

Samuel Smiles Quotes

*Men, Character, Inspirational, Self, Success, Life, Children, Heart, Running,
Wisdom, School, Done, Perseverance, Women, Country, Art, Giving, Example,
World, Effort*

Lost wealth may be replaced by industry, lost knowledge by study, lost health by temperance or medicine, but lost time is gone forever.

~Samuel Smiles

Hope is like the sun, which, as we journey toward it, casts the shadow of our burden behind us.

~Samuel Smiles

The best school of discipline is home. Family life is God's own method of training the young, and homes are very much as women make them.

~Samuel Smiles

Hope... is the companion of power, and the mother of success; for who so hopes has within him the gift of miracles.

~Samuel Smiles

Where there is a will there is a way.

~Samuel Smiles

National progress is the sum of individual industry, energy, and uprightness, as national decay is of individual idleness, selfishness, and vice.

~Samuel Smiles

The great high-road of human welfare lies along the old highway of steadfast well-doing; and they who are the most persistent, and work in the truest spirit, will invariably be the most successful.

~Samuel Smiles

Life will always be to a large extent what we ourselves make it.

~Samuel Smiles

It is a mistake to suppose that men succeed through success; they

much oftener succeed through failures. Precept, study, advice, and example could never have taught them so well as failure has done.

~Samuel Smiles

No laws, however stringent, can make the idle industrious, the thriftless provident, or the drunken sober.

~Samuel Smiles

The very greatest things - great thoughts, discoveries, inventions - have usually been nurtured in hardship, often pondered over in sorrow, and at length established with difficulty.

~Samuel Smiles

Self-respect is the noblest garment with which a man can clothe himself, the most elevating feeling with which the mind can be inspired.

~Samuel Smiles

The reason why so little is done, is generally because so little is attempted.

~Samuel Smiles

Good character is property. It is the noblest of all possessions.

~Samuel Smiles

Progress however, of the best kind, is comparatively slow. Great results cannot be achieved at once; and we must be satisfied to advance in life as we walk, step by step.

~Samuel Smiles

Obedience, submission, discipline, courage--these are among the characteristics which make a man.

~Samuel Smiles

Character is itself a fortune.

~Samuel Smiles

Marriage like government is a series of compromises. One must give and take, repair and restrain, endure and be patient.

~Samuel Smiles

Childhood is like a mirror, which reflects in after life the images first presented to it.

~Samuel Smiles

Luck lies in bed, and wishes the postman would bring him news of a legacy; labor turns out at six, and with busy pen or ringing hammer lays the foundation of a competence.

~Samuel Smiles

Purposes, like eggs, unless they be hatched into action, will run into rottenness.

~Samuel Smiles

Luck whines; labor whistles.

~Samuel Smiles

With will one can do anything.

~Samuel Smiles

It will generally be found that men who are constantly lamenting their ill luck are only reaping the consequences of their own neglect, mismanagement, and improvidence, or want of application.

~Samuel Smiles

The great and good do not die even in this world. Embalmed in books, their spirits walk abroad. The book is a living voice. It is an intellect to which one still listens.

~Samuel Smiles

We learn wisdom from failure much more than from success. We often discover what will do, by finding out what will not do; and probably he who never made a mistake never made a discovery.

~Samuel Smiles

The shortest way to do many things is to do only one thing at once.

~Samuel Smiles

He who never made a mistake, never made a discovery.

~Samuel Smiles

The work of many of the greatest men, inspired by duty, has been done amidst suffering and trial and difficulty. They have struggled against the tide, and reached the shore exhausted.

~Samuel Smiles

There are many persons of whom it may be said that they have no other possession in the world but their character, and yet they stand as firmly upon it as any crowned king.

~Samuel Smiles

Enthusiasm..the sustaining power of all great action

~Samuel Smiles

Labor is still, and ever will be, the inevitable price set upon everything which is valuable.

~Samuel Smiles

Self-control is only courage under another form. It may also be regarded as the primary essence of character.

~Samuel Smiles

The apprenticeship of difficulty is one which the greatest of men have had to serve.

~Samuel Smiles

Riches do not constitute any claim to distinction. It is only the vulgar who admire riches as riches.

~Samuel Smiles

The spirit of self-help is the root of all genuine growth in the individual.

~Samuel Smiles

It is the close observation of little things which is the secret of success in business, in art, in science, and in every pursuit of life.

~Samuel Smiles

Diligence, above all, is the mother of good luck.

~Samuel Smiles

Alexander the Great valued learning so highly, that he used to say he was more indebted to Aristotle for giving him knowledge than to his father Philip for life.

~Samuel Smiles

The greatest slave is not he who is ruled by a despot, great though that evil be, but he who is in the thrall of his own moral ignorance, selfishness, and vice.

~Samuel Smiles

Labour may be a burden and a chastisement, but it is also an honour and a glory. Without it, nothing can be accomplished.

~Samuel Smiles

Men who are resolved to find a way for themselves will always find opportunities enough; and if they do not find them, they will make them.

~Samuel Smiles

Manners are the ornament of action.

~Samuel Smiles

Great men are always exceptional men; and greatness itself is but comparative. Indeed, the range of most men in life is so limited that very few have the opportunity of being great.

~Samuel Smiles

Man cannot aspire if he looked down; if he rise, he must look up.

~Samuel Smiles

The highest culture is not obtained from the teacher when at school or college, so much as by our ever diligent self-education when we become men.

~Samuel Smiles

Those who aren't making mistakes probably aren't making anything.

~Samuel Smiles

The tiniest bits of opinion sown in the minds of children in private life afterwards issue forth to the world, and become its public opinion; for nations are gathered out of nurseries.

