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# Quotes by Webster, Daniel

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Daniel Webster (January 18, 1782 – October 24, 1852) was a United States Senator and Secretary of State. Famed for his ability as an orator, Webster was one of the most important figures in the Second Party System from the 1820s to the 1850s. Like Henry Clay, he had a predisposition to finding compromises marked by a passionate patriotic devotion to the Union.

Philosophic argument, especially that drawn from the vastness of the universe, in comparison with the apparent insignificance of this globe, has sometimes shaken my reason for the faith that is in me; but my heart has always assured and reassured me that

- Webster, Daniel

When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of human civilization.

- Webster, Daniel

The most important thought that ever occupied my mind is that of my individual responsibility to God.

- Webster, Daniel

Philosophical argument has sometimes shaken my reason for the faith that was in me; but my heart has always assured me that the Gospel of Jesus Christ must be reality.

- Webster, Daniel

The right of an inventor to his invention is no monopoly; in any other sense than a man's house is a monopoly.

- Webster, Daniel

Liberty exists in proportion to wholesome restraint.

- Webster, Daniel

Liberty consists in wholesome restraint.

- Webster, Daniel

Keