

Mary Wollstonecraft Quotes

*Men, Mind, Heart, Women, Thinking, Sex, Character, Education, Husband,
Justice, Reason, Diversity, Kings, Literature, School, Atheism, Feelings, World,
Love, Believe*

I do not wish women to have power over men; but over themselves.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Taught from infancy that beauty is woman's sceptre, the mind shapes itself to the body, and roaming round its gilt cage, only seeks to adorn its prison.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

The beginning is always today.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

No man chooses evil because it's evil. He only mistakes it for happiness, the good he seeks.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Women do not want power over men, they want power over themselves.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Only that education deserves emphatically to be termed cultivation of the mind which teaches young people how to begin to think.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

The more equality there is established among men, the more virtue and happiness will reign in society.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Modesty is the graceful, calm virtue of maturity; bashfulness the charm of vivacious youth.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Women are systematically degraded by receiving the trivial attentions which men think it manly to pay to the sex, when, in fact, men are insultingly supporting their own superiority.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Independence I have long considered as the grand blessing of life, the basis of every virtue; and independence I will ever secure by contracting my wants, though I were to live on a barren heath.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Strengthen the female mind by enlarging it, and there will be an end to blind obedience.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

The being cannot be termed rational or virtuous, who obeys any authority, but that of reason.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Let woman share the rights and she will emulate the virtues of man; for she must grow more perfect when emancipated.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Friendship is a serious affection; the most sublime of all affections, because it is founded on principle, and cemented by time.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Simplicity and sincerity generally go hand in hand, as both proceed from a love of truth.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

You know I am not born to tread in the beaten track the peculiar bent of my nature pushes me on.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

A modest man is steady, an humble man timid, and a vain one presumptuous.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Men, in general, seem to employ their reason to justify prejudices...rather than to root them out.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

It is justice, not charity, that is wanting in the world.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Women ought to have representatives, instead of being arbitrarily governed without any direct share allowed them in the deliberations of government.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Men and women must be educated, in a great degree, by the opinions and manners of the society they live in.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

The divine right of husbands, like the divine right of kings, may, it is hoped, in this enlightened age, be contested without danger.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

The mind will ever be unstable that has only prejudices to rest on.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

For years I have endeavored to calm an impetuous tide -- laboring to make my feelings take an orderly course -- it was striving against the stream.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Virtue can only flourish among equals.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Till women are more rationally educated, the progress in human virtue and improvement in knowledge must receive continual checks.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

We cannot, without depraving our minds, endeavour to please a lover or husband, but in proportion as he pleases us.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

At boarding schools of every description, the relaxation of the junior boys is mischief; and of the senior, vice.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

I love man as my fellow; but his scepter, real, or usurped, extends not to me, unless the reason of an individual demands my homage; and even then the submission is to reason, and not to man.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Make women rational creatures, and free citizens, and they will quickly become good wives; - that is, if men do not neglect the duties of husbands and fathers.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

... we never do any thing well, unless we love it for its own sake.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Society can only be happy and free in proportion as it is virtuous.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Surely something resides in this heart that is not perishable - and life is more than a dream.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Every political good carried to the extreme must be productive of evil.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

When we feel deeply, we reason profoundly.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

I begin to love this little creature, and to anticipate his birth as a fresh twist to a knot, which I do not wish to untie.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

The absurd duty, too often inculcated, of obeying a parent only on account of his being a parent, shackles the mind, and prepares it for a slavish submission to any power but reason.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

The two sexes mutually corrupt and improve each other.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

The graceful ivy, clasping the oak that supported it, would form a whole in which strength and beauty would be equally conspicuous.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

The appetites will rule if the mind is vacant.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

The power of generalizing ideas, of drawing comprehensive conclusions from individual observations, is the only acquirement, for an immortal being, that really deserves the name of knowledge.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

I never wanted but your heart--that gone, you have nothing more to give.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

The same energy of character which renders a man a daring villain would have rendered him useful in society, had that society been well organized.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

... the whole tenour of female education ... tends to render the best

disposed romantic and inconstant; and the remainder vain and mean.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Fondness is a poor substitute for friendship.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

It is vain to expect virtue from women till they are in some degree independent of men.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

How can a rational being be ennobled by any thing that is not obtained by its own exertions?

~Mary Wollstonecraft

... wealth and female softness equally tend to debase mankind!

