every truth passes through three stages before it is recognized. In the first it is ridiculed, in the second it is opposed, in the third it is regarded as self-evident.” —Arthur Schopenhauer

“Pretty much all the honest truth telling there is in the world is done by children.” —Anonymous

“When it is not in our power to determine what is true, we ought to follow what is most probable.” —René Descartes

“If you tell the truth you don’t have to remember anything.”
—Mark Twain

“One big vice in a man is apt to keep out a great many smaller ones.” —Bret Harte

“Violence is essentially wordless, and it can begin only where thought and rational communication have broken down.”
—Thomas Merton

“Few men have virtue to withstand the highest bidder.”
—George Washington

“War is much too important a matter to be left to the generals.” —Georges Clemenceau

“War is mainly a catalogue of blunders.” —Winston Churchill

“War is the unfolding of miscalculations.” —Barbara Tuchman

“As long as war is regarded as wicked, it will always have its fascination. When it is looked upon as vulgar, it will cease to be popular.” —Oscar Wilde

“Frankly I’d like to see the government get out of war altogether and leave the whole field to private industry.” —Joseph Heller

“If they want peace, nations should avoid the pinpricks that precede cannon shots.” —Napoleon Bonaparte

“Most sorts of diversion in men, children and other animals, are in imitation of fighting.” —Jonathan Swift

“It is well that war is so terrible—we would grow too fond of it.” —Robert E. Lee

“War will exist until that distant day when the conscientious objector enjoys the same reputation and prestige that the warrior does today.” —John Fitzgerald Kennedy

“War does not determine who is right—only who is left.”
—Anonymous

“There are no atheists in the fox holes.” —William Thomas Cummings

“Few of us can stand prosperity. Another man’s, I mean.”
—Mark Twain

“It is better to live rich than to die rich.” —Samuel Johnson

“All cruelty springs from weakness.” —Lucius Annaeus Seneca

“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”
—Theodore Roosevelt

“Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men of talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.”
—Calvin Coolidge

“The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook.” —William James

“A wise man sees as much as he ought, not as much as he can.” —Michel de Montaigne

“Wit has truth in it; wisecracking is simply calisthenics with words.” —Dorothy Parker

“A woman is the only thing I am afraid of that I know will not hurt me.” —Abraham Lincoln

“If a woman likes another woman, she’s cordial. If she doesn’t like her, she’s very cordial.” —Irvin Shrewsbury Cobb

“Some women blush when they are kissed; some call for the police; some swear; some bite. But the worst are those who laugh.” —Anonymous

“The word is half his that speaks, and half his that hears it.”
—Michel de Montaigne

“Words once spoken, can never be recalled.” —Wentworth Dillon

“The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug.”
—Mark Twain

“In certain trying circumstances, urgent circumstances, desperate circumstances, profanity furnishes a relief denied even to prayer.” —Mark Twain

“As a remedy against all ills—poverty, sickness, and melancholy—only one thing is absolutely necessary: a liking for work.” —Charles Baudelaire

“Work is not man’s punishment. It is his reward and his strength, his glory and his pleasure.” —George Sand

“Employment is nature’s physician, and is essential to human happiness.” —Galen

“Work is more fun than fun.” —Nöel Coward

“Work and love—these are the basics. Without them there is neurosis.” —Theodor Reik

“Read over your compositions, and when you meet a passage which you think is particularly fine, strike it out.” —Samuel Johnson

“Less is more.” —Robert Browning

“I have only made this letter rather long because I have not had time to make it shorter.” —Blaise Pascal

“Footnotes, the little dogs yapping at the heels of the text.”
—William James

“What is written without effort is in general read without pleasure.” —Samuel Johnson

“Proper words in proper places, make the true definition of a style.” —Jonathan Swift

“[Writing:] the art of applying the seat of the pants to the seat of the chair.” —Mary Heaton Vorse

“It has been said that writing comes more easily if you have something to say.” —Sholem Asch

