

Samuel Butler

Quotes

*Men, Life, People, Science, Funny, Death, Inspirational, Art, Love, Dying, Lying,
Children, Religion, Money, Writing, Animal, Thinking, Truth, History, Vices*

Life is like playing a violin solo in public and learning the instrument as one goes on.

~Samuel Butler

Human life is as evanescent as the morning dew or a flash of lightning.

~Samuel Butler

If I die prematurely at any rate I shall be saved from being bored to death by my own success.

~Samuel Butler

Life is like music; it must be composed by ear, feeling, and instinct, not by rule.

~Samuel Butler

Creativity is so delicate a flower that praise tends to make it bloom, while discouragement often nips it in the bud.

~Samuel Butler

Don't learn to do, but learn in doing.

~Samuel Butler

People care more about being thought to have taste than about being thought either good, clever or amiable.

~Samuel Butler

Fear is static that prevents me from hearing myself.

~Samuel Butler

The great pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself too.

~Samuel Butler

Let us be grateful to the mirror for revealing to us our appearance only.

~Samuel Butler

Those who have never had a father can at any rate never know the sweets of losing one. To most men the death of his father is a new lease of life.

~Samuel Butler

The truest characters of ignorance are vanity and pride and arrogance.

~Samuel Butler

Man is the only animal that can remain on friendly terms with the victims he intends to eat until he eats them.

~Samuel Butler

People are lucky and unlucky not according to what they get absolutely, but according to the ratio between what they get and what they have been led to expect.

~Samuel Butler

Friendship is like money, easier made than kept.

~Samuel Butler

Books are like imprisoned souls till someone takes them down from a shelf and frees them.

~Samuel Butler

He dons are too busy educating the young men to be able to teach them anything.

~Samuel Butler

To live is like to love - all reason is against it, and all healthy instinct for it.

~Samuel Butler

All animals, except man, know that the principal business of life is to enjoy it.

~Samuel Butler

The one serious conviction that a man should have is that nothing is to be taken too seriously.

~Samuel Butler

The three most important things a man has are, briefly, his private parts, his money, and his religious opinions.

~Samuel Butler

Theist and atheist: the fight between them is as to whether God shall be called God or shall have some other name.

~Samuel Butler

Life is one long process of getting tired.

~Samuel Butler

The best liar is he who makes the smallest amount of lying go the longest way.

~Samuel Butler

Christ and The Church: If he were to apply for a divorce on the grounds of cruelty, adultery and desertion, he would probably get one.

~Samuel Butler

Spare the rod and spoil the child.

~Samuel Butler

A virtue to be serviceable must, like gold, be alloyed with some commoner, but more durable alloy.

~Samuel Butler

Every man's work, whether it be literature, or music or pictures or architecture or anything else, is always a portrait of himself.

~Samuel Butler

The dons of Oxford and Cambridge are too busy educating the young men to be able to teach them anything.

~Samuel Butler

Some men love truth so much that they seem to be in continual fear lest she should catch a cold on overexposure.

~Samuel Butler

A man's friendships are, like his will, invalidated by marriage - but they are also no less invalidated by the marriage of his friends.

~Samuel Butler

A hen is only an egg's way of making another egg.

~Samuel Butler

If the headache would only precede the intoxication, alcoholism would be a virtue.

~Samuel Butler

Our minds want clothes as much as our bodies.

~Samuel Butler

Parents are the last people on earth who ought to have children.

~Samuel Butler

A friend who cannot at a pinch remember a thing or two that never happened is as bad as one who does not know how to forget.

~Samuel Butler

Lying has a kind of respect and reverence with it. We pay a person the

compliment of acknowledging his superiority whenever we lie to him.

~Samuel Butler

You can do very little with faith, but you can do nothing without it.

~Samuel Butler

I do not mind lying, but I hate inaccuracy.

~Samuel Butler

A physician's physiology has much the same relation to his power of healing as a cleric's divinity has to his power of influencing conduct.

~Samuel Butler

People in general are equally horrified at hearing the Christian religion doubted, and at seeing it practiced.

~Samuel Butler

We are not won by arguments that we can analyse but by tone and temper, by the manner which is the man himself.

~Samuel Butler

From a worldly point of view, there is no mistake so great as that of being always right.

~Samuel Butler

Self-preservation is the first law of nature.

~Samuel Butler

God as now generally conceived of is only the last witch.

~Samuel Butler

Logic is like the sword - those who appeal to it, shall perish by it.

~Samuel Butler

Men are seldom more commonplace than on supreme occasions.

~Samuel Butler

Words are not as satisfactory as we should like them to be, but, like our neighbours, we have got to live with them and must make the best and not the worst of them.

