

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Quotes

Men, Life, Ideas, Thinking, Law, Lying, Real, Mean, Moving, Funny, Heart, People, Destiny, Powerful, Inspirational, Science, Believe, World, Death, Long

A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Success. Is not the position where you are standing, but which direction you are going.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

This is a court of law, not a court of justice.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

My right to swing my fist ends where your nose begins.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

I like to pay taxes. With them, I buy civilization.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Three generations of imbeciles are enough.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

The life of the law has not been logic; it has been experience.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Certitude is not the test of certainty.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

People talk fundamentals and superlatives and then make some changes of detail.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Fame is the scentless sunflower, with gaudy crown of gold; But friendship is the rose, with sweets in every fold.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

The character of every act depends upon the circumstances in which it is done.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

If you can eat sawdust without butter, you can be a success in the law.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Reason means truth and those who are not governed by it take the chance that someday the sunken fact will rip the bottom out of their boat.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Reason may be the lever, but sentiment gives you the fulcrum and the place to stand on if you want to move the world.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

The most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man in falsely shouting fire in a theater and causing a panic.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Pretty much all the honest truth-telling there is in the world is done by children.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

A river is more than an amenity, it is a treasure.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

For my part I think it is a less evil that some criminals should escape, than that the government should play an ignoble part.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

There is a little plant called reverence in the corner of my soul's garden, which I love to have watered once a week.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

The man of action has the present, but the thinker controls the future.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

There was never an idea started that woke up men out of their stupid indifference but its originator was spoken of as a crank.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

The root of joy, as of duty, is to put all one's powers towards some great end.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Liberty is often a heavy burden on a man. It involves the necessity for perpetual choice which is the kind of labor men have always dreaded.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Even a dog distinguishes between being stumbled over and being kicked.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Through our great good fortune, in our youth our hearts were touched with fire. It was given to us to learn at the outset that life is a profound and passionate thing.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

I think it not improbable that man, like the grub that prepares a chamber for the winged thing it never has seen but is to be - that man may have cosmic destinies that he does not understand.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

No generalization is wholly trueâ€”not even this one.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Old age is fifteen years older than I am.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

While we've youth in our hearts, we can never grow old.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

The mode by which the inevitable comes to pass is effort.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Life is painting a picture, not doing a sum.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Man has will, but woman has her way.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

There is no time like the old time, when you and I were young!

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Apologizing - a very desperate habit - one that is rarely cured. Apology is only egotism wrong side out.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Eloquence may set fire to reason.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Taxes are the price we pay for a civilized society.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

The greatest act of faith is when a man understands he is not God.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

If you don't know what you want, you will probably never get it.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

History has to be rewritten because history is the selection of those threads of causes or antecedents that we are interested in.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

It takes me several days, after I get back to Boston, to realize that the reference "the president" refers to the president of Harvard and not to a minor official in Washington.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

We should be eternally vigilant against attempts to check the expression of opinions that we loathe.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

The world is always ready to receive talent with open arms. Very often it does not know what to do with genius.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Be willing to commit yourself to a course, perhaps a long and hard one, without being able to foresee exactly where you will come out.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Leisure only means a chance to do other jobs that demand attention.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Every calling is great when greatly pursued.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Even for practical purposes theory generally turns out the most important thing in the end.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

To be master of any branch of knowledge, you must master those which lie next to it, and thus to know anything you must know all.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

To brag little, to lose well, / To crow gently if in luck, / To pay up, to own up, / To shut up if beaten, / Are the virtues of a sportingman.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Longevity is having a chronic disease - and taking care of it.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

A word is not a crystal, transparent and unchanged; it is the skin of a living thought and may vary greatly in color and content according to the circumstances and time in which it is used.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Detached reflection cannot be demanded in the presence of an uplifted knife.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

To have doubted one's own first principles is the mark of a civilized man.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

If I were dying, my last words would be: Have faith and pursue the unknown end.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Life is an end in itself, and the only question as to whether it is worth living is whether you have had enough of it.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

A man's opinions are generally of much more value than his arguments.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

The minute a phrase, becomes current, it becomes an apology for not thinking accurately to the end of the sentence.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

