

John Selden

Quotes

*Men, World, Law, Kings, Thinking, Pain, Religion, Giving, Pleasure, Two, May,
Book, Looks, Prayer, Ignorance, Atheism, Drinking, Believe, Firsts, Judging*

Old friends are best.

~John Selden

Never tell your resolution beforehand, or it's twice as onerous a duty.

~John Selden

They that are against Superstition oftentimes run into it of the wrong side. If I will wear all colours but black, then am I superstitious in not wearing black.

~John Selden

Ignorance of the law excuses no man; not that all men know the law, but because 'tis an excuse every man will plead, and no man can tell how to refute him.

~John Selden

There is no book on which we can rest in a dying moment but the Bible.

~John Selden

The House of Commons is called the Lower House, in twenty Acts of Parliament; but what are twenty Acts of Parliament amongst Friends?

~John Selden

The happiness of married life depends upon making small sacrifices with readiness and cheerfulness.

~John Selden

Idolatry is in a man's own thought, not in the opinion of another.

~John Selden

Ignorance of the law excuses no man.

~John Selden

A gallant man is above ill words.

~John Selden

A king is a thing men have made for their own sakes, for quietness sake. Just as in a family one man is appointed to buy the meat.

~John Selden

Tis not seasonable to call a man traitor, that has an army at his heels.

~John Selden

Religion is like the fashion, one man wears his doublet slashed, another lashed, another plain; but every man has a doublet; so every man has a religion. We differ about the trimming.

~John Selden

Thou little thinkest what a little foolery governs the world.

~John Selden

Prayer should be short, without giving God Almighty reasons why he should grant this, or that; he knows best what is good for us.

~John Selden

Humility is a virtue all preach, none practice; and yet everybody is content to hear.

~John Selden

'Tis not the eating, nor 'tis not the drinking that is to be blamed, but the excess.

~John Selden

Pleasure is nothing else but the intermission of pain.

~John Selden

Abundance consists not alone in material possession, but in an

uncovetous spirit.

~John Selden

The Parish makes the constable, and when the constable is made, he governs the Parish.

~John Selden

Commonly we say a judgment falls upon a man for something in him we cannot abide.

~John Selden

He that hath a scrupulous conscience is like a horse that is not well weighed; he starts at every bird that flies out of the hedge.

~John Selden

Old friends are best. King James used to call for his old shoes; they were the easiest for his feet.

~John Selden

No man is the wiser for his learning

~John Selden

In quoting of books, quote such authors as are usually read; others you may read for your own satisfaction, but not name them.

~John Selden

Women ought not to know their own wit, because they will still be showing it, and so spoil it.

~John Selden

Wit and wisdom differ; wit is upon the sudden turn, wisdom is bringing about ends.

~John Selden

Take a straw and throw it up into the air, you may see by that which way the wind is.

~John Selden

Ceremony keeps up things: 'tis like a penny glass to a rich spirit, or some excellent water; without it the water were spilt, and the spirit lost.

~John Selden

Humility is a virtue all preach, none practise, and yet every body is content to hear. The master thinks it good doctrine for his servant, the laity for the clergy, and the clergy for the laity.

~John Selden

There was never a merry world since the fairies left off dancing.

~John Selden

Pleasure is nothing else but the intermission of pain, the enjoying of something I am in great trouble for till I have it.

~John Selden

More solid things do not show the complexion of the times so well as Ballads and Libels.

~John Selden

While you are upon earth, enjoy the good things that are here (to that end were they given), and be not melancholy, and wish yourself in heaven.

~John Selden

Philosophy is nothing but discretion.

~John Selden

The world cannot be governed without juggling.

~John Selden

To preach long, loud, and Damnation, is the way to be cried up. We love a man that damns us, and we run after him again to save us.

~John Selden

Scrutamini scripturas (Let us look at the scriptures). These two words have undone the world.

~John Selden

Preachers say, "Do as I say, not as I do." But if a physician had the same disease upon him that I have, and he should bid me do one thing and he do quite another, could I believe him?

~John Selden

We pick out a text here and there to make it serve our turn; whereas, if we take it all together, and considered what went before and what followed after, we should find it meant no such thing.

~John Selden

Marriage is a desperate thing.

~John Selden

We measure the excellency of other men by some excellency we conceive to be in ourselves.

~John Selden

Money makes a man laugh.

~John Selden

We look after religion as the butcher did after his knife, when he had it in his mouth.

~John Selden

Fine wits destroy themselves with their own plots, in meddling with great affairs of state.

~John Selden

Preaching, in the first sense of the word, ceased as soon as ever the gospel was written.

~John Selden

The law against witches does not prove there be any; but it punishes the malice of those people that use such means to take away men's lives.

~John Selden

Gentlemen have ever been more temperate in their religion than common people, as having more reason.

~John Selden

The clergy would have us believe them against our own reason, as the woman would have her husband against his own eyes.

~John Selden

We see the judges look like lions, but we do not see who moves them.

~John Selden

A wise man should never resolve upon anything, at least, never let the world know his resolution, for if he cannot reach that he is ashamed.

~John Selden

Never king dropped out of the clouds.

~John Selden

Wit and wisdom are born with a man.

~John Selden

Every law is a contract between the king and the people and therefore to be kept.

~John Selden

Few men make themselves masters of the things they write or speak.

~John Selden

No man is the wiser for his learning; it may administer matter to work in, or objects to work upon; but wit and wisdom are born with a man.

~John Selden

Casting out devils is mere juggling; they never cast out any but what they first cast in.

~John Selden

Pride may be allowed to this or that degree, else a man cannot keep up his dignity.

~John Selden

Opinion is something wherein I go about to give reasons why all the world should think as I think.

~John Selden

If the prisoner should ask the judge whether he would be content to be hanged, were he in his case, he would answer no. Then, says the prisoner, do as you would be done to.

~John Selden

Of all the actions of a man's life, his marriage does least concern other people, yet of all the actions of our lives, 'tis the most meddled with by other people.

~John Selden

Men say they are of the same religion, for quietness' sake; but if the matter were well examined, you would scarce find three anywhere of the same religion on all points.

~John Selden

Those that govern most make least noise.

~John Selden

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