~Samuel Butler

All philosophies, if you ride them home, are nonsense, but some are greater nonsense than others.

~Samuel Butler

The seven deadly sins: Want of money, bad health, bad temper, chastity, family ties, knowing that you know things, and believing in the Christian religion.

~Samuel Butler

To himself everyone is immortal; he may know that he is going to die, but he can never know that he is dead.

~Samuel Butler

Oaths are but words, and words are but wind.

~Samuel Butler

An apology for the devil: it must be remembered that we have heard one side of the case. God has written all the books.

~Samuel Butler

Belief like any other moving body follows the path of least resistance.

~Samuel Butler

All progress is based upon a universal innate desire on the part of every organism to live beyond its income.

~Samuel Butler

Life is the art of drawing sufficient conclusions from insufficient premises.

~Samuel Butler

Life is a quarry, out of which we are to mold and chisel and complete a character.

~Samuel Butler

[P]oetry resembles metaphysics: one does not mind one's own, but one does not like anyone else's.

~Samuel Butler

It is tact that is golden, not silence.

~Samuel Butler

In law, nothing is certain but the expense.

~Samuel Butler

Any fool can paint a picture, but it takes a wise man to be able to sell it.

~Samuel Butler

The history of the world is the record of the weakness, frailty and death of public opinion.

~Samuel Butler

Man is the only animal that laughs and has a state legislature.

~Samuel Butler

If you follow reason far enough it always leads to conclusions that are contrary to reason.

~Samuel Butler

The healthy stomach is nothing if it is not conservative. Few radicals have good digestions.

~Samuel Butler

The man who lets himself be bored is even more contemptible than the bore.

~Samuel Butler

It has been said that the love of money is the root of all evil. The want of money is so quite as truly.

~Samuel Butler

Academic and aristocratic people live in such an uncommon atmosphere that common sense can rarely reach them.

~Samuel Butler

He that complies against his will, Is of his own opinion still.

~Samuel Butler

God cannot alter the past, though historians can.

~Samuel Butler

Brigands demand your money or your life; women require both.

~Samuel Butler

No mistake is more common and more fatuous than appealing to logic in cases which are beyond her jurisdiction.

~Samuel Butler

Neither have they hearts to stay, nor wit enough to run away.

~Samuel Butler

There is no bore like a clever bore.

~Samuel Butler

Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers we more

than gain in fruits.

~Samuel Butler

The function of vice is to keep virtue within reasonable bounds.

~Samuel Butler

The most important service rendered by the press and the magazines is that of educating people to approach printed matter with distrust.

~Samuel Butler

To give pain is the tyranny; to make happy, the true empire of beauty.

~Samuel Butler

It is our less conscious thoughts and our less conscious actions which mainly mould our lives and the lives of those who spring from us.

~Samuel Butler

We all like to forgive, and love best not those who offend us least, nor who have done most for us, but those who make it most easy for us to forgive them.

~Samuel Butler

Most people have never learned that one of the main aims in life is to enjoy it.

~Samuel Butler

It is not he who gains the exact point in dispute who scores most in controversy - but he who has shown the better temper.

~Samuel Butler

God was satisfied with his own work, and that is fatal.

~Samuel Butler

Youth is like spring, an over praised season more remarkable for biting

winds than genial breezes. Autumn is the mellow season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits.

~Samuel Butler

For truth is precious and divine, too rich a pearl for carnal swine.

~Samuel Butler

Evil is like water, it abounds, is cheap, soon fouls, but runs itself clear of taint.

~Samuel Butler

Books want to be born: I never make them. They come to me and insist on being written, and on being such and such.

~Samuel Butler

Neither irony or sarcasm is argument.

~Samuel Butler

The only living works are those which have drained much of the author's own life into them.

~Samuel Butler

The advantage of doing one's praising for oneself is that one can lay it on so thick and exactly in the right places.

~Samuel Butler

There is nothing which at once affects a man so much and so little as his own death.

~Samuel Butler

Let man be true and every god a liar.

~Samuel Butler

God and the Devil are an effort after specialisation and division of

labour.

~Samuel Butler

Is life worth living? This is a question for an embryo not for a man.

~Samuel Butler

And so there is no God but has been in the loins of past gods.

~Samuel Butler

The course of true anything never does run smooth.

~Samuel Butler

A definition is the enclosing a wilderness of idea within a wall of words.

~Samuel Butler

A man should be just cultured enough to be able to look with suspicion upon culture at first, not second hand.

~Samuel Butler

I really do not see much use in exalting the humble and meek; they do not remain humble and meek long when they are exalted.

~Samuel Butler

If people would dare to speak to one another unreservedly, there would be a good deal less sorrow in the world a hundred years hence.

~Samuel Butler

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