“If you would be a reader, read; if a writer, write.” —Epictetus

“How can I know what I think till I see what I say?”
—Edward Morgan Forster

“Words and sentences are subjects of revision; paragraphs and whole compositions are subjects of prevision.” —Barrett Wendell

“A memorandum is written to protect the writer—not to inform his reader.” —Dean Acheson

“Your manuscript is both good and original; but the parts that are good are not original, and the parts that are original are not good.” —Samuel Johnson

“Young men think old men fools and old men know young men to be so.” —Anonymous

“Nothing is so much to be feared as fear.” —Henry David Thoreau

“The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation.” —Henry David Thoreau

“The man who goes alone can start today; but he who travels with another must wait till that other is ready.” —Henry David Thoreau

“Our life is frittered away by detail. . . . Simplify, simplify.” —Henry David Thoreau

“What is called eloquence in the forum is commonly found to be rhetoric in the study.” —Henry David Thoreau

“I never found the companion that was so companionable as solitude. We are the most part more lonely when we go abroad among men than when we stay in our chambers. A man thinking or working is always alone, let him be where he will.” —Henry David Thoreau

“As for style of writing, if one has anything to say, it drops from him simply and directly, as a stone falls to the ground.” —Henry David Thoreau

“As men, we are all equal in the presence of death.” —Publilius Syrus

“To do two things at once is to do neither.” —Publilius Syrus

“We are interested in others when they are interested in us.” —Publilius Syrus

“Every one excels in something in which another fails.” —Publilius Syrus

“Learn to see in another’s calamity the ills which you should avoid.” —Publilius Syrus

“An agreeable companion on a journey is as good as a carriage.” —Publilius Syrus

“Many receive advice, few profit by it.” —Publilius Syrus

“We may with advantage at times forget what we know.” —Publilius Syrus

“No pleasure endures unseasoned by variety.” —Publilius Syrus

“Practice is the best of all instructors.” —Publilius Syrus

“Never find your delight in another’s misfortune.” —Publilius Syrus

“It is a bad plan that admits of no modification.” —Publilius Syrus

“The fear of death is more to be dreaded than death itself.” —Publilius Syrus

“A rolling stone gathers no moss.” —Publilius Syrus

“Never promise more than you can perform.” —Publilius Syrus

“It is not every question that deserves an answer.” —Publilius Syrus

“No man is happy who does not think himself so.” —Publilius Syrus

“You cannot put the same shoe on every foot.” —Publilius Syrus

“Every day should be passed as if it were to be our last.” —Publilius Syrus

“You should go to a pear-tree for pears, not to an elm.” —Publilius Syrus

“It is a very hard undertaking to seek to please everybody.” —Publilius Syrus

“No one knows what he can do till he tries.” —Publilius Syrus

“Good health and good sense are two of life’s greatest blessings.” —Publilius Syrus

“It matters not how long you live, but how well.” —Publilius Syrus

“Everything is worth what its purchaser will pay for it.” —Publilius Syrus

“Better use medicines at the outset than at the last moment.” —Publilius Syrus

“You can tell the character of every man when you see how he receives praise.” —Lucius Annaeus Seneca

“Remember that time is money.” —Benjamin Franklin

“Never leave that till tomorrow which you can do today.” —Benjamin Franklin

“He that goes a borrowing goes a sorrowing.” —Benjamin Franklin

“It is hard for an empty sack to stand upright.” —Benjamin Franklin

“Keep thy shop, and thy shop will keep thee.” —Benjamin Franklin

“The first years of man must make provision for the last.” —Samuel Johnson

“The endearing elegance of female friendship.” —Samuel Johnson

“Knowledge is of two kinds: we know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it.” —Samuel Johnson

“Whatever you have, spend less.” —Samuel Johnson

“We cannot tell the precise moment when friendship is formed. As in filling a vessel drop by drop, there is at last a drip which makes it run over; so in a series of kindnesses there is at last one which makes the heart run over.” —James Boswell

