

Madame de Stael

Quotes

*Men, Love, Mind, Character, Life, Heart, Feelings, Genius, Art, Happiness,
Memories, Morality, Destiny, Prayer, Enthusiasm, Music, Forgiving, Soul,
Believe, Past*

Goethe has made a remark upon the perfectability of the human mind, which is full of sagacity: It is always advancing, but in a spiral line.

~Madame de Stael

Love is the symbol of eternity.

~Madame de Stael

Enthusiasm signifies 'God in us.'

~Madame de Stael

Prayer is the life of the soul.

~Madame de Stael

The greatest happiness is to transform one's feelings into action.

~Madame de Stael

As we grow in wisdom, we pardon more freely.

~Madame de Stael

In matters of the heart, nothing is true except the improbable.

~Madame de Stael

The desire of the man is for the woman, but the desire of the woman is for the desire of the man.

~Madame de Stael

Search for the truth is the noblest occupation of man; its publication is a duty.

~Madame de Stael

Love is admiring with the heart. And admiring is loving with the mind.

~Madame de Stael

The more I see of man, the more I like dogs.

~Madame de Stael

We cease loving ourselves if no one loves us.

~Madame de Stael

We understand death for the first time when he puts his hand upon one whom we love

~Madame de Stael

Who understands much forgives much. To understand everything makes us very forgiving.

~Madame de Stael

Scientific progress makes moral progress a necessity; for if man's power is increased, the checks that restrain him from abusing it must be strengthened.

~Madame de Stael

Life often seems like a long shipwreck of which the debris are friendship, glory, and love. - The shores of existence are strewn with them.

~Madame de Stael

Have you not observed that faith is generally strongest in those whose character may be called the weakest?

~Madame de Stael

And all the bustle of departure - sometimes sad, sometimes intoxicating - just as fear or hope may be inspired by the new chances of coming destiny.

~Madame de Stael

Love is a symbol of eternity. It wipes out all sense of time, destroying all memory of a beginning and all fear of an end.

~Madame de Stael

How true it is that, sooner or later, the most rebellious must bow beneath the yoke of misfortune!

~Madame de Stael

However old a conjugal union, it still garners some sweetness. Winter has some cloudless days, and under the snow a few flowers still bloom.

~Madame de Stael

Men err from selfishness; women because they are weak.

~Madame de Stael

The world is the work of a single thought, expressed in a thousand different ways.

~Madame de Stael

Happiness is a wondrous commodity: the more you give, the more you have.

~Madame de Stael

Poetry is the apotheosis of sentiment.

~Madame de Stael

Politeness is the art of choosing among your thoughts.

~Madame de Stael

When we destroy an old prejudice, we have need of a new virtue.

~Madame de Stael

The voice of conscience is so delicate that it is easy to stifle it; but it is also so clear that it is impossible to mistake it.

~Madame de Stael

Beauty is one in the universe, and, whatever form it assumes, it always arouses a religious feeling in the hearts of mankind.

~Madame de Stael

[On Italian:] One may almost call it a language that talks of itself, and always seems more witty than its speakers.

~Madame de Stael

Exile: A tomb in which you can get mail.

~Madame de Stael

We understand death only after it has placed its hands on someone we love.

~Madame de Stael

Be happy, but be happy through piety.

~Madame de Stael

The mystery of existence is the connection between our faults and our misfortunes.

~Madame de Stael

Thought can never be compared with action, but when it awakens in us the image of truth.

~Madame de Stael

Love is the emblem of eternity; it confounds all notion of time.

~Madame de Stael

Music revives the recollections it would appease.

~Madame de Stael

One must, in one's life, make a choice between boredom and suffering.

~Madame de Stael

Sow good services: sweet remembrances will grow from them.

~Madame de Stael

When once enthusiasm has been turned into ridicule, everything is undone except money and power.

~Madame de Stael

The language of religion can alone suit every situation and every mode of feeling.

~Madame de Stael

That past which is so presumptuously brought forward as a precedent for the present, was itself founded on some past that went before it.

~Madame de Stael

The more we know the better we forgive. Whoever feels deeply, feels for all who live.

~Madame de Stael

Men have made of fortune an all-powerful goddess, in order that she may be made responsible for all their blunder's.

~Madame de Stael

Wit lies in recognizing the resemblance among things which differ and the difference between things which are alike.

~Madame de Stael

Intellect does not attain its full force unless it attacks power.

~Madame de Stael

Madame de Stael thought it was pride in mankind to endeavour to penetrate the secret of the universe; and speaking of the higher

metaphysics she said: "I prefer the Lord's Prayer to it all."

~Madame de Stael

The sight of such a monument is like continual and stationary music, which one hears for one's good as one approaches it.

~Madame de Stael

Genius is essentially creative; it bears the stamp of the individual who possesses it.

~Madame de Stael

A religious life is a struggle and not a hymn.

