

Mary Wortley Montagu Quotes

*Men, People, Writing, Women, Reading, Giving, Children, Fashion, Passion,
Should, May, Pleasure, Nature, Thinking, Mean, Love, Funny, Blessing, Book,
Sex*

Civility costs nothing, and buys everything.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

There is nothing can pay one for that invaluable ignorance which is the companion of youth, those sanguine groundless hopes, and that lively vanity which makes all the happiness of life.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

People wish their enemies dead - but I do not; I say give them the gout, give them the stone!

~Mary Wortley Montagu

No entertainment is so cheap as reading, nor any pleasure so lasting.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Nobody can deny but religion is a comfort to the distressed, a cordial to the sick, and sometimes a restraint on the wicked.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

There is no remedy so easy as books, which if they do not give cheerfulness, at least restore quiet to the most troubled mind.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

There can be no situation in life in which the conversation of my dear sister will not administer some comfort to me.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

The ultimate end of your education was to make you a good wife.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

I prefer liberty to chains of diamonds.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Solitude begets whimsies.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

But the fruit that can fall without shaking Indeed is too mellow for me.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

It was formerly a terrifying view to me that I should one day be an old woman. I now find that Nature has provided pleasures for every state.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

In short I will part with anything for you but you.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

While conscience is our friend, all is at peace; however once it is offended, farewell to a tranquil mind.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

I hate the noise and hurry inseparable from great Estates and Titles, and look upon both as blessings that ought only to be given to fools, for 'Tis only to them that they are blessings.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

See how that pair of billing doves With open murmurs own their loves And, heedless of censorious eyes, Pursue their unpolluted joys: No fears of future want molest The downy quiet of their nest.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

You can be pleased with nothing if you are not pleased with yourself.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Satire should, like a polished razor keen, Wound with a touch that's scarcely felt or seen.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

A face is too slight a foundation for happiness.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

People commonly educate their children as they build their houses, according to some plan they think beautiful, without considering whether it is suited to the purposes for which they are designed.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Lord Bacon makes beauty to consist of grace and motion.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

I know a love may be revived which absence, inconstancy, or even infidelity has extinguished, but there is no returning from a dTgovt given by satiety.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

It goes far towards reconciling me to being a woman, when I reflect that I am thus in no danger of ever marrying one.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Writers of novels and romance in general bring a double loss to their readers; robbing them of their time and money; representing men, manners, and things, that never have been, or are likely to be.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Life is too short for a long story

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Be plain in dress, and sober in your diet; In short, my deary, kiss me, and be quiet.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

People are never so near playing the fool as when they think themselves wise.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Let this great maxim be my virtue's guide,- In part she is to blame that has been tried: He comes too near that comes to be denied.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

I despise the pleasure of pleasing people that I despise.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

As I approach a second childhood, I endeavor to enter into the pleasures of it.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

It is the common error of builders and parents to follow some plan they think beautiful (and perhaps is so) without considering that nothing is beautiful that is misplaced.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

I am afraid we are little better than straws upon the water; we may flatter ourselves that we swim, when the current carries us along.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

And we meet, with champagne and a chicken, at last.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Prudent people are very happy; 'tis an exceeding fine thing, that's certain, but I was born without it, and shall retain to my day of Death the Humour of saying what I think.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

'Tis a sort of duty to be rich, that it may be in one's power to do good, riches being another word for power.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Copiousness of words, however ranged, is always false eloquence, though it will ever impose on some sort of understandings.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

It's all been very interesting.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

We are no more free agents than the queen of clubs when she victoriously takes prisoner the knave of hearts.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

A man that is ashamed of passions that are natural and reasonable is generally proud of those that are shameful and silly.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

No modest man ever did or ever will make a fortune.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Begin nothing without considering what the end may be.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

My chief study all my life has been to lighten misfortunes and multiply pleasures, as far as human nature can.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Forgive what you can't excuse.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

True knowledge consists in knowing things, not words.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

It is 11 years since I have seen my figure in a glass [mirror]. The last reflection I saw there was so disagreeable I resolved to spare myself such mortification in the future.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

one would suffer a great deal to be happy.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

I am in perfect health, and hear it said I look better than ever I did in my life, which is one of those lies one is always glad to hear.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

One can never outlive one's vanity.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

We should ask, not who is the most learned, but who is the best learned.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

people never write calmly but when they write indifferently.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

As marriage produces children, so children produce care and disputes; and wrangling.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Nobody should trust their virtue with necessity, the force of which is never known till it is felt, and it is therefore one of the first duties to avoid the temptation of it.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

The most romantic region of every country is that where the mountains unite themselves with the plains or lowlands.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Only a mother knows a mother's fondness.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

The one thing that reconciles me to the fact of being a woman is the

reflection that it delivers me from the necessity of being married to one.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Men are vile inconstant toads.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

to be reasonable one should never complain but when one hopes redress.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

General notions are generally wrong.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Time has the same effect on the mind as on the face; the predominant passion and the strongest feature become more conspicuous from the others retiring.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Nature is seldom in the wrong, custom always.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

A woman, till five-and-thirty, is only looked upon as a raw girl, and can possibly make no noise in the world till about forty.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

... if it were the fashion to go naked, the face would be hardly observed.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

I believe more follies are committed out of complaisance to the world, than in following our own inclinations.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Gardening is certainly the next amusement to reading.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Miserable is the fate of writers: if they are agreeable, they are offensive; and if dull, they starve.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

We are apt to consider Shakespeare only as a poet; but he was certainly one of the greatest moral philosophers that ever lived.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

The screech-owl, with ill-boding cry, Portends strange things, old women say; Stops every fool that passes by, And frights the school-boy from his play.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Philosophy is the toil which can never tire persons engaged in it. All ways are strewn with roses, and the farther you go, the more enchanting objects appear before you and invite you on.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

I have often observ'd the loudest Laughters to be the dullest Fellows in the Company.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

My dear Smollett ... disgraces his talent by writing those stupid romances called history.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

It has all been most interesting.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

My health is so often impaired that I begin to be as weary of it as mending old lace; when it is patched in one place, it breaks out in another.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Whatever is clearly expressed is well wrote.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Remember my unalterable maxim, "When we love, we always have something to say.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

I have never had any great esteem for the generality of the fair sex, and my only consolation for being of that gender has been the assurance it gave me of never being married to any one among them.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

To always be loved one must ever be agreeable.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

The knowledge of numbers is one of the chief distinctions between us and the brutes.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Muse, time has taught me that all metaphysical systems, even historical facts given as truths, are hardly that, so I amuse myself with more agreeable lies; I no longer read anything but novels.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Civility cost nothing.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

Tis the established custom [in Vienna] for every lady to have two husbands, one that bears the name, and another that performs the duties.

~Mary Wortley Montagu

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