

Robert E. Lee

Quotes

*War, Men, Civil War, Country, Army, Mean, Enemy, Military, Believe, History,
Peace, Gentleman, Home, Character, Feelings, Heart, Children, Perseverance,
Doors, Prayer*

A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday does not know where it is today.

~Robert E. Lee

Mr. Blair, I look upon secession as anarchy. If I owned the four millions of slaves in the South, I would sacrifice them all to the Union; but how can I draw my sword upon Virginia, my native State?

~Robert E. Lee

There are few, I believe, in this enlightened age, who will not acknowledge that slavery as an institution is a moral and political evil.

~Robert E. Lee

A land without memories is a people without liberty.

~Robert E. Lee

Remember, we are all one country now. Dismiss from your mind all sectional feeling, and bring them up to be Americans.

~Robert E. Lee

I have always observed that wherever you find the negro, everything is going down around him, and wherever you find the white man, you see everything around him improving.

~Robert E. Lee

I believe it to be the duty of everyone to unite in the restoration of the country and the reestablishment of peace and harmony.

~Robert E. Lee

The consolidation of the states into one vast empire, sure to be aggressive abroad and despotic at home, will be the certain precursor of ruin which has overwhelmed all that preceded it.

~Robert E. Lee

So far from engaging in a war to perpetuate slavery, I am rejoiced that slavery is abolished.

~Robert E. Lee

In all my perplexities and distresses, the Bible has never failed to give me light and strength.

~Robert E. Lee

The enemy never sees the backs of my Texans!

~Robert E. Lee

Abandon your animosities and make your sons Americans!

~Robert E. Lee

I cannot trust a man to control others who cannot control himself.

~Robert E. Lee

What a cruel thing war is... to fill our hearts with hatred instead of love for our neighbors.

~Robert E. Lee

Get correct views of life, and learn to see the world in its true light. It will enable you to live pleasantly, to do good, and, when summoned away, to leave without regret.

~Robert E. Lee

The war... was an unnecessary condition of affairs, and might have been avoided if forbearance and wisdom had been practiced on both sides.

~Robert E. Lee

No day should be lived unless it was begun with a prayer of thankfulness and an intercession for guidance.

~Robert E. Lee

There is no more dangerous experiment than that of undertaking to be one thing before a man's face and another behind his back.

~Robert E. Lee

Act with a determination not to be turned aside by thoughts of the past and fears of the future.

~Robert E. Lee

The dominant party cannot reign forever, and truth and justice will prevail at last.

~Robert E. Lee

I can only say that I am nothing but a poor sinner, trusting in Christ alone for salvation.

~Robert E. Lee

All I ever wanted was a Virginia farm, no end of cream and fresh butter and fried chicken - not one fried chicken, or two, but unlimited fried chicken.

~Robert E. Lee

True patriotism sometimes requires of men to act exactly contrary, at one period, to that which it does at another, and the motive which impels them the desire to do right is precisely the same.

~Robert E. Lee

We have fought this fight as long, and as well as we know how. We have been defeated. For us as a Christian people, there is now but one course to pursue. We must accept the situation.

~Robert E. Lee

Sir, if you ever presume again to speak disrespectfully of General Grant in my presence, either you or I will sever his connection with this university.

~Robert E. Lee

A Union that can only be maintained by swords and bayonets, and in which strife and civil war are to take the place of brotherly love and kindness, has no charm for me.

~Robert E. Lee

Never do a wrong thing to make a friend or to keep one.

~Robert E. Lee

The education of a man is never completed until he dies.

~Robert E. Lee

I tremble for my country when I hear of confidence expressed in me. I know too well my weakness, that our only hope is in God.

~Robert E. Lee

What a glorious world Almighty God has given us. How thankless and ungrateful we are, and how we labor to mar his gifts.

~Robert E. Lee

Alabama soldiers, all I ask of you is to keep up with the Texans!

~Robert E. Lee

What a beautiful world God, in His loving kindness to His creatures, has given us! What a shame that men endowed with reason and knowledge of right should mar His gifts.

~Robert E. Lee

We must forgive our enemies. I can truly say that not a day has passed since the war began that I have not prayed for them.

~Robert E. Lee

Marry...into a family that will enable your children to feel proud of both

sides of the house.

~Robert E. Lee

To be a good soldier, you must love the army. To be a good commander, you must be willing to order the death of the thing you love.

~Robert E. Lee

I like whiskey. I always did, and that is why I never drink it.

~Robert E. Lee

Wisdom is nothing more than healed pain.

~Robert E. Lee

There are things in the Old Book which I may not be able to explain, but I fully accept it as the infallible Word of God, and receive its teachings as inspired by the Holy Spirit.

~Robert E. Lee

The time is not come for impartial history. If the truth were told just now, it would not be credited.

~Robert E. Lee

We have only one rule here - to act like a gentleman at all times.

~Robert E. Lee

Duty, then is the sublimest word in our language. Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more; you should never wish to do less.

~Robert E. Lee

Read history, works of truth, not novels and romances

~Robert E. Lee

I consider the proper education of our youths one of the most important

objects now to be attained and one from which the greatest benefits may be expected.

~Robert E. Lee

I was too weak to defend, so I attacked

~Robert E. Lee

There is a true glory and a true honor: the glory of duty done--the honor of the integrity of principle.

~Robert E. Lee

The real honest man is honest from conviction of what is right, not from policy.

~Robert E. Lee

You must be careful how you walk and where you go, for there are those following you who will set their feet where yours are set.

~Robert E. Lee

I did only what my duty demanded. I could have taken no other course without dishonor.

~Robert E. Lee

There is scarcely anything that is right that we cannot hope to accomplish by labor and perseverance. But the first must be earnest and the second unremitting.

~Robert E. Lee

My trust is in the mercy and wisdom of a kind Providence, who ordereth all things for our good.

~Robert E. Lee

I would rather die a thousand deaths than surrender.

~Robert E. Lee

You must study to be frank with the world: frankness is the child of honesty and courage. Say just what you mean to do on every occasion, and take it for granted that you mean to do right.

~Robert E. Lee

You cannot barter manhood for peace.

~Robert E. Lee

It is good that war is so horrible, or we might grow to like it.

~Robert E. Lee

I have been up to see the Congress and they do not seem to be able to do anything except to eat peanuts and chew tobacco, while my army is starving.

~Robert E. Lee

I think it better to do right, even if we suffer in so doing, than to incur the reproach of our consciences and posterity.

~Robert E. Lee

We failed, but in the good providence of God apparent failure often proves a blessing.

~Robert E. Lee

We must look to the rising generation for the restoration of the country.

~Robert E. Lee

Obedience to lawful authority is the foundation of manly character.

~Robert E. Lee

The biggest mistake of my life was taking a military education.

~Robert E. Lee

I am now considered such a monster, that I hesitate to darken with my

shadow, the doors of those I love, lest I should bring upon them misfortune.

~Robert E. Lee

We have but one rule here, and that is that every student must be a gentleman.

~Robert E. Lee

You have only always to do what is right. It will become easier by practice, and you enjoy in the midst of your trials the pleasure of an approving conscience.

~Robert E. Lee

Traveler is my only companion; I may also say my pleasure. He and I, whenever practicable, wander out in the mountains and enjoy sweet confidence.

~Robert E. Lee

A true man of honor feels humbled himself when he cannot help humbling others.

~Robert E. Lee

It is history that teaches us to hope.

~Robert E. Lee

Respect is based on Friendship, and friendship is based on love and love is so accidental isn't it ?

~Robert E. Lee

Go home all you boys who fought with me and help build up the shattered fortunes of our old state

~Robert E. Lee

But what a cruel thing is war to separate and destroy families and

friends.

~Robert E. Lee

Live in the world you inhabit. Look upon things as they are. Take them as you find them. Make the best of them. Turn them to your advantage.

~Robert E. Lee

You cannot be a true man until you learn to obey.

~Robert E. Lee

It is well that war is so terrible. We should grow too fond of it.

~Robert E. Lee

I pray that on this day [Christmas] when only peace and good-will are preached to mankind, better thoughts may fill the hearts of our enemies and turn them to peace.

~Robert E. Lee

We must...submit ourselves in adversity to the will of a merciful God as cheerfully as in prosperity.

~Robert E. Lee

The enemy is here, and if we do not whip him, he will whip us.

~Robert E. Lee

He has lost his left arm, but I my right.

~Robert E. Lee

My chief concern is to try to be an humble, earnest Christian.

~Robert E. Lee

As a general principle you should not force young men to do their duty, but let them do it voluntarily and thereby develop their characters.

~Robert E. Lee

Say what you mean to do...and take it for granted you mean to do right. Never do a wrong thing to make a friend or keep one...you will wrong him and wrong yourself by equivocation of any kind.

~Robert E. Lee

We must expect reverses, even defeats. They are sent to teach us wisdom and prudence, to call forth greater energies, and to prevent our falling into greater disasters.

~Robert E. Lee

You see what a poor sinner I am, and how unworthy to possess what was given me; for that reason it has been taken away.

~Robert E. Lee

We must forgive our enemies.

~Robert E. Lee

Death, in its silent sure march is fast gathering those whom I have longest loved, so that when he shall knock at my door, I will more willingly follow.

~Robert E. Lee

Ideas are easy to conceive, less easy to execute.

~Robert E. Lee

My heart bleeds at the death of every one of our gallant men.

~Robert E. Lee

Let us go home and cultivate our virtues.

~Robert E. Lee

I believe I may so, looking into my own heart, and speaking as in the presence of God, that I have never know one moment of bitterness or resentment.

~Robert E. Lee

I should NOT be trading on the blood of my men.

~Robert E. Lee

I am as willing to serve now as in the beginning in any capacity and at any post where I can do good. The lower the position, the more suitable to my ability and the more agreeable to my feelings.

~Robert E. Lee

Lee tells his troops. After four years of arduous service marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources.

~Robert E. Lee

Any victory would be dear at such a price.

~Robert E. Lee

History teaches us hope.

~Robert E. Lee

Let danger never turn you aside from the pursuit of honor or the service to your country ... Know that death is inevitable and the fame of virtue is immortal

~Robert E. Lee

It is easier to make our wishes conform to our means than to make our means conform to our wishes.

~Robert E. Lee

All this has been my fault.

~Robert E. Lee

For I consider the character of no man affected by a want of success,

provided he has made an honest effort to succeed.

~Robert E. Lee

A man may manifest and communicate his joy, but he should conceal and smother his grief as much as possible.

~Robert E. Lee

The devil's name is dullness.

~Robert E. Lee

I have never witnessed on any previous occasion such entire disregard of the usage of civilized warfare and the dictates of humanity.

~Robert E. Lee

We cannot afford to be idle, and though weaker than our opponents in men and military equipments, must endeavor to harass, if we cannot destroy them.

~Robert E. Lee

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