

# Hippolyte Taine

## Quotes

*Men, Cat, History, Art, Race, Quality, Reflection, Would Be, Space, Four,  
French Woman, Animal, Three, Tongue, Fixed, Children, Feet, Ideas, Science,  
Doors*

There are four types of men in the world: lovers, opportunists, lookers-on, and imbeciles. The happiest are the imbeciles.

~Hippolyte Taine

I've met many thinkers and many cats, but the wisdom of cats is infinitely superior.

~Hippolyte Taine

We study ourselves three weeks, we love each other three months, we squabble three years, we tolerate each other thirty years, and then the children start all over again.

~Hippolyte Taine

For thirty centuries, from her sacred seat the cat looked down, and crouching at her feet, beheld the race of conquering Pharaohs kneel.

~Hippolyte Taine

The search for causes must come after the collection of facts.

~Hippolyte Taine

The production of a work of art is determined by the material and intellectual climate in which a man lives and dies.

~Hippolyte Taine

Amid this vast and overwhelming space and in these boundless solar archipelagoes, how small is our own sphere, and the earth, what a grain of sand!

~Hippolyte Taine

Four varieties in society: lovers, the ambitious, observers, and fools. The fools are the happiest.

~Hippolyte Taine

History is nothing but a problem of mechanics applied to psychology.

~Hippolyte Taine

To have a true idea of man or of life, one must have stood himself on the brink of suicide, or on the door-sill of insanity, at least once.

~Hippolyte Taine

Man may be considered as a superior species of animal that produces philosophies and poems in about the same way a silkworm produces their cocoons and bees their hives.

~Hippolyte Taine

His tongue is by turns a sponge, a brush, a comb. He cleans himself, he smooths himself, he knows what is proper.

~Hippolyte Taine

I wish to reproduce things as they are or as they would be even if I myself did not exist.

~Hippolyte Taine

A fixed idea is like the iron rod which sculptors put in their statues. It impales and sustains.

~Hippolyte Taine

There are as many kinds of modesty as there are races. To the English woman it is a duty; to the French woman a propriety.

~Hippolyte Taine

In the stormy current of life characters are weights or floats which at one time make us glide along the bottom, and at another maintain us on the surface.

~Hippolyte Taine

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