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Quotes by Goldsmith, Oliver

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Oliver Goldsmith (November 10, 1730(?) April 4, 1774) was an Irish writer and physician known for his novel *The Vicar of Wakefield* (1766), his pastoral poem *The Deserted Village* (1770) (written in memory of his brother), and his plays *The Good-natur'd Man* (1768) and *She Stoops to Conquer* (1773).

People seek within a short span of life to satisfy a thousand desires, each of which is insatiable.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

For he that fights and runs away, may live to fight another day, but he, who is in battle slain, can never rise and fight again.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

The doctor found, when she was dead, her last disorder mortal.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

A modest woman, dressed out in all her finery, is the most tremendous object of the whole creation.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Thou source of all my bliss and all my woe, that found me poor at first, and keep me so.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

But in his duty prompt at every call, he watched and wept, he prayed and felt for all.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

People seldom improve when they have no other model, but themselves to copy after.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

To aim at excellence, our reputation, and friends, and all must be ventured; to aim at the average we run no risk and provide little service.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

There are some faults so nearly allied to excellence that we can scarce weed out the vice without eradicating the virtue.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Some faults are so closely allied to qualities that it is difficult to weed out the vice without eradicating the virtue.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Fear guides more than gratitude.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

The company of fools may first make us smile, but in the end we always feel melancholy.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

No one but a fool would measure their satisfaction by what the world thinks of it.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Fortune is ever seen accompanying industry.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Friendship is a disinterested commerce between equals; love, an abject intercourse between tyrants and slaves.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Whenever you see a gaming table be sure to know fortune is not there. Rather she is always in the company of industry.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Girls like to be played with, and rumpled a little too, sometimes.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

I can't say whether we had more wit among us now than usual, but I am certain we had more laughing, which answered the end as well.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

The ambitious are forever followed by adulation for they receive the most pleasure from flattery.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

In all the silent manliness of grief.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

When any one of our relations was found to be a person of a very bad character, a troublesome guest, or one we desired to get rid of, upon his leaving my house I ever took care to lend him a riding-coat, or a pair of boots, or sometimes a horse of small value, and I always had the satisfaction of finding he never came back to return them.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

If frugality were established in the state, and if our expenses were laid out to meet needs rather than superfluities of life, there might be fewer wants, and even fewer pleasures, but infinitely more happiness.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

The hours that we pass with happy prospects in view are more pleasing than those crowned with success.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

And still they gazed, and still the wonder grew, that one small head could carry all he knew.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

The malicious sneer is improperly called laughter.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

The loud laugh that spoke the vacant mind.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

The best way to make your audience laugh is to start laughing yourself.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

The English laws punish vice; the Chinese laws do more, they reward virtue.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Law grinds the poor, and rich men rule the law.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

The life of man is a journey; a journey that must be traveled, however bad the roads or the accommodation.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Life at the greatest and best is but a forward child, that must be humored and coaxed a little till it falls asleep, and then all the care is over.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

If one wishes to become rich they must appear rich.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

There is no arguing with him, for if his pistol misses fire, he knocks you down with the butt end of it.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

I have known a German Prince with more titles than subjects, and a Spanish nobleman with more names than shirts.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Who can direct when all pretend to know?

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Ceremonies are different in every country, but true politeness is everywhere the same.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

A traveler of taste will notice that the wise are polite all over the world, but the fool only at

home.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

You, that are going to be married, think things can never be done too fast: but we that are old, and know what we are about, must elope methodically, madam.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Our chief comforts often produce our greatest anxieties, and the increase in our possessions is but an inlet to new disquietudes.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Vain, very vain is my search to find; that happiness which only centers in the mind.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Modesty seldom resides in a breast that is not enriched with nobler virtues.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Take a dollar from a thousand and it will be a thousand no more.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Don't let us make imaginary evils, when you know we have so many real ones to encounter.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

With disadvantages enough to bring him to humility, a Scotsman is one of the proudest things alive.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

It seemed to me pretty plain, that they had more of love than matrimony in them.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Persecution is a tribute the great must always pay for preeminence.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

There is nothing so absurd or ridiculous that has not at some time been said by some philosopher. Fontenelle says he would undertake to persuade the whole public of readers to believe that the sun was neither the cause of light or heat, if he could only get six philosophers on his side.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Pity and friendship are two passions incompatible with each other.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Our pleasures are short, and can only charm at intervals; love is a method of protraction our greatest pleasure.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Life has been compared to a race, but the allusion improves by observing, that the most swift are usually the least manageable and the most likely to stray from the course. Great abilities have always been less serviceable to the possessors than moderate ones.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

He cast off his friends as a huntsman his pack, for he knew when he pleased he could whistle them back.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

The mind is ever ingenious in making its own distress.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

A great source of calamity lies in regret and anticipation; therefore a person is wise who thinks of the present alone, regardless of the past or future.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

We had no revolutions to fear, nor fatigues to undergo; all our adventures were by the fireside, and all our migrations from the blue bed to the brown.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

The jests of the rich are ever successful.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Ridicule has always been the enemy of enthusiasm, and the only worthy opponent to ridicule is success.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

She who makes her husband and her children happy, who reclaims the one from vice, and trains up the other to virtue, is a much greater character than the ladies described in romance, whose whole occupation is to murder mankind with shafts from their quiver or their eyes.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Romance and novel paint beauty in colors more charming than nature, and describe a happiness that humans never taste. How deceptive and destructive are those pictures of consummate bliss!

- Goldsmith, Oliver

When lovely woman stoops to folly, and finds too late that men betray, what charm can soothe her melancholy, what art can wash her guilt away?

- Goldsmith, Oliver

As writers become more numerous, it is natural for readers to become more indolent; whence must necessarily arise a desire of attaining knowledge with the greatest possible ease.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

When a person has no need to borrow they find multitudes willing to lend.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Honor sinks where commerce long prevails.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Unequal combinations are always disadvantageous to the weaker side.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

You can preach a better sermon with your life than with your lips.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

I love everything that's old: old friends, old times, old manners, old books, old wines; and,
I believe, Dorothy, you'll own I have been pretty fond of an old wife.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Well had the boding tremblers learned to trace the day's disasters in his morning face.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Tenderness is a virtue.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Those that think must govern those that toil.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Life is a journey that must be traveled no matter how bad the roads and accommodations.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

A man who leaves home to mend himself and others is a philosopher; but he who goes from country to country, guided by the blind impulse of curiosity, is a vagabond.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey, where wealth accumulates, and men decay.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Wisdom makes a slow defense against trouble, though a sure one in the end.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Truth from his lips prevailed with double sway, and fools, who came to scoff, remained to pray.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

I... chose my wife as she did her wedding-gown, not for a fine glossy surface, but such qualities as would wear well.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Like the bee, we should make our industry our amusement.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

I do not love a man who is zealous for nothing.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Every absurdity has a champion to defend it; for error is always talkative.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Surely the best way to meet the enemy is head on in the field and not wait till they plunder our very homes.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

The heart of every man lies open to the shafts of correction if the archer can take proper aim.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Good counsel rejected returns to enrich the givers bosom.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Crime generally punishes itself.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Write how you want, the critic shall show the world you could have written better.

- Goldsmith, Oliver



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