

Edward Gibbon

Quotes

History, War, Law, Men, Years, Art, Rome, Character, People, Government, Passion, Country, Christian, Hands, Age, Mind, Military, Loss, Ideas, Book

And the winds and the waves are always on the side of the ablest navigators.

~Edward Gibbon

Imam Hussain's sacrifice is for all groups and communities, an example of the path of righteousness.

~Edward Gibbon

I never make the mistake of arguing with people for whose opinions I have no respect.

~Edward Gibbon

The various modes of worship which prevailed in the Roman world were all considered by the people as equally true; by the philosopher as equally false; and by the magistrate as equally useful.

~Edward Gibbon

And thus toleration produced not only mutual indulgence, but even religious concord. The superstition of the people was not embittered theological rancor.

~Edward Gibbon

Let us read with method, and propose to ourselves an end to which our studies may point. The use of reading is to aid us in thinking.

~Edward Gibbon

In the end, they wanted security more than they wanted freedom.

~Edward Gibbon

Conversation enriches the understanding, but solitude is the school of genius.

~Edward Gibbon

Vicissitudes of fortune, which spares neither man nor the proudest of

his works, which buries empires and cities in a common grave.

~Edward Gibbon

We improve ourselves by victories over ourselves. There must be contest, and we must win.

~Edward Gibbon

Our work is the presentation of our capabilities.

~Edward Gibbon

Our ignorance is God; what we know is science.

~Edward Gibbon

The courage of a soldier is found to be the cheapest and most common quality of human nature.

~Edward Gibbon

[Whole] generations may be swept away by the madness of kings in the space of a single hour.

~Edward Gibbon

[In] the national and religious conflict of the [Byzantine and Saracen] empires, peace was without confidence, and war without mercy.

~Edward Gibbon

The Roman government appeared every day less formidable to its enemies, more odious and oppressive to its subjects.

~Edward Gibbon

Religion is a mere question of geography.

~Edward Gibbon

Fanaticism obliterates the feelings of humanity.

~Edward Gibbon

Of the various forms of government which have prevailed in the world, an hereditary monarchy seems to present the fairest scope for ridicule.

~Edward Gibbon

I was never less alone than when by myself.

~Edward Gibbon

bizarreness masqueraded as creativity.

~Edward Gibbon

A philosopher may deplore the eternal discords of the human race, but he will confess, that the desire of spoil is a more rational provocation than the vanity of conquest.

~Edward Gibbon

History is indeed little more than the register of the crimes, follies, and misfortunes of mankind.

~Edward Gibbon

The laws of probability, so true in general, so fallacious in particular.

~Edward Gibbon

Books are those faithful mirrors that reflect to our mind the minds of sages and heroes.

~Edward Gibbon

Since the primitive times, the wealth of the popes was exposed to envy, their powers to opposition, and their persons to violence.

~Edward Gibbon

Every man who rises above the common level has received two educations: the first from his teachers; the second, more personal and important, from himself.

~Edward Gibbon

The style of an author should be the image of his mind, but the choice and command of language is the fruit of exercise.

~Edward Gibbon

Style is the image of character.

~Edward Gibbon

Unprovided with original learning, unformed in the habits of thinking, unskilled in the arts of composition, I resolved to write a book.

~Edward Gibbon

The communication of ideas requires a similitude of thought and language . . .

~Edward Gibbon

The end comes when we no longer talk with ourselves. It is the end of genuine thinking and the beginning of the final loneliness.

~Edward Gibbon

The law of nature instructs most animals to cherish and educate their infant progeny. The law of reason inculcates to the human species the returns of filial piety.

~Edward Gibbon

The sentiment of fear is nearly allied to that of hatred.

~Edward Gibbon

A nation of slaves is always prepared to applaud the clemency of their master who, in the abuse of absolute power, does not proceed to the last extremes of injustice and oppression.

~Edward Gibbon

Their poverty secured their freedom, since our desires and our possessions are the strongest fetters of despotism.

