

Horace Walpole Quotes

*Men, Thinking, Doe, Age, World, Life, Passion, Tragedy, Kings, Discovery,
Genius, Beautiful, Giving, Way, People, Hands, Writing, Half, Vulgar, Summer*

I never found even in my juvenile hours that it was necessary to go a thousand miles in search of themes for moralizing.

~Horace Walpole

The whole secret of life is to be interested in one thing profoundly and in a thousand things well.

~Horace Walpole

Life is a comedy for those who think and a tragedy for those who feel.

~Horace Walpole

The Methodists love your big sinners, as proper subjects to work upon.

~Horace Walpole

This world is a comedy to those that think, a tragedy to those that feel.

~Horace Walpole

Nine-tenths of the people were created so you would want to be with the other tenth.

~Horace Walpole

Who has begun has half done. Have the courage to be wise. Begin!

~Horace Walpole

Foolish writers and readers are created for each other.

~Horace Walpole

When people will not weed their own minds, they are apt to be overrun by nettles.

~Horace Walpole

Had I children, my utmost endeavors would be to make them musicians.

~Horace Walpole

By deafness one gains in one respect more than one loses; one misses more nonsense than sense.

~Horace Walpole

I have often said, and oftener think, that this world is a comedy to those that think, a tragedy to those that feel - a solution of why Democritus laughed and Heraclitus wept.

~Horace Walpole

I know that I have had friends who would never have vexed or betrayed me, if they had walked on all fours.

~Horace Walpole

It was said of old Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, that she never puts dots over her I s, to save ink.

~Horace Walpole

A tragedy can never suffer by delay: a comedy may, because the allusions or the manners represented in it maybe temporary.

~Horace Walpole

To act with common sense according to the moment, is the best wisdom I know.

~Horace Walpole

Justice is rather the activity of truth, than a virtue in itself. Truth tells us what is due to others, and justice renders that due. Injustice is acting a lie.

~Horace Walpole

Oh that I were seated as high as my ambition, I'd place my naked foot on the necks of monarchs.

~Horace Walpole

This world is a comedy, not Life.

~Horace Walpole

History is a romance that is believed; romance, a history that is not believed.

~Horace Walpole

We often repent of our first thoughts, and scarce ever of our second.

~Horace Walpole

Plot, rules, nor even poetry, are not half so great beauties in tragedy or comedy as a just imitation of nature, of character, of the passions and their operations in diversified situations.

~Horace Walpole

Every drop of ink in my pen ran cold.

~Horace Walpole

Men are often capable of greater things than they perform - They are sent into the world with bills of credit, and seldom draw to their full extent.

~Horace Walpole

Mystery is the wisdom of blockheads.

~Horace Walpole

It was easier to conquer it than to know what to do with it.

~Horace Walpole

I do not admire politicians; but when they are excellent in their way, one cannot help allowing them their due.

~Horace Walpole

At last some curious traveller from Lima will visit England, and give a

description of the ruins of St. Paul's, like the editions of Baalbec and Palmyra.

~Horace Walpole

I look upon paradoxes as the impotent efforts of men who, not having capacity to draw attention and celebrity from good sense, fly to eccentricities to make themselves noted.

~Horace Walpole

Our [British] summers are often, though beautiful for verdure, so cold, that they are rather cold winters.

~Horace Walpole

The way to ensure summer in England is to have it framed and glazed in a comfortable room.

~Horace Walpole

A careless song, with a little nonsense in it now and then, does not mis-become a monarch.

~Horace Walpole

I do not dislike the French from the vulgar antipathy between neighboring nations, but for their insolent and unfounded air of superiority.

~Horace Walpole

Virtue knows to a farthing what it has lost by not having been vice.

~Horace Walpole

The wisest prophets make sure of the event first.

~Horace Walpole

I sit with my toes in a brook, And if any one axes forwhy? I hits them a rap with my crook, For 'tis sentiment does it, says I.

~Horace Walpole

Two clergymen disputing whether ordination would be valid without the imposition of both hands, the more formal one said, "Do you think the Holy Dove could fly down with only one wing?"

~Horace Walpole

Alexander at the head of the world never tasted the true pleasure that boys of his own age have enjoyed at the head of a school.

~Horace Walpole

He was persuaded he could know no happiness but in the society of one with whom he could for ever indulge the melancholy that had taken possession of his soul.

~Horace Walpole

How well Shakespeare knew how to improve and exalt little circumstances, when he borrowed them from circumstantial or vulgar historians.

~Horace Walpole

It is difficult to divest one's self of vanity; because impossible to divest one's self of self-love.

