

Nicolas Chamfort

Quotes

Men, Passion, Heart, Literature, Giving, Love, Funny, Two, Happiness, Life, Art, Vanity, People, Book, Littles, Women, Names, Ideas, Friendship, Nature

The sunset glow of self-possession.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Contemplation often makes life miserable. We should act more, think less, and stop watching ourselves live.

~Nicolas Chamfort

There are more people who wish to be loved than there are who are willing to love.

~Nicolas Chamfort

The most wasted day of all is that on which we have not laughed.

~Nicolas Chamfort

The only thing that stops God from sending another flood is that the first one was useless.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Pleasure can be supported by an illusion; but happiness rests upon truth.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Intelligent people make many mistakes because they cannot believe the world is really as foolish as it is.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Society is divided into two classes, the shearers and the shorn.

~Nicolas Chamfort

We take our colors, chameleon-like, from each other.

~Nicolas Chamfort

False modesty is the most decent of all lies.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Every day I add to the list of things I refuse to discuss. The wiser the man, the longer the list.

~Nicolas Chamfort

There are two things that one must get used to or one will find life unendurable: the damages of time and injustices of men.

~Nicolas Chamfort

It is passion that makes man live; wisdom makes one only last.

~Nicolas Chamfort

A woman is like your shadow; follow her, she flies; fly from her, she follows.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Swallow a toad in the morning and you will encounter nothing more disgusting the rest of the day.

~Nicolas Chamfort

One can be certain that every generally held idea, every received notion, will be idiocy because it has been able to appeal to the majority

~Nicolas Chamfort

Marriage, as practised by high society, is arranged indecency.

~Nicolas Chamfort

It must be admitted that there are some parts of the soul which we must entirely paralyse before we can live happily in this world.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Pleasure may come from illusion, but happiness can come only of reality.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Eminence without merit earns deference without esteem.

~Nicolas Chamfort

People are governed with the head; kindness of heart is little use in chess.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Scandal is an importunate wasp, against which we must make no movement unless we are quite sure that we can kill it; otherwise it will return to the attack more furious than ever.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Most of those who make collections of verse or epigram are like men eating cherries or oysters: they choose out the best at first, and end by eating all.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Calumny is like the wasp which worries you, and which it is not best to try to get rid of unless you are sure of slaying it; for otherwise it returns to the charge more furious than ever.

~Nicolas Chamfort

It is children only who enjoy the present; their elders either live on the memory of the past or the hope of the future.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Do you think that revolutions are made with rose water?

~Nicolas Chamfort

Do not suppose opportunity will knock twice at your door.

~Nicolas Chamfort

All passions exaggerate; and they are passions only because they do exaggerate.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Nature never said to me: Do not be poor; still less did she say: Be rich; her cry to me was always: Be independent.

~Nicolas Chamfort

And so I leave this world, where the heart must either break or turn to lead (suicide note)

~Nicolas Chamfort

Bachelors' wives and old maids' children are always perfect.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Conscience is a dog that does not stop us from passing but that we cannot prevent from barking.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Living is a sickness to which sleep provides relief every sixteen hours. It's a palliative. The remedy is death.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Contact with the world either breaks or hardens the heart.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Love is more pleasant than marriage for the same reason that novels are more amusing than history.

~Nicolas Chamfort

I have three kinds of friends: those who love me, those who pay no attention to me, and those who detest me.

~Nicolas Chamfort

The art of the parenthesis is one of the greatest secrets of eloquence in Society

~Nicolas Chamfort

Some things are easier to legalize than to legitimate.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Covetousness is a sort of mental gluttony, not confined to money, but craving honor, and feeding on selfishness.

~Nicolas Chamfort

If taking vitamins doesn't keep you healthy enough, try more laughter: The most wasted of all days is that on which one has not laughed.

~Nicolas Chamfort

There aren't many benefactors who don't say, like Satan: All these things will I give you if you bow down and worship me.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Tragedy has the great moral defect of giving too much importance to life and death.

~Nicolas Chamfort

If it were not for the government, we should have nothing to laugh at in France.

~Nicolas Chamfort

An economist is a surgeon with an excellent scalpel and a rough-edged lancet, who operates beautifully on the dead and tortures the living.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Almost the whole of history is but a sequence of horrors.

~Nicolas Chamfort

It is commonly supposed that the art of pleasing is a wonderful aid in the pursuit of fortune; but the art of being bored is infinitely more

successful.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Philosophy, like medicine, has plenty of drugs, few good remedies, and hardly any specific cures.

