

Famous Quotes by Ralph Waldo Emerson

"For every minute you remain angry, you give up sixty seconds of peace of mind." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Anger

"The conscious utterance of thought, by speech or action, to any end, is art." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Art

"To different minds, the same world is a hell, and a heaven." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Attitude

"The faith that stand on authority is not faith." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Authority

"People with great gifts are easy to find, but symmetrical and balanced ones never." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Balance

""We are born believing. A man bears beliefs, as a tree bears beauty." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Beliefs

"Blame is safer than praise." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Blame

"I pay the schoolmaster, but 'tis the schoolboys that educate my son." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Boys

"If I cannot brag of knowing something, then I brag of not knowing it; at any rate, brag." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Bragging

"There is also this benefit in brag, that the speaker is unconsciously expressing his own ideal. Humor him by all means, draw it all out, and hold him to it." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Bragging

"Spartans, stoics, heroes, saints and gods use short and positive speech." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Brevity

"Every calamity is a spur and valuable hint." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Calamity

"These times of ours are serious and full of calamity, but all times are essentially alike. As soon as there is life there is danger." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Calamity

"Nothing astonishes men so much as common sense and plain dealing." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Candor

"Every burned book enlightens the world." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Censorship

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Character

"Make the most of yourself, for that is all there is of you." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Character

"It is impossible for a man to be cheated by anyone but himself." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Cheating

"So of cheerfulness, or a good temper, the more it is spent, the more it remains." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Cheerfulness

"A child is a curly, dimpled lunatic." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Children

"There was never a child so lovely but his mother was glad to get him asleep." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Youth

"God offers to every mind its choice between truth and repose." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Choice

"The true test of civilization is, not the census, nor the size of the cities, nor the crops, but the kind of man that the country turns out." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Civilization

"Men love to wonder, and that is the seed of science." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Computer Science

"People do not seem to realize that their opinion of the world is also a confession of character." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Confession

"A man must consider what a rich realm he abdicates when he becomes a conformist." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Conformity

"A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Consistency

"With consistency a great soul has simply nothing to do. . . . Speak what you think to-day in words as hard as cannon balls, and to-morrow speak what to-morrow thinks in hard words again, though it contradict everything you said to-day." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Consistency

"Let me never fall into the vulgar mistake of dreaming that I am persecuted whenever I am contradicted." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Contradiction

"Conversation is a game of circles." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Conversation

"A hero is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is braver five minutes longer." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Courage

"Half a man's wisdom goes with his courage." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Courage

"What a new face courage puts on everything!" —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Courage

"Every man has his own courage, and is betrayed because he seeks in himself the courage of other persons." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Courage

"Whatever you do, you need courage. Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising that tempt you to believe your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires some of the same courage that a soldier needs. Peace has its victories, but it takes brave men and women to win them. -Ralph Waldo Emerson." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Courage

"Life is not so short but that there is always time for courtesy." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Courtesy

"We must be as courteous to a man as we are to a picture, which we are willing to give the advantage of a good light." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Courtesy

"There is no den in the wide world to hide a rogue. Commit a crime and the earth is made of glass." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Crime

"Culture is one thing and varnish is another." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Culture

"Cunning is strength withheld." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Cunning

"A cynic can chill and dishearten with a single word." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Cynic

"The whole of what we know is a system of compensations. Each suffering is rewarded; each sacrifice is made up; every debt is paid." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Debt

"Wilt thou seal up the avenues of ill? Pay every debt as if God wrote the bill." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Debt

"A man in debt is so far a slave." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Debt

"Once you make a decision, the universe conspires to make it happen." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Decision

"Intellect annuls fate. So far as a man thinks, he is free." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Destiny

"Men are what their mothers made them." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Destiny

"It is dainty to be sick, if you have leisure and convenience for it." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Disease

"Truth is beautiful, without doubt; but so are lies." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Doubt

"So nigh is grandeur to our dust, So near is God to man. When Duty whispers low, Thou must, The youth replies, I can." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Duty

