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Quotes by Lamb, Charles

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Charles Lamb (10 February 1775 - 27 July 1834) was an English essayist, best known for his *Essays of Elia* and for the children's book *Tales from Shakespeare*, which he produced along with his sister, Mary Lamb (1764-1847).

The greatest pleasure I know, is to do a good action by stealth, and to have it found out by accident.

- Lamb, Charles

A poor relation is the most irrelevant thing in nature, a piece of impertinent correspondence, an odious approximation, a haunting conscience, a preposterous shadow, lengthening in the noon-tide of our prosperity. He is known by his knock.

- Lamb, Charles

The beggar wears all colors fearing none.

- Lamb, Charles

The red-letter days, now become, to all intents and purposes, dead-letter days.

- Lamb, Charles

Separate from the pleasure of your company, I don't much care if I never see another mountain in my life.

- Lamb, Charles

'Tis the privilege of friendship to talk nonsense, and have her nonsense respected.

- Lamb, Charles

Presents, I often say, endear absents.

- Lamb, Charles

Were I Diogenes, I would not move out of a kilderkin into a hogshead, though the first had had nothing but small beer in it, and the second reeked claret.

- Lamb, Charles

To be sick is to enjoy monarchical prerogatives.

- Lamb, Charles

The man must have a rare recipe for melancholy, who can be dull in Fleet Street.

- Lamb, Charles

A laugh is worth a hundred groans in any market.

- Lamb, Charles

Lawyers I suppose were children once.

- Lamb, Charles

He is no lawyer who cannot take two sides.

- Lamb, Charles

The beggar is the only person in the universe not obliged to study appearance.

- Lamb, Charles

Newspapers always excite curiosity. No one ever puts one down without the feeling of disappointment.

- Lamb, Charles

Pain is life -- the sharper, the more evidence of life.

- Lamb, Charles

We gain nothing by being with such as ourselves. We encourage one another in mediocrity. I am always longing to be with men more excellent than myself.

- Lamb, Charles

Don't introduce me to that man! I want to go on hating him, and I can't hate a man whom I know.

- Lamb, Charles

A pun is not bound by the laws which limit nicer wit. It is a pistol let off at the ear; not a feather to tickle the intellect.

- Lamb, Charles

For God's sake (I never was more serious) don't make me ridiculous any more by terming me gentle-hearted in print... substitute drunken dog, ragged head, seld-shaven, odd-eyed, stuttering, or any other epithet which truly and properly belongs to the gentleman in question.

- Lamb, Charles

Riches are chiefly good because they give us time.

- Lamb, Charles

In everything that relates to science, I am a whole Encyclopaedia behind the rest of the world.

- Lamb, Charles

How a sickness enlarges the dimensions of a man's self to himself! He is his own exclusive object. Supreme selfishness is inculcated in him as his only duty,

- Lamb, Charles

He has left off reading altogether, to the great improvement of his originality.

- Lamb, Charles

Borrowers of books --those mutilators of collections, spoilers of the symmetry of shelves, and creators of odd volumes.

- Lamb, Charles

I love to lose myself in other men's minds. When I am not walking, I am reading. I cannot sit and think; books think for me.

- Lamb, Charles

Boys are capital fellows in their own way, among their mates; but they are unwholesome companions for grown people.

- Lamb, Charles

Cards are war, in disguise of a sport.

- Lamb, Charles

Why are we never quite at ease in the presence of a schoolmaster? Because we are conscious that he is not quite at his ease in ours. He is awkward, and out of place in the society of his equals. He comes like Gulliver from among his little people, and he cannot fit the stature of his understanding to yours.

- Lamb, Charles

The teller of a mirthful tale has latitude allowed him. We are content with less than absolute truth.

- Lamb, Charles

The vices of some men are magnificent.

- Lamb, Charles

When I consider how little of a rarity children are -- that every street and blind alley swarms with them -- that the poorest people commonly have them in most abundance -- that there are few marriages that are not blest with at least one of these bargains -- how often they turn out ill, and defeat the fond hopes of their parents, taking to vicious courses, which end in poverty, disgrace, the gallows, etc. -- I cannot for my life tell what cause for pride there can possibly be in having them.

- Lamb, Charles

Man is a gaming animal. He must always be trying to get the better in something or other.

- Lamb, Charles

My motto is: Contented with little, yet wishing for more.

- Lamb, Charles

Nothing puzzles me more than time and space; and yet nothing troubles me less, as I never think about them.

- Lamb, Charles

I could never hate anyone I knew.

- Lamb, Charles



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