~Mary Wollstonecraft

When poverty is more disgraceful than even vice, is not morality cut to the quick?

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Judicious books enlarge the mind and improve the heart.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

In the education of women, the cultivation of the understanding is always subordinate to the acquirement of some corporeal accomplishment.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Children, I grant, should be innocent; but when the epithet is applied to men, or women, it is but a civil term for weakness.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

It is time to effect a revolution in female manners - time to restore to

them their lost dignity. It is time to separate unchangeable morals from local manners.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Slavery to monarchs and ministers, which the world will be long freeing itself from, and whose deadly grasp stops the progress of the human mind, is not yet abolished.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

It appears to me impossible that I should cease to exist, or that this active, restless spirit, equally alive to joy and sorrow, should be only organized dust.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

If the abstract rights of man will bear discussion and explanation, those of women, by a parity of reasoning, will not shrink from the same test.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

We reason deeply, when we forcibly feel.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

A slavish bondage to parents cramps every faculty of the mind

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Life cannot be seen by an unmoved spectator.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Why is our fancy to be appalled by terrific perspectives of a hell beyond the grave?

~Mary Wollstonecraft

In every age there has been a stream of popular opinion that has carried all before it, and given a family character, as it were, to the century.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

I do earnestly wish to see the distinction of sex confounded in society, unless where love animates the behaviour.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

From the respect paid to property flow, as from a poisoned fountain, most of the evils and vices which render this world such a dreary scene to the contemplative mind.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

In fact, it is a farce to call any being virtuous whose virtues do not result from the exercise of its own reason.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

As a sex, women are habitually indolent; and every thing tends to make them so.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

A war, or any wild-goose chase, is, as the vulgar use the phrase, a lucky turn-up of patronage for the minister, whose chief merit is the art of keeping himself in place.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

If women be educated for dependence; that is, to act according to the will of another fallible being, and submit, right or wrong, to power, where are we to stop?

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Women are degraded by the propensity to enjoy the present moment, and, at last, despise the freedom which they have not sufficient virtue to struggle to attain.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

A king is always a king - and a woman always a woman: his authority and her sex ever stand between them and rational converse

~Mary Wollstonecraft

When a man seduces a woman, it should, I think, be termed a left-handed marriage.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

True happiness must arise from well-regulated affections, and an affection includes a duty.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Some women govern their husbands without degrading themselves, because intellect will always govern.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

In this metropolis a number of lurking leeches infamously gain subsistence by practicing on the credulity of women.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

But what a weak barrier is truth when it stands in the way of an hypothesis!

~Mary Wollstonecraft

[I]f we revert to history, we shall find that the women who have distinguished themselves have neither been the most beautiful nor the most gentle of their sex.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

When any prevailing prejudice is attacked, the wise will consider, and leave the narrow-minded to rail with thoughtless vehemence at innovation.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Women all want to be ladies, which is simply to have nothing to do, but listlessly to go they scarcely care where, for they cannot tell what.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Nothing, I am sure, calls forth the faculties so much as the being obliged to struggle with the world.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

I think I love most people best when they are in adversity; for pity is one of my prevailing passions.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Situation seems to be the mould in which men's characters are formed.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

My husband - my king.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

...trifling employments have rendered woman a trifler.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

I think schools, as they are now regulated, the hot-beds of vice and folly, and the knowledge of human nature supposedly attained there, merely cunning selfishness.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

It is the preservation of the species, not of individuals, which appears to be the design of Deity throughout the whole of nature.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

When man, governed by reasonable laws, enjoys his natural freedom, let him despise woman, if she do not share it with him.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Love, from its very nature, must be transitory.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

The birthright of man ... is such a degree of liberty, civil and religious, as is compatible with the liberty of every other individual with whom he is united in a social compact.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

The mind will ever be unstable that has only prejudices to rest on, and the current will run with destructive fury when there are no barriers to break its force.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

An air of fashion, which is but a badge of slavery ... proves that the soul has not a strong individual character.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

The endeavor to keep alive any hoary establishment beyond its natural date is often pernicious and always useless.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

The last man! Yes I may well describe that solitary being's feelings, feeling myself as the last relic of a beloved race, my companions extinct before me.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

The conduct of an accountable being must be regulated by the operations of its own reason.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Age demands respect; youth, love.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

Good habits, imperceptibly fixed, are far preferable to the precepts of

reason.

~Mary Wollstonecraft

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