

Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle Quotes

*Science, Math, Men, Future, Philosopher, Hands, Mind, World, Feet, War,
Usual, Age, Last Words, Running, Astronomy, Would Be, Knowing, Passion,
Happiness, Elephants*

Women react differently: a French woman who sees herself betrayed by her husband will kill his mistress; an Italian will kill her husband; a Spaniard will kill both; and a German will kill herself.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

Neatness is a crowning grace of womanhood.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

Behold a universe so immense that I am lost in it. I no longer know where I am. I am just nothing at all. Our world is terrifying in its insignificance.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

To be happy, one must have a good stomach and a bad heart.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

A true philosopher is like an elephant; he never puts the second foot down until the first one is solidly in place.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

A philosopher will not believe what he sees because he is too busy speculating about what he does not see.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

It is a great obstacle to happiness to expect too much.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

Mathematicians are like lovers. Grant a mathematician the least principle, and he will draw from it a consequence which you must also grant him, and from this consequence another.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

People almost always do great things without knowing how to do them, and are quite surprised to have done them.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

Hardly anyone knows how much is gained by ignoring the future.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

An educated mind is, as it were, composed of all the minds of preceding ages.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

Leibniz never married; he had considered it at the age of fifty; but the person he had in mind asked for time to reflect. This gave Leibniz time to reflect, too, and so he never married.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

There are three things I have loved but never understood. Art, music and women.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

It is high time for me to depart, for at my age I now begin to see things as they really are.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

Nature is never so admired as when she is understood.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

If I had my hand full of truth, I would take good care how I opened it.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

I have lived one hundred years; and I die with the consolation of never having thrown the slightest ridicule upon the smallest virtue.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

It takes time to ruin a world, but time is all it takes.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

Modesty in women has two special advantages,--it enhances beauty and veils uncomeliness.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

It is the passions that do and undo everything.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

I feel nothing, apart from a certain difficulty in continuing to exist.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

Nothing can be more destructive to ambition, and the passion for conquest, than the true system of astronomy. What a poor thing is even the whole globe in comparison of the infinite extent of nature!

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

Nature intends that, at fixed periods, men should succeed each other by the instrumentality of death. We shall never outwit Nature; we shall die as usual.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

A well-cultivated mind is, so to speak, made up of all the minds of preceding ages; it is only one single mind which has been educated during all this time.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

In vain we shall penetrate more and more deeply the secrets of the structure of the human body, we shall not dupe nature; we shall die as usual.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

Since the princes take the Earth for their own, it's fair that the philosophers reserve the sky for themselves and rule there, but they should never permit the entry of others.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

A work of morality, politics, criticism will be more elegant, other things being equal, if it is shaped by the hand of geometry.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

There is nothing one sees oftener than the ridiculous and magnificent, such close neighbors that they touch.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

We must always skim over pleasures. They are like marshy lands that we must travel nimbly, hardly daring to put down our feet.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

I hate war, for it spoils conversation.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

A philosopher sees the Earth as a large planet, travelling through the heavens, covered with fools

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

I shall leave the world without regret, for it hardly contains a single good listener.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

As astronomy is the daughter of idleness, geometry is the daughter of property.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

It is beauty that begins to please, and tenderness that completes the charm.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

A man finds no sweeter voice in all the world than that which chants his praise.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

To despise theory is to have the excessively vain pretension to do without knowing what one does, and to speak without knowing what one says.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

If I held all the thoughts of the world in my hand, I would be careful not to open it.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

Ah! si l'on o" tait les chime' res aux hommes, quel plaisir leur resterait?
Oh! If man were robbed of his fantasies, what pleasure would be left him?

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

The Art of Flying is but newly invented, twill improve by degrees, and in time grow perfect; then we may fly as far as the Moon.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

I detest war; it ruins conversation

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

Our sun enlightens the planets that belong to him; why may not every fixed star also have planets to which they give light?

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

Truth comes home to the mind so naturally, that when we learn it for the first time, it seems as though we did no more than recall it to our memory.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

They will have the World to be in Large, what a Watch is in Small; which is very regular, and depends only upon the just disposing of the several Parts of the Movement.

~Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle

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