

# James Boswell

## Quotes

*Men, Writing, Wine, May, Character, Science, Thinking, Should, Strong, Book, Drinking, World, Country, Friendship, Reality, Brother, Feet, Hero, Death, Tree*

No, Sir, claret is the liquor for boys; port for men: but he who aspires to be a hero must drink brandy. In the first place brandy will do soonest for a man what drinking can do for him.

~James Boswell

I have discovered that we may be in some degree whatever character we choose. Besides, practice forms a man to anything.

~James Boswell

My father had declared a predilection for heirs general, that is, males and females indiscriminately.... I, on the other hand, had a zealous partiality for heirs male, however remote.

~James Boswell

When a man is familiar with many people he must expect many disagreeable familiarizations.

~James Boswell

I, who have no sisters or brothers, look with some degree of innocent envy on those who may be said to be born to friends.

~James Boswell

The pleasure of gratifying whim is very great. It is known only by those who are whimsical.

~James Boswell

Quotation is more universal and more ancient than one would perhaps believe.

~James Boswell

A page of my journal is like a cake of portable soup. A little may be diffused into a considerable portion.

~James Boswell

Melancholy cannot be clearly proved to others, so it is better to be silent about it.

~James Boswell

It is not every man who can be exquisitely miserable, any more than exquisitely happy.

~James Boswell

In an orchard there should be enough to eat, enough to lay up, enough to be stolen, and enough to rot on the ground.

~James Boswell

The connection between authors, printers, and booksellers must be kept up.

~James Boswell

A companion loves some agreeable qualities which a man may possess, but a friend loves the man himself.

~James Boswell

I have seen many a bear led by a man: but I never before saw a man led by a bear.

~James Boswell

I fancy mankind may come, in time, to write all aphoristically.

~James Boswell

If a man who is born to a fortune cannot make himself easier and freer than those who are not, he gains nothing.

~James Boswell

When we know exactly all a man's views and how he comes to speak and act so and so, we lose any respect for him, though we may love and admire him.

~James Boswell

I suppose no person ever enjoyed with more relish the infusion of that fragrant leaf than Johnson.

~James Boswell

A woman's preaching is like a dog's walking on his hinter legs. It is not done well; but you are surprised to see it done at all.

~James Boswell

O charitable philosopher, I beg you to help me. My mind is weak but my soul is strong. Kindle that soul, and the sacred fire shall never be extinguished.

~James Boswell

For my own part I think no innocent species of wit or pleasantry should be suppressed: and that a good pun may be admitted among the smaller excellencies of lively conversation.

~James Boswell

If venereal delight and the power of propagating the species were permitted only to the virtuous, it would make the world very good.

~James Boswell

We had some port, and drank damnation to the play and eternal remorse to the author.

~James Boswell

But what can a man see of a library being one day in it?

~James Boswell

I am sensible that my keenness of temper, and a vanity to be distinguished for the day, make me too often splash in life.... I am resolved to restrain myself and attend more to decorum.

~James Boswell

If a man is prodigal, he cannot be truly generous.

~James Boswell

In every picture there should be shade as well as light.

~James Boswell

That favorite subject, Myself.

~James Boswell

All censure of a man's self is oblique praise.

~James Boswell

But the question is, whether the animals who endure such sufferings of various kinds for the service and entertainment of man, would accept existence upon the terms on which they have it.

~James Boswell

One must be strict even in little things.

~James Boswell

What a curious creature is man; with what a variety of powers and faculties is he endued; yet how easily is he disturbed and put out of order.

~James Boswell

What an insignificant life is this which I am now leading!

~James Boswell

Influence must ever be in proportion to property; and it is right it should.

~James Boswell

In every place, where there is any thing worthy of observation, there should be a short printed directory for strangers.

~James Boswell

My wife, who does not like journalizing, said it was leaving myself embowelled to posterity--a good strong figure. But I think it is rather leaving myself embalmed. It is certainly preserving myself.

~James Boswell

The scent of Sloth tempts a smug man.

~James Boswell

Dr Johnson said, the inscription should have been in Latin, as every thing intended to be universal and permanent, should be.

~James Boswell

Nay, Sir, it was not the WINE that made your head ache, but the SENSE that I put into it' 'What, Sir! will sense make the head ache?' 'Yes, Sir, (with a smile,) when it is not used to it.

~James Boswell

[A]s a lady adjusts her dress before a mirror, a man adjusts his character by looking at his journal.

~James Boswell

I find I journalize too tediously. Let me try to abbreviate.

~James Boswell

My mind was, as it were, strongly impregnated with the Johnsonian ether.

~James Boswell

We must take our friends as they are.

~James Boswell

There is indeed a strange prejudice against Quotation.

~James Boswell

I think there is a blossom about me of something more distinguished than the generality of mankind.

~James Boswell

I argued that the chastity of women was of much more consequence than that of men, as the property and rights of families depend upon it.

~James Boswell

Those who would extirpate evil from the world know little of human nature. As well might punch be palatable without souring as existence agreeable without care.

~James Boswell

Drinking is in reality an occupation which employs a considerable portion of the time of many people; and to conduct it in the most rational and agreeable manner is one of the great arts of living.

~James Boswell

Writing a book I have found to be like building a house. A man forms a plan, and collects materials.

~James Boswell

I am, I flatter myself, completely a citizen of the world. In my travels through Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Corsica, France, I never felt myself from home.

~James Boswell

As all who come into the country must obey the King, so all who come into an university must be of the Church.

~James Boswell

The man who stops making new friends eventually will have none.

~James Boswell

Friendship, "the wine of life," should, like a well-stocked cellar, be continually renewed.

~James Boswell

Many infidels have maintained that Ignorance is the mother of Devotion.

~James Boswell



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