

Elihu Root Quotes

*Men, War, May, Law, People, Real, Exercise, Civilization, Self, Justice, Fall,
Practice, Desire, Country, Community, Perfection, Jail, Progress, Discipline,
Rehabilitation*

The growth of modern constitutional government compels for its successful practice the exercise of reason and considerate judgment by the individual citizens who constitute the electorate.

~Elihu Root

Men do not fail; they give up trying.

~Elihu Root

Cruelty to men and to the lower animals as well, which would have passed unnoticed a century ago, now shocks the sensibilities and is regarded as wicked and degrading.

~Elihu Root

Prejudice and passion and suspicion are more dangerous than the incitement of self-interest or the most stubborn adherence to real differences of opinion regarding rights.

~Elihu Root

The mere assemblage of peace loving people to interchange convincing reasons for their common faith, mere exhortation and argument to the public in favor of peace in general fall short of the mark.

~Elihu Root

About half the practice of a decent lawyer is telling would-be clients that they are damned fools and should shut up.

~Elihu Root

Honest people, mistakenly believing in the justice of their cause, are led to support injustice.

~Elihu Root

The wolf always charges the lamb with muddying the stream.

~Elihu Root

Moral disarmament is to safeguard the future; material disarmament is to save for the present, that there may be a future to safeguard.

~Elihu Root

Nobody knows through how many thousands of years fighting men have made a place for themselves while the weak and peaceable have gone to the wall.

~Elihu Root

The theoretical postulate of all diplomatic discussion between nations is the assumed willingness of every nation to do justice.

~Elihu Root

It is not a question of religion, or of creed, or of party; it is a question of declaring and maintaining the great American principle of eternal separation between Church and State.

~Elihu Root

Human nature must have come much nearer perfection than it is now, or will be in many generations, to exclude from such a control prejudice, selfishness, ambition, and injustice.

~Elihu Root

There is so much of good in human nature that men grow to like each other upon better acquaintance, and this points to another way in which we may strive to promote the peace of the world.

~Elihu Root

The line of least resistance in the progress of civilization is to make that theoretical postulate real by the continually increasing force of the world's public opinion.

~Elihu Root

Human life is held in much higher esteem, and the taking of it, whether

in private quarrel or by judicial procedure, is looked upon much more seriously than it was formerly.

~Elihu Root

War was forced upon mankind in his original civil and social condition.

~Elihu Root

Secretary of War Stanton used to get out of patience with Lincoln because he was all the time pardoning men who ought to be shot.

~Elihu Root

The framers of the Constitution realized that . . . there needed to be some guardian of the sober second thought, and so they created the Senate to fulfill that high and vitally important duty.

~Elihu Root

It is to be observed that every case of war averted is a gain in general, for it helps to form a habit of peace, and community habits long continued become standards of conduct.

~Elihu Root

The law of the survival of the fittest led inevitably to the survival and predominance of the men who were effective in war and who loved it because they were effective.

~Elihu Root

No nation now sets forth to despoil another upon the avowed ground that it desires the spoils.

~Elihu Root

It is only through the power of association that those of any calling exercise due influence in their communities.

~Elihu Root

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