"We are students of words: we are shut up in schools, and colleges, and recitation-rooms, for ten or fifteen years, and come out at last with a bag of wind, a memory of words, and do not know a thing." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Education

"The secret in education lies in respecting the student." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Education

"There is a time in every man's education when he arrives at the conviction that envy is ignorance; that imitation is suicide." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Education

"An empire is an immense egotism." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Egotism

"Eloquence is the power to translate a truth into language perfectly intelligible to the person to whom you speak." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Eloquence

"He who has a thousand friends has not a friend to spare, And he who has one enemy will meet him everywhere." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Enemies

"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Enthusiasm

"Enthusiasm is the leaping lightning, not to be measured by the horse- power of the understanding." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Enthusiasm

"To be great is to be misunderstood." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Excellence

"Only so much do I know, as I have lived." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Experience

"An eye can threaten like a loaded and levelled gun, or it can insult like hissing or kicking; or, in its altered mood, by beams of kindness, it can make the heart dance for joy." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Eye

"One of the most wonderful things in nature is a glance of the eye; it transcends speech; it is the bodily symbol of identity." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Eye

"Fame is proof that people are gullible." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Fame

"There is no strong performance without a little fanaticism in the performer." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Fanaticism

"Fate is nothing but the deeds committed in a prior state of existence." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Fate

"Fear always springs from ignorance." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Fear

"We estimate the wisdom of nations by seeing what they did with their surplus capital." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Finance

"Earth laughs in flowers." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Flowers

"Flowers. . . are a proud assertion that a ray of beauty outvalues all the utilities of the world." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Flowers

"We love force and we care very little how it is exhibited." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Force

"His heart was as great as the world, but there was no room in it to hold the memory of a wrong." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Forgiveness

"Nature magically suits a man to his fortunes, by making them the fruit of his character." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Fortune

"We grant no dukedoms to the few, We hold like rights and shall; Equal on Sunday in the pew, On Monday in the mall. For what avail the plough or sail, Or land, or life, if freedom fail?" —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Freedom

"My angel,—his name is Freedom,— Choose him to be your king; He shall cut pathways east and west, And fend you with his wing." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Freedom

"For what avail the plough or sail, Or land or life, if freedom fail?" —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Freedom

"Friendship is an order of nobility; from its revelations we come more worthily into nature." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Friendship

"Friendship demands the ability to do without it." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Friendship

"The only way to have a friend is to be one." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Friendship

"The glory of friendship is not the outstretched hand, nor the kindly smile nor the joy of companionship; it is the spiritual inspiration that comes to one when he discovers that someone else believes in him and is willing to trust him." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Friendship

"A man's growth is seen in the successive choirs of his friends." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Friendship

"For everything you have missed you have gained something." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Gain

"Whatever games are played with us, we must play no games with ourselves, but deal in our privacy with the last honesty and truth." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Games

"When Nature has work to be done, she create a genius to do it." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Genius

"The hearing ear is always found close to the speaking tongue; and no genius can long or often utter anything which is not invited and gladly entertained by men around him." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Genius

"In every work of genius we recognise our own rejected thoughts; they come back to us with a certain alienated majesty." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Genius

"To believe your own thought, to believe that what is true for you in your private heart is true for all men--that is genius." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Genius

"We sometimes meet an original gentleman, who, if manners had not existed, would have invented them." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Gentleman

"In America the geography is sublime, but the men are not; the inventions are excellent, but the inventors one is sometimes ashamed of." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Geography

"The gift, to be true, must be the flowing of the giver unto me, correspondent to my flowing unto him." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Gifts

"We do not quite forgive a giver. The hand that feeds us is in some danger of being bitten." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Giving

"I hate the giving of the hand unless the whole man accompanies it." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Giving

"God enters by a private door into every individual." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on God

"Beauty without grace is the hook without the bait." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Grace

"He is great who is what he is from Nature, and who never reminds us of others." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Greatness