~Horace Walpole

Perhaps those, who, trembling most, maintain a dignity in their fate, are the bravest: resolution on reflection is real courage.

~Horace Walpole

The best philosophy is to do one's duties, take the world as it comes, submit respectfully to one's lot; bless the goodness that has given us so much happiness with it.

~Horace Walpole

[The] taste [of the French] is too timid to be true taste--or is but half taste.

~Horace Walpole

It is charming to totter into vogue.

~Horace Walpole

Lawyers and rogues are vermin not easily rooted out of a rich soil.

~Horace Walpole

One of the greatest geniuses that ever existed, Shakespeare, undoubtedly wanted taste.

~Horace Walpole

An ancient prophecy ... pronounced, That the castle and lordship of Otranto should pass from the present family, whenever the real owner should be grown too large to inhabit it!

~Horace Walpole

[Corneille] was inspired by Roman authors and Roman spirit, Racine with delicacy by the polished court of Louis XIV.

~Horace Walpole

We must cultivate our garden. Furia to God one day in seven allots; The other six to scandal she devotes. Satan, by false devotion never flammed, Bets six to one, that Furia will be damned.

~Horace Walpole

Letters to absence can a voice impart, And lend a tongue when distance gags the heart.

~Horace Walpole

Poetry is a beautiful way of spoiling prose, and the laborious art of exchanging plain sense for harmony.

~Horace Walpole

[King René of Anjou (1409-80)] would not listen to the news of his son having lost the Kingdom of Naples, because he would not be disturbed when painting a picture of a partridge.

~Horace Walpole

How much on outward show does all depend, If virtues from within no lustre lend! Strip off th'externals M and Y, the rest Proves Majesty itself is but a Jest.

~Horace Walpole

Fashion is fortunately no law but to its devotees.

~Horace Walpole

Dr. Calder [a Unitarian minister] said of Dr. [Samuel] Johnson on the publications of Boswell and Mrs. Piozzi, that he was like Actaeon, torn to pieces by his own pack.

~Horace Walpole

Lord Bath used to say of women, who are apt to say that they will follow their own judgment, that they could not follow a worse guide.

~Horace Walpole

That strange premature genius Chatterton has couched in one line the quintessence of what Voltaire has said in many pages: "Reason, a thorn in Revelation's side.

~Horace Walpole

Defaced ruins of architecture and statuary, like the wrinkles of decrepitude of a once beautiful woman, only make one regret that one did not see them when they were enchanting.

~Horace Walpole

Ponder, your comedies are woeful chaff: Write tragedies, when you would make us laugh.

~Horace Walpole

The best sun we have is made of Newcastle coal, and I am determined never to reckon upon any other.

~Horace Walpole

The whole [Scotch] nation hitherto has been void of wit and humour, and even incapable of relishing it.

~Horace Walpole

Art is the filigrain of a little mind, and is twisted and involved and curled, but would reach farther if laid out in a straight line.

~Horace Walpole

Without grace no book can live, and with it the poorest may have its life prolonged.

~Horace Walpole

Let the French but have England, and they won't want to conquer it.

~Horace Walpole

Posterity always degenerates till it becomes our ancestors.

~Horace Walpole

Oh, we are ridiculous animals; and if the angels have any fun in them, how we must divert them!

~Horace Walpole

[French] authors are more afraid of offending delicacy and rules, than ambitious of sublimity.

~Horace Walpole

Our bells are worn threadbare with ringing for victories

~Horace Walpole

I can forgive injuries, but never benefits.

~Horace Walpole

I have known men of valor cowards to their wives.

~Horace Walpole

The contempt of money is no more a virtue than to wash one's hand is one; but one does not willingly shake hands with a man that never washes his.

~Horace Walpole

I am persuaded that foolish writers and foolish readers are created for each other; and that fortune provides readers as she does mates for ugly women.

~Horace Walpole

Exercise is the worst thing in the world and as bad an invention as gunpowder.

~Horace Walpole

Fashion is always silly, for, before it can spread far, it must be calculated for silly people; as examples of sense, wit, or ingenuity could be imitated only by a few.

~Horace Walpole

I firmly believe, notwithstanding all our complaints, that almost every person upon earth tastes upon the totality more happiness than misery.

~Horace Walpole

I shun authors, and would never have been one myself, if it obliged me

to keep such bad company.

~Horace Walpole

The curse of modern times is, that almost everything does create controversy.

~Horace Walpole

Life is a farce, and should not end with a mourning scene.

~Horace Walpole

In science, mistakes always precede the truth

~Horace Walpole

Our supreme governors, the mob.

~Horace Walpole

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