

William Cowper Quotes

*Men, Home, Giving, Sweet, Heart, May, Fall, Art, Flower, Life, Mind, Country,
Eye, Truth, Pain, World, Light, Lying, Inspirational, Thinking*

Variety's the very spice of life, That gives it all its flavor.

~William Cowper

Knowledge is proud that it knows so much; wisdom is humble that it knows no more.

~William Cowper

...So let us welcome peaceful evening in.

~William Cowper

An idler is a watch that wants both hands; As useless if it goes as when it stands.

~William Cowper

Pernicious weed! whose scent the fair annoys, Unfriendly to society's chief joys: Thy worst effect is banishing for hours The sex whose presence civilizes ours.

~William Cowper

Grief is itself a medicine.

~William Cowper

How various his employments whom the world Calls idle; and who justly in return Esteems that busy world an idler too!

~William Cowper

Knowledge and wisdom, far from being one, Have oft-times no connection. Knowledge dwells In heads replete with thoughts of other men; Wisdom in minds attentive to their own.

~William Cowper

God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform. He plants his footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.

~William Cowper

I pity them greatly, but I must be mum, for how could we do without sugar and rum?

~William Cowper

Who loves a garden loves a greenhouse too.

~William Cowper

And hast thou sworn on every slight pretence, Till perjuries are common as bad pence, While thousands, careless of the damning sin, Kiss the book's outside, who ne'er look'd within?

~William Cowper

E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream thy flowing wounds supply, redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.

~William Cowper

The bud may have a bitter taste, But sweet will be the flower.

~William Cowper

Man may dismiss compassion from his heart, but God never will.

~William Cowper

Glory, built on selfish principles, is shame and guilt.

~William Cowper

Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon their knees.

~William Cowper

A fool must now and then be right, by chance

~William Cowper

Absence from whom we love is worse than death, and frustrates hope severer than despair.

~William Cowper

Trials make the promise sweet, Trials give new life to prayer; Trials bring me to His feet, Lay me low, and keep me there.

~William Cowper

A glory gilds the sacred page, Majestic like the sun, It gives a light to every age, It gives, but borrows none.

~William Cowper

An inadvertent step may crush the snail That crawls at evening in the public path. But he that has humanity, forewarned, Will turn aside and let the reptile live.

~William Cowper

As creeping ivy clings to wood or stone, And hides the ruin that it feeds upon, So sophistry, cleaves close to, and protects Sin's rotten trunk, concealing its defects.

~William Cowper

The earth was made so various, that the mind Of desultory man, studious of change, And pleased with novelty, might be indulged.

~William Cowper

When nations are to perish in their sins, 'tis in the Church the leprosy begins.

~William Cowper

I pity bashful men, who feel the pain Of fancied scorn and undeserved disdain, And bear the marks upon a blushing face, OF needless shame, and self-impos'd disgrace.

~William Cowper

Remorse, the fatal egg that pleasure laid.

~William Cowper

What peaceful hours I once enjoy'd! How sweet their memory still! But they have left an aching void The world can never fill.

~William Cowper

They fix attention, heedless of your pain, With oaths like rivets forced into the brain; And e'en when sober truth prevails throughout, They swear it, till affirmance breeds a doubt.

~William Cowper

Fanaticism, the false fire of an overheated mind.

~William Cowper

Skins may differ, but affection Dwells in white and black the same.

~William Cowper

The nurse sleeps sweetly, hired to watch the sick, / whom, snoring, she disturbs.

~William Cowper

Ceremony leads her bigots forth, prepared to fight for shadows of no worth. While truths, on which eternal things depend, can hardly find a single friend.

~William Cowper

God made the country, and man made the town.

~William Cowper

I am monarch of all I survey, My right there is none to dispute, From the centre all round to the sea, I am lord of the fowl and the brute.

~William Cowper

A man renowned for repartee will seldom scruple to make free with friendship's finest feeling, will thrust a dagger at your breast, and say he wounded you in jest, by way of balm for healing.

~William Cowper

Heaven's harmony is universal love.

~William Cowper

Restraining prayer, we cease to fight; Prayer keeps the Christian's armor bright; And Satan trembles when he sees The weakest saint upon his knees.

~William Cowper

Existence is a strange bargain. Life owes us little; we owe it everything. The only true happiness comes from squandering ourselves for a purpose.

~William Cowper

Blind unbelief is sure to err, And scan his work in vain; God is his own interpreter, And he will make it plain.

~William Cowper

How sweet, how passing sweet, is solitude! But grant me still a friend in my retreat, whom I may whisper, solitude is sweet.

~William Cowper

Time, as he passes us, has a dove's wing, Unsoil'd, and swift, and of a silken sound.

~William Cowper

This fond attachment to the well-known place Whence first we started into life's long race, Maintains its hold with such unfailing sway, We feel it e'en in age, and at our latest day.

~William Cowper

Absence of occupation is not rest; A mind quite vacant is a mind distressed.

~William Cowper

The Frenchman, easy, debonair, and brisk, Give him his lass, his fiddle, and his frisk, Is always happy, reign whoever may, And laughs the sense of mis'ry far away.

~William Cowper

War's a game, which, were their subjects wise, Kings would not play at.

~William Cowper

Admirals extolled for standing still, or doing nothing with a deal of skill.

~William Cowper

Tea - the cups that cheer but not inebriate.

~William Cowper

Pleasure is labour too, and tires as much.

~William Cowper

Thus happiness depends, as nature shows, less on exterior things than most suppose.

