Thomas Huxley Quotes

Men, Science, Believe, Lying, Education, People, Life, Facts, Thinking, May, Knowledge, Truth, Mean, Animal, Eye, Hands, World, Art, Self, Nature The great tragedy of science - the slaying of a beautiful hypothesis by an ugly fact.

~Thomas Huxley

Only one absolute certainty is possible to man, namely that at any given moment the feeling which he has exists.

~Thomas Huxley

Try to learn something about everything and everything about something.

~Thomas Huxley

The Bible has been the Magna Charta of the poor and of the oppressed.

~Thomas Huxley

If a little knowledge is dangerous, where is the man who has so much as to be out of danger?

~Thomas Huxley

It is not who is right, but what is right, that is of importance.

~Thomas Huxley

Thoughtfulness for others, generosity, modesty, and self-respect are the qualities which make a real gentleman or lady.

~Thomas Huxley

The man of science has learned to believe in justification, not by faith, but by verification.

~Thomas Huxley

God give me strength to face a fact though it slay me.

Life is too short to occupy oneself with the slaying of the slain more than once.

~Thomas Huxley

The secret of genius is to carry the spirit of childhood into maturity. ~Thomas Huxley

Make up your mind to act decidedly and take the consequences. No good is ever done in this world by hesitation.

~Thomas Huxley

Science is simply common sense at its best.

~Thomas Huxley

The rules of the game are what we call the laws of nature.

~Thomas Huxley

A drop of water is as powerful as a thunder-bolt.

~Thomas Huxley

Science is simply common sense at its best, that is, rigidly accurate in observation, and merciless to fallacy in logic.

~Thomas Huxley

The chess-board is the world, the pieces are the phenomena of the universe, the rules of the game are what we call the laws of Nature. The player on the other side is hidden from us.

~Thomas Huxley

Ecclesiasticism in science is only unfaithfulness to truth ~Thomas Huxley

Genius, as an explosive power, beats gunpowder hollow.

My business is to teach my aspirations to confirm themselves to fact, not to try and make facts harmonize with my aspirations.

~Thomas Huxley

And you very soon find out, if you have not found it out before, that patience and tenacity of purpose are worth more than twice their weight of cleverness.

~Thomas Huxley

Logical consequences are the scarecrows of fools and the beacons of wise men.

~Thomas Huxley

Surely there is a time to submit to guidance and a time to take one's own way at all hazards.

~Thomas Huxley

What would become of the garden if the gardener treated all the weeds and slugs and birds and trespassers as he would like to be treated, if he were in their place?

~Thomas Huxley

If there is anything in the world which I do firmly believe in, it is the universal validity of the law of causation.

~Thomas Huxley

'Infidel' is a term of reproach, which Christians and Mohammedans, in their modesty, agree to apply to those who differ from them. ~Thomas Huxley

A world of facts lies outside and beyond the world of words.

~Thomas Huxley

It is wrong for a man to say that he is certain of the objective truth of

any proposition unless he can produce evidence which logically justifies that certainty.

~Thomas Huxley

The great end of life is not knowledge but action.

~Thomas Huxley

Mathematics may be compared to a mill of exquisite workmanship, which grinds your stuff to any degree of fineness.

~Thomas Huxley

The improver of natural knowledge absolutely refuses to acknowledge authority, as such. For him, skepticism is the highest of duties; blind faith the one unpardonable sin.

~Thomas Huxley

Skepticism is the highest duty and blind faith the one unpardonable sin.

~Thomas Huxley

The ultimate court of appeal is observation and experiment... not authority.

~Thomas Huxley

There is the greatest practical benefit in making a few failures early in life.

~Thomas Huxley

Men can intoxicate themselves with ideas as effectually as with alcohol or with bang and produce, be dint of serious thinking, mental conditions hardly distinguishable from monomania.

~Thomas Huxley

Science commits suicide when it adopts a creed.

It is far better for a man to go wrong in freedom than to go right in chains.

~Thomas Huxley

Not far from the invention of fire we must rank the invention of doubt.

~Thomas Huxley

Time, whose tooth gnaws away everything else, is powerless against truth.

~Thomas Huxley

It sounds paradoxical to say the attainment of scientific truth has been effected, to a great extent, by the help of scientific errors.

~Thomas Huxley

The results of political changes are hardly ever those which their friends hope or their foes fear.

~Thomas Huxley

Science is organized common sense where many a beautiful theory was killed by an ugly fact.

~Thomas Huxley

The Bible account of the creation of Eve is a preposterous fable. ~Thomas Huxley

Sit down before fact as a little child, be prepared to give up every conceived notion, follow humbly wherever and whatever abysses nature leads, or you will learn nothing.

~Thomas Huxley

Freedom and order are not incompatible... truth is strength... free

discussion is the very life of truth.

~Thomas Huxley

If a man cannot do brain work without stimulants of any kind, he had better turn to hand work it is an indication on Nature's part that she did not mean him to be a head worker.

~Thomas Huxley

Economy does not lie in sparing money, but in spending it wisely. ~Thomas Huxley

The thief and the murderer follow nature just as much as the philanthropist.

~Thomas Huxley

Every great advance in natural knowledge has involved the absolute rejection of authority.

~Thomas Huxley

Teach a man to read and write, and you have put into his hands the great keys of the wisdom-box.

~Thomas Huxley

I'd rather have an ape for an ancestor than a bishop.

