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Quotes by Bacon, Francis

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Francis Bacon, 1st Viscount St Alban, KC (22 January 1561 - 9 April 1626) was an English philosopher, statesman and essayist but is best known for leading the scientific revolution with his new 'observation and experimentation' theory which is the way science has been conducted ever since. He was knighted in 1603, created Baron Verulam in 1618, and created Viscount St Alban in 1621; both peerage titles became extinct upon his death.

There is as much difference between the counsel that a friend giveth, and that a man giveth himself, as there is between the counsel of a friend and of a flatterer. For there is no such flatterer as is a man's self.

- Bacon, Francis

He that gives good advice, builds with one hand; he that gives good counsel and example, builds with both; but he that gives good admonition and bad example, builds with one hand and pulls down with the other.

- Bacon, Francis

Age will not be defied.

- Bacon, Francis

Discern of the coming on of years, and think not to do the same things still; for age will not

be defied.

- Bacon, Francis

Men of age object too much, consult too long, adventure too little, repent too soon, and seldom drive business home to the full period, but content themselves with a mediocrity of success.

- Bacon, Francis

Old wood best to burn, old wine to drink, old friends to trust, and old authors to read.

- Bacon, Francis

People of age object too much, consult too long, adventure too little, repent too soon and seldom drive business home to it's conclusion, but content themselves with a mediocrity of success.

- Bacon, Francis

The great advantages of simulation and dissimulation are three. First to lay asleep opposition and to surprise. For where a man's intentions are published, it is an alarm to call up all that are against them. The second is to reserve a man's self a fair retreat: for if a man engage himself, by a manifest declaration, he must go through, or take a fall. The third is, the better to discover the mind of another. For to him that opens himself, men will hardly show themselves adverse; but will fair let him go on, and turn their freedom of speech to freedom of thought.

- Bacon, Francis

The desire of excessive power caused the angels to fall; the desire of knowledge caused men to fall.

- Bacon, Francis

They are ill discoverers that think there is no land when they see nothing but sea.

- Bacon, Francis

Discretion of speech is more than eloquence, and to speak agreeably to him with whom we deal is more than to speak in good words, or in good order.

- Bacon, Francis

Cure the disease and kill the patient.

- Bacon, Francis

Suspitions that the mind, of itself, gathers, are but buzzes; but suspitions that are artificially nourished and put into men's heads by the tales and whisperings of others, have stings.

- Bacon, Francis

In contemplation, if a man begins with certainties he shall end in doubts; but if he be content to begin with doubts, he shall end in certainties.

- Bacon, Francis

Philosophy when superficially studied, excites doubt, when thoroughly explored, it dispels it.

- Bacon, Francis

Suspicion amongst thoughts are like bats amongst birds, they never fly by twilight.

- Bacon, Francis

None of the affections have been noted to fascinate and bewitch but envy.

- Bacon, Francis

Riches are for spending.

- Bacon, Francis

Men on their side must force themselves for a while to lay their notions by and begin to familiarize themselves with facts.

- Bacon, Francis

Fame is like a river, that beareth up things light and swollen, and drowns things weighty and solid.

- Bacon, Francis

Good fame is like fire; when you have kindled you may easily preserve it; but if you

extinguish it, you will not easily kindle it again.

- Bacon, Francis

He that hath wife and children hath given hostages to fortune; for they are impediments to great enterprises, either of virtue or mischief.

- Bacon, Francis

Fortune is like the market, where, many times, if you can stay a little, the price will fall.

- Bacon, Francis

Ill Fortune never crushed that man whom good fortune deceived not.

- Bacon, Francis

Men fear death as children fear to go in the dark; and as that natural fear in children is increased with tales, so is the other.

- Bacon, Francis

It is a miserable state of mind to have few things to desire and many things to fear.

- Bacon, Francis

This is certain, that a man that studieth revenge keeps his wounds green, which otherwise would heal and do well.

- Bacon, Francis

Therefore if a man look sharply and attentively, he shall see Fortune; for though she be blind, yet she is not invisible.

- Bacon, Francis

Without friends the world is but a wilderness. There is no man that imparteth his joys to his friends, but he joyeth the more; and no man that imparteth his grieves to his friend, but he grieveth the less.

- Bacon, Francis

The worst solitude is to have no real friendships.

- Bacon, Francis

God almighty first planted a garden: and, indeed, it is the purest of human pleasure.

