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# Quotes by Beecher, Henry Ward

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Henry Ward Beecher (June 24, 1813 - March 8, 1887) was a theologically liberal American Congregationalist clergyman and reformer, and author who was born in Litchfield, Connecticut, the eighth of nine children of Lyman Beecher by his first wife (and the eighth of thirteen children in all). One of his elder sisters was Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of Uncle Tom's Cabin.

Interest works night and day in fair weather and in foul. It gnaws at a man's substance with invisible teeth.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Defeat is a school in which truth always grows strong.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

It is defeat that turns bone to flint; it is defeat that turns gristle to muscle; it is defeat that makes men invincible.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Troubles are often the tools by which God fashions us for better things.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

No man is such a conqueror, as the one that has defeated himself.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

He who is false to present duty breaks a thread in the loom, and will find the flaw when he may have forgotten its cause.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Education is the knowledge of how to use the whole of oneself. Many men use but one or two faculties out of the score with which they are endowed. A man is educated who knows how to make a tool of every faculty--how to open it, how to keep it sharp, and how to apply it to all practical purposes.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

In things pertaining to enthusiasm, no man is sane who does not know how to be insane on proper occasions.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The babe at first feeds upon the mother's bosom, but it is always on her heart.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

There is no friendship, no love, like that of the parent for the child.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Now comes the mystery.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Fear secretes acids; but love and trust are sweet juices.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

See that each hour's feelings, and thoughts and actions are pure and true; then your life will be also.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Every man should keep a fair-sized cemetery in which to bury the faults of his friends.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Giving The best thing to give to your enemy is forgiveness; to an opponent, tolerance; to a friend, your heart; to your child, a good example; to a father, deference; to your mother, conduct that will make her proud of you; to yourself, respect; to all men.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

God pardons like a mother, who kisses the offense into everlasting forgiveness.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

I can forgive, but I cannot forget, is only another way of saying, I will not forgive.

Forgiveness ought to be like a canceled note -- torn in two, and burned up, so that it never

can be shown against one.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

I can forgive, but I cannot forget, is only another way of saying, I cannot forgive.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

True obedience is true freedom.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Keep a fair-sized cemetery in your back yard, in which to bury the faults of your friends.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Genius unexerted is no more genius than a bushel of acorns is a forest of oaks.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

There never was a person who did anything worth doing, who did not receive more than he gave.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

All ambitions are lawful except those that climb upward on the miseries or credulities of mankind.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The real democratic American idea is, not that every man shall be on a level with every other man, but that every man shall have liberty to be what God made him, without hindrance.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

He who hunts for flowers will find flowers; and he who loves weeds will find weeds.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The worst thing in the world next to anarchy, is government.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

God appoints our graces to be nurses to other men's weaknesses.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Next to ingratitude the most painful thing to bear is gratitude.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

There is no faculty of the human soul so persistent and universal as that of hatred.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

It's not the work which kills people, it's the worry. It's not the revolution that destroys machinery it's the friction.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The head learns new things, but the heart forever practices old experiences.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Heaven will be inherited by every man who has heaven in his soul.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The world's battlefields have been in the heart chiefly; more heroism has been displayed in the household and the closet, than on the most memorable battlefields in history.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The real man is one who always finds excuses for others, but never excuses himself.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

A person without a sense of humor is like a wagon without springs-jolted by every pebble in the road.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

We are not to make the ideas of contentment and aspiration quarrel, for God made them fast friends. A man may aspire, and yet be quite content until it is time to raise; and both flying and resting are but parts of one contentment. The very fruit of the gospel is aspiration. It is to the heart what spring is to the earth, making every root, and bud, and bough desire to be more. -

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The soul without imagination is what an observatory would be without a telescope.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

He is greatest whose strength carries up the most hearts by the attraction of his own.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The humblest individual exerts some influence, either for good or evil, upon others.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

What a mother sings to the cradle goes all the way down to the coffin.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Nothing dies so hard, or rallies so often as intolerance.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Gambling with cards or dice or stocks is all one thing. It's getting money without giving an equivalent for it.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

In this world, full often, our joys are only the tender shadows which our sorrows cast.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Laughter is day, and sobriety is night; a smile is the twilight that hovers gently between both, more bewitching than either.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Laws and institutions, like clocks, must occasionally be cleaned, wound up, and set to true time.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

A library is but the soul's burying ground. It is a land of shadows.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

If a man meets with injustice, it is not required that he shall not be roused to meet it; but if he is angry after he has had time to think upon it, that is sinful. The flame is not wrong, but the coals are.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Never forget what a person says to you when they are angry.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The continuance and frequent fits of anger produce in the soul a propensity to be angry; which oftentimes ends in choler, bitterness, and morosity, when the mind becomes ulcerated, peevish, and querulous, and is wounded by the least occurrence.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The dog is the god of frolic.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Clothes and manners do not make the man; but when he is made, they greatly improve his appearance

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Do not be afraid of defeat. You are never so near to victory as when defeated in a good cause.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Young love is a flame; very pretty, often very hot and fierce, but still only light and flickering. The love of the older and disciplined heart is as coals, deep-burning, unquenchable.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Love is the river of life in the world.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

I never knew how to worship until I knew how to love.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Well married a person has wings, poorly married shackles.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