~Edward Gibbon

[The] discretion of the judge is the first engine of tyranny . . .

~Edward Gibbon

Under a democratical government the citizens exercise the powers of sovereignty; and those powers will be first abused, and afterwards lost, if they are committed to an unwieldy multitude.

~Edward Gibbon

I am indeed rich, since my income is superior to my expenses, and my expense is equal to my wishes.

~Edward Gibbon

But the wisdom and authority of the legislator are seldom victorious in a contest with the vigilant dexterity of private interest.

~Edward Gibbon

It has been sagaciously conjectured, that the artful legislator indulged the stubborn prejudices of his countrymen.

~Edward Gibbon

The best and most important part of every man's education is that which he gives himself.

~Edward Gibbon

The separation of the Arabs from the rest of mankind has accustomed them to confound the ideas of stranger and enemy.

~Edward Gibbon

There exists in human nature a strong propensity to depreciate the advantages, and to magnify the evils, of the present times.

~Edward Gibbon

It was among the ruins of the capitol that I first conceived the idea of a work which has amused and exercised nearly twenty years of my life.

~Edward Gibbon

The fierce and partial writers of the times, ascribing all virtue to themselves, and imputing all guilt to their adversaries, have painted the battle of the angels and the demons.

~Edward Gibbon

The pathetic almost always consists in the detail of little events.

~Edward Gibbon

The principles of a free constitution are irrecoverably lost, when the legislative power is nominated by the executive.

~Edward Gibbon

To an active mind, indolence is more painful than labor.

~Edward Gibbon

My early and invincible love of reading I would not exchange for all the riches of India.

~Edward Gibbon

At that time the archiepiscopal throne of Alexandria was filled by Theophilus, the perpetual enemy of peace and virtue; a bold, bad man, whose hands were alternately polluted with gold and with blood.

~Edward Gibbon

Suspicious princes often promote the last of mankind, from a vain persuasion that those who have no dependence except on their favor will have no attachment except to the person of their benefactor.

~Edward Gibbon

To a lover of books the shops and sales in London present irresistible

temptations.

~Edward Gibbon

Where error is irreparable, repentance is useless.

~Edward Gibbon

It is the common calamity of old age to lose whatever might have rendered it desirable.

~Edward Gibbon

The first and indispensable requisite of happiness is a clear conscience.

~Edward Gibbon

I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know no way of judging of the future but by the past.

~Edward Gibbon

Every event, or appearance, or accident, which seems to deviate from the ordinary course of nature has been rashly ascribed to the immediate action of the Deity.

~Edward Gibbon

The frequent repetition of miracles serves to provoke, where it does not subdue, the reason of mankind.

~Edward Gibbon

But the power of instruction is seldom of much efficacy, except in those happy dispositions where it is almost superfluous.

~Edward Gibbon

The historian must have some conception of how men who are not historians behave.

~Edward Gibbon

The mathematics are distinguished by a particular privilege, that is, in the course of ages, they may always advance and can never recede.

~Edward Gibbon

All that is human must retrograde if it does not advance.

~Edward Gibbon

In the second century of the Christian era, the empire of Rome comprehended the fairest part of the earth, and the most civilized portion of mankind.

~Edward Gibbon

[Peace] cannot be honorable or secure, if the sovereign betrays a pusillanimous aversion to war.

~Edward Gibbon

In discussing Barbarism and Christianity I have actually been discussing the Fall of Rome.

~Edward Gibbon

[It] is the interest as well as duty of a sovereign to maintain the authority of the laws.

~Edward Gibbon

There is nothing perhaps more adverse to nature and reason than to hold in obedience remote countries and foreign nations, in opposition to their inclination and interest.

~Edward Gibbon

Active valour may often be the present of nature; but such patient diligence can be the fruit only of habit and discipline.

~Edward Gibbon

My English text is chaste, and all licentious passages are left in the

decent obscurity of a learned language.

