

Charles Horton Cooley

Quotes

*Men, Self, Mean, Mind, Art, Eye, Pain, Reflection, Passion, Life, Giving, Ideas,
Freedom, Thinking, Children, Hero, Doe, Failure, Book, Individuality*

There is no way to penetrate the surface of life but by attacking it earnestly at a particular point.

~Charles Horton Cooley

A strange and somewhat impassive physiognomy is often, perhaps, an advantage to an orator, or leader of any sort, because it helps to fix the eye and fascinate the mind.

~Charles Horton Cooley

One should never criticize his own work except in a fresh and hopeful mood. The self-criticism of a tired mind is suicide.

~Charles Horton Cooley

Failure sometimes enlarges the spirit. You have to fall back upon humanity and God.

~Charles Horton Cooley

An artist cannot fail; it is a success to be one.

~Charles Horton Cooley

The imaginations which people have of one another are the solid facts of society.

~Charles Horton Cooley

As social beings we live with our eyes upon our reflection, but have no assurance of the tranquillity of the waters in which we see it.

~Charles Horton Cooley

To get away from one's working environment is, in a sense, to get away from one's self; and this is often the chief advantage of travel and change.

~Charles Horton Cooley

The need to exert power, when thwarted in the open fields of life, is the

more likely to assert itself in trifles.

~Charles Horton Cooley

Form the habit of making decisions when your spirit is fresh...to let dark moods lead is like choosing cowards to command armies.

~Charles Horton Cooley

Every general increase of freedom is accompanied by some degeneracy, attributable to the same causes as the freedom.

~Charles Horton Cooley

No matter what a man does, he is not fully sane or human unless there is a spirit of freedom in him, a soul unconfined by purpose and larger than the practicable world.

~Charles Horton Cooley

A cat cares for you only as a source of food, security and a place in the sun.

~Charles Horton Cooley

The social self is simply any idea, or system of ideas, drawn from the communicative life, that the mind cherishes as its own.

~Charles Horton Cooley

Each man must have his I; it is more necessary to him than bread.

~Charles Horton Cooley

Our individual lives cannot, generally, be works of art unless the social order is also.

~Charles Horton Cooley

To have no heroes is to have no aspiration, to live on the momentum of the past, to be thrown back upon routine, sensuality, and the narrow self.

~Charles Horton Cooley

The idea that seeing life means going from place to place and doing a great variety of obvious things is an illusion natural to dull minds.

~Charles Horton Cooley

The literature of the inner life is very largely a record of struggle with the inordinate passions of the social self.

~Charles Horton Cooley

The bashful are always aggressive at heart.

~Charles Horton Cooley

When one ceases from conflict, whether because he has won, because he has lost, or because he cares no more for the game, the virtue passes out of him.

~Charles Horton Cooley

We are born to action and whatever is capable of suggesting and guiding action has power over us from the first.

~Charles Horton Cooley

So far as discipline is concerned, freedom means not its absence but the use of higher and more rational forms as contrasted with those that are lower or less rational.

~Charles Horton Cooley

There is nothing less to our credit than our neglect of the foreigner and his children, unless it be the arrogance most of us betray when we set out to "Americanize" him.

~Charles Horton Cooley

The most effective way of utilizing human energy is through an organized rivalry, which by specialization and social control is, at the

same time, organized co-operation.

~Charles Horton Cooley

A talent somewhat above mediocrity, shrewd and not too sensitive, is more likely to rise in the world than genius.

~Charles Horton Cooley

To cease to admire is a proof of deterioration.

~Charles Horton Cooley

Each man must have his I; it is more necessary to him than bread; and if he does not find scope for it within the existing institutions he will be likely to make trouble.

~Charles Horton Cooley

Could anything be more indicative of a slight but general insanity than the aspect of the crowd on the streets of Chicago?

~Charles Horton Cooley

The mind is not a hermit's cell, but a place of hospitality and intercourse.

~Charles Horton Cooley

It is surely a matter of common observation that a man who knows no one thing intimately has no views worth hearing on things in general.

~Charles Horton Cooley

Prudence and compromise are necessary means, but every man should have an impudent end which he will not compromise.

~Charles Horton Cooley

Unless a capacity for thinking be accompanied by a capacity for action, a superior mind exists in torture.

~Charles Horton Cooley

There is hardly any one so insignificant that he does not seem imposing to some one at some time.

~Charles Horton Cooley

To desire to be an artist is to desire to be a complete man in respect to some one function, to realize yourself utterly. A man is a poor thing who is content not to be an artist.

~Charles Horton Cooley

To retire to the monastery, or the woods, or the sea, is to escape from the sharp suggestions that spur on ambition.

~Charles Horton Cooley

Faith in our associates is part of our faith in God.

~Charles Horton Cooley

Freedom is the opportunity for right development, for development in accordance with the progressive ideal of life that we have in conscience.

~Charles Horton Cooley

The thing that moves us to pride or shame is not the mere mechanical reflection of ourselves but the imagined effect of this reflection upon another's mind.

~Charles Horton Cooley

When we hate a person, with an intimate, imaginative, human hatred, we enter into his mind, or sympathize -- any strong interest will arouse the imagination and create some sort of sympathy.

~Charles Horton Cooley

Selfishness of the stable or rigid sort is as a rule more bitterly resented than the more fickle variety, chiefly, no doubt, because, having more continuity and purpose, it is more formidable.

~Charles Horton Cooley

It is partly to avoid consciousness of greed that we prefer to associate with those who are at least as greedy as we ourselves. Those who consume much less are a reproach.

~Charles Horton Cooley

The actual God of many Americans... is simply the current of American life.

~Charles Horton Cooley

We have no higher life that is really apart from other people. It is by imagining them that our personality is built up; to be without the power of imagining them is to be a low-grade idiot.

~Charles Horton Cooley

The more developed sexual passion, in both sexes, is very largely an emotion of power, domination, or appropriation. There is no state of feeling that says mine, mine, more fiercely.

~Charles Horton Cooley

Life is a theatre of alarms and contentions.

~Charles Horton Cooley

To persuade is more trouble than to dominate, and the powerful seldom take this trouble if they can avoid it.

~Charles Horton Cooley

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