

Matthew Arnold

Quotes

*Men, Light, Life, Soul, Heart, World, Dream, Culture, Class, Science, Ideas,
Mind, Art, Eye, Time, Perfection, Beautiful, Wind, Children, Stars*

Our society distributes itself into Barbarians, Philistines and Populace; and America is just ourselves with the Barbarians quite left out, and the Populace nearly.

~Matthew Arnold

If there ever comes a time when the women of the world come together purely and simply for the benefit of mankind, it will be a force such as the world has never known.

~Matthew Arnold

Our inequality materializes our upper class, vulgarizes our middle class, brutalizes our lower class.

~Matthew Arnold

The freethinking of one age is the common sense of the next.

~Matthew Arnold

Like driftwood spares which meet and pass
Upon the boundless ocean-plain,
So on the sea of life, alas! Man nears man,
meets, and leaves again.

~Matthew Arnold

Philistine must have originally meant, in the mind of those who invented the nickname, a strong, dogged, unenlightened opponent of the chosen people, of the children of the light.

~Matthew Arnold

Strew on her roses, roses, And never a spray of yew!
In quiet she reposes; Ah, would that I did too!

~Matthew Arnold

He will find one English book and one only, where, as in the "Iliad" itself, perfect plainness of speech is allied with perfect nobleness; and that book is the Bible.

~Matthew Arnold

Life is not having and getting, but being and becoming

~Matthew Arnold

Resolve to be thyself: and know that he who finds himself, loses his misery.

~Matthew Arnold

Culture, the acquainting ourselves with the best that has been known and said in the world, and thus with the history of the human spirit.

~Matthew Arnold

Poetry is simply the most beautiful, impressive, and widely effective mode of saying things.

~Matthew Arnold

Use your gifts faithfully, and they shall be enlarged; practice what you know, and you shall attain to higher knowledge.

~Matthew Arnold

Yes! in the sea of life enisled, With echoing straits between us thrown,
Dotting the shoreless watery wild, We mortal millions live alone.

~Matthew Arnold

Have something to say, and say it as clearly as you can. That is the only secret.

~Matthew Arnold

This strange disease of modern life, With its sick hurry, its divided aims.

~Matthew Arnold

The pursuit of perfection, then, is the pursuit of sweetness and light.

~Matthew Arnold

The bent of our time is towards science, towards knowing things as they are.

~Matthew Arnold

Where great whales come sailing by, Sail and sail, with unshut eye, Round the world for ever and aye.

~Matthew Arnold

For the creation of a masterwork of literature two powers must concur, the power of the man and the power of the moment, and the man is not enough without the moment.

~Matthew Arnold

Years hence, perhaps, may dawn an age, More fortunate, alas! than we, Which without hardness will be sage, And gay without frivolity.

~Matthew Arnold

Too quick despairer, wherefore wilt thou go? Soon will the high Midsummer pomps come on, Soon will the musk carnations break and swell.

~Matthew Arnold

Journalism is literature in a hurry.

~Matthew Arnold

Unquiet souls. In the dark fermentation of earth, in the never idle workshop of nature, in the eternal movement, yea shall find yourselves again.

~Matthew Arnold

Genius is mainly an affair of energy.

~Matthew Arnold

Home of lost causes, and forsaken beliefs, and unpopular names, and impossible loyalties!

~Matthew Arnold

Now the great winds shoreward blow Now the salt tides seaward flow
Now the wild white horses play Champ and chafe and toss in the spray.

~Matthew Arnold

Let the long contention cease! / Geese are swans, and swans are geese.

~Matthew Arnold

There is no better motto which it [culture] can have than these words of Bishop Wilson, "To make reason and the will of God prevail."

~Matthew Arnold

The grand style arises in poetry, when a noble nature, poetically gifted, treats with simplicity or with severity a serious subject.

~Matthew Arnold

All the biblical miracles will at last disappear with the progress of science.

~Matthew Arnold

Art still has truth. Take refuge there.

~Matthew Arnold

The true meaning of religion is thus not simply morality, but morality touched by emotion.

~Matthew Arnold

The same heart beats in every human breast.

~Matthew Arnold

Because thou must not dream, thou need not despair.

~Matthew Arnold

Wandering between two worlds, one dead,
The other powerless to be born.

~Matthew Arnold

The governing idea of Hellenism is spontaneity of consciousness ; that
of Hebraism, strictness of conscience .

~Matthew Arnold

Change doth unknit the tranquil strength of men.

~Matthew Arnold

And see all sights from pole to pole, And glance, and nod, and hustle
by; And never once possess our soul Before we die.

~Matthew Arnold

A wanderer is man from his birth. He was born in a ship
On the breast of the river of Time.

~Matthew Arnold

Culture is to know the best that has been said and thought in the world.

~Matthew Arnold

And we forget because we must and not because we will.

~Matthew Arnold

They... who await. No gifts from Chance, have conquered Fate.

~Matthew Arnold

Bald as the bare mountain tops are bald, with a baldness full of
grandeur.

~Matthew Arnold

What is it to grow old? Is it to lose the glory of the form,
The lustre of the eye? Is it for Beauty to forego her wreath? Yes; but not this alone.

~Matthew Arnold

Man errs not that he deems His welfare his true aim,
He errs because he dreams The world does but exist that welfare to bestow.

~Matthew Arnold

Poetry; a criticism of life under the conditions fixed for such a criticism
by the laws of poetic truth and poetic beauty.

~Matthew Arnold

One thing only has been lent to youth and age in common--discontent.

~Matthew Arnold

Greatness is a spiritual condition.

~Matthew Arnold

Children of men! the unseen Power, whose eye Forever doth
accompany mankind, Hath look'd on no religion scornfully That men did
ever find.

