

Charles Caleb Colton Quotes

*Men, May, Mind, Two, Writing, Wise, Literature, Pride, Book, Giving, Errors,
Thinking, Knowledge, Light, Time, Happiness, Self, Mean, Evil, Revenge*

True friendship is like sound health; the value of it is seldom known until it is lost.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Nothing more completely baffles one who is full of trick and duplicity himself, than straight forward and simple integrity in another.

~Charles Caleb Colton

The soundest argument will produce no more conviction in an empty head than the most superficial declamation; as a feather and a guinea fall with equal velocity in a vacuum.

~Charles Caleb Colton

The art of declamation has been sinking in value from the moment that speakers were foolish enough to publish, and hearers wise enough to read.

~Charles Caleb Colton

None are so fond of secrets as those who do not mean to keep them; such persons covet secrets as a spendthrift covets money, for the purpose of circulation.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Let those who would affect singularity with success first determine to be very virtuous, and they will be sure to be very singular.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Much may be done in those little shreds and patches of time which every day produces, and which most men throw away.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Atheism is a system which can communicate neither warmth nor illumination, except from those fagots which your mistaken zeal has lighted up for its destruction.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Deliberate with caution, but act with decision and yield with graciousness, or oppose with firmness.

~Charles Caleb Colton

The study of mathematics, like the Nile, begins in minuteness but ends in magnificence.

~Charles Caleb Colton

In the pursuit of knowledge, follow it wherever it is to be found; like fern, it is the produce of all climates, and like coin, its circulation is not restricted to any particular class.

~Charles Caleb Colton

There are some frauds so well conducted that it would be stupidity not to be deceived by them.

~Charles Caleb Colton

None are so fond of secrets as those who do not mean to keep them.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Suicide sometimes proceeds from cowardice, but not always; for cowardice sometimes prevents it; since as many live because they are afraid to die, as die because they are afraid to live.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Honor is unstable and seldom the same; for she feeds upon opinion, and is as fickle as her food.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Power will intoxicate the best hearts, as wine the strongest heads. No man is wise enough, nor good enough to be trusted with unlimited power.

~Charles Caleb Colton

We hate some persons because we do not know them; and will not know them because we hate them.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Money is the most envied, but the least enjoyed. Health is the most enjoyed, but the least envied.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Time is the most undefinable yet paradoxical of things; the past is gone, the future is not come, and the present becomes the past, even while we attempt to define it.

~Charles Caleb Colton

It is better to meet danger than to wait for it. He that is on a lee shore, and foresees a hurricane, stands out to sea and encounters a storm to avoid a shipwreck.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Friendship often ends in love, but love in friendship - never.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Corruption is like a ball of snow, once it's set a rolling it must increase.

~Charles Caleb Colton

We must be careful how we flatter fools too little, or wise men too much, for the flatterer must act the very reverse of the physician, and administer the strongest dose only to the weakest patient.

~Charles Caleb Colton

If you would be known, and not know, vegetate in a village; if you would know, and not be known, live in a city.

~Charles Caleb Colton

The intoxication of anger, like that of the grape, shows us to others, but hides us from ourselves.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Levity is often less foolish and gravity less wise than each of them appears.

~Charles Caleb Colton

If you want enemies, excel others; if you want friends, let others excel you.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Death is the only sovereign whom no partiality can warp, and no price corrupt.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Happiness ... leads none of us by the same route.

~Charles Caleb Colton

The drafts which true genius draws upon posterity, although they may not always be honored so soon as they are due, are sure to be paid with compound interest in the end.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Insults are engendered from vulgar minds, like toadstools from a dunghill.

~Charles Caleb Colton

To dare to live alone is the rarest courage; since there are many who had rather meet their bitterest enemy in the field, than their own hearts in their closet.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Bed is a bundle of paradoxes: we go to it with reluctance, yet we quit it

with regret.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Happiness, that grand mistress of the ceremonies in the dance of life, impels us through all its mazes and meanderings, but leads none of us by the same route.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Villainy that is vigilant will be an overmatch for virtue, if she slumber at her post.

~Charles Caleb Colton

There are three difficulties in authorship; to write any thing worth the publishing "to find honest men to publish it" and to get sensible men to read it.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Did universal charity prevail, earth would be a heaven, and hell a fable.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Friendship, of itself a holy tie, is made more sacred by adversity.

~Charles Caleb Colton

If Satan ever laughs, it must be at hypocrites; they are the greatest dupes he has.

~Charles Caleb Colton

As the gout seems privileged to attack the bodies of the wealthy, so ennui seems to exert a similar prerogative over their minds.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Wealth after all is a relative thing since he that has little and wants less is richer than he that has much and wants more.

~Charles Caleb Colton

He who knows himself knows others.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Man, if he compare himself with all that he can see, is at the zenith of power; but if he compare himself with all that he can conceive, he is at the nadir of weakness.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Most plagiarists, like the drone, have neither taste to select, industry to acquire, nor skill to improve, but impudently pilfer the honey ready prepared, from the hive.

~Charles Caleb Colton

He [the miser] falls down and worships the god of this world, but will have neither its pomps, its vanities nor its pleasures for his trouble.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Some are cursed with the fullness of satiety; and how can they bear the ills of life when its very pleasures fatigue them?

~Charles Caleb Colton

A hug is worth a thousand words.

~Charles Caleb Colton

It is easier to pretend to be what you are not than to hide what you really are; but he that can accomplish both has little to learn in hypocrisy.

