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Quotes by Celine, Louis-Ferdinand

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Louis-Ferdinand Destouches as Cline (May 27, 1894 July 1, 1961) was a French writer and physician.

Almost every desire a poor man has is a punishable offence.

- Celine, Louis-Ferdinand

Even diseases have lost their prestige, there aren't so many of them left. Think it over... no more syphilis, no more clap, no more typhoid... antibiotics have taken half the tragedy out of medicine.

- Celine, Louis-Ferdinand

Experience is a dim lamp, which only lights the one who bears it.

- Celine, Louis-Ferdinand

One can't relive one's life. Forgiveness is not what's difficult; one's always too ready to forgive. And it does no good, that's obvious.

- Celine, Louis-Ferdinand

The poetry of heroism appeals irresistibly to those who don't go to a war, and even more to those whom the war is making enormously wealthy. It's always so.

- Celine, Louis-Ferdinand

We've no use for intellectuals in this outfit. What we need is chimpanzees. Let me give you a word of advice: never say a word to us about being intelligent. We will think for you, my friend. Don't forget it.

- Celine, Louis-Ferdinand

Life is filigree work. What is written clearly is not worth much, it's the transparency that counts.

- Celine, Louis-Ferdinand

Living, just by itself -- what a dirge that is! Life is a classroom and Boredom's the usher, there all the time to spy on you; whatever happens, you've got to look as if you were awfully busy all the time doing something that's terribly exciting --or he'll come along and nibble your brain.

- Celine, Louis-Ferdinand

Love, Arthur, is a poodle's chance of attaining the infinite, and personally I have my pride.

- Celine, Louis-Ferdinand

When you're not used to comfort and good things to eat, you're intoxicated by them in no time. Truth's only too pleased to leave you. Very little is ever needed for Truth to let go of you. And after all, you're not really very keen to keep hold of it.

- Celine, Louis-Ferdinand

To philosophize is only another way of being afraid and leads hardly anywhere but to cowardly make-believe.

- Celine, Louis-Ferdinand

There's a point of poverty at which the spirit isn't with the body all the time. It finds the body really too unbearable. So it's almost as if you were talking to the soul itself. And a soul's not properly responsible.

- Celine, Louis-Ferdinand

To hell with reality! I want to die in music, not in reason or in prose. People don't deserve the restraint we show by not going into delirium in front of them. To hell with them!

- Celine, Louis-Ferdinand

The whole business of your life overwhelms you when you live alone. One's stupefied by it. To get rid of it you try to daub some of it off on to people who come to see you, and they hate that. To be alone trains one for death.

- Celine, Louis-Ferdinand

The novel can't compete with cars, the movies, television, and liquor. A guy who's had a good feed and tanked up on good wine gives his old lady a kiss after supper and his day is over. Finished.

- Celine, Louis-Ferdinand

This instinctive repulsion which tradespeople inspire in men of sensitive feeling is one of the very rare consolations for being so impoverished which are given to those of us who don't sell anything to anybody.

- Celine, Louis-Ferdinand

Never believe straight off in a man's unhappiness. Ask him if he can still sleep. If the answer's yes, all's well. That is enough.

- Celine, Louis-Ferdinand

With two thousand years of Christianity behind him... a man can't see a regiment of soldiers march past without going off the deep end. It starts off far too many ideas in his head.

- Celine, Louis-Ferdinand



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