

Thomas Bailey Aldrich Quotes

*Men, Life, Age, Thinking, Gold, Sleep, Fall, Book, Eye, Wings, Coins, Soul,
Light, Children, Voice, Inspirational, Sorrow, Sweet, Half, Heart*

To keep the heart unwrinkled, to be hopeful, kindly, cheerful, reverent that is to triumph over old age.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

A man is known by the company his mind keeps.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

All the best sands of my life are somehow getting into the wrong end of the hourglass. If I could only reverse it! Were it in my power to do so would I?

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

What is lovely never dies, but passes into other loveliness, Star-dust, or sea-foam, flower or winged air.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

They fail, and they alone, who have not striven.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Civilization is the lamb's skin in which barbarism masquerades.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

True art selects and paraphrases, but seldom gives a verbatim translation.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

But I, in the chilling twilight stand and wait
At the portcullis, at thy castle gate,
Longing to see the charmed door of dreams
Turn on its noiseless hinges, delicate sleep!

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

The possession of unlimited power will make a despot of almost any man. There is a possible Nero in the gentlest human creature that walks.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Come watch with me the shaft of fire that glows in yonder West; the fair, frail palaces, The fading Alps and archipelagoes and great cloud continents of sunset-seas.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

What probing deep Has ever solved the mystery of sleep?

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Shakespeare is forever coming into our affairs -- putting in his oar, so to speak -- with some pat word or sentence.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

I like to have a thing suggested rather than told in full. When every detail is given, the mind rests satisfied, and the imagination loses the desire to use its own wings.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

With the tears a Land hath shed. Their graves should ever be green.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

The ocean moans over dead men's bones.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Hebe's here, May is here! The air is fresh and sunny; And the miser-bees are busy Hoarding golden honey.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

When friends are at your hearthside met, Sweet courtesy has done its most If you have made each guest forget That he himself is not the host.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Decoration Day is the most beautiful of our national holidays.... The grim cannon have turned into palm branches, and the shell and shrapnel into peach blossoms.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Gracious to all, to none subservient, Without offense he spoke the word he meant

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

O Liberty...! is it well To leave the gates unguarded?

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Turn on its noiseless hinges, delicate sleep!

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

We weep when we are born, Not when we die!

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

How fugitive and brief is mortal life between the budding and the falling leaf.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

What is slang in one age sometimes goes into the vocabulary of the purist in the next.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

After a debauch of thunder-shower, the weather takes the pledge and signs it with a rainbow.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

The fate of the worm refutes the pretended ethical teaching of the proverb, which assumes to illustrate the advantage of early rising and does so by showing how extremely dangerous it is.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

We knew it would rain, for the poplars showed
The white of their leaves, the amber grain
Shrunk in the wind,-and the lightning now
Is tangled in tremulous skeins of rain.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Great thoughts in crude, unshapely verse set forth
lose half their preciousness, and ever must,
unless the diamond with its own rich dust
be cut and polished, it seems little worth.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

No bird has ever uttered note
That was not in some first bird's throat;
Since Eden's freshness and man's fall
No rose has been original.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

October turned my maple's leaves to gold;
The most are gone now; here and there
one lingers: Soon these will slip from
the twigs' weak hold, Like coins between
a dying miser's fingers.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

The man who suspects his own tediousness
is yet to be born.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

The ring of a false coin is not more
recognizable than that of a rhyme
setting forth a false sorrow.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

A glance, a word -- and joy or pain
befalls.... How slight the links are
in the chain that binds us to our destiny!

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

It were better to be a soldier's widow
than a coward's wife.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

The ability to have our own way,
and at the same time convince others

they are having their own way, is a rare thing among men. Among women it is as common as eyebrows.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

I beg you come tonight and dine
A welcome waits you and sound wine
The Roederer chilly to a charm
As Juno's breasts the claret warm.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

This one sits shivering in Fortune's smile, taking his joy with bated, doubtful breath. This other, gnawed by hunger, all the while laughs in the teeth of Death.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

That was indeed to live -- at one bold swoop to wrest from darkling death the best that death to life can give.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Day is a snow-white Dove of heaven
That from the East glad message brings.
Night is a stealthy, evil Raven,
Wrapped to the eyes in his black wings.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

The possession of gold has ruined fewer men than the lack of it.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

So precious life is! Even to the old, the hours are as a miser's coins!

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

The possession of gold has ruined fewer men than the lack of it. What noble enterprises have been checked and what fine souls have been blighted in the gloom of poverty the world will never know.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

My father invested his money so securely in the banking business that

he was never able to get any of it out again.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Black Tragedy lets slip her grim disguise and shows you laughing lips and roguish eyes; but when, unmasked, gay Comedy appears, how wan her cheeks are, and what heavy tears!

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

The young girl in my story is to be as sensitive to praise as a prism is to light. Whenever anybody praises her she breaks into colors.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Dialect tempered with slang is an admirable medium of communication between persons who have nothing to say and persons who would not care for anything properly said.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

The laurels of an orator who is not a master of literary art wither quickly.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

At the beginning of the twentieth century barbarism can throw off its gentle disguise, and burn a man at the stake as complacently as in the Middle Ages.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

It is the Lord's Day, and I do believe that cheerful hearts and faces are not unpleasant in His sight.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

The thing one reads and likes, and then forgets, is of no account. The thing that stays, and haunts one, and refuses to be forgotten, that is the sincere thing.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

O harp of life, so speedily unstrung!

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

My mind lets go a thousand things, Like dates of wars and deaths of kings

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

What is a day to an immortal soul! A breath, no more.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

So I sit there kicked my heels, thinking about New Orleans, and watching a morbid blue-bottle fly attempt to commit suicide by butting his head against the windowpane.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Up from the dark the moon begins to creep; and now a pallid, haggard face lifts she above the water-line: thus from the deep a drowned body rises solemnly.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Great orators who are not also great writers become very indistinct shadows to the generations following them. The spell vanishes with the voice.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Between the reputation of the author living and the reputation of the same author dead there is ever a wide discrepancy.

~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

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