- Bacon, Francis

Natural abilities are like natural plants; they need pruning by study.

- Bacon, Francis

A graceful and pleasing figure is a perpetual letter of recommendation.

- Bacon, Francis

For my name and memory I leave to men's charitable speeches, and to foreign nations

and the next ages.

- Bacon, Francis

It is the true office of history to represent the events themselves, together with the counsels, and to leave the observations and conclusions thereupon to the liberty and faculty of every man's judgment.

- Bacon, Francis

Histories make men wise; poets, witty; the mathematics, subtle; natural philosophy, deep; moral, grave; logic and rhetoric, able to contend.

- Bacon, Francis

Houses are built to live in, and not to look on: therefore let use be preferred before uniformity.

- Bacon, Francis

The person is a poor judge who by an action can be disgraced more in failing than they can be honored in succeeding.

- Bacon, Francis

Hope is a good breakfast but a bad supper.

- Bacon, Francis

Our humanity is a poor thing, except for the divinity that stirs within us.

- Bacon, Francis

Imagination was given man to compensate for what he is not, and a sense of humor to console him for what he is.

- Bacon, Francis

In every great time there is some one idea at work which is more powerful than any other, and which shapes the events of the time and determines their ultimate issues.

- Bacon, Francis

Acorns were good until bread was found.

- Bacon, Francis

As the births of living creatures, at first, are ill-shapen: so are all Innovations, which are the births of time.

- Bacon, Francis

By indignities men come to dignities.

- Bacon, Francis

God has placed no limits to the exercise of the intellect he has given us, on this side of the grave.

- Bacon, Francis

Next to religion, let your care be to promote justice.

- Bacon, Francis

Knowledge is power.

- Bacon, Francis

Knowledge and human power are synonymous.

- Bacon, Francis

Judges ought to be more learned than witty, more reverent than plausible, and more advised than confident. Above all things, integrity is their portion and proper virtue.

- Bacon, Francis

Studies perfect nature and are perfected still by experience.

- Bacon, Francis

Studies serve for delight, for ornaments, and for ability.

- Bacon, Francis

Lies are sufficient to breed opinion, and opinion brings on substance.

- Bacon, Francis

Life, an age to the miserable, and a moment to the happy.

- Bacon, Francis

Anger makes dull men witty -- but it keeps them poor.

- Bacon, Francis

For a crowd is not company; and faces are but a gallery of pictures; and talk but a tinkling cymbal, where there is no love.

- Bacon, Francis

Nuptial love makes mankind; friendly love perfects it; but wanton love corrupts and debases it.

- Bacon, Francis

Wives are young men's mistresses; companions for middle age, and old men's nurses.

- Bacon, Francis

No man's fortune can be an end worthy of his being.

- Bacon, Francis

Money makes a good servant, but a bad master.

- Bacon, Francis

If money be not thy servant, it will be thy master. The covetous man cannot so properly be said to possess wealth, as that may be said to possess him.

- Bacon, Francis

Money is like muck, not good except it be spread.

- Bacon, Francis

Be not penny-wise. Riches have wings. Sometimes they fly away of themselves, and sometimes they must be set flying to bring in more.

- Bacon, Francis

Mysteries are due to secrecy.

- Bacon, Francis

The French are wiser than they seem, and the Spaniards seem wiser than they are.

- Bacon, Francis

The subtlety of nature is greater many times over than the subtlety of the senses and understanding.

- Bacon, Francis

Nature is commanded by obeying her.

- Bacon, Francis

Nakedness is uncomely, as well in mind as body, and it addeth no small reverence to men's manners and actions if they be not altogether open. Therefore set it down: That a habit of secrecy is both politic and moral.

- Bacon, Francis

A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds.

- Bacon, Francis

Opportunity makes a thief.

- Bacon, Francis

Many a man's strength is in opposition, and when he faileth, he grows out of use.

- Bacon, Francis

Pictures and shapes are but secondary objects and please or displease only in the memory.

- Bacon, Francis

The joys of parents are secret, and so are their grieves and fears.

- Bacon, Francis

Antiquities are history defaced, or some remnants of history which have casually escaped the shipwreck of time.

- Bacon, Francis

Who ever is out of patience is out of possession of their soul.

- Bacon, Francis

We are much beholden to Machiavel and others, that write what men do, and not what they ought to do.

- Bacon, Francis

The poets did well to conjoin music and medicine, because the office of medicine is but to tune the curious harp of man's body.

