

William Dean Howells

Quotes

*Men, Heart, Art, Book, Long, War, Mean, People, Doe, Dream, Suffering,
Inanimate Objects, Pain, Nests, Know How, Wise, Thanksgiving, Expectations,
Europe, Past*

It is the still, small voice that the soul heeds, not the deafening blasts of doom.

~William Dean Howells

In Europe life is histrionic and dramatized, and in America, except when it is trying to be European, it is direct and sincere.

~William Dean Howells

The secret of the man who is universally interesting is that he is universally interested.

~William Dean Howells

A man never sees all that his mother has been to him until it's too late to let her know that he sees it.

~William Dean Howells

He who sleeps in continual noise is wakened by silence.

~William Dean Howells

The wars come and go in blood and tears; but whether they are bad wars, or what are comically called good wars, they are of one effect in death and sorrow.

~William Dean Howells

What the American public wants in the theater is a tragedy with a happy ending.

~William Dean Howells

If we like a man's dream, we call him a reformer; if we don't like his dream, we call him a crank.

~William Dean Howells

Some people stay longer in an hour than others can in a week.

~William Dean Howells

A friend knows how to allow for mere quantity in your talk, and only replies to the quality.

~William Dean Howells

Wisdom and goodness are twin-born, one heart must hold both sisters, never seen apart.

~William Dean Howells

Inequality is as dear to the American heart as liberty itself.

~William Dean Howells

The conqueror is regarded with awe; the wise man commands our respect; but it is only the benevolent man that wins our affection.

~William Dean Howells

The disposition to give a cup of cold water to a disciple is a far nobler property than the finest intellect. Satan has a fine intellect, but not the image of God.

~William Dean Howells

You'll find as you grow older that you weren't born such a great while ago after all. The time shortens up.

~William Dean Howells

If ever the public was betrayed by its press, it's ours.

~William Dean Howells

Is it worth while to observe that there are no Venetian blinds in Venice?

~William Dean Howells

There will presently be no room in the world for things; it will be filled up with the advertisements of things.

~William Dean Howells

We are creatures of the moment; we live from one little space to another, and only one interest at a time fills these.

~William Dean Howells

Primitive societies without religion have never been found.

~William Dean Howells

The wrecks of slavery are fast growing a fungus crop of sentiment.

~William Dean Howells

Lord, for the erring thought
Not into evil wrought:
Lord, for the wicked
will Betrayed and baffled still:
For the heart from itself kept,
Our thanksgiving accept.

~William Dean Howells

The mortality of all inanimate things is terrible to me, but that of books most of all.

~William Dean Howells

I wonder why we hate the past so.

~William Dean Howells

Each one of us must suffer long to himself before he can learn that he is but one in a great community of wretchedness which has been pitilessly repeating itself from the foundation of the world.

~William Dean Howells

The book which you read from a sense of duty, or because for any reason you must, does not commonly make friends with you.

~William Dean Howells

By beauty of course I mean truth, for the one involves the other; it is only the false in art which is ugly, and it is only the ugly that is universal.

~William Dean Howells

Why art thou but a nest of gloom While the bobolinks are singing?

~William Dean Howells

See how today's achievement is only tomorrow's confusion; See how possession always cheapens the thing that was precious.

~William Dean Howells

Preach the blessings of our deeply incorporated civilization by the mouths of our eight-inch guns.

~William Dean Howells

People naturally despise a dependant.

~William Dean Howells

The difficulty is to know conscience from self-interest.

~William Dean Howells

It is the curse of prosperity that it takes work away from us, and shuts that door to hope and health of spirit.

~William Dean Howells

How is it the great pieces of good luck fall to us?

~William Dean Howells

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