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# Quotes by Dryden, John

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John Dryden (August 9, 1631 – May 12, 1700) was an influential English poet, literary critic, and playwright.

Be slow to resolve, but quick in performance.

- Dryden, John

Self-defense is Nature's eldest law.

- Dryden, John

Nor is the people's judgment always true: the most may err as grossly as the few.

- Dryden, John

Since every man who lives is born to die, and none can boast sincere felicity, with equal mind, what happens, let us bear, nor joy nor grieve too much for things beyond our care.

- Dryden, John

Railing and praising were his usual themes; and both showed his judgment in extremes. Either over violent or over civil, so everyone to him was either god or devil.

- Dryden, John

So over violent, or over civil that every man with him was God or Devil.

- Dryden, John

All objects lose by too familiar a view.

- Dryden, John

All things are subject to decay and when fate summons, monarchs must obey.

- Dryden, John

Seek not to know what must not be reveal, for joy only flows where fate is most  
concealed. A busy person would find their sorrows much more; if future fortunes were  
known before!

- Dryden, John

He has not learned the first lesson of life who does not every day surmount a fear.

- Dryden, John

It is madness to make fortune the mistress of events, because by herself she is nothing  
and is ruled by prudence.

- Dryden, John

Genius must be born, and never can be taught.

- Dryden, John

Great wits are sure to madness near allied, and thin partitions do their bounds divide.

- Dryden, John

Time, place, and action may with pains be wrought, but genius must be born; and never can be taught.

- Dryden, John

Fool that I was, upon my eagle's wings I bore this wren, till I was tired with soaring, and now he mounts above me.

- Dryden, John

We first make our habits, and then our habits make us.

- Dryden, John

Ill habits gather unseen degrees, as brooks make rivers, rivers run to seas.

- Dryden, John

Woman's honor is nice as ermine; it will not bear a soil.

- Dryden, John

All heiresses are beautiful.

- Dryden, John

Jealousy is the jaundice of the soul.

- Dryden, John

For present joys are more to flesh and blood than a dull prospect of a distant good.

- Dryden, John

Kings fight for empires, madmen for applause.

- Dryden, John

When I consider life, it is all a cheat. Yet fooled with hope, people favor this deceit.

- Dryden, John

Only man clogs his happiness with care, destroying what is, with thoughts of what may be.

- Dryden, John

Drinking is the soldier's pleasure.

- Dryden, John

Love works a different way in different minds, the fool it enlightens and the wise it blinds.

- Dryden, John

Love is love's reward.

- Dryden, John

Love is not in our choice but in our fate.

- Dryden, John

Go miser go, for money sell your soul. Trade wares for wares and trudge from pole to pole, So others may say when you are dead and gone. See what a vast estate he left his son.

- Dryden, John

Thou strong seducer, Opportunity!

- Dryden, John

Pains of love be sweeter far than all the other pleasures are.

- Dryden, John

The sooner you treat your son as a man, the sooner he will be one.

- Dryden, John

Beware the fury of a patient man.

- Dryden, John

Never was patriot yet, but was a fool.

- Dryden, John

He invades authors like a monarch; and what would be theft in other poets is only victory in him.

- Dryden, John

Resolved to ruin or to rule the state.

- Dryden, John

Mighty things from small beginnings grow.

- Dryden, John

He who would search for pearls must dive below.

- Dryden, John

Reason is a crutch for age, but youth is strong enough to walk alone.

- Dryden, John

Repentance is but want of power to sin.

- Dryden, John

Plots, true or false, are necessary things, to raise up commonwealths, and ruin kings.

- Dryden, John

Not to ask is not be denied.

- Dryden, John

She feared no danger, for she knew no sin.

- Dryden, John

Fortune befriends the bold.

- Dryden, John

Far more numerous are those as such; who think to little and talk to much.

- Dryden, John

Time is the most valuable coin in your life. You and you alone will determine how that coin will be spent. Be careful that you don't let other people spend it for you.

- Dryden, John

Tomorrow do thy worst, I have lived today.

- Dryden, John

He who trusts secrets to a servant makes him his master.

- Dryden, John

Look around the inhabited world; how few know their own good, or knowing it, pursue.

- Dryden, John

War is the trade of Kings.

- Dryden, John

War, he sung, is toil and trouble; Honor but an empty bubble.

- Dryden, John

Nature meant me a wife, a silly harmless household Dove, fond without art; and kind without deceit.

- Dryden, John

Men are but children of a larger growth, Our appetites as apt to change as theirs, And full as craving too, and full as vain.

- Dryden, John

For they conquer who believe they can.

- Dryden, John

For all have not the gift of martyrdom.

- Dryden, John

Roused by the lash of his own stubborn tail our lion now will foreign foes assail.

- Dryden, John

Happy the man, and happy he alone, he who can call today his own; he who, secure within, can say, tomorrow do thy worst, for I have lived today.

- Dryden, John

Successful crimes alone are justified.

- Dryden, John

All human things are subject to decay, and when fate summons, monarchs must obey.

- Dryden, John

He was exhaled; his great Creator drew His spirit, as the sun the morning dew.

- Dryden, John

Like pilgrims to the appointed place we tend; The world's an inn, and death the journey's end.

- Dryden, John

To die is landing on some distant shore.

- Dryden, John

Fortune, that with malicious joy  
Does man her slave oppress,  
Proud of her office to  
destroy,  
Is seldom pleas'd to bless.

- Dryden, John

Such subtle Covenants shall be made,  
Till Peace it self is War in Masquerade.

- Dryden, John





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