

Richard Whately

Quotes

*Men, May, Truth, Character, Mind, Use, Children, Should, Evil, Book, Manners,
Wish, Wise, Sides, Reading, Past, Curiosity, Long, Vices, Ignorance*

To know your ruling passion, examine your castles in the air.

~Richard Whately

A man is called selfish not for pursuing his own good, but for neglecting his neighbor's.

~Richard Whately

Curiosity is as much the parent of attention, as attention is of memory.

~Richard Whately

It is the neglect of timely repair that makes rebuilding necessary.

~Richard Whately

Lose an hour in the morning, and you will spend all day looking for it.

~Richard Whately

To follow imperfect, uncertain, or corrupted traditions, in order to avoid erring in our own judgment, is but to exchange one danger for another.

~Richard Whately

Manners are one of the greatest engines of influence ever given to man.

~Richard Whately

To teach one who has no curiosity to learn, is to sow a field without ploughing it.

~Richard Whately

Never argue at the dinner table, for the one who is not hungry gets the best of the argument.

~Richard Whately

All frauds, like the wall daubed with untempered mortar ... always tend to the decay of what they are devised to support.

~Richard Whately

A fanatic, either, religious or political, is the subject of strong delusions.

~Richard Whately

As one may bring himself to believe almost anything he is inclined to believe, it makes all the difference whether we begin or end with the inquiry, 'What is truth?'

~Richard Whately

A man who gives his children habits of industry provides for them better than by giving them fortune.

~Richard Whately

It is generally true that all that is required to make men unmindful of what they owe to God for any blessing, is, that they should receive that blessing often and regularly.

~Richard Whately

He who is not aware of his ignorance will be only misled by his knowledge.

~Richard Whately

In our judgment of human transactions, the law of optics is reversed, we see most dimly the objects which are close around us.

~Richard Whately

Neither human applause nor human censure is to be taken as the best of truth; but either should set us upon testing ourselves.

~Richard Whately

The tendency of party spirit has ever been to disguise and propagate and support error.

~Richard Whately

Though not always called upon to condemn ourselves, it is always safe to suspect ourselves.

~Richard Whately

To be always thinking about your manners is not the way to make them good; the very perfection of manners is not to think about yourself.

~Richard Whately

Men are like sheep, of which a flock is more easily driven than a single one.

~Richard Whately

He only is exempt from failures who makes no efforts.

~Richard Whately

Persecution is not wrong because it is cruel; but it is cruel because it is wrong.

~Richard Whately

Honesty is the best policy; but he who is governed by that maxim is not an honest man.

~Richard Whately

Habits are formed, not at one stroke, but gradually and insensibly; so that, unless vigilant care be employed, a great change may come over the character without our being conscious of any.

~Richard Whately

It is folly to expect men to do all that they may reasonably be expected to do.

~Richard Whately

The happiest lot for a man, as far as birth is concerned, is that it should be such as to give him but little occasion to think much about it.

~Richard Whately

Party spirit enlists a man's virtues in the cause of his vices.

~Richard Whately

That is suitable to a man, in point of ornamental expense, not which he can afford to have, but which he can afford to lose.

~Richard Whately

The best security against revolution is in constant correction of abuses and the introduction of needed improvements. It is the neglect of timely repair that makes rebuilding necessary.

~Richard Whately

Controversy, though always an evil in itself, is sometimes a necessary evil.

~Richard Whately

It is a remarkable circumstance in reference to cunning persons that they are often deficient not only in comprehensive, far-sighted wisdom, but even in prudent, cautious circumspection.

~Richard Whately

Galileo probably would have escaped persecution if his discoveries could have been disproved.

~Richard Whately

Woman is like the reed which bends to every breeze, but breaks not in the tempest.

~Richard Whately

As the telescope is not a substitute for, but an aid to, our sight, so revelation is not designed to supersede the use of reason, but to supply its deficiencies.

~Richard Whately

A man will never change his mind if he have no mind to change.

~Richard Whately

Of all hostile feelings, envy is perhaps the hardest to be subdued, because hardly any one owns it even to himself, but looks out for one pretext after another to justify his hostility.

~Richard Whately

When a man says he wants to work, what he means is that he wants wages.

~Richard Whately

It is folly to shiver over last year's snow.

~Richard Whately

Misgive that you may not mistake.

~Richard Whately

He that is not open to conviction is not qualified for discussion.

~Richard Whately

Everyone wishes to have truth on his side, but not everyone wishes to be on the side of truth.

~Richard Whately

Falsehood, like poison, will generally be rejected when administered alone; but when blended with wholesome ingredients may be swallowed unperceived.

~Richard Whately

knowledge of our duties is the most useful part of philosophy.