To array a man's will against his sickness is the supreme art of medicine.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

It is the heart that makes a man rich. He is rich according to what he is, not according to what he has.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

God made man to go by motives, and he will not go without them, any more than a boat without steam or a balloon without gas.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Private opinion is weak, but public opinion is almost omnipotent.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The moment an ill can be patiently handled, it is disarmed of its poison, though not of its pain.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

We never know the love of the parent till we become parents ourselves.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

I don't like these cold, precise, perfect people who, in order not to speak wrong, never speak at all, and in order not to do wrong, never do anything.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one often comes from a strong will, and the other from a strong won't.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Life would be a perpetual flea hunt if a man were obliged to run down all the innuendoes, inveracities, and insinuations and misrepresentations which are uttered against him.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The meanest, most contemptible kind of praise is that which first speaks well of a man, and then qualifies it with a But.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

It is not well for a man to pray cream and live skim milk.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

No matter what looms ahead, if you can eat today, enjoy the sunlight today, mix good cheer with friends today, enjoy it and bless God for it. Do not look back on happiness -- or dream of it in the future. You are only sure of today; do not let yourself be cheated out of it.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Expedients are for the hour, but principles are for the ages.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

God's providence is on the side of clear heads.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Repentance is another name for aspiration.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than anybody else expects of you, never excuse yourself.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Riches are not an end of life, but an instrument of life.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

In this world it is not what we take up, but what we give up, that makes us rich.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

No man is sane who does not know how to be insane on proper occasions.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

To know that one has a secret is to know half the secret itself.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

A man's true state of power and riches is to be in himself.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Selfishness is that detestable vice which no one will forgive in others, and no one is without himself.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The strength of a man consists in finding out the way God is going, and going that way.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

To become an able and successful man in any profession, three things are necessary, nature, study and practice.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Success is full of promise till one gets it, and then it seems like a nest from which the bird has flown.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

One's best success comes after their greatest disappointments.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Suffering is part of the divine idea.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

A book is a garden, an orchard, a storehouse, a party, a company by the way, a counselor, a multitude of counselors.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Books are not made for furniture, but there is nothing else that so beautifully furnishes a house.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Where is human nature so weak as in the bookstore?

- Beecher, Henry Ward

A man's character is the reality of himself; his reputation, the opinion others have formed about him; character resides in him, reputation in other people; that is the substance, this is the shadow.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Every charitable act is a stepping stone towards heaven.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Good nature is worth more than knowledge, more than money, more than honor, to the persons who possess it.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Theology is a science of mind applied to God.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Theology is but our ideas of truth classified and arranged.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

A grindstone that had not grit in it, how long would it take to sharpen an ax? And affairs that had not grit in them, how long would they take to make a man?

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The first hour of the morning is the rudder of the day.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

We sleep, but the loom of life never stops, and the pattern which was weaving when the sun went down is weaving when it comes up in the morning.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

A tool is but the extension of a man's hand, and a machine is but a complex tool. And he that invents a machine augments the power of a man and the well-being of mankind.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

When we borrow trouble, and look forward into the future and see what storms are coming, and distress ourselves before they come, as to how we shall avert them if they ever do come, we lose our proper trustfulness in God. When we torment ourselves with imaginary dangers, or trials, or reverses, we have already parted with that perfect love which casteth out fear.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Victories that are easy are cheap. Those only are worth having which come as the result of hard fighting.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

All words are pegs to hang ideas on.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Work is not a curse, but drudgery is!

- Beecher, Henry Ward

In the ordinary business of life, industry can do anything which genius can do, and very many things which it cannot.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

It is not work that kills men; it is worry. Work is healthy; you can hardly put more upon a man than he can bear. Worry is the rust upon the blade. It is not the revolution which destroys the machinery but the friction. Fear secretes acids; but love and trust are sweet juices

- Beecher, Henry Ward

He is rich or poor according to what he is, not according to what he has.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Mirth is the sweet wine of human life. It should be offered sparkling with zestful life unto God.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

We are always on the anvil; by trials God is shaping us for higher things.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Affliction comes to us, not to make us sad but sober; not to make us sorry but wise.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

A Christian is nothing but a sinful man who has put himself to school for Christ for the honest purpose of becoming better.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The test of Christian character should be that a man is a joy-bearing agent to the world.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The Church is not a gallery for the exhibition of eminent Christians, but a school for the education of imperfect ones.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The ignorant classes are the dangerous classes.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The philosophy of one century is the common sense of the next.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

When a nation's young men are conservative, its funeral bell is already rung.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

We should not judge people by their peak of excellence; but by the distance they have traveled from the point where they started.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

That is true culture which helps us to work for the social betterment of all.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The cynic is one who never sees a good quality in a man, and never fails to see a bad one. He is the human owl, vigilant in darkness and blind to light, mousing for vermin, and never seeing noble game.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The most dangerous people are the ignorant.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Death is the dropping of the flower that the fruit may swell.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Living is death; dying is life. We are not what we appear to be. On this side of the grave we are exiles, on that citizens; on this side orphans, on that children;

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The one great poem of New England is her Sunday.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Any law that takes hold of a mans daily life cannot prevail in a community, unless the vast majority of the community are actively in favor of it. The laws that are the most operative are the laws which protect life.

- Beecher, Henry Ward





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