~Edward Gibbon

The author himself is the best judge of his own performance; none has so deeply meditated on the subject; none is so sincerely interested in the event.

~Edward Gibbon

A heart to resolve, a head to contrive, and a hand to execute.

~Edward Gibbon

The first of earthly blessings, independence.

~Edward Gibbon

On the slightest touch the unsupported fabric of their pride and power fell to the ground. The expiring senate displayed a sudden lustre, blazed for a moment, and was extinguished for ever.

~Edward Gibbon

Feeble and timid minds . . . consider the use of dilatory and ambiguous measures as the most admirable efforts of consummate prudence.

~Edward Gibbon

In a distant age and climate, the tragic scene of the death of Hosein will awaken the sympathy of the coldest reader.

~Edward Gibbon

Truth, naked, unblushing truth, the first virtue of all serious history, must be the sole recommendation of this personal narrative.

~Edward Gibbon

Flattery is a foolish suicide; she destroys herself with her own hands.

~Edward Gibbon

As long as mankind shall continue to bestow more liberal applause on their destroyers than on their benefactors, the thirst of military glory will ever be the vice of the most exalted characters.

~Edward Gibbon

The possession and the enjoyment of property are the pledges which bind a civilised people to an improved country.

~Edward Gibbon

So natural to man is the practice of violence that our indulgence allows the slightest provocation, the most disputable right, as a sufficient ground of national hostility.

~Edward Gibbon

Hope, the best comfort of our imperfect condition.

~Edward Gibbon

Revenge is profitable, gratitude is expensive.

~Edward Gibbon

Corruption, the most infallible symptom of constitutional liberty.

~Edward Gibbon

Our sympathy is cold to the relation of distant misery.

~Edward Gibbon

History should be to the political economist a wellspring of experience and wisdom.

~Edward Gibbon

There is more pleasure to building castles in the air than on the ground.

~Edward Gibbon

But a wild democracy . . . too often disdains the essential principles of justice.

~Edward Gibbon

The revenge of a guilty woman is implacable.

~Edward Gibbon

[All] the manly virtues were oppressed by the servile and pusillanimous reign of the monks.

~Edward Gibbon

The love of study, a passion which derives fresh vigor from enjoyment, supplies each day, each hour, with a perpetual source of independent and rational pleasure.

~Edward Gibbon

So long as mankind shall continue to lavish more praise upon its destroyers than upon its benefactors war shall remain the chief pursuit of ambitious minds.

~Edward Gibbon

From the paths of blood (and such is the history of nations) I cannot refuse to turn aside to gather some flowers of science or virtue.

~Edward Gibbon

The Gauls derided the hairy and gigantic savages of the North; their rustic manners, dissonant joy, voracious appetite, and their horrid appearance, equally disgusting to the sight and to the smell.

~Edward Gibbon

The difference of language, dress, and manners . . . severs and alienates the nations of the globe.

~Edward Gibbon

Whenever the offence inspires less horror than the punishment, the rigour of penal law is obliged to give way to the common feelings of mankind.

~Edward Gibbon

The terror of the Roman arms added weight and dignity to the moderation of the emperors. They preserved the peace by a constant preparation for war.

~Edward Gibbon

To a philosophic eye, the vices of the clergy are far less dangerous than their virtues.

~Edward Gibbon

[Courage] arises in a great measure from the consciousness of strength

. . .

~Edward Gibbon

But the desire of obtaining the advantages, and of escaping the burdens, of political society, is a perpetual and inexhaustible source of discord.

~Edward Gibbon

Related Links:

- History Quotes
- War Quotes
- Law Quotes
- Men Quotes
- Years Quotes
- Art Quotes
- Rome Quotes
- Character Quotes
- People Quotes
- Government Quotes
- Passion Quotes
- Country Quotes
- Christian Quotes
- Hands Quotes
- Age Quotes
- Mind Quotes
- Military Quotes
- Loss Quotes
- Ideas Quotes
- Book Quotes