"Nature never sends a great man into the planet, without confiding the secret to another soul." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Greatness

"Happiness is a perfume which you cannot pour on someone without getting some on yourself." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Happiness

"Nothing is more vulgar than haste." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Haste

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year. No man has learned anything rightly, until he know that every day is Doomsday. -Ralph Waldo Emerson:." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Heart Quotes

"What your heart thinks is great, is great. The soul's emphasis is always right. -Ralph Waldo Emerson." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Heart quotes

"The hero is not fed on sweets, Daily his own heart he eats; Chambers of the great are jails, And head-winds right for royal sails." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Heroes

"The characteristic of genuine heroism is its persistency. All men have wandering impulses, fits and starts of generosity. But when you have resolved to be great, abide by yourself, and do not try to reconcile yourself with the world. The heroic cannot be common, nor the common heroic." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Heroism

"All history is but the lengthened shadow of a great man." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on History

"One of the most wonderful things in nature is a glance of the eye; it transcends speech; it is the bodily symbol of identity." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Identity

"Imitation is suicide." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Imitation

"Insist on yourself; never imitate." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Imitation

"The alleged power to charm down insanity, or ferocity in beasts, is a power behind the eye." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Insanity

"The growth of the intellect is spontaneous in every expansion. The mind that grows could not predict the times, the means, the mode of that spontaneity. God enters by a private door into every individual." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Intellect

"'Tis good-will makes intelligence." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Intellect

"Character is higher than intellect. A great soul will be strong to live as well as think." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Intelligence

"Language is fossil poetry." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Language

"No law can be sacred to me but that of my nature." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Law

"The whole of what we know is a system of compensations. Each suffering is rewarded; each sacrifice is made up; every debt is paid." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Life

"Light is the first of painters. There is no object so foul that intense light will not make it beautiful." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Light

"Money often costs too much." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Money

"Nations have lost their old omnipotence; Nations are getting obsolete.—Ralph Waldo Emerson on Nationalism

"We estimate the wisdom of nations by seeing what they did with their surplus capital." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Nations

"Nothing is rich but the inexhaustible wealth of nature. She shows us only surfaces, but she is a million fathoms deep." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Nature

"A life in harmony with nature, the love of truth and virtue, will purge the eyes to understanding her text." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Nature

"Nature encourages no looseness, pardons no errors." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Nature

"Earth laughs in flowers." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Nature

"Plants are the young of the world, vessels of health and vigor; but they grope ever upward towards consciousness; the trees are imperfect men, and seem to bemoan their imprisonment, rooted in the ground." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Nature

"Obedience alone gives the right to command." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Obedience

"As long as a man stands in his own way, everything seems to be in his way." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Obstacles

"The search after the great men is the dream of youth, and the most serious occupation of manhood." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Occupation

"People do not seem to realize that their opinion of the world is also a confession of character." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Opinion

"So of cheerfulness, or a good temper, the more it is spent, the more of it remains." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Optimism

"There is no true orator who is not a hero." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Oratory

"Traveling is a fool's paradise. Our first journeys discover to us the indifference of places." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Paradise

"Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Patience

"Peace cannot be achieved through violence, it can only be attained through understanding." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Peace

"There is no knowledge that is not power." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Power

"With every passing hour our solar system comes forty-three thousand miles closer to globular cluster 13 in the constellation Hercules, and still there are some misfits who continue to insist that there is no such thing as progress." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Progress

"The more reason, the less government." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Reason

"We are born believing. A man bears beliefs, as a tree bears apples." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Religion Beliefs

"Men are respectable only as they respect." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Respect

"The reward of a thing well done is to have done it." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Reward

"I consider theology to be the rhetoric of morals." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Rhetoric

"In skating over thin ice our safety is in our speed." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Safety

"Self-sacrifice is the real miracle out of which all the reported miracles grow." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Self Sacrifice

"The imagination and the senses cannot be gratified at the same time." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Senses