~Richard Whately

The power of duly appreciating little things belongs to a great mind.

~Richard Whately

It is one thing to wish to have truth on our side, and another to wish sincerely to be on the side of truth.

~Richard Whately

As the flower is before the fruit, so is faith before good works.

~Richard Whately

The first requisite of style, not only in rhetoric, but in all compositions, is perspicuity.

~Richard Whately

If all our wishes were gratified, most of our pleasures would be destroyed.

~Richard Whately

Good manners are a part of good morals.

~Richard Whately

Falsehood, like the dry-rot, flourishes the more in proportion as air and light are excluded.

~Richard Whately

It is an awful, an appalling thought, that we may be, this moment and every moment, in the presence of malignant spirits.

~Richard Whately

Man is naturally more desirous of a quiet and approving, than of a vigilant and tender conscience--more desirous of security than of safety.

~Richard Whately

A certain class of novels may with propriety be called fables.

~Richard Whately

Nothing but the right can ever be expedient, since that can never be true expediency which would sacrifice a great good to a less.

~Richard Whately

Eloquence is relative. One can no more pronounce on the eloquence of any composition than the wholesomeness of a medicine, without knowing for whom it is intended.

~Richard Whately

When men have become heartily wearied of licentious anarchy, their eagerness has been proportionately great to embrace the opposite extreme of rigorous despotism.

~Richard Whately

Women never reason, or, if they do, they either draw correct inferences from wrong premises, or wrong inferences from correct premises; and they always poke the fire from the top.

~Richard Whately

Do you want to know the man against whom you have most reason to guard yourself? Your looking-glass will give you a very fair likeness of his face.

~Richard Whately

Unless people can be kept in the dark, it is best for those who love the truth to give them the full light.

~Richard Whately

All gaming, since it implies a desire to profit at the expense of another, involves a breach of the tenth commandment.

~Richard Whately

Those who relish the study of character may profit by the reading of good works of fiction, the product of well-established authors.

~Richard Whately

Even supposing there were some spiritual advantage in celibacy, it ought to be completely voluntary.

~Richard Whately

Anger requires that the offender should not only be made to grieve in his turn, but to grieve for that particular wrong which has been done by him.

~Richard Whately

The Eastern monarch who proclaimed a reward to him who should discover a new pleasure, would have deserved well of mankind had he stipulated that it should be blameless.

~Richard Whately

One way in which fools succeed where wise men fail is that through ignorance of the danger they sometimes go coolly about a hazardous business.

~Richard Whately

Great affectation and great absence of it are at first sight very similar.

~Richard Whately

Some persons follow the dictates of their conscience only in the same sense in which a coachman may be said to follow the horses he is driving.

~Richard Whately

Every instance of a man's suffering the penalty of the law is an instance of the failure of that penalty in effecting its purpose, which is to deter.

~Richard Whately

Happiness is no laughing matter.

~Richard Whately

Ethical maxims are bandied about as a sort of current coin of discourse, and, being never melted down for use, those that are of base metal are never detected.

~Richard Whately

As an exercise of the reasoning faculties, pure mathematics is an admirable exercise, because it consists of reasoning alone and does not encumber the student with any exercise of judgment.

~Richard Whately

Of metaphors, those generally conduce most to energy or vivacity of style which illustrate an intellectual by a sensible object.

~Richard Whately

The depreciation of Christianity by indifference is a more insidious and less curable evil than infidelity itself.

~Richard Whately

The word of knowledge, strictly employed, implies three things: truth, proof, and conviction.

~Richard Whately

Some men's reputation seems like seed-wheat, which thrives best when brought from a distance.

~Richard Whately

The relief that is afforded to mere want, as want, tends to increase that want.

~Richard Whately

Vices and frailties correct each other, like acids and alkalies. If each

vicious man had but one vice, I do not know how the world could go on.

~Richard Whately

There is no right faith in believing what is true, unless we believe it because it is true.

~Richard Whately

Superstition is not, as has been defined, an excess of religious feeling, but a misdirection of it, an exhausting of it on vanities of man's devising.

~Richard Whately

Better too much form than too little.

~Richard Whately

Trust, therefore, for the overcoming of a difficulty, not to long-continued study after you have once become bewildered, but to repeated trials at intervals.

~Richard Whately

We may print, but not stereotype, our opinions.

~Richard Whately

It is not that pearls fetch a high price because men have dived for them; but on the contrary, men have dived for them because they fetch a high price.

~Richard Whately

An instinct is a blind tendency to some mode of action, independent of any consideration, on the part of the agent, of the end to which the action leads.

~Richard Whately

The more secure we feel against our liability to any error to which, in fact, we are liable, the greater must be our danger of falling into it.

~Richard Whately

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