

# Oliver Goldsmith

## Quotes

*Men, Country, Life, Mind, Children, May, Science, World, Love, Thinking, Lying,  
Home, Book, Art, Heart, Philosophy, Hope, Inspirational, Sweet, Friendship*

Blame where you must, be candid where you can, And be each critic the Good-natured Man.

~Oliver Goldsmith

To make a fine gentleman, several trades are required, but chiefly a barber.

~Oliver Goldsmith

One writer, for instance, excels at a plan or a title page, another works away at the body of the book, and a third is a dab at an index.

~Oliver Goldsmith

People seldom improve when they have no other model but themselves to copy.

~Oliver Goldsmith

I love everything that's old, - old friends, old times, old manners, old books, old wine.

~Oliver Goldsmith

A man who leaves home to mend himself and others is a philosopher; but he who goes from country to country, guided by the blind impulse of curiosity, is a vagabond.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Ridicule has always been the enemy of enthusiasm, and the only worthy opponent to ridicule is success.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Ceremonies are different in every country, but true politeness is everywhere the same.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Life is a journey that must be traveled no matter how bad the roads and

accommodations.

~Oliver Goldsmith

As for murmurs, mother, we grumble a little now and then, to be sure; but there's no love lost between us.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Success consists of getting up just one more time than you fall.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Don't let us make imaginary evils, when you know we have so many real ones to encounter.

~Oliver Goldsmith

You can preach a better sermon with your life than with your lips.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Ask me no questions, and I'll tell you no lies.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Wealth accumulates, and men decay.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Little things are great to little men.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Tenderness is a virtue.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Error is always talkative.

~Oliver Goldsmith

The ingratitude of the world can never deprive us of the conscious happiness of having acted with humanity ourselves.

~Oliver Goldsmith

The fortunate circumstances of our lives are generally found, at last, to be of our own producing.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Hope is such a bait, it covers any hook.

~Oliver Goldsmith

In all the silent manliness of grief.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Sweet Auburn, loveliest village of the plain.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Villainy, when detected, never gives up, but boldly adds impudence to imposture.

~Oliver Goldsmith

If you were to make little fishes talk, they would talk like whales.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Such dainties to them, their health it might hurt; It 's like sending them ruffles when wanting a shirt.

~Oliver Goldsmith

The ambitious are forever followed by adulation for they receive the most pleasure from flattery.

~Oliver Goldsmith

The true use of speech is not so much to express our wants as to conceal them.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Hope, like the gleaming taper's light, Adorns and cheers our way; And still, as darker grows the night, Emits a brighter ray.

~Oliver Goldsmith

The pregnant quarry teem'd with human form.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Of praise a mere glutton, he swallow'd what came, And the puff a dunce, he mistook it for fame; Till his relish grown callous, almost to displeasure, Who pepper'd the highest was surest to please.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Elegy on the Death of a Mad Dog  
And in that town a dog was found, As many dogs there be, Both mongrel, puppy, whelp, and hound, And curs of low degree.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Silence is become his mother tongue.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Aromatic plants bestow no spicy fragrance while they grow; but crush'd or trodden to the ground, diffuse their balmy sweets around.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Silence gives consent.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Friendship is made up of esteem and pleasure; pity is composed of sorrow and contempt: the mind may for some time fluctuate between them, but it can never entertain both at once.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Every absurdity has a champion to defend it.

~Oliver Goldsmith

The first time I read an excellent book, it is to me just as if I had gained a new friend. When I read a book over I have perused before, it resembles the meeting with an old one.

~Oliver Goldsmith

People seek within a short span of life to satisfy a thousand desires, each of which is insatiable.

~Oliver Goldsmith

I was ever of the opinion, that the honest man who married and brought up a large family, did more service than he who continued single, and only talked of population.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Let schoolmasters puzzle their brain, With grammar, and nonsense, and learning, Good liquor, I stoutly maintain, Gives genius a better discerning.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Laws grind the poor, and rich men rule the law.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Those who think must govern those that toil.

~Oliver Goldsmith

A traveler of taste will notice that the wise are polite all over the world, but the fool only at home.

~Oliver Goldsmith

The mind is ever ingenious in making its own distress.

~Oliver Goldsmith

The man recovered of the bite, The dog it was that died.

~Oliver Goldsmith

If one wishes to become rich they must appear rich.

~Oliver Goldsmith

What if in Scotland's wilds we vie'd our head, Where tempests whistle round the sordid bed; Where the rug's two-fold use we might display, By night a blanket, and a plaid by day.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Nobody with me at sea but myself.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey, Where wealth accumulates, and men decay.

~Oliver Goldsmith

An Englishman fears contempt more than death.

~Oliver Goldsmith

A great source of calamity lies in regret and anticipation; therefore a person is wise who thinks of the present alone, regardless of the past or future.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Aspiring beggary is wretchedness itself.

