

Lytton Strachey

Quotes

*Literature, Age, Writing, Quality, Men, War, Genius, Past, France, Latin,
Government, Tests, Dying, Political, Peace, Important, Atmosphere, Poetic,
Spain, Vocabulary*

The stability and peace which seemed to be so firmly established by the brilliant monarchy of Francis I vanished with the terrible outbreak of the Wars of Religion.

~Lytton Strachey

Perhaps of all the creations of man language is the most astonishing.

~Lytton Strachey

It is probably always disastrous not to be a poet.

~Lytton Strachey

Human beings are too important to be treated as mere symptoms of the past. They have a value which is independent of any temporal processâ”€”which is eternal, and must be felt for its own sake.

~Lytton Strachey

There is something dark and wintry about the atmosphere of the later Middle Ages.

~Lytton Strachey

Ignorance is the first requisite of the historian - ignorance, which simplifies and clarifies, which selects and omits, with a placid perfection unattainable by the highest art.

~Lytton Strachey

Englishmen have always loved Moliere.

~Lytton Strachey

Perhaps the best test of a man's intelligence is his capacity for making a summary.

~Lytton Strachey

Discretion is not the better part of biography.

~Lytton Strachey

The genius of the French language, descended from its single Latin stock, has triumphed most in the contrary direction - in simplicity, in unity, in clarity, and in restraint.

~Lytton Strachey

How far the existence of the Academy has influenced French literature, either for good or for evil, is an extremely dubious question.

~Lytton Strachey

There are a great deal of a great many kinds of love.

~Lytton Strachey

If this is dying, I don't think much of it.

~Lytton Strachey

The history of the Victorian Age will never be written: we know too much about it.

~Lytton Strachey

The amateur is very rare in French literature - as rare as he is common in our own.

~Lytton Strachey

When Louis XIV assumed the reins of government France suddenly and wonderfully came to her maturity; it was as if the whole nation had burst into splendid flower.

~Lytton Strachey

During this earlier period of his activity Voltaire seems to have been trying - half unconsciously, perhaps - to discover and to express the fundamental quality of his genius.

~Lytton Strachey

In pure literature, the writers of the eighteenth century achieved,

indeed, many triumphs; but their great, their peculiar, triumphs were in the domain of thought.

~Lytton Strachey

But Racine's extraordinary powers as a writer become still more obvious when we consider that besides being a great poet he is also a great psychologist.

~Lytton Strachey

Though, with the ascendancy of Louis, the political power of the nobles finally came to an end, France remained, in the whole complexion of her social life, completely aristocratic.

~Lytton Strachey

A writer's promise is like a tiger's smile

~Lytton Strachey

Unlike the majority of the writers of his age, La Rochefoucauld was an aristocrat; and this fact gives a peculiar tone to his work.

~Lytton Strachey

It is perhaps as difficult to write a good life as to live one.

~Lytton Strachey

When the French nation gradually came into existence among the ruins of the Roman civilization in Gaul, a new language was at the same time slowly evolved.

~Lytton Strachey

With a very few exceptions, every word in the French vocabulary comes straight from the Latin.

~Lytton Strachey

Modern as the style of Pascal's writing is, his thought is deeply

impregnated with the spirit of the Middle Ages. He belonged, almost equally, to the future and to the past.

~Lytton Strachey

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