We are all tattooed in our cradles with the beliefs of our tribe; the record may seem superficial, but it is indelible.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

The best of a book is not the thought which it contains, but the thought which it suggests; just as the charm of music dwells not in the tones but in the echoes of our hearts.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

The only prize much cared for by the powerful is power. The prize of the general is not a bigger tent, but command.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Old age is like an opium dream. Nothing seems real except the unreal.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

The mark of a civilized man is his willingness to re-examine his most cherished beliefs.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Lord, bid war's trumpet cease; Fold the whole earth in peace.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

The advice of the elders to young men is very apt to be as unreal as a list of the hundred best books.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

I have always sought to guide the future-but it is very lonely sometimes trying to play God.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Under bad manners, as under graver faults, lies very commonly an overestimate of our special individuality, as distinguished from our generic humanity.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

For him in vain the envious seasons roll
Who bears eternal summer in
his soul.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Beware of making your moral staple consist of the negative virtues.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

You make me chuckle when you say that you are no longer young, that you have turned twenty-four. A man is or may be young to after sixty, and not old before eighty.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

We have been cocksure of many things that were not so.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Lawyers spend their professional careers shoveling smoke.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Between two groups of people who want to make inconsistent kinds of worlds, I see no remedy but force.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Where we stand is not as important as the direction in which we are moving.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Pretty much all law consists in forbidding men to do something that they want to do.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

I despise making the most of one's time. Half of the pleasures of life consist of the opportunities one has neglected.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

A new and valid idea is worth more than a regiment and fewer men can furnish the former than command the latter.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

On the whole, I am on the side of the unregenerate who affirms the worth of life as an end in itself, as against the saints who deny it.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

As for the excellent little wretches who grow up in what they are taught, with never a scruple or a query, ... they signify nothing in the intellectual life of the race.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Young feller, you will never appreciate the potentialities of the English language until you have heard a Southern mule driver search the soul of a mule.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

From forty to fifty a man must move upward, or the natural falling off in the vigor of life will carry him rapidly downward.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Even the wisest woman you talk to is ignorant of something you may know, but an elegant woman never forgets her elegance.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Carve every word before you let it fall.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

General propositions do not decide concrete cases. The decision will depend on a judgment or intuition more subtle than any articulate major premise.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

We expect more of ourselves than we have any right to.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

The nearer you come into relation with a person, the more necessary do tact and courtesy become.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

It seems to me that at this time we need education in the obvious more than investigation of the obscure.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Young men know the rules, but old men know the exceptions.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

To be civilized is to be potentially master of all possible ideas, and that means that one has got beyond being shocked, although one preserves one's own moral aesthetic preferences.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Taxes are what we pay for civilized society

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

The law is the witness and external deposit of our moral life. Its history is the history of the moral development of the race.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Many ideas grow better when transplanted into another mind than in the one where they sprung up.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

If I had a formula for bypassing trouble, I would not pass it around. Trouble creates a capacity to handle it.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Whatever disagreement there may be as to the scope of the phrase "due process of law" there can be no doubt that it embraces the fundamental conception of a fair trial, with opportunity to be heard.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

But the moment you turn a corner you see another straight stretch ahead and there comes some further challenge to your ambition.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Fate tried to conceal him by naming him Smith.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Young man, the secret of my success is that an early age I discovered that I was not God.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

The great end of being is to harmonize man with the order of things, and the church has been a good pitch-pipe, and may be so still.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

There are many things which we can afford to forget which it is yet well to learn.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Science ... in other words, knowledge-is not the enemy of religion; for, if so, then religion would mean ignorance. But it is often the antagonist of school-divinity.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

The worst of a modern stylish mansion is that it has no place for ghosts.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Most of the things we do, we do for no better reason than that our

fathers have done them or our neighbors do them, and the same is true of a larger part than what we suspect of what we think.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Related Links:

- Men Quotes
- Life Quotes
- Ideas Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- Law Quotes
- Lying Quotes
- Real Quotes
- Mean Quotes
- Moving Quotes
- Funny Quotes
- Heart Quotes
- People Quotes
- Destiny Quotes
- Powerful Quotes
- Inspirational Quotes
- Science Quotes
- Believe Quotes
- World Quotes
- Death Quotes
- Long Quotes