~Oliver Goldsmith

A night-cap deck'd his brows instead of bay,- A cap by night, a stocking all the day.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Our chief comforts often produce our greatest anxieties, and the increase in our possessions is but an inlet to new disquietudes.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Let observation with observant view, Observe mankind from China to Peru.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Age, that lessens the enjoyment of life, increases our desire of living

~Oliver Goldsmith

Pride in their port, defiance in their eye, I see the lords of humankind pass by.

~Oliver Goldsmith

When lovely woman stoops to folly, and finds too late that men betray,  
what charm can soothe her melancholy, what art can wash her guilt  
away?

~Oliver Goldsmith

Man seems the only growth that dwindles here.

~Oliver Goldsmith

To what fortuitous occurrence do we not owe every pleasure and  
convenience of our lives.

~Oliver Goldsmith

O Luxury! thou curst by Heaven's decree!

~Oliver Goldsmith

The nakedness of the indigent world may be clothed from the trimmings  
of the vain.

~Oliver Goldsmith

He who fights and runs away May live to fight another day.

~Oliver Goldsmith

On the stage he was natural, simple, affecting, 'Twas only when he was



off, he was acting.

~Oliver Goldsmith

I hate the French because they are all slaves and wear wooden shoes.

~Oliver Goldsmith

I have known a German Prince with more titles than subjects, and a Spanish nobleman with more names than shirts.

~Oliver Goldsmith

The best way to make your audience laugh is to start laughing yourself.

~Oliver Goldsmith

The English laws punish vice; the Chinese laws do more, they reward virtue.

~Oliver Goldsmith

A modest woman, dressed out in all her finery, is the most tremendous object of the whole creation.

~Oliver Goldsmith

The company of fools may first make us smile, but in the end we always feel melancholy.

~Oliver Goldsmith

One man is born with a silver spoon in his mouth, and the other with a wooden ladle.

~Oliver Goldsmith

We are all sure of two things, at least; we shall suffer and we shall all die.

~Oliver Goldsmith

I chose my wife, as she did her wedding gown, for qualities that would wear well.

~Oliver Goldsmith

I learn several great truths; as that it is impossible to see into the ways of futurity, that punishment always attends the villain, that love is the fond soother of the human breast.

~Oliver Goldsmith

The bounds of a man's knowledge are easily concealed, if he has but prudence.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Careless their merits or their faults to scan, His pity gave ere charity began. Thus to relieve the wretched was his pride, And even his failings lean'd to Virtue's side.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Modesty seldom resides in a breast that is not enriched with nobler virtues.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Where wealth and freedom reign contentment fails, And honour sinks where commerce long prevails.

~Oliver Goldsmith

The hours we pass with happy prospects in view are more pleasing than those crowded with fruition.

~Oliver Goldsmith

The loud laugh that spoke the vacant mind.

~Oliver Goldsmith

The world is like a vast sea: mankind like a vessel sailing on its

tempestuous bosom. ... [T]he sciences serve us for oars.

~Oliver Goldsmith

True wisdom consists of tracing effects to their causes.

~Oliver Goldsmith

There are some faults so nearly allied to excellence that we can scarce weed out the vice without eradicating the virtue.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Politeness is the result of good sense and good nature.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Fortune is ever seen accompanying industry.

~Oliver Goldsmith

We seldom speak of the virtue which we have, but much oftener of that which we lack.

~Oliver Goldsmith

An emperor in his nightcap will not meet with half the respect of an emperor with a crown.

~Oliver Goldsmith

For praise too dearly lov'd, or warmly sought, Enfeebles all internal strength of thought; And the weak soul within itself unblest, Leans for all pleasure on another's breast.

~Oliver Goldsmith

As writers become more numerous, it is natural for readers to become more indolent; whence must necessarily arise a desire of attaining knowledge with the greatest possible ease.

~Oliver Goldsmith

I have found by experience that they who have spent all their lives in cities contract not only an effeminacy of habit, but of thinking.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Hope, like the gleaming taper

~Oliver Goldsmith

Unequal combinations are always disadvantageous to the weaker side.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Conscience is a coward, and those faults it has not strength enough to prevent it seldom has justice enough to accuse.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Our Garrick 's a salad; for in him we see Oil, vinegar, sugar, and saltness agree!

~Oliver Goldsmith

Persecution is a tribute the great must always pay for preeminence.

~Oliver Goldsmith

When a person has no need to borrow they find multitudes willing to lend.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Where wealth accumulates, men decay.

~Oliver Goldsmith

Our bounty, like a drop of water, disappears, when diffus'd too widely

~Oliver Goldsmith

Be not affronted at a joke. If one throw salt at thee, thou wilt receive no harm, unless thou art raw.

~Oliver Goldsmith

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