~Madame de Stael

[To Bonaparte, when asked why she meddled in politics:] Sire, when women have their heads cut off, it is but just they should know the reason.

~Madame de Stael

When a noble life has prepared old age, it is not decline that it reveals, but the first days of immortality.

~Madame de Stael

There are only two distinct classes of people on this earth, those who espouse enthusiasm and those who despise it.

~Madame de Stael

Mystery such as is given of God is beyond the power of human penetration, yet not in opposition to it.

~Madame de Stael

Liberty is the only idea which circulates with the human blood, in all ages, in all countries, and in all literature - liberty that is, and what cannot be separated from liberty, a love of country.

~Madame de Stael

How much past there is in a life, however brief it be.

~Madame de Stael

Good taste cannot supply the place of genius in literature, for the best proof of taste, when there is no genius, would be, not to write at all.

~Madame de Stael

The people are as severe toward the clergy as toward women; they want to see absolute devotion to duty from both.

~Madame de Stael

To pray together, in whatever tongue or ritual, is the most tender brotherhood of hope and sympathy that man can contract in this life.

~Madame de Stael

Truth and, by consequence, liberty, will always be the chief power of honest men.

~Madame de Stael

The sense of this word among the Greeks affords the noblest definition of it; enthusiasm signifies 'God in us.'

~Madame de Stael

Love which is only an episode in the life of men, is the entire history of the life of women.

~Madame de Stael

Atheism exists only in coldness, selfishness, and baseness.

~Madame de Stael

I do not want an echo of myself from my children. I do not want to hear from them merely the reverberation of my own voice.

~Madame de Stael

Love, supreme power of the heart, mysterious enthusiasm that encloses in itself all poetry, all heroism, all religion!

~Madame de Stael

Enthusiasm gives life to what is invisible; and interest to what has no immediate action on our comfort in this world.

~Madame de Stael

O Earth! All bathed with blood and tears, yet never, Hast thou ceased putting forth thy fruit and flowers.

~Madame de Stael

I am glad that I am not a man, for then I should have to marry a woman.

~Madame de Stael

Innocence in genius, and candor in power, are both noble qualities.

~Madame de Stael

Venice astonishes more than it pleases at first sight.

~Madame de Stael

Nothing recalls the past like music.

~Madame de Stael

A man must know how to fly in the face of opinion; a woman to submit to it.

~Madame de Stael

It is difficult to grow old gracefully.

~Madame de Stael

Love is the history of a woman's life; it is an episode in man's. [Fr., L'amour est l'histoire de la vie des femmes; c'est un episode dans celle des hommes.]

~Madame de Stael

To live beneath sorrow, one must yield to it.

~Madame de Stael

Society develops wit, but its contemplation alone forms genius.

~Madame de Stael

One must choose in life between boredom and suffering.

~Madame de Stael

Providence protects us in all the details of our lot.

~Madame de Stael

When women oppose themselves to the projects and ambition of men, they excite their lively resentment; if in their youth they meddle with political intrigues, their modesty must suffer.

~Madame de Stael

Anyone who can see as far as tomorrow in politics arouses the wrath of people who can see no farther than today.

~Madame de Stael

Love is the whole history of a woman's life, it is but an episode in a man's.

~Madame de Stael

Taste is to literature what bon ton is in society.

~Madame de Stael

Whatever is natural admits of variety.

~Madame de Stael

Only the refined and delicate pleasures that spring from research and education can build up barriers between different ranks.

~Madame de Stael

It is not enough to forgive; one must forget.

~Madame de Stael

Who understands much, forgives much.

~Madame de Stael

Morality must guide calculation, and calculation must guide politics.

~Madame de Stael

Glory can be for a woman but the brilliant morning of happiness.

~Madame de Stael

Genius inspires this thirst for fame: there is no blessing undesired by those to whom Heaven gave the means of winning it.

~Madame de Stael

Prayer is more than meditation. In meditation the source of strength is one's self. When one prays he goes to a source of strength greater than his own.

~Madame de Stael

Courage of soul is necessary for the triumphs of genius.

~Madame de Stael

Men do not change; they unmask themselves.

~Madame de Stael

Strangers are contemporary posterity. [Fr., Les etrangers sont la

posterite contemporaine.]

~Madame de Stael

Wit lies in the likeness of things that are different, and in the difference of things that are alike.

~Madame de Stael

Anything that happens gradually is always irrevocable.

~Madame de Stael

O memory, thou bitter sweet,--both a joy and a scourge!

~Madame de Stael

In women's destiny everything goes downhill except for thought, whose immortal nature it is to keep constantly rising.

~Madame de Stael

[The Germans] so easily confuse obstinacy with energy, and rudeness with firmness.

~Madame de Stael

Life teaches much, but to all thinking persons it brings ever closer the will of God - not because their faculties decline, but on the contrary, because they increase.

~Madame de Stael

Purity of mind and conduct is the first glory of a woman.

~Madame de Stael

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