~Samuel Smiles

Progress, of the best kind, is comparatively slow

~Samuel Smiles

The experience gathered from books, though often valuable, is but the nature of learning; whereas the experience gained from actual life is one of the nature of wisdom.

~Samuel Smiles

Woman is the heart of humanity ... its grace, ornament, and solace.

~Samuel Smiles

A fig-tree looking on a fig-tree becometh fruitful," says the Arabian proverb. And so it is with children; their first great instructor is example.

~Samuel Smiles

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. But all play and no work makes him something worse.

~Samuel Smiles

For want of self-restraint many men are engaged all their lives in fighting with difficulties of their own making.

~Samuel Smiles

The wise man... if he would live at peace with others, he will bear and forbear.

~Samuel Smiles

Honorable industry always travels the same road with enjoyment and duty, and progress is altogether impossible without it.

~Samuel Smiles

All that is great in man comes through work; and civilization is its product.

~Samuel Smiles

If character be irrecoverably lost, then indeed there will be nothing left worth saving.

~Samuel Smiles

An intense anticipation itself transforms possibility into reality; our desires being often but precursors of the things which we are capable of performing.

~Samuel Smiles

Commonplace though it may appear, this doing of one's duty embodies

the highest ideal of life and character. There may be nothing heroic about it; but the common lot of men is not heroic.

~Samuel Smiles

Knowledge conquered by labor becomes a possession -a property entirely our own.

~Samuel Smiles

The egotist is next door to a fanatic.

~Samuel Smiles

Sympathy is the golden key that unlocks the hearts of others.

~Samuel Smiles

A woman's best qualities do not reside in her intellect, but in her affections. She gives refreshment by her sympathies, rather than by her knowledge.

~Samuel Smiles

The truest politeness comes of sincerity.

~Samuel Smiles

Life is of little value unless it be consecrated by duty.

~Samuel Smiles

Any number of depraved units cannot form a great nation.

~Samuel Smiles

There is no act, however trivial, but has its train of consequences.

~Samuel Smiles

The most influential of all the virtues are those which are the most in request for daily use. They wear the best, and last the longest.

~Samuel Smiles

This extraordinary metal, the soul of every manufacture, and the mainspring perhaps of civilised society. Of iron.

~Samuel Smiles

Even happiness itself may become habitual. There is a habit of looking at the bright side of things, and also of looking at the dark side.

~Samuel Smiles

The Romans rightly employed the same word (virtus) to designate courage, which is, in a physical sense, what the other is in a moral; the highest virtue of all being victory over ourselves.

~Samuel Smiles

Wisdom and understanding can only become the possession of individual men by travelling the old road of observation, attention, perseverance, and industry.

~Samuel Smiles

Conscience is that peculiar faculty of the soul which may be called the religious instinct.

~Samuel Smiles

Men must necessarily be the active agents of their own well-being and well-doing they themselves must in the very nature of things be their own best helpers.

~Samuel Smiles

The duty of helping one's self in the highest sense involves the helping of one's neighbors.

~Samuel Smiles

Time is of no account with great thoughts, which are as fresh to -day as when they first passed through their authors' minds ages ago.

~Samuel Smiles

Cheerfulness is also an excellent wearing quality. It has been called the bright weather of the heart.

~Samuel Smiles

Persons with comparatively moderate powers will accomplish much, if they apply themselves wholly and indefatigably to one thing at a time.

~Samuel Smiles

Help from without is often enfeebling in its effects, but help from within invariably invigorates.

~Samuel Smiles

There are many counterfeits of character, but the genuine article is difficult to be mistaken.

~Samuel Smiles

Riches are oftener an impediment than a stimulus to action; and in many cases they are quite as much a misfortune as a blessing.

~Samuel Smiles

The noble people will be nobly ruled, and the ignorant and corrupt ignobly.

~Samuel Smiles

The possession of a library, or the free use of it, no more constitutes learning, than the possession of wealth constitutes generosity.

~Samuel Smiles

Necessity, oftener than facility, has been the mother of invention; and the most prolific school of all has been the school of difficulty.

~Samuel Smiles

Character is undergoing constant change, for better or for worse--either being elevated on the one hand, or degraded on the other.

~Samuel Smiles

Example teaches better than precept. It is the best modeler of the character of men and women. To set a lofty example is the richest bequest a man can leave behind him.

~Samuel Smiles

Those who have most to do, and are willing to work, will find the most time.

~Samuel Smiles

Men often discover their affinity to each other by the mutual love they have for a book.

~Samuel Smiles

The brave man is an inspiration to the weak, and compels them, as it were, to follow him.

~Samuel Smiles

To set a lofty example is the richest bequest a man can leave behind.

~Samuel Smiles

Great men stamp their mind upon their age and nation.

~Samuel Smiles

Commit a child to the care of a worthless, ignorant woman, and no culture in after-life will remedy the evil you have done.

~Samuel Smiles

The great lesson of biography is to show what man can be and do at his best. A noble life put fairly on record acts like an inspiration to others.

~Samuel Smiles

Opportunities ... fall in the way of every man who is resolved to take advantage of them.

~Samuel Smiles

Men whose acts are at variance with their words command no respect, and what they say has but little weight.

~Samuel Smiles

The cheapest of all things is kindness, its exercise requiring the least possible trouble and self-sacrifice. Win hearts, said Burleigh to Queen Elizabeth, and you have all men's hearts and purses.

~Samuel Smiles

Like men, nations are purified and strengthened by trials.

~Samuel Smiles

The great leader attracts to himself men of kindred character, drawing them towards him as the loadstone draws iron.

~Samuel Smiles

Mere political reform will not cure the manifold evils which now afflict society. There requires a social reform, a domestic reform, an individual reform.

~Samuel Smiles

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