~Charles Caleb Colton

If all seconds were as averse to duels as their principals, very little blood would be shed in that way.

~Charles Caleb Colton

It is a mistake, that a lust for power is the mark of a great mind; for even

the weakest have been captivated by it; and for minds of the highest order, it has no charms.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Love is a volcano, the crater of which no wise man will approach too nearly, lest ... he should be swallowed up.

~Charles Caleb Colton

He that is good will infallibly become better, and he that is bad will as certainly become worse; for vice, virtue, and time are three things that never stand still.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Life often presents us with a choice of evils, rather than of goods.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Life isn't like a book. Life isn't logical or sensible or orderly. Life is a mess most of the time. And theology must be lived in the midst of that mess.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Brutes leave ingratitude to man.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Physical courage, which despises all danger, will make a man brave in one way; and moral courage, which despises all opinion, will make a man brave in another.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Men are born with two eyes, but with one tongue, in order that they should see twice as much as they say.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Ambition is to the mind what the cap is to the falcon; it blinds us first,

and then compels us to tower by reason of our blindness.

~Charles Caleb Colton

We own almost all our knowledge not to those who have agreed but to those who have differed.

~Charles Caleb Colton

The mistakes of the fool are known to the world, but not to himself. The mistakes of the wise man are known to himself, but not to the world.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Silence is foolish if we are wise, but wise if we are foolish.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Mystery magnifies danger as the fog the sun.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Law and equity are two things which God has joined, but which man has put asunder.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Knowledge is two-fold, and consists not only in an affirmation of what is true, but in the negation of that which is false.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Next to acquiring good friends, the best acquisition is that of good books.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Envy is the coward side of Hate, And all her ways are bleak and desolate.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Where true religion has prevented one crime, false religions have

afforded a pretext for a thousand.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Gold is worshipped in all climates, without a single temple, and by all classes, without a single hypocrite.

~Charles Caleb Colton

He that openly tells, his friends all that he thinks of them, must expect that they will secretly tell his enemies much that they do not think of him.

~Charles Caleb Colton

The greatest friend of truth is Time, her greatest enemy is Prejudice, and her constant companion is Humility.

~Charles Caleb Colton

The present time has one advantage over every other -- it is our own.

~Charles Caleb Colton

The excess of our youth are checks written against our age and they are payable with interest thirty years later.

~Charles Caleb Colton

A fool is often as dangerous to deal with as a knave, and always more incorrigible.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Times of great calamity and confusion have been productive for the greatest minds. The purest ore is produced from the hottest furnace. The brightest thunder-bolt is elicited from the darkest storm.

~Charles Caleb Colton

It is much easier to ruin a man of principle than a man of none, for he may be ruined through his scruples. Knavery is supple and can bend;

but honesty is firm and upright, and yields not.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Imitation is the highest form of flattery.

~Charles Caleb Colton

There are two principles of established acceptance in morals; first, that self-interest is the mainspring of all of our actions, and secondly, that utility is the test of their value.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Expect not praise without envy until you are dead.

~Charles Caleb Colton

The greatest and most amiable privilege which the rich enjoy over the poor is that which they exercise the least--the privilege of making others happy.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Cruel men are the greatest lovers of Mercy, avaricious men of generosity, and proud men of humility; that is to say, in other, not in themselves.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Posthumous charities are the very essence of selfishness when bequeathed by those who, even alive, would part with nothing.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Moderation is the inseparable companion of wisdom, but with it genius has not even a nodding acquaintance.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Patience is the support of weakness; impatience the ruin of strength.

~Charles Caleb Colton

The firmest of friendships have been formed in mutual adversity, as iron is most strongly united by the fiercest flame.

~Charles Caleb Colton

He that places himself neither higher nor lower than he ought to do exercises the truest humility.

~Charles Caleb Colton

To know the pains of power, we must go to those who have it; to know its pleasures, we must go to those who are seeking it: the pains of power are real, its pleasures imaginary.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Sloth, if it has prevented many crimes, has also smothered many virtues.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Commerce flourishes by circumstances, precarious, transitory, contingent, almost as the winds and waves that bring it to our shores.

~Charles Caleb Colton

We often pretend to fear what we really despise, and more often despise what we really fear.

~Charles Caleb Colton

That writer does the most who gives his reader the most knowledge and takes from him the least time.

~Charles Caleb Colton

An Irish man fights before he reasons, a Scotchman reasons before he fights, an Englishman is not particular as to the order of precedence, but will do either to accommodate his customers.

~Charles Caleb Colton

The mob is a monster, with the hands of Briareus, but the head of Polyphemus,--strong to execute, but blind to perceive.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Afflictions sent by providence melt the constancy of the noble minded, but confirm the obduracy of the vile, as the same furnace that liquefies the gold, hardens the clay Charles Caleb Colton.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Constant success shows us but one side of the world; adversity brings out the reverse of the picture.

~Charles Caleb Colton

If we steal thoughts from the moderns, it will be cried down as plagiarism; if from the ancients, it will be cried up as erudition.

~Charles Caleb Colton

True contentment depends not upon what we have; a tub was large enough for Diogenes, but a world was too little for Alexander.

~Charles Caleb Colton

No metaphysician ever felt the deficiency of language so much as the grateful.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Our admiration of fine writing will always be in proportion to its real difficulty and its apparent ease.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Many speak the truth when they say that they despise riches, but they mean the riches possessed by others.

~Charles Caleb Colton

Purity lives and derives its life solely from the Spirit of God.

~Charles Caleb Colton

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