

Madeleine de Souvres, marquise de Sable Quotes

*People, Self, Love, Believe, Ignorance, Thinking, Men, Learning, Quality,
Desire, Life, Heart, Mind, Order, Listening, Justice, Doe, Truth, Character,
Ungrateful*

Pettiness of mind, ignorance and presumption are the cause of stubbornness, because stubborn people only want to believe what they themselves can imagine, and they can imagine very few things.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

To be too dissatisfied with ourselves is a weakness. To be too satisfied with ourselves is a stupidity.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

It is a singular characteristic of love that we cannot hide it where it exists, or pretend it where it does not exist.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

We prefer people who are trying to imitate us more than those who are trying to equal us. This is because imitation is a sign of esteem, but the desire to equal others is a sign of envy.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

Honest and sincere acts mislead the wicked and cause them to lose their path to their own goals, because mean-spirited people usually believe that people never act without deceit.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

Mean-spirited mediocrities, especially those with a smattering of learning, are the most likely to be opinionated. Only strong minds know how to correct their opinions and abandon a bad position.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

Even the best-natured people, if uninstructed, are always blind and uncertain. We must take pains to instruct ourselves so that ignorance makes us neither too timid nor too bold.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

Criticism should awaken our attention, not inflame our anger. We

should listen to, and not flee from, those who contradict us. Truth should be our cause, no matter in what manner it comes to us.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

It is vain and useless to survey everything that goes on in the world if our study does not help us mend our ways.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

Sometimes we praise the way things used to be in order to blame the present, and we esteem what is no longer in order to scorn what is.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

We must accustom ourselves to the follies of others and not be astonished at the foolishness that takes place in our presence.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

It is a very trying task for deceitful people, always to have to cover up their lack of sincerity and to repair the breaking of their word.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

Ignorance makes for weakness and fear; knowledge gives strength and confidence. Nothing surprises an intellect that knows all things with a sense of discrimination.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

It is sometimes useful to pretend we are deceived, because when we show a deceiving man that we see through his artifices, we only encourage him to increase his deceptions.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

The loftiness of understanding embraces all. It requires as much spirit to suffer the failings of others as it does to appreciate their good qualities.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

We would often rather seem dutiful to others than to succeed in our duties; and often we would rather tell our friends that we have done them good than to do good in actuality.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

Although we should not love our friends for the good that they do us, it is a sign that they do not love us much if they do not do us good when they have the power to do so.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

When people reproach us, they only increase their own failings even as they are disclaiming them.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

It is base to take advantage of our rank or greatness by making fun of those placed beneath us in life.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

We need not regard what good a friend has done us, but only his desire to do us good.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

The shame that comes to us as we see ourselves praised when we are unworthy of it often gives us the occasion to accomplish things that we might never have achieved without such undeserved praise.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

We judge matters so superficially that ordinary acts and words, done and spoken with some flair and some knowledge of worldly matters, often succeed better than the greatest cleverness.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

It is neither a great praise nor a great blame when people say a tendency is in or out of fashion. If a tendency is as it should be at one

time, it is always as it should be.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

Study and research into truth often only serves to make us see by experience our natural ignorance.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

The foolish acts of others ought to serve more as a lesson to us than an occasion to laugh at those who commit them.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

All the great amusements are dangerous for the Christian life.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

It is such a great fault to talk too much that, in business and conversation, if what is good is also brief, it is doubly good, and one gains by brevity what one often loses by an excess of words.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

It is a strength of character to acknowledge our failings and our strong points, and it is a weakness of character not to remain in harmony with both the good and the bad that is within us.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

The conversation of those who like to lord it over us is very disagreeable. But we should always be ready to graciously acknowledge the truth, no matter in what guise it comes to us.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

Often the desire to appear competent impedes our ability to become competent, because we more anxious to display our knowledge than to learn what we do not know.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

Wealth does not teach us to transcend the desire for wealth. The possession of many goods does not bring the repose of not desiring them.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

It is an admirable skill to be able to sweeten a refusal with civil words which atone for the favor which we are not able to grant.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

We nearly always make ourselves masters of those whom we know well, because he who is thoroughly understood is in some sense subject to those who understand him.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

There is little advantage in pleasing ourselves when we please no one else, for our great self-love is often chastised by the scorn of others.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

There is always enough self-love hidden beneath the greatest devoutness to set limits on charity.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

Good results are sometimes owing to a failure of judgment, because the faculty of judgment often hinders us from undertaking many things which would succeed if carried through without thinking.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

Those who foolishly pride themselves on their nobility mistake that which makes them noble, for it is only the virtue of their ancestors that gives them noble blood.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

We think highly of men when we do not know the extent of their capabilities, for we always suppose that more exists when we only see

half.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

We learn as much by others' failings as by their teachings. Examples of imperfection is just as useful for achieving perfection as are models of competence and perfection.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

It is a very common failing, never to be pleased with our fortune nor displeased with our character.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

The ties of virtue ought to be closer than the ties of blood, since the good man is closer to another good man by their similarity of morals than the son is to his father by their similarity of face.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

Social intercourse, even friendship among most people, is a merely a business arrangement that lasts only so long as there is need.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

This imperiousness which aids us in all things is merely a fitting authority which comes from superior spirit.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

Self-love is even deceived by self-love, because by looking out for our own interests and disregarding those of other people, we lose the advantage that comes with the exchange of favors.

~Madeleine de Souvre, marquise de Sable

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