

# Sydney Smith

## Quotes

*Men, Life, Science, Mistake, Courage, Happiness, Scotland, Trying, Running,  
Book, Friendship, Love, People, Strong, Motivational, Food, Tea, Funny, Army,  
Sarcastic*

Whatever you are by nature, keep to it; never desert your line of talent. Be what nature intended you for, and you will succeed.

~Sydney Smith

If you want to improve your understanding, drink coffee.

~Sydney Smith

Life is to be fortified by many friendships. To love and to be loved is the greatest happiness of existence.

~Sydney Smith

Madam, I have been looking for a person who disliked gravy all my life; let us swear eternal friendship.

~Sydney Smith

Thank God for tea! What would the world do without tea! How did it exist? I am glad I was not born before tea.

~Sydney Smith

The thing about performance, even if it's only an illusion, is that it is a celebration of the fact that we do contain within ourselves infinite possibilities.

~Sydney Smith

A man who wishes to make his way in life could do no better than go through the world with a boiling tea-kettle in his hand.

~Sydney Smith

You find people ready enough to do the Samaritan, without the oil and twopence.

~Sydney Smith

A comfortable house is a great source of happiness. It ranks immediately after health and a good conscience.

~Sydney Smith

In composing, as a general rule, run your pen through every other word you have written; you have no idea what vigor it will give your style.

~Sydney Smith

I look upon Switzerland as an inferior sort of Scotland.

~Sydney Smith

we know nothing of tomorrow, our business is to be good and happy today

~Sydney Smith

Marriage resembles a pair of shears, so joined that they cannot be separated; often moving in opposite directions, yet always punishing anyone who comes between them.

~Sydney Smith

If I were to begin life again, I would devote it to music. It is the only cheap and unpunished rapture upon earth.

~Sydney Smith

I always fear that creation will expire before teatime.

~Sydney Smith

No furniture is so charming as books.

~Sydney Smith

The two women exchanged the type of glance women use when there is no knife handy.

~Sydney Smith

Poverty is no disgrace to a man, but it is confoundedly inconvenient.

~Sydney Smith

Manners are the shadows of virtues; the momentary display of those qualities which our fellow creatures love, and respect.

~Sydney Smith

A great deal of talent is lost to the world for want of a little courage.

~Sydney Smith

He who drinks a tumbler of London water has literally in his stomach more animated beings than there are men, women, and children on the face of the globe.

~Sydney Smith

Have the courage to be ignorant of a great number of things, in order to avoid the calamity of being ignorant of everything.

~Sydney Smith

People who love only once in their lives are shallow people. What they call their loyalty, and their fidelity, I call either the lethargy of custom, or their lack of imagination

~Sydney Smith

When you rise in the morning, form a resolution to make the day a happy one for a fellow creature.

~Sydney Smith

What would life be without arithmetic, but a scene of horrors?

~Sydney Smith

Find fault, when you must find fault, in private, if possible; and some time after the offense, rather than at the time.

~Sydney Smith

Human beings cling to their delicious tyrannies and to their exquisite nonsense, till death stares them in the face.

~Sydney Smith

Errors, to be dangerous, must have a great deal of truth mingled with them. It is only from this alliance that they can ever obtain an extensive circulation.

~Sydney Smith

Politeness is good nature regulated by good sense.

~Sydney Smith

Do not try to push your way through to the front ranks of your profession; do not run after distinctions and rewards; but do your utmost to find an entry into the world of beauty.

~Sydney Smith

Among the smaller duties of life I hardly know any one more important than that of not praising where praise is not due.

~Sydney Smith

Let the Dean and Canons lay their heads together and the thing will be done.

~Sydney Smith

Heat, ma am! It was so dreadful here that I found there was nothing left for it but to take off my flesh and sit in my bones.

~Sydney Smith

Avoid shame, but do not seek glory; nothing so expensive as glory.

~Sydney Smith

How can a bishop marry? How can he flirt? The most he can say is "I will see you in the vestry after service."

~Sydney Smith

Scotland: That garret of the earth - that knuckle-end of England - that land of Calvin, oatcakes, and sulfur.

~Sydney Smith

He not only overflowed with learning, but stood in the slop.

~Sydney Smith

When I hear any man talk of an unalterable law, the only effect it produces on me is to convince me that he is an unalterable fool

~Sydney Smith

Hope is the belief, more or less strong, that joy will come.

~Sydney Smith

Great men hallow a whole people, and lift up all who live in their time.

~Sydney Smith

Some men have only one book in them, others a library.

~Sydney Smith

His enemies might have said before that he talked rather too much; but now he has occasional flashes of silence, that make his conversation perfectly delightful.

~Sydney Smith

No man can ever end with being superior who will not begin with being inferior.

~Sydney Smith

What two ideas are more inseparable than beer and Britannia?

~Sydney Smith

Never give way to melancholy; resist it steadily, for the habit will encroach.

~Sydney Smith

Solitude cherishes great virtues and destroys little ones.

~Sydney Smith

Never try to reason the prejudice out of a man. It was not reasoned into him, and cannot be reasoned out.

~Sydney Smith

Take short views, hope for the best and trust in God.

~Sydney Smith

Oh, don't tell me of facts, I never believe facts; you know, [George] Canning said nothing was so fallacious as facts, except figures.

~Sydney Smith

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