~Thomas Huxley

Action is the catalyst that creates accomplishments. It is the path that takes us from uncrafted hopes to realized dreams.

~Thomas Huxley

All truth, in the long run, is only common sense clarified.

~Thomas Huxley

Irrationally held truths may be more harmful than reasoned errors.

History warns us that it is the customary fate of new truths to begin as heresies and to end as superstitions.

~Thomas Huxley

Proclaim human equality as loudly as you like, Witless will serve his brother.

~Thomas Huxley

Nothing can be more incorrect than the assumption one sometimes meets with, that physics has one method, chemistry another, and biology a third.

~Thomas Huxley

To persons uninstructed in natural history, their country or seaside stroll is a walk through a gallery filled with wonderful works of art, nine-tenths of which have their faces turned to the wall.

~Thomas Huxley

Friendship involves many things but, above all the power of going outside oneself and appreciating what is noble and loving in another. ~Thomas Huxley

The best men of the best epochs are simply those who make the fewest blunders and commit the fewest sins.

~Thomas Huxley

The doctrine that all men are, in any sense, or have been, at any time, free and equal, is an utterly baseless fiction.

~Thomas Huxley

In scientific work, those who refuse to go beyond fact rarely get as far as fact.

The scientific imagination always restrains itself within the limits of probability.

~Thomas Huxley

In fact a favourite problem of Tyndall is-Given the molecular forces in a mutton chop, deduce Hamlet or Faust therefrom. He is confident that the Physics of the Future will solve this easily.

~Thomas Huxley

Size is not grandeur, and territory does not make a nation.

~Thomas Huxley

Rome is the one great spiritual organisation which is able to resist and must, as a matter of life and death, the progress of science and modern civilization

~Thomas Huxley

The only people, scientific or other, who never make mistakes are those who do nothing.

~Thomas Huxley

No slavery can be abolished without a double emancipation, and the master will benefit by freedom more than the freed-man.

~Thomas Huxley

The great thing in the world is not so much to seek happiness as to earn peace and self-respect.

~Thomas Huxley

I do not say think as I think, but think in my way. Fear no shadows, least of all in that great spectre of personal unhappiness which binds half the world to orthodoxy.

Man's Place in Nature.

~Thomas Huxley

No delusion is greater than the notion that method and industry can make up for lack of mother-wit, either in science or in practical life. ~Thomas Huxley

The rung of a ladder was never meant to rest upon. ~Thomas Huxley

The most considerable difference I note among men is not in their readiness to fall into error, but in their readiness to acknowledge these inevitable lapses.

~Thomas Huxley

Agnosticism simply means that a man shall not say that he knows or believes that for which he has no grounds for professing to believe. ~Thomas Huxley

The only question which any wise man can ask himself, and which any honest man will ask himself, is whether a doctrine is true or false. ~Thomas Huxley

A man's worst difficulties begin when he is able to do as he likes. ~Thomas Huxley

In matters of intellect, follow your reason as far as it will take you, without regard for any other consideration.

~Thomas Huxley

Follow humbly wherever and to whatever abyss Nature leads, or you shall learn nothing.

I took thought, and invented what I conceived to be the appropriate title of 'agnostic'.

~Thomas Huxley

I take it that the good of mankind means the attainment, by every man, of all the happiness which he can enjoy without diminishing the happiness of his fellow men

~Thomas Huxley

Misery is a match that never goes out.

~Thomas Huxley

Education is the instruction of the intellect in the laws of Nature.

~Thomas Huxley

Science reckons many prophets, but there is not even a promise of a Messiah.

~Thomas Huxley

I believe that history might be, and ought to be, taught in a new fashion so as to make the meaning of it as a process of evolution intelligible to the young.

~Thomas Huxley

The child who has been taught to make an accurate elevation, plan, and section of a pint pot has had an admirable training in accuracy of eye and hand.

~Thomas Huxley

In science, as in art, and, as I believe, in every other sphere of human activity, there may be wisdom in a multitude of counsellors, but it is only in one or two of them.

It is one of the most saddening things in life that, try as we may, we can never be certain of making people happy, whereas we can almost always be certain of making them unhappy.

~Thomas Huxley

[Scientists] have learned to respect nothing but evidence, and to believe that their highest duty lies in submitting to it however it may jar against their inclinations.

~Thomas Huxley

Science has fulfilled her function when she has ascertained and enunciated truth.

~Thomas Huxley

Teach a child what is wise, that is morality. Teach him what is wise and beautiful, that is religion!

~Thomas Huxley

Books are the money of Literature, but only the counters of Science. ~Thomas Huxley

The medieval university looked backwards; it professed to be a storehouse of old knowledge. The modern university looks forward, and is a factory of new knowledge.

~Thomas Huxley

Science and literature are not two things, but two sides of one thing. ~Thomas Huxley

Unity of plan everywhere lies hidden under the mask: of diversity of structure-the complex is everywhere evolved out of the simple.

The foundation of morality is to have done, once and for all, with lying. ~Thomas Huxley

There is no greater mistake than the hasty conclusion that opinions are worthless because they are badly argued.

~Thomas Huxley

I am too much of a sceptic to deny the possibility of anything...

~Thomas Huxley

It is because the body is a machine that education is possible. Education is the formation of habits, a superinducing of an artificial organization upon the natural organization of the body.

~Thomas Huxley

The rung of a ladder was never meant to rest upon, but only to hold a man's foot long enough to enable him to put the other somewhat higher.

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