~Matthew Arnold

Culture is the passion for sweetness and light, and (what is more) the
passion for making them prevail.

~Matthew Arnold

For this is the true strength of guilty kings, When they corrupt the souls
of those they rule.

~Matthew Arnold

Once read thy own breast right, And thou hast done with fears.

~Matthew Arnold

It is almost impossible to exaggerate the proneness of the human mind to take miracles as evidence, and to seek for miracles as evidence.

~Matthew Arnold

It is a very great thing to be able to think as you like; but, after all, an important question remains: what you think.

~Matthew Arnold

Culture is properly described as the love of perfection; it is a study of perfection.

~Matthew Arnold

Without poetry our science will appear incomplete, and most of what now passes with us for religion and philosophy will be replaced by poetry.

~Matthew Arnold

The will is free; Strong is the soul, and wise, and beautiful; The seeds of godlike power are in us still; Gods are we, bards, saints, heroes, if we will!

~Matthew Arnold

The eloquent voice of our century uttered, shortly before leaving the world, a warning cry against the "Anglo- Saxon contagion.

~Matthew Arnold

He spoke, and loos'd our heart in tears. He laid us as we lay at birth On the cool flowery lap of earth.

~Matthew Arnold

One has often wondered whether upon the whole earth there is anything so unintelligent, so unapt to perceive how the world is really going, as an ordinary young Englishman of our upper class.

~Matthew Arnold

Miracles do not happen.

~Matthew Arnold

I am bound by my own definition of criticism : a disinterested endeavour to learn and propagate the best that is known and thought in the world.

~Matthew Arnold

Religion--that voice of the deepest human experience.

~Matthew Arnold

Sad Patience, too near neighbour to despair.

~Matthew Arnold

Nature herself seems, I say, to take the pen out of his hand, and to write for him with her own bare, sheer, penetrating power.

~Matthew Arnold

Calm's not life's crown, though calm is well.

~Matthew Arnold

Nature, with equal mind, Sees all her sons at play, Sees man control the wind, The wind sweep man away.

~Matthew Arnold

Nothing could moderate, in the bosom of the great English middle class, their passionate, absorbing, almost blood-thirsty clinging to life.

~Matthew Arnold

Still bent to make some port he knows not where, still standing for some false impossible shore.

~Matthew Arnold

Spare me the whispering, crowded room, the friends who come and gape and go, the ceremonious air of gloom - all, which makes death a

hideous show.

~Matthew Arnold

Ah, love, let us be true To one another!

~Matthew Arnold

Nor bring, to see me cease to live, Some doctor full of phrase and fame, To shake his sapient head, and give The ill he cannot cure a name.

~Matthew Arnold

The brave, impetuous heart yields everywhere to the subtle, contriving head.

~Matthew Arnold

Truth sits upon the lips of dying men.

~Matthew Arnold

The sophist sneers: Fool, take Thy pleasure, right or wrong! The pious wail: Forsake A world these sophists throng! Be neither saint nor sophist-led, but be a man.

~Matthew Arnold

It is - last stage of all When we are frozen up within, and quite The phantom of ourselves To hear the world applaud the hollow ghost Which blamed the living man

~Matthew Arnold

I keep saying, Shakespeare, Shakespeare, you are as obscure as life is.

~Matthew Arnold

Alas! is even love too weak To unlock the heart, and let it speak?

~Matthew Arnold

Genius is mainly an affair of energy, and poetry is mainly an affair of genius; therefore a nation whose spirit is characterized by energy may well be imminent in poetry - and we have Shakespeare.

~Matthew Arnold

France, famed in all great arts, in none supreme.

~Matthew Arnold

On the breast of that huge Mississippi of falsehood called History, a foam-bell more or less is no consequence.

~Matthew Arnold

Conduct is three-fourths of our life and its largest concern.

~Matthew Arnold

Culture is both an intellectual phenomenon and a moral one

~Matthew Arnold

Men of culture are the true apostles of equality

~Matthew Arnold

And that sweet city with her dreaming spires, She needs not June for beauty's heightening.

~Matthew Arnold

Others abide our question. Thou art free. We ask and ask. Thou smilest and art still, Out-topping knowledge.

~Matthew Arnold

Not a having and a resting, but a growing and a becoming, is the character of perfection as culture conceives it.

~Matthew Arnold

Greatness is a spiritual condition worthy to excite love, interest, and

admiration; and the outward proof of possessing greatness is that we excite love, interest, and admiration.

~Matthew Arnold

To have the sense of creative activity is the great happiness and the great proof of being alive.

~Matthew Arnold

If one were searching for the best means to efface and kill in a whole nation the discipline of self-respect, the feeling for what is elevated, he could do no better than take the American newspapers.

~Matthew Arnold

Say, has some wet bird-haunted English lawn Lent it the music of its trees at dawn?

~Matthew Arnold

Weep bitterly over the dead, for he is worthy, and then comfort thyself; drive heaviness away: thou shall not do him good, but hurt thyself.

~Matthew Arnold

Goethe in Weimar sleeps, and Greece, Long since, saw Byron 's struggle cease.

~Matthew Arnold

Waiting for the spark from heaven to fall.

~Matthew Arnold

But there remains the question: what righteousness really is. The method and secret and sweet reasonableness of Jesus.

~Matthew Arnold

How many minds--almost all the great ones--were formed in secrecy and solitude!

~Matthew Arnold

Life is the application of noble and profound ideas to life.

~Matthew Arnold

Culture looks beyond machinery, culture hates hatred; culture has one great passion, the passion for sweetness and light.

~Matthew Arnold

If an historian be an unbeliever in all heroism, if he be a man who brings every thing down to the level of a common mediocrity, depend upon it, the truth is not found in such a writer.

~Matthew Arnold

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