

Van Wyck Brooks

Quotes

Men, People, Book, Successful, Vanity, Fun, World, Mind, Writing, Worldly, Religious, Views, Mean, Political, Littles, Funny, Thinking, Sides, Jobs, Self Esteem

Genius and virtue are to be more often found clothed in gray than in peacock bright.

~Van Wyck Brooks

Magnanimous people have no vanity, they have no jealousy, and they feed on the true and the solid wherever they find it. And, what is more, they find it everywhere.

~Van Wyck Brooks

The creative impulses of man are always at war with the possessive impulses.

~Van Wyck Brooks

No man should ever publish a book until he has first read it to a woman.

~Van Wyck Brooks

It is not that the French are not profound, but they all express themselves so well that we are led to take their geese for swans.

~Van Wyck Brooks

Better the fragrant herb of wit and a little cream of affability than all the pretty cups in the world.

~Van Wyck Brooks

Nothing is sadder than the consequences of having worldly standards without worldly means.

~Van Wyck Brooks

Nothing is so soothing to our self-esteem as to find our bad traits in our forebears. It seems to absolve us.

~Van Wyck Brooks

The instructed man is ashamed to pronounce in an Orphic manner

what everybody knows, and because he is silent people think he is making fun of them.

~Van Wyck Brooks

The man who has the courage of his platitudes is always a successful man.

~Van Wyck Brooks

Once you have a point of view all history will back you up.

~Van Wyck Brooks

As against having beautiful workshops, studies, etc., one writes best in a cellar on a rainy day.

~Van Wyck Brooks

If men were basically evil, who would bother to improve the world instead of giving it up as a bad job at the outset?

~Van Wyck Brooks

No one in this country has any root anywhere; we don't live in America, we board here, we are like spiders that run over the surface of the water.

~Van Wyck Brooks

The American mind, unlike the English, is not formed by books, but, as Carl Sandburg once said to me, by newspapers and the Bible.

~Van Wyck Brooks

Longfellow is to poetry what the barrel-organ is to music.

~Van Wyck Brooks

How delightful is the company of generous people, who overlook trifles and keep their minds instinctively fixed on whatever is good and positive in the world around them.

~Van Wyck Brooks

Never forget that it is we New Yorkers and New Englanders who have the monopoly of whatever oxygen there is in the American continent.

~Van Wyck Brooks

The writer is important only by dint of the territory he colonizes.

~Van Wyck Brooks

Those of our writers who have possessed a vivid personal talent have been paralyzed by a want of social background.

~Van Wyck Brooks

Earnest people are often people who habitually look on the serious side of things that have no serious side.

~Van Wyck Brooks

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