

# William Stanley Jevons Quotes

*Science, Men, Knowledge, Economics, Pain, Discovery, Cost, Employment,  
Littles, Form, Moments, Political, Reality, Numbers, Action, Country, Inquiry,  
Giving, Logic, Facts*

Value is the most invincible and impalpable of ghosts, and comes and goes unthought of, while the visible and dense matter remains as it was.

~William Stanley Jevons

A little experience is worth much argument; a few facts are better than any theory.

~William Stanley Jevons

Economists can never be free of from difficulties unless they will distinguish between a theory and the application of a theory.

~William Stanley Jevons

we often observe that there is abundance of capital to be had at low rates of interest, while there are also large numbers of artisans starving for want of employment.

~William Stanley Jevons

The difficulties of economics are mainly the difficulties of conceiving clearly and fully the conditions of utility.

~William Stanley Jevons

As a general rule, it is foolish to do just what other people are doing, because there are almost sure to be too many people doing the same thing.

~William Stanley Jevons

Logic should no longer be considered an elegant and learned accomplishment; it should take its place as an indispensable study for every well-informed person.

~William Stanley Jevons

The theory which follows is entirely based on a calculus of pleasure and pain; and the object of economics is to maximize happiness by

purchasing pleasure, as it were, at the lowest cost of pain.

~William Stanley Jevons

but, in reality, there is no such thing as an exact science.

~William Stanley Jevons

A correct theory is the first step towards improvement, by showing what we need and what we might accomplish.

~William Stanley Jevons

The point of equilibrium will be known by the criterion that an infinitely small amount of commodity exchanged in addition, at the same rate, will bring neither gain nor loss of utility.

~William Stanley Jevons

The calculus of utility aims at supplying the ordinary wants of man at the least cost of labour.

~William Stanley Jevons

It is clear that economics, if it is to be a science at all, must be a mathematical science.

~William Stanley Jevons

All classes of society are trade unionists at heart, and differ chiefly in the boldness, ability, and secrecy with which they pursue their respective interests.

~William Stanley Jevons

Science arises from the discovery of Identity amid Diversity.

~William Stanley Jevons

Some of the gold possessed by the Romans is doubtless mixed with what we now possess; and some small part of it will be handed down as long as the human race exists.

~William Stanley Jevons

Logic is not only an exact science, but is the most simple and elementary of all sciences; it ought therefore undoubtedly to find some place in every course of education.

~William Stanley Jevons

It is requisite from time to time to remind one generation of the experience which led a former generation to important legislative actions.

~William Stanley Jevons

Capital simply allows us to expend labour in advance.

~William Stanley Jevons

Property is only another name for monopoly.

~William Stanley Jevons

In any case I hold that there must arise a science of the development of economic forms and relations.

~William Stanley Jevons

We shall never have a science of economics unless we learn to discern the operation of law even among the most perplexing complications and apparent interruptions.

~William Stanley Jevons

I consider that interest is determined by the increment of produce which it enables a labourer to obtain, and is altogether independent of the total return which he receives for this labour.

~William Stanley Jevons

A spade may be made of any size, and if the same number of strokes be made in the hour, the requisite exertion will vary nearly as the cube

of the length of the blade.

~William Stanley Jevons

There are many portions of economical doctrine which appear to me as scientific in form as they are consonant with facts.

~William Stanley Jevons

By a commodity we shall understand any object, substance, action or service, which can afford pleasure or ward off pain.

~William Stanley Jevons

I feel quite unable to adopt the opinion that the moment goods pass into the possession of the consumer they cease altogether to have the attributes of capital.

~William Stanley Jevons

Repeated reflection and inquiry have led me to the somewhat novel opinion, that value depends entirely upon utility.

~William Stanley Jevons

One of the first and most difficult steps in a science is to conceive clearly the nature of the magnitudes about which we are arguing.

~William Stanley Jevons

What capital I give for the spade merely replaces what the manufacturer had already invested in the expectation that the spade would be needed.

~William Stanley Jevons

Over-production is not possible in all branches of industry at once, but it is possible in some as compared to others.

~William Stanley Jevons

One pound invested for five years gives the same result as five pounds

invested for one year, the product being five pound years.

~William Stanley Jevons

The child which overbalances itself in learning to walk is experimenting on the law of gravity.

~William Stanley Jevons

An isolated man like Alexander Selkirk might feel the benefit of a stock of provisions, tools and other means of facilitating industry, although cut off from traffic, with other men.

~William Stanley Jevons

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