~William Cowper

It chills my blood to hear the blest Supreme Rudely appealed to on each trifling theme.

~William Cowper

Whoever keeps an open ear For tattlers will be sure to hear The trumpet of contention.

~William Cowper

Great offices will have great talents, and God gives to every man the virtue, temper, understanding, taste, that lifts him into life, and lets him

fall just in the niche he was ordained to fill.

~William Cowper

Blest be the art that can immortalize,--the art that baffles time's tyrannic claim to quench it.

~William Cowper

Spare feast! a radish and an egg.

~William Cowper

I seem forsaken and alone, / I hear the lion roar; / And every door is shut but one, / And that is Mercy's door.

~William Cowper

Detested sport, That owes its pleasures to another's pain.

~William Cowper

No man can be a patriot on an empty stomach.

~William Cowper

The bird that flutters least is longest on the wing.

~William Cowper

They whom truth and wisdom lead, can gather honey from a weed.

~William Cowper

Pity! Religion has so seldom found A skilful guide into poetic ground!
The flowers would spring where'er she deign'd to stray And every muse attend her in her way.

~William Cowper

Did Charity prevail, the press would prove A vehicle of virtue, truth, and love.

~William Cowper

Necessity invented stools, Convenience next suggested elbow-chairs,
And luxury the accomplish'd Sofa last.

~William Cowper

A life of ease is a difficult pursuit.

~William Cowper

When one that holds communion with the skies Has fill'd his urn where
these pure waters rise, And once more mingles with us meaner things,
'Tis e'en as if an angel shook his wings.

~William Cowper

Meditation here may think down hours to moments. Here the heart may
give a useful lesson to the head and learning wiser grow without his
books.

~William Cowper

Nature is a good name for an effect whose cause is God.

~William Cowper

No, Freedom has a thousand charms to show That slaves, howe'er
contented, never know.

~William Cowper

Absence of proof is not proof of absence.

~William Cowper

In a fleshly tomb, I am buried above ground.

~William Cowper

Scenes must be beautiful which daily view'd Please daily, and whose
novelty survives Long knowledge and the scrutiny of years.

~William Cowper

Blest be the art that can immortalize.

~William Cowper

Ten thousand casks, Forever dribbling out their base contents, Touch'd by the Midas finger of the state, Bleed gold for ministers to sport away. Drink, and be mad then; 'tis your country bids!

~William Cowper

He that negotiates between God and man, As God's ambassador, the grand concerns Of judgment and of mercy, should beware Of lightness in his speech.

~William Cowper

Habits are soon assumed; but when we strive to strip them off, 'tis being flayed alive.

~William Cowper

We bear our shades about us; self-deprived Of other screen, the thin umbrella spread, And range an Indian waste without a tree.

~William Cowper

Remorse, the fatal egg by pleasure laid, In every bosom where her nest is made, Hatched by the beams of truth, denies him rest, And proves a raging scorpion in his breast.

~William Cowper

Oh to have a lodge in some vast wilderness. Where rumors of oppression and deceit, of unsuccessful and successful wars may never reach me anymore.

~William Cowper

What is there in the vale of life
Half so delightful as a wife;
When friendship, love and peace combine
To stamp the marriage-bond
divine?

~William Cowper

But oars alone can ne'er prevail To reach the distant coast; The breath of Heaven must swell the sail, Or all the toil is lost.

~William Cowper

A self-made man? Yes, and one who worships his creator.

~William Cowper

Pleasure admitted in undue degree, enslaves the will, nor leaves the judgment free.

~William Cowper

The Spirit breathes upon the Word and brings the truth to sight.

~William Cowper

Religion, if in heavenly truths attired, Needs only to be seen to be admired.

~William Cowper

The path of sorrow, and that path alone, leads to the land where sorrow is unknown.

~William Cowper

Mercy to him that shows it, is the rule.

~William Cowper

With spots quadrangular of diamond form, ensanguined hearts, clubs typical of strife, and spades, the emblems of untimely graves.

~William Cowper

This cabin, Mary, in my sight appears, Built as it has been in our waning years, A rest afforded to our weary feet, Preliminary to - the last retreat.

~William Cowper

Ever let the Fancy roam, Pleasure never is at home.

~William Cowper

Slaves cannot breathe in England; if their lungs
Receive our air, that moment they are free;
They touch our country, and their shackles fall.

~William Cowper

The dogs did bark, the children screamed, Up flew the windows all;
And every soul bawled out, Well done! As loud as he could bawl.

~William Cowper

Philologists, who chase A painting syllable through time and space
Start it at home, and hunt it in the dark, To Gaul, to Greece, and into
Noah's Ark.

~William Cowper

What we admire we praise; and when we praise, Advance it into notice,
that its worth Acknowledged, others may admire it too.

~William Cowper

If my resolution to be a great man was half so strong as it is to despise
the shame of being a little one.

~William Cowper

But many a crime deemed innocent on earth Is registered in Heaven;
and these no doubt Have each their record, with a curse annex'd.

~William Cowper

It is a general rule of Judgment, that a mischief should rather be
admitted than an inconvenience.

~William Cowper

Spring hangs her infant blossoms on the trees, Rock'd in the cradle of the western breeze.

~William Cowper

Not to understand a treasure's worth till time has stole away the slighted good, is cause of half the poverty we feel, and makes the world the wilderness it is.

~William Cowper

To follow foolish precedents, and wink With both our eyes, is easier than to think.

~William Cowper

Toil for the brave! The brave that are no more.

~William Cowper

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