~Nicolas Chamfort

A person of intellect without energy added to it, is a failure.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Obscurity and Innocence, twin sisters, escape temptations which would pierce their gossamer armor, in contact with the world.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Preoccupation with money is the great test of small natures, but only a small test of great ones.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Public opinion is the worst of all opinions.

~Nicolas Chamfort

If you must love your neighbor as yourself, it is at least as fair to love yourself as your neighbor.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Chance is a nickname for Providence.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Change of fashion is the tax levied by the industry of the poor on the vanity of the rich.

~Nicolas Chamfort

In living and in seeing other men, the heart must break or become as bronze.

~Nicolas Chamfort

All that I've learned, I've forgotten. The little that I still know, I've guessed.

~Nicolas Chamfort

The success of many books is due to the affinity between the mediocrity of the author's ideas and those of the public.

~Nicolas Chamfort

At the sight of what goes on in the world, the most misanthropic of men must end by being amused, and Heraclitus must die laughing.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Woman's weakness, not man's merit, oftenest gains the suitor's victory.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Celebrity is the advantage of being known to people who we don't know, and who don't know us.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Society is composed of two great classes, those that have more dinners than appetite, and those who have more appetite than dinners.

~Nicolas Chamfort

There some trifles well habited, as there are some fools well clothed.

~Nicolas Chamfort

We leave unmolested those who set the fire to the house, and prosecute those who sound the alarm.

~Nicolas Chamfort

We need to be just before we are generous, as we need shirts before

ruffles.

~Nicolas Chamfort

A lover is a man who tries to be more amiable than it is possible for him to be.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Love, a pleasant folly; ambition, a serious stupidity.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Secrecy is best taught by starting with ourselves.

~Nicolas Chamfort

In love, everything is true, everything is false; it is the one subject on which one cannot express an absurdity.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Satire is the disease of art.

~Nicolas Chamfort

There is no history worthy attention save that of free nations; the history of nations under the sway of despotism is no more than a collection of anecdotes.

~Nicolas Chamfort

The philosopher who would fain extinguish his passions resembles the chemist who would like to let his furnace go out.

~Nicolas Chamfort

The poor are the blacks of Europe.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Most books today seemed to have been written overnight from books read the day before.

~Nicolas Chamfort

In great matters, men behave as they are expected to; in little ones, as they would naturally

~Nicolas Chamfort

Be my brother or I will kill you.

~Nicolas Chamfort

We justly consider women to be weaker than ourselves, and yet we are governed by them.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Real worth requires no interpreter: its everyday deeds form its emblem.

~Nicolas Chamfort

The person is always happy who is in the presence of something they cannot know in full. A person as advanced far in the study of morals who has mastered the difference between pride and vanity.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Whoever is not a misanthrope at forty can never have loved mankind.

~Nicolas Chamfort

The great always sell their society to the vanity of the little.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Men of reason have endured; men of passion have lived.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Love is the exchange of two fantasies and the contact of two skins.

~Nicolas Chamfort

There are more fools than wise men, and even in a wise man there is

more folly than wisdom.

~Nicolas Chamfort

It is when their age of passions is past that great men produce their masterpieces, just as it is after volcanic eruptions that the soil is most fertile.

~Nicolas Chamfort

A man without nobility cannot have kindness; he can only have good nature.

~Nicolas Chamfort

To enjoy and give enjoyment, without injury to yourself or others; this is true morality.

~Nicolas Chamfort

A man is not necessarily intelligent because he has plenty of ideas, any more than he is a good general because he has plenty of soldiers.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Where violence reigns, reason is weak.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Remorse turns us against ourselves.

~Nicolas Chamfort

How many fools does it take to make up a public?

~Nicolas Chamfort

Man reaches each stage of his life as a novice.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Women bestow on friendship only what they borrow from love.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Public opinion reigns in society because stupidity reigns amongst the stupid.

~Nicolas Chamfort

There is as much expression in the feet as in the hands.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Egotism is the tongue of vanity.

~Nicolas Chamfort

One must not hope to be more than one can be.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Conviction is the conscience of intellect.

~Nicolas Chamfort

A fool who has a flash of wit creates astonishment and scandal, like hack-horses setting out to gallop.

~Nicolas Chamfort

She commands who is blest with indifference.

~Nicolas Chamfort

Success makes success, like money makes money.

~Nicolas Chamfort

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