

Alfred de Vigny

Quotes

*Men, Heart, Art, Two, Philosophy, Age, Dream, Ideas, Moving, Drama, Doubt,
Real, Thinking, Years, Long, Eye, Silence, Use, Air, Public Opinion*

We shall find in our troubled hearts, where discord reigns, two needs which seem at variance, but which merge, as I think, in a common source - the love of the true, and the love of the fabulous.

~Alfred de Vigny

The true God, the mighty God, is the God of ideas.

~Alfred de Vigny

Of what use is the memory of facts, if not to serve as an example of good or of evil?

~Alfred de Vigny

Of what use were the arts if they were only the reproduction and the imitation of life?

~Alfred de Vigny

On the day when man told the story of his life to man, history was born.

~Alfred de Vigny

Do you not see with your own eyes the chrysalis fact assume by degrees the wings of fiction?

~Alfred de Vigny

The first among mankind will always be those who make something imperishable out of a sheet of paper, a canvas, a piece of marble, or a few sounds

~Alfred de Vigny

Only silence is great; all else is weakness.

~Alfred de Vigny

Fainthearted animals move about in herds. The lion walks alone in the desert. Let the poet always walk thus.

~Alfred de Vigny

History is a novel for which the people is the author.

~Alfred de Vigny

I love the majesty of human suffering.

~Alfred de Vigny

Greatness is the dream of youth realized in old age.

~Alfred de Vigny

No writer, no matter how gifted, immortalizes himself unless he has crystallized into expressive and original phrase the eternal sentiments and yearnings of the human heart.

~Alfred de Vigny

The study of social progress is to-day not less needed in literature than is the analysis of the human heart.

~Alfred de Vigny

Poetry is the disease of the brain.

~Alfred de Vigny

We live in an age of universal investigation, and of exploration of the sources of all movements.

~Alfred de Vigny

What is a great life? It is the dreams of youth realised in old age.

~Alfred de Vigny

A calm despair, without angry convulsions or reproaches directed at heaven, is the essence of wisdom.

~Alfred de Vigny

Art ought never to be considered except in its relations with its ideal beauty.

~Alfred de Vigny

What is the use of theorizing as to wherein lies the charm that moves us?

~Alfred de Vigny

Silence alone is great; all else is feebleness . . . Perform with all your heart your long and heavy task. . . . Then as do I, say naught, but suffer and die.

~Alfred de Vigny

The existence of the soldier, next to capital punishment, is the most grievous vestige of barbarism which survives among men.

~Alfred de Vigny

Do you know that charming part of our country which has been called the garden of France - that spot where, amid verdant plains watered by wide streams, one inhales the purest air of heaven?

~Alfred de Vigny

An army is a nation within a nation, it is one of the vices of courage.

~Alfred de Vigny

From this, without doubt, sprang the fable. Man created it thus, because it was not given him to see more than himself and nature, which surrounds him; but he created it true with a truth all its own.

~Alfred de Vigny

Perform your long and heavy task with energy, treading the path to which Fate has been pleased to call you.

~Alfred de Vigny

But it is the province of religion, of philosophy, of pure poetry only, to go beyond life, beyond time, into eternity.

~Alfred de Vigny

What is a great life but a youthful intention carried out in maturity?

~Alfred de Vigny

Doubt is the freedom of thought. Any claim to truth can be doubted.

~Alfred de Vigny

Hope is the biggest of our foolish things.

~Alfred de Vigny

Oh, I have a habit of letting myself be lectured on the things I know best. I like to see if they are understood in the same way I understand; for there are many ways of knowing the same thing

~Alfred de Vigny

France, for example, loves at the same time history and the drama, because the one explores the vast destinies of humanity, and the other the individual lot of man.

~Alfred de Vigny

I have a private theory, Sir, that there are no heroes and no monsters in this world. Only children should be allowed to use these words

~Alfred de Vigny

Honour is manly decency. The shame of being found wanting in it means everything to us. Is this, then, the indefinable, the sacred thing?

~Alfred de Vigny

The human mind, I believe, cares for the True only in the general character of an epoch.

~Alfred de Vigny

Invisible is real. Souls have their own world.

~Alfred de Vigny

Every man has seen the wall that limits his mind.

~Alfred de Vigny

The events I sought were never as great as I needed them to be.

~Alfred de Vigny

Of late years (perhaps as a result of our political changes) art has borrowed from history more than ever.

~Alfred de Vigny

The loveliest Muse in the world does not feed her owner; these girls make fine mistresses but terrible wives

~Alfred de Vigny

What is a great life if not a youthful idea executed by a man of mature years.

~Alfred de Vigny

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