



Ralph Waldo Emerson

Quotes

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

Speak your latent conviction, and it shall be the universal sense.

Society everywhere is in conspiracy against the manhood of every one of its members.

Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of your mind.

My life is for itself and not for a spectacle.

A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds. Adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines.

An institution is the lengthened shadow of one man.

Life only avails, not the having lived.

Insist on yourself; never imitate.

The civilized man has built a coach, but has lost the use of his feet.

Whoso would be a man, must be a non-conformist.

The only right is what is after my constitution; the only wrong what is against it.

A man who stands on his feet is stronger than a man who stands on his head.

Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could; some blunders and absurdities have crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; you shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense.

A chief event of life is the day in which we have encountered a mind that startled us.

All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better.

The reward of a thing well done, is to have done it.

Society acquires new arts, and loses old instincts.

There are always two parties; the establishment and the movement.

Let us treat men and women well; treat them as if they were real. Perhaps they are.

What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.

To be great is to be misunderstood.

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 with his friendship.

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.

That which we persist in doing becomes easier for us to do; not that the nature of the thing itself is changed, but that our power to do is increased.

There is then creative reading as well as creative writing.

Great men are they who see that spiritual is stronger than any material force; that thoughts rule the world.

He is great who is what he is from Nature, and who never reminds us of others.

Everything in Nature contains all the powers of Nature. Everything is made of one hidden stuff.

Conservatism makes no poetry, breathes no prayer, has no invention; it is all memory. Reform has no gratitude, no prudence, no husbandry.

I hate quotations. Tell me what you know.