

Fisher Ames Quotes

*Democracy, Government, Liberty, Historical, People, Believe, Men, Patriotic,
Book, School, Political, Heart, Passion, Christian, Long, Law, Religious, Way,
Scrutiny, Water*

A democracy is a volcano which conceals the fiery materials of its own destruction. These will produce an eruption and carry desolation in their way.

~Fisher Ames

The known propensity of a democracy is to licentiousness which the ambitious call, and ignorant believe to be liberty.

~Fisher Ames

Liberty is not to be enjoyed, indeed it cannot exist, without the habits of just subordination; it consists, not so much in removing all restraint from the orderly, as in imposing it on the violent.

~Fisher Ames

The happiness of a people, and the good order and preservation of civil government, essentially depend on piety, religion, and morality.

~Fisher Ames

A monarchy is a merchantman which sails well, but will sometimes strike on a rock, and go to the bottom; a republic is a raft which will never sink, but then your feet are always in the water.

~Fisher Ames

[the framers of the Constitution] intended our government should be a republic, which differs more widely from a democracy than a democracy from a despotism.

~Fisher Ames

No man can be a sound lawyer in this land who is not well read in the ethics of Moses and the virtues of Jesus.

~Fisher Ames

The rights of conscience, of bearing arms, of changing the government, are declared to be inherent in the people.

~Fisher Ames

I have heard it remarked that men are not to be reasoned out of an opinion they have not reasoned themselves into.

~Fisher Ames

We are, heart and soul, friends to the freedom of the press...It is a precious pest, and a necessary mischief, and there would be no liberty without it.

~Fisher Ames

All such men are, or ought to be, agreed, that simple governments are despotisms; and of all despotisms, a democracy, though the least durable, is the most violent.

~Fisher Ames

Democracy, in its best state, is but the politics of Bedlam; while kept chained, its thoughts are frantic, but when it breaks loose, it kills the keeper, fires the building, and perishes.

~Fisher Ames

No one ever became, or can become truly eloquent without being a reader of the Bible, and an admirer of the purity and sublimity of its language.

~Fisher Ames

The gentleman puts me in mind of an old hen which persists in setting after her eggs are taken away.

~Fisher Ames

Liberty has never lasted long in a democracy, nor has it ever ended in anything better than despotism.

~Fisher Ames

We are not to consider ourselves, while here, as at church or school, to listen to the harangues of speculative piety; we are here to talk of the political interests committed to our charge.

~Fisher Ames

A government by the passions of the multitude, or, no less correctly, according to the vices, and ambitions of their leaders is a democracy.

~Fisher Ames

I consider biennial elections as a security that the sober, second thought of the people shall be law.

~Fisher Ames

Time never fails to bring every exalted reputation to a strict scrutiny.

~Fisher Ames

Why then, if these new books for children must be retained, as they will be, should not the Bible regain the place it once held as a school book ?

~Fisher Ames

That can never be reasoned down which was not reasoned up.

~Fisher Ames

America is rising with a giant's strength. Its bones are yet but cartilages.

~Fisher Ames

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