- Bacon, Francis

It is as hard and severe a thing to be a true politician as to be truly moral.

- Bacon, Francis

Small amounts of philosophy lead to atheism, but larger amounts bring us back to God.

- Bacon, Francis

Atheism is rather in the lip than in the heart of man.

- Bacon, Francis

It is true, that a little philosophy inclineth man's mind to atheism, but depth in philosophy bringeth men's minds about to religion.

- Bacon, Francis

I had rather believe all the Fables in the Legend, and the Talmud, and the Alcoran, than that this universal frame is without a Mind.

- Bacon, Francis

Certainly the best works, and of greatest merit for the public, have proceeded from the unmarried, or childless men.

- Bacon, Francis

Nothing destroys authority more than the unequal and untimely interchange of power stretched too far and relaxed too much.

- Bacon, Francis

It is a strange desire, to seek power, and to lose liberty; or to seek power over others, and to lose power over a man's self.

- Bacon, Francis

All colors will agree in the dark.

- Bacon, Francis

Write down the thoughts of the moment. Those that come unsought for are commonly the most valuable.

- Bacon, Francis

He that will not apply new remedies, must expect new evils: for Time is the greatest innovator: and if Time, of course, alter things to the worse, and wisdom and counsel shall not alter them to the better, what shall be the end?.

- Bacon, Francis

I hold every man a debtor to his profession.

- Bacon, Francis

Prosperity discovers vice, adversity discovers virtue.

- Bacon, Francis

The genius, wit, and the spirit of a nation are discovered by their proverbs.

- Bacon, Francis

God hangs the greatest weights upon the smallest wires.

- Bacon, Francis

Who questions much, shall learn much, and retain much.

- Bacon, Francis

A sudden bold and unexpected question doth many times surprise a man and lay him open.

- Bacon, Francis

A prudent question is one-half of wisdom.

- Bacon, Francis

The mould of a man's fortune is in his own hands.

- Bacon, Francis

A man who contemplates revenge keeps his wounds green.

- Bacon, Francis

Revenge is a kind of wild justice, which the more a man's nature runs to, the more ought law to weed it out.

- Bacon, Francis

Riches are a good hand maiden, but a poor mistress.

- Bacon, Francis

Science is but an image of the truth.

- Bacon, Francis

People of great position are servants times three, servants of their country, servants of fame, and servants of business.

- Bacon, Francis

Silence is the virtue of fools.

- Bacon, Francis

Whosoever is delighted in solitude is either a wild beast or a god.

- Bacon, Francis

Speech of yourself ought to be seldom and well chosen.

- Bacon, Francis

The best armor is to keep out of gunshot.

- Bacon, Francis

I would live to study, and not study to live.

- Bacon, Francis

It was prettily devised of Aesop, The fly sat on the axle tree of the chariot wheel and said, what dust do I raise!

- Bacon, Francis

The best part of beauty is that which no picture can express.

- Bacon, Francis

There is no excellent beauty that hath not some strangeness in the proportion.

- Bacon, Francis

Boldness is ever blind, for it sees not dangers and inconveniences whence it is bad in council though good in execution.

- Bacon, Francis

Some books are to be tasted; others to be swallowed; and some few to be chewed and digested.

- Bacon, Francis

Read not to contradict and confute; nor to believe and take for granted; nor to find talk and discourse; but to weigh and consider.

- Bacon, Francis

If we begin with certainties, we shall end in doubts; but if we begin with doubts, and are patient in them, we shall end in certainties.

- Bacon, Francis

If a man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubts, but if he will be content to begin with doubts, he shall end in certainties.

- Bacon, Francis

That things are changed, and that nothing really perishes, and that the sum of matter remains exactly the same, is sufficiently certain.

- Bacon, Francis

In charity there is no excess.

- Bacon, Francis

To be free minded and cheerfully disposed at hours of meat and sleep and of exercise is one of the best precepts of long lasting.

- Bacon, Francis

There is nothing makes a man suspect much, more than to know little, and therefore men should remedy suspicion by procuring to know more, and not keep their suspicions in smother.

- Bacon, Francis

In thinking, if a person begins with certainties, they shall end in doubts, but if they can begin with doubts, they will end in certainties.

- Bacon, Francis

To choose time is to save time.

- Bacon, Francis

Time is the measure of business.

- Bacon, Francis

Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man.

- Bacon, Francis

Truth arises more readily from error than from confusion.