“To be great is to be misunderstood.” —Ralph Waldo Emerson

“An institution is the lengthened shadow of one man.” —Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Nothing can bring you peace but yourself.” —Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Every sweet has its sour; every evil its good.” —Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Nothing astonishes men so much as common sense and plain dealing.” —Ralph Waldo Emerson

“The only reward of virtue is virtue; the only way to have a friend is to be one.” —Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Yes, I am a Jew, and when the ancestors of the right honourable gentlemen were brutal savages in an unknown island, mine were priests in the temple of Solomon.” —Benjamin Disraeli

“If I were asked . . . to what the singular prosperity and growing strength of that people [the Americans] ought mainly to be attributed, I should reply: To the superiority of their women.” —Alexis De Tocqueville

“False facts are highly injurious to the progress of science, for they often endure long; but false views if supported by some evidence, do little harm, for every one takes a salutary pleasure in proving their falseness.” —Charles Robert Darwin

“Tower genius disdains a beaten path. It seeks regions hitherto unexplored.” —Abraham Lincoln

“Important principles may and must be inflexible.” —Abraham Lincoln

“In nature there are neither rewards nor punishments—there are consequences.” —Robert Green Ingersoll

“Did you ever have the measles, and if so, how many?” —Charles Farrar Browne (Artemus Ward)

“A baby is an inestimable blessing and bother.” —Mark Twain
“Classic.’ A book which people praise and don’t read.” —Mark Twain

“Man is the Only Animal that blushes. Or needs to.” —Mark Twain

“Each person is born to one possession which outvalues all his others—his last breath.” —Mark Twain

“Grief can take care of itself, but to get the full value of a joy you must have somebody to divide it with.” —Mark Twain

“Everyone is a moon, and has a dark side which he never shows to anybody.” —Mark Twain

“The calm confidence of a Christian with four aces.” —Mark Twain

“Only on the edge of the grave can man conclude anything.” —Henry Brooks Adams

“Chaos often breeds life, when order breeds habit.” —Henry Brooks Adams

“He too serves a certain purpose who only stands and cheers.” —Henry Brooks Adams

“Habit is thus the enormous fly-wheel of society, its most precious conservative agent. It alone is what keeps us all within the bounds of ordinance.” —William James

“There is no more miserable human being than one in whom nothing is habitual but indecision.” —William James

“A thing is important if any one think it important.” —William James

“There is no substitute for hard work.” —Thomas Alva Edison

“Genius is one per cent inspiration and ninety-nine per cent perspiration.” —Thomas Alva Edison

“We all like people who do things, even if we only see their faces on a cigar-box lid.” —Willa Sibert Cather

“There are all those early memories; one cannot get another set; one has only these.” —Willa Sibert Cather

“As long as there are sovereign nations possessing great power, war is inevitable.” —Albert Einstein

“If man does find the solution for world peace it will be the most revolutionary reversal of his record we have ever known.” —George Catlett Marshall

“To be in love is merely to be in a state of perceptual anaesthesia—to mistake an ordinary young man for a Greek god or any ordinary young woman for a goddess.” —Henry Louis Mencken

“When A annoys or injures B on the pretense of improving B, A is a scoundrel.” —Henry Louis Mencken

“It is an unfortunate human failing that a full pocketbook often groans more loudly than an empty stomach.” —Franklin D. Roosevelt

“When you see a rattlesnake poised to strike, you do not wait until he has struck before you crush him.” —Franklin D. Roosevelt

“All of our people all over the country—except the pure-blooded Indians—are immigrants or descendants of immigrants, including even those who came over here on the Mayflower.” —Franklin D. Roosevelt

“Never before have we had so little time in which to do so much.” —Franklin D. Roosevelt

“There are two cardinal sins from which all others spring: impatience and laziness.” —Franz Kafka

“The release of atomic energy constitutes a new force too revolutionary to consider in the framework of old ideas.” —Harry S. Truman

“The health of nations is more important than the wealth of nations.” —Will Durant

“There exists in the world today a gigantic reservoir of good will toward us, the American people.” —Wendell Lewis Willkie



—WILLIAMS CLIFFORD ROBERTS, MD
28 July 2008