"A person's life is limited but serving the people is limitless. I want to devote my limited life to serving the people limitlessly." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Service

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Service

"Nothing is more simple than greatness; indeed, to be simple is to be great." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Simplicity

"Sincerity is the highest compliment you can pay." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Sincerity

"Great men are they who see that the spiritual is stronger than any material force." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Spirit

"Concentration is the secret of strength." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Strength

"If the single man plant himself indomitably on his instincts, and there abide, the huge world will come round to him." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Success

"If a man has good corn, or wood, or boards, or pigs to sell, or can make better chairs or knives, crucibles, or church organs, than anybody else, you will find a broad, hard-beaten road to his house, tho it be in the woods. And if a man knows the law, people will find it out, tho he live in a pine shanty, and resort to him. And if a man can pipe or sing, so as to wrap the prisoned soul in an elysium; or can paint landscape, and convey into oils and ochers all the enchantments of spring or autumn; or can liberate or intoxicate all people who hear him with delicious songs and verses, 'tis certain that the secret can not be kept: the first witness tells it to a second, and men go by fives and tens and fifties to his door." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Success

"Success: To laugh often and much, to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children, to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends, to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others, to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded!" —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Success

"The louder he talked of his honor, the faster we counted our spoons." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Suspicion

"Every sweet hath its sour, every evil its good." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Sweetness

"The secrets of life are not shown except to sympathy and likeness." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Sympathy

"Harmony of aim, not identity of conclusion, is the secret of sympathetic life." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Sympathy

"Knowledge exists to be imparted." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Teaching

"The man who can make hard things easy is the educator." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Teaching

"No member of a crew is praised for the rugged individuality of his rowing." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Teamwork

"Men lose their tempers in defending their taste." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Temper

"As the Sandwich-Islander believes that the strength and valor of the enemy he kills passes into himself, so we gain the strength of the temptations we resist." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Temptation

"The soul of God is poured into the world through the thoughts of men." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Thought

"Beware when the great God lets loose a thinker on this planet." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Thoughts

"This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Time

"Do not be too timid or squeamish about your actions. All life is an experiment." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Timidity

Trust men and they will be true to you; treat them greatly, and they will show themselves great." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Trust

"Trust men and they will be true to you; treat them greatly and they will show themselves great." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Trust

"Truth is the property of no individual but is the treasure of all men." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Truth

"God offers to every mind its choice between truth and repose. Take which you please; you can never have both." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Truth

"There is always safety in valor." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Valor

"Valor consists in the power of self recovery." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Valor

"Bad times have a scientific value. These are occasions a good learner would not miss." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Value

"Men wish to be saved from the mischiefs of their vices, but not from their vices." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Vice

"Men talk as if victory were something fortunate. Work is victory." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Victory

"The god of victory is said to be one-handed, but peace gives victory on both sides." —
Ralph Waldo Emerson on Victory

"Where there is no vision a people perish." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Vision

"Each man has his own vocation; his talent is his call. There is one direction in which all
space is open to him." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Vocation

"A man's style is his mind's voice. Wooden minds, wooden voices." —Ralph Waldo
Emerson on Voice

"How much of human life is lost in waiting." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Waiting

"Want is a growing giant whom the coat of Have was never large enough to cover." —
Ralph Waldo Emerson on Wealth

"Let us be silent that we may hear the whispers of the gods." —Ralph Waldo Emerson
on Whisper

"The education of the will is the object of our existence." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on
Will

"Wit makes its own welcome, and levels all distinctions. No dignity, no learning, no force
of character, can make any stand against good wit." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Wit

"My work is a game, a very serious game." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on Work

"It is said that the world is in a state of bankruptcy, that the world owes the world more
than the world can pay." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on World

"The world always had the same bankrupt look, to foregoing ages as to us." —Ralph
Waldo Emerson on World

"Keep cool: it will be all one a hundred years hence." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on
Worry

"As a cure for worrying, work is better than whiskey." —Ralph Waldo Emerson on
Worry

"And what greater calamity can fall upon a nation than the loss of worship." —Ralph
Waldo Emerson on Worship

"Talent alone cannot make a writer. There must be a man behind the book." —Ralph
Waldo Emerson on Writer

"The only right is what is after my constitution; the only wrong is what is against it." —
Ralph Waldo Emerson on Wrong

"We do not count a man's years until he has nothing else to count." —Ralph Waldo
Emerson on Years

The key to the period appeared to be that the mind had become aware of itself ... The young men were born with knives in their brain, a tendency to introversion, self-dissection, anatomizing of motives.