- Bacon, Francis

It is a pleasure to stand upon the shore, and to see ships tost upon the sea: a pleasure to stand in the window of a castle, and to see a battle and the adventures thereof below: but no pleasure is comparable to standing upon the vantage ground of truth... and to see the errors, and wanderings, and mists, and tempests, in the vale below.

- Bacon, Francis

What is truth? said jesting Pilate; and would not stay for an answer.

- Bacon, Francis

There is no comparison between that which is lost by not succeeding and that which is lost by not trying.

- Bacon, Francis

Nothing is pleasant that is not spiced with variety.

- Bacon, Francis

Virtue is like a rich stone, best plain set.

- Bacon, Francis

The fortune which nobody sees makes a person happy and unenvied.

- Bacon, Francis

There is a difference between happiness and wisdom: he that thinks himself the happiest man is really so; but he that thinks himself the wisest is generally the greatest fool.

- Bacon, Francis

Silence is the sleep that nourishes wisdom.

- Bacon, Francis

For it is not possible to join serpentine wisdom with columbine innocence, except men know exactly all the conditions of the serpent: his baseness and going upon his belly, his volubility and lubricity, his envy and sting, and the rest; that is, all forms and natures of

evil: for without this, virtue lieth open and unfenced.

- Bacon, Francis

Young people are fitter to invent than to judge; fitter for execution than for counsel; and more fit for new projects than for settled business.

- Bacon, Francis

They that will not apply new remedies must expect new evils.

- Bacon, Francis

Prosperity is not without many fears and distastes; adversity not without many comforts and hopes.

- Bacon, Francis

Choose the life that is most useful, and habit will make it the most agreeable.

- Bacon, Francis

Of great wealth there is no real use, except in its distribution, the rest is just conceit.

- Bacon, Francis

A good conscience is a continual feast.

- Bacon, Francis

Consistency is the foundation of virtue.

- Bacon, Francis

Look to make your course regular, that men may know beforehand what they may expect.

- Bacon, Francis

The place of justice is a hallowed place.

- Bacon, Francis

If a man be gracious and courteous to strangers, it shows he is a citizen of the world.

- Bacon, Francis

God's first creature, which was light.

- Bacon, Francis

People usually think according to their inclinations, speak according to their learning and ingrained opinions, but generally act according to custom.

- Bacon, Francis

It is natural to die as to be born.

- Bacon, Francis

It is as natural to die as to be born; and to a little infant, perhaps, the one is as painful as

the other.

- Bacon, Francis

I do not believe that any man fears to be dead, but only the stroke of death.

- Bacon, Francis

There be three things which make a nation great and prosperous: a fertile soil, busy workshops, easy conveyance for men and goods from place to place.

- Bacon, Francis

Young men are fitter to invent, than to judge; fitter for execution than for counsel; and fitter for new projects than for settled business; Young men, in the conduct and manage of actions, embrace more than they can hold; stir more than they can quiet; fly to the end, without consideration of the means and degrees; pursue some few principles which they have chanced upon absurdly; care not to innovate, which draws unknown inconveniences; use extreme remedies at first; and that, which doubleth all errors, will not acknowledge or retract them, like an unruly horse, that will neither stop nor turn. Men of age object too much, consult too long, adventure too little, repent too soon, and seldom drive business home to the full period, but content themselves with a mediocrity of success.

- Bacon, Francis

Ask counsel of both times of the ancient time what is best, and of the latter time what is fittest.

- Bacon, Francis

Croesus said to Cambyses; That peace was better than war; because in peace the sons did bury their fathers, but in wars the fathers did bury their sons.

- Bacon, Francis

Nay, number itself in armies importeth not much, where the people is of weak courage; for, as Virgil saith, It never troubles the wolf how many the sheep be.

- Bacon, Francis

He that hath wife and children hath given hostages to fortune, for they are impediments to great enterprises, either of virtue or mischief. Certainly the best works and of greatest merit for the public have proceeded from the unmarried or childless men, which both in affection and means have married and endowed the public. He was reputed one of the wise men that made answer to the question, when a man should marry A young man not yet, an elder man not at all.

- Bacon, Francis

Atheism leaves a man to sense, to philosophy, to natural piety, to laws, to reputation; all of which may be guides to an outward moral virtue, even if religion vanished; but religious superstition dismounts all these and erects an absolute monarchy in the minds of men.

- Bacon, Francis



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