

Mary Astell

Quotes

*Men, Mean, Thinking, Sex, Doe, Mind, Self, Vices, Heart, Fit, Body, Husband,
Use, Needs, May, Reason, Matter, Want, Passion, World*

Women are from their very infancy debarred those Advantages with the want of which they are afterwards reproached.

~Mary Astell

Truth is strong, and sometime or other will prevail.

~Mary Astell

Marry for Love, an Heroick Action, which makes a mighty noise in the World, partly because of its rarity, and partly in regard of its extravagancy.

~Mary Astell

Your glass will not do you half so much service as a serious reflection on your own minds.

~Mary Astell

To plead for the Oppress'd and to defend the Weak seem'd to me a generous undertaking; for tho' it may be secure, 'tis not always Honourable to run over to the strongest party.

~Mary Astell

The scum of the People are most Tyrannical when they get the Power, and treat their Betters with the greatest Insolence.

~Mary Astell

Fetters of gold are still fetters, and the softest lining can never make them so easy as liberty.

~Mary Astell

If all men are born free, why is it that all women are born slaves?

~Mary Astell

If God had not intended that Women shou'd use their Reason, He wou'd not have given them any, 'for He does nothing in vain.

~Mary Astell

The Span of Life is too short to be trifled away in unconcerning and unprofitable Matters.

~Mary Astell

None of God's Creatures absolutely consider'd are in their own Nature Contemptible; the meanest Fly, the poorest Insect has its Use and Vertue.

~Mary Astell

To all the rest of his Absurdities, (for vice is always unreasonable,) he adds one more, who expects that Vertue from another which he won't practise himself.

~Mary Astell

Women are not so well united as to form an Insurrection. They are for the most part wise enough to love their Chains, and to discern how becomingly they fit.

~Mary Astell

None of us whether Men or Women but have so good an Opinion of our own Conduct as to believe we are fit, if not to direct others, at least to govern our selves.

~Mary Astell

If a Woman can neither Love nor Honour, she does ill in promising to Obey.

~Mary Astell

How can you be content to be in the world like tulips in a garden, to make a fine show, and be good for nothing.

~Mary Astell

A woman indeed can't properly be said to choose, all that is allowed her, is to refuse or accept what is offered.

~Mary Astell

For certainly there cannot be a higher pleasure than to think that we love and are beloved by the most amiable and best Being.

~Mary Astell

That Man indeed can never be good at heart, who is full of himself and his own Endowments.

~Mary Astell

Whilst our Hearts are violently set upon any thing, there is no convincing us that we shall ever be of another Mind.

~Mary Astell

He who will be just, must be forc'd to acknowledge, that neither Sex are always in the right.

~Mary Astell

We may not commit a lesser Sin under pretence to avoid a greater, but we may, nay we ought to endure the greatest Pain and Grief rather than commit the least Sin.

~Mary Astell

The Soul debases her self, when she sets her affections on any thing but her creator.

~Mary Astell

Unhappy is that Grandeur which makes us too great to be good; and that Wit which sets us at a distance from true Wisdom.

~Mary Astell

Ignorance and a narrow education lay the foundation of vice, and

imitation and custom rear it up.

~Mary Astell

That which has not a real excellency and value in it self, entertains no longer than the giddy Humour which recommended it to us holds.

~Mary Astell

Nor can the Apostle mean that Eve only sinned; or that she only was Deceived, for if Adam sinned willfully and knowingly, he became the greater Transgressor.

~Mary Astell

If none were to Marry, but Men of strict Vertue and Honour, I doubt the World would be but thinly peopled.

~Mary Astell

We ought as much as we can to endeavour the Perfecting of our Beings, and that we be as happy as possibly we may.

~Mary Astell

none can be Tyrants but Cowards.

~Mary Astell

But, alas! what poor Woman is ever taught that she should have a higher Design than to get her a Husband?

~Mary Astell

It is not the Head but the Heart that is the Seat of Atheism.

~Mary Astell

Tis very great pity that they who are so apt to over-rate themselves in smaller matters, shou'd, where it most concerns them to know, and stand upon their Value, be so insensible of their own worth.

~Mary Astell

The Steps to Folly as well as Sin are gradual, and almost imperceptible, and when we are once on the Decline, we go down without taking notice on't.

~Mary Astell

We must Think what we Say, and Mean what we Profess.

~Mary Astell

Certain I am, that Christian Religion does no where allow Rebellion.

~Mary Astell

Why is Slavery so much condemn'd and strove against in one Case, and so highly applauded and held so necessary and so sacred in another?

~Mary Astell

God is His own Design and End, and that there is no other Worthy of Him.

~Mary Astell

How can a Man respect his Wife when he has a contemptible Opinion of her and her Sex?

~Mary Astell

A husband is indeed thought by both sexes so very valuable, that scarce a man who can keep himself clean and make a bow, but thinks he is good enough to pretend to any woman.

~Mary Astell

If absolute sovereignty be not necessary in a State, how comes it to be so in a family?

~Mary Astell

Women need not take up with mean things, since (if they are not

wanting to themselves) they are capable of the best.

~Mary Astell

Every Body has so good an Opinion of their own Understanding as to think their own way the best.

~Mary Astell

. . . he who only or chiefly chose for Beauty, will in a little Time find the same Reason for another Choice.

~Mary Astell

friendship is a virtue which comprehends all the rest; none being fit for this, who is not adorned with every other virtue.

~Mary Astell

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