A mollusk is a cheap edition [of man] with a suppression of the costlier illustrations, designed for dingy circulation, for shelving in an oyster-bank or among the seaweed.

What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have yet to be discovered.

The bitterest tragic element in life to be derived from an intellectual source is the belief in a brute Fate or Destiny.

All the thoughts of a turtle are turtles, and of rabbits, rabbits.

Sometimes a scream is better than a thesis.

Let me never fall into the vulgar mistake of dreaming that I am persecuted whenever I am contradicted.

You shall have joy, or you shall have power, said God; you shall not have both.

Do not be too timid and squeamish about your actions. All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better.

The sky is the daily bread of the eyes.

Poetry must be new as foam, and as old as the rock.

I owed a magnificent day to the Bhagavad Gita. It was the first of books; it was as if an empire spoke to us, nothing small or unworthy, but large, serene, consistent, the voice of an old intelligence which in another age and climate had pondered and thus disposed of the same questions which exercise us.

Immortality. I notice that as soon as writers broach this question they begin to quote. I hate quotation. Tell me what you know.

Blessed are those who have no talent!

The word liberty in the mouth of Mr. Webster sounds like the word love in the mouth of a courtesan.

The blazing evidence of immortality is our dissatisfaction with any other solution.

If the stars should appear one night in a thousand years, how would men believe and adore, and preserve for many generations the remembrance of the city of God which had been shown! But every night come out these envoys of beauty, and light the universe with their admonishing smile.

There are always two parties, the party of the past and the party of the Future; the Establishment and the Movement...

A man is a god in ruins.

The world is nothing, the man is all; in yourself is the law of all nature, and you know not yet how a globule of sap ascends; in yourself slumbers the whole of Reason; it is for you to know all, it is for you to dare all.

I had better never see a book than to be warped by its attraction clean out of my own orbit, and made a satellite instead of a system. The one thing in the world, of value, is the active soul.

Character is higher than intellect...A great soul will be strong to live, as well as strong to think.

Do not yet see, that, if the single man plant himself indomitably on his instincts, and there abide, the huge world will come round to him.

We will walk on our own feet; we will work with our own hands; we will speak our own minds...A nation of men will for the first time exist, because each believes himself inspired by the Divine Soul which also inspires all men.

The ancestor of every action is a thought.

It was a high counsel that I once heard given to a young person, "Always do what you are afraid to do."

Time dissipates to shining ether the solid angularity of facts.

There is a time in every man's education when he arrives at the conviction that envy is ignorance; that imitation is suicide; that he must take himself for better for worse as his portion; that though the wide universe is full of good, no kernel of nourishing corn can come to him but through his toil bestowed on that plot of ground which is given to him to till.

We but half express ourselves, and are ashamed of that divine idea which each of us represents.

Trust thyself: every heart vibrates to that iron string. Accept the place the divine providence has found for you, the society of your contemporaries, the connection of events. Great men have always done so.

Whoso would be a man, must be a nonconformist. He who would gather immortal palms must not be hindered by the name of goodness, but must explore if it be goodness. Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of your own mind. Absolve you to yourself, and you shall have the suffrage of the world.

Life only avails, not the having lived. Power ceases in the instant of repose; it resides in the moment of transition from a past to a new state, in the shooting of the gulf, in the darting to an aim

Power is in nature the essential measure of right. Nature suffers nothing to remain in her kingdoms which cannot help itself. The genesis and maturation of a planet, its poise and orbit, the bended tree recovering itself from the strong wind, the vital resources of every animal and vegetable, are demonstrations of the self-sufficing, and therefore self-relying soul.

But now we are a mob. Man does not stand in awe of man, nor is his genius admonished to stay at home, to put itself in communication with the internal ocean, but it goes abroad to beg a cup of water of the urns of other men. We must go alone. I like the silent church before the service begins, better than any preaching.

Discontent is the want of self-reliance: it is infirmity of will.

A friend may well be reckoned the masterpiece of nature.

Beware when the great God lets loose a thinker on this planet.

Nature abhors the old, and old age seems the only disease; all others run into this one.

Nothing astonishes men so much as common sense and plain dealing.

The only gift is a portion of thyself.

For it is not metres, but a metre-making argument, that makes a poem, a thought so passionate and alive, that, like the spirit of a plant or an animal, it has an architecture of its own, and adorns nature with a new thing.

We are symbols, and inhabit symbols.

Every ship is a romantic object, except that we sail in.

To finish the moment, to find the journey's end in every step of the road, to live the greatest number of good hours, is wisdom

Nature and books belong to the eyes that see them.

Of what use is genius, if the organ is too convex or too concave and cannot find a focal distance within the actual horizon of human life?

Do you see that kitten chasing so prettily her own tail? If you could look with her eyes, you might see her surrounded with hundreds of figures performing complex dramas, with tragic and comic issues, long conversations, many characters, many ups and downs of fate, and meantime it is only puss and her tail. How long before our masquerade will end its noise of tambourines, laughter, and shouting, and we shall find it was a solitary performance?

Hence, the less government we have, the better, the fewer laws, and the less confided power. The antidote to this abuse of formal Government, is, the influence of private character, the growth of the Individual.

Every man is wanted and no man is wanted much.

Great geniuses have the shortest biographies.

Is not marriage an open question, when it is alleged, from the beginning of the world, that such as are in the institution wish to get out, and such as are out wish to get in?

Great men, great nations, have not been boasters and buffoons, but perceivers of the terror of life, and have manned themselves to face it.

Whatever limits us we call Fate.

All the great speakers were bad speakers at first.

You can never do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.

I wish that life should not be cheap, but sacred. I wish the days to be as centuries, loaded, fragrant.

Our chief want in life is somebody who shall make us do what we can.

Make yourself necessary to somebody. Do not make life hard to any.

Considerations by the Way

Beauty without grace is the hook without the bait.

The highest compact we can make with our fellow, is, "Let there be truth between us two forevermore."

'Tis very certain that each man carries in his eye the exact indication of his rank in the immense scale of men, and we are always learning to read it. A complete man should need no auxiliaries to his personal presence.

We boil at different degrees.

The best university that can be recommended to a man of ideas is the gauntlet of the mobs.

The ornament of a house is the friends who frequent it.

Can anybody remember when the times were not hard and money not scarce?

Don't waste yourself in rejection, nor bark against the bad, but chant the beauty of the good.

Every genuine work of art has as much reason for being as the earth and the sun.

Science does not know its debt to imagination.

Alcohol, hashish, prussic acid, strychnine are weak dilutions. The surest poison is time.

The imagination is not a talent of some men but is the health of every man.

This world belongs to the energetic.

Every really able man, in whatever direction he work, - a man of large affairs, an inventor, a statesman, an orator, a poet, a painter,-if you talk sincerely with him, considers his work, however much admired, as far short of what it should be.

A good symbol is the best argument, and is a missionary to persuade thousands.

Wit makes its own welcome, and levels all distinctions. No dignity, no learning, no force of character, can make any stand against good wit.

The perception of the comic is a tie of sympathy with other men.

Each man is a hero and an oracle to somebody.

Every man I meet is in some way my superior.

Next to the originator of a good sentence is the first quoter of it.

There are many things of which a wise man might wish to be ignorant.

To live without duties is obscene.