

# Thomas de Quincey

## Quotes

*Men, Children, Literature, Memories, Art, Book, Solitude, Age, Clouds, Drinking,  
Wind, Pleasure, Style, Intellectual, Feet, Understanding, Flower, Mind, Grief,  
Tea*

In many walks of life, a conscience is a more expensive encumbrance than a wife or a carriage.

~Thomas de Quincey

It was a Sunday afternoon, wet and cheerless; and a duller spectacle this earth of ours has not to show than a rainy Sunday in London.

~Thomas de Quincey

Solitude, though it may be silent as light, is like light, the mightiest of agencies; for solitude is essential to man. All men come into this world alone and leave it alone.

~Thomas de Quincey

All that is literature seeks to communicate power

~Thomas de Quincey

Thou hast the keys of Paradise, oh, just, subtle, and mighty opium!

~Thomas de Quincey

There is a necessity for a regulating discipline of exercise that, whilst evoking the human energies, will not suffer them to be wasted.

~Thomas de Quincey

Fierce sectarianism breeds fierce latitudinarianism.

~Thomas de Quincey

Nobody will laugh long who deals much with opium: its pleasures even are of a grave and solemn complexion.

~Thomas de Quincey

Kings should disdain to die, and only disappear.

~Thomas de Quincey

Enough if every age produce two or three critics of this esoteric class,

with here and there a reader to understand them.

~Thomas de Quincey

Allow me to offer my congratulations on the truly admirable skill you have shown in keeping clear of the mark. Not to have hit once in so many trials, argues the most splendid talents for missing.

~Thomas de Quincey

Grief even in a child hates the light and shrinks from human eyes.

~Thomas de Quincey

Out of the ruined lodge and forgotten mansion, bowers that are trodden under foot, and pleasure-houses that are dust, the poet calls up a palingenesis.

~Thomas de Quincey

The burden of the incommunicable.

~Thomas de Quincey

Mathematics has not a foot to stand upon which is not purely metaphysical.

~Thomas de Quincey

No man will ever unfold the capacities of his own intellect who does not at least checker his life with solitude.

~Thomas de Quincey

All men come into this world alone and leave it alone.

~Thomas de Quincey

The laughter of girls is, and ever was, among the delightful sounds of earth.

~Thomas de Quincey

The pulpit style of Germany has been always rustically negligent, or bristling with pedantry.

~Thomas de Quincey

Even imperfection itself may have its ideal or perfect state.

~Thomas de Quincey

War has a deeper and more ineffable relation to hidden grandeurs in man than has yet been deciphered.

~Thomas de Quincey

All parts of knowledge have their origin in metaphysics, and finally, perhaps, revolve into it.

~Thomas de Quincey

Call for the grandest of all earthly spectacles, what is that? It is the sun going to his rest.

~Thomas de Quincey

The whole body of the arts and sciences composes one vast machinery for the irritation and development of the human intellect.

~Thomas de Quincey

Dyspepsy is the ruin of most things: empires, expeditions, and everything else.

~Thomas de Quincey

The science of style as an organ of thought, of style in relation to the ideas and feelings, might be called the organology of style.

~Thomas de Quincey

It is most absurdly said, in popular language, of any man, that he is disguised in liquor; for, on the contrary, most men are disguised by sobriety.

~Thomas de Quincey

Everlasting farewells! and again, and yet again reverberated everlasting farewells!

~Thomas de Quincey

The public is a bad guesser.

~Thomas de Quincey

It is one of the misfortunes in life that one must read thousands of books only to discover that one need not have read them.

~Thomas de Quincey

I feel that there is no such thing as ultimate forgetting; traces once impressed upon the memory are indestructible.

~Thomas de Quincey

Reserve is the truest expression of respect towards those who are its objects.

~Thomas de Quincey

The mere understanding, however useful and indispensable, is the meanest faculty in the human mind and the most to be distrusted.

~Thomas de Quincey

Far better, and more cheerfully, I could dispense with some part of the downright necessities of life, than with certain circumstances of elegance and propriety in the daily habits of using them.

~Thomas de Quincey

It is notorious that the memory strengthens as you lay burdens upon it, and becomes trustworthy as you trust it.

~Thomas de Quincey

Rightly it is said of utter, utter misery, that it 'cannot be remembered'; itself, being a rememberable thing, is swallowed up in its own chaos.

~Thomas de Quincey

A promise is binding in the inverse ratio of the numbers to whom it is made.

~Thomas de Quincey

Often one's dear friend talks something which one scruples to call rigmarole.

~Thomas de Quincey

So, then, Oxford Street, stonyhearted stepmother, thou that listenest to the sighs of orphans, and drinkest the tears of children, at length I was dismissed from thee.

~Thomas de Quincey

The peace of nature and of the innocent creatures of god seems to be secure and deep, only so long as the presence of man and his restless and unquiet spirit are not there to trouble its sanctity.

~Thomas de Quincey

No progressive knowledge will ever medicine that dread misgiving of a mysterious and pathless power given to words of a certain import.

~Thomas de Quincey

Either the human being must suffer and struggle as the price of a more searching vision, or his gaze must be shallow and without intellectual revelation.

~Thomas de Quincey

As is the inventor of murder, and the father of art, Cain must have been a man of first-rate genius.

~Thomas de Quincey

There is first the literature of KNOWLEDGE, and secondly, the literature of POWER. The function of the first is -- to teach; the function of the second is -- to move.

~Thomas de Quincey

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