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Quotes by Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

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Samuel Taylor Coleridge (October 21, 1772 July 25, 1834) was an English poet, critic, and philosopher who was, along with his friend William Wordsworth, one of the founders of the Romantic Movement in England and as one of the Lake Poets. He is probably best known for his poems *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and *Kubla Khan*, as well as his major prose work *Biographia Literaria*.

Aptitude found in the understanding and is often inherited. Genius coming from reason and imagination, rarely.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Advice is like snow; the softer it falls the longer it dwells upon, and the deeper it sinks into the mind.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

There are three classes into which all the women past seventy that ever I knew were to be divided: 1. That dear old soul; 2. That old woman; 3. That old witch.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

To most men experience is like the stern lights of a ship, which illuminate only the track it has passed.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Friendship is a sheltering tree.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

And though thou notest from thy safe recess old friends burn dim, like lamps in noisome air love them for what they are; nor love them less, because to thee they are not what they were.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

As it must not, so genius cannot be lawless; for it is even that constitutes its genius -- the power of acting creatively under laws of its own origination.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Some men are like musical glasses; to produce their finest tones you must keep them wet.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Good and bad men are less than they seem.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Alas! they had been friends in youth; but whispering tongues can poison truth.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

The three great ends which a statesman ought to propose to himself in the government of a nation, are -- 1. Security to possessors; 2. Facility to acquirers; and, 3. Hope to all.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Greatness and goodness are not means, but ends.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Our own heart, and not other men's opinion, forms our true honor.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

People of humor are always in some degree people of genius.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

The wise only possess ideas; the greater part of mankind are possessed by them.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Oh worse than everything, is kindness counterfeiting absent love.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Language is the armory of the human mind, and at once contains the trophies of its past and the weapons of its future conquests.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

To see him act is like reading Shakespeare by flashes of lightning.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Poor little Foal of an oppressed race! I love the languid patience of thy face.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Exclusively of the abstract sciences, the largest and worthiest portion of our knowledge consists of aphorisms: and the greatest and best of men is but an aphorism.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

The principle of the Gothic architecture is infinity made imaginable.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

The most happy marriage I can imagine to myself would be the union of a deaf man to a blind woman.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

He is the best physician who is the most ingenious inspirer of hope.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

What comes from the heart, goes to the heart.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

No one does anything from a single motive.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

I do not call the sod under my feet my country; but language -- religion -- government --
blood -- identity in these makes men of one country.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Our quaint metaphysical opinions, in an hour of anguish, are like playthings by the
bedside of a child deathly sick.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

You see how this House of Commons has begun to verify all the ill prophecies that were
made of it -- low, vulgar, meddling with everything, assuming universal competency, and
flattering every base passion -- and sneering at everything noble refined and truly
national. The direct tyranny will come on by and by, after it shall have gratified the
multitude with the spoil and ruin of the old institutions of the land.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Plagiarists are always suspicious of being stolen from.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

I wish our clever young poets would remember my homely definitions of prose and poetry; that is, prose = words in their best order; --poetry = the best words in the best order.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

That willing suspension of disbelief for the moment, which constitutes poetic faith.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

In politics, what begins in fear usually ends in folly.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Forth from his dark and lonely hiding-place, (Portentous sight!) the owlet Atheism, sailing on obscene wings athwart the noon, drops his blue-fringed lids, and holds them close, and hooting at the glorious sun in Heaven, cries out, Where is it?

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

And the Devil did grin, for his darling sin is pride that apes humility.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

What is an epigram? A dwarfish whole. Its body brevity, and wit its soul.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Why are not more gems from our great authors scattered over the country? Great books are not in everybody's reach; and though it is better to know them thoroughly than to know them only here and there, yet it is a good work to give a little to those who have not the time nor means to get more.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Every reform, however necessary, will by weak minds be carried to an excess, which will itself need reforming.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

A religion, that is, a true religion, must consist of ideas and facts both; not of ideas alone without facts, for then it would be mere Philosophy; -- nor of facts alone without ideas, of which those facts are symbols, or out of which they arise, or upon which they are grounded: for then it would be mere History.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Rights! There are no rights whatever without corresponding duties. Look at the history of the growth of our constitution, and you will see that our ancestors never upon any occasion stated, as a ground for claiming any of their privileges, an abstract right inherent in themselves; you will nowhere in our parliamentary records find the miserable sophism of the Rights of Man.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Oh Sleep! it is a gentle thing, beloved from pole to pole, to Mary Queen the praise be given! She sent the gentle sleep from Heaven, that slid into my soul.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Swans sing before they die -- t'were no bad thing did certain persons die before they sing.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Look through the whole history of countries professing the Romish religion, and you will uniformly find the leaven of this besetting and accursed principle of action -- that the end will sanction any means.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

How deep a wound to morals and social purity has that accursed article of the celibacy of the clergy been! Even the best and most enlightened men in Romanist countries attach a notion of impurity to the marriage of a clergyman. And can such a feeling be without its effect on the estimation of the wedded life in general? Impossible! and the morals of both sexes in Spain, Italy, France, and. prove it abundantly.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

All sympathy not consistent with acknowledged virtue is but disguised selfishness.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

The happiness of life is made up of minute fractions -- the little soon forgotten charities of a kiss or smile, a kind look, a heartfelt compliment, and the countless infinitesimal of

pleasurable and genial feeling.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

I have seen great intolerance shown in support of tolerance.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Prose, words in their best order. Poetry, the best words in the best order.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Humor is consistent with pathos, whilst wit is not.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

My case is a species of madness, only that it is a derangement of the Volition, and not of the intellectual faculties.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

He who begins by loving Christianity better than truth, will proceed by loving his own sect or church better than Christianity, and end in loving himself better than all.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

An instinctive taste teaches men to build their churches with spire steeples which point as with a silent finger to the sky and stars.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Reviewers are usually people who would have been, poets, historians, biographer, if they could. They have tried their talents at one thing or another and have failed; therefore they turn critic.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

How inimitably graceful children are in general before they learn to dance!

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

An orphan's curse would drag to hell, a spirit from on high; but oh! more horrible than that,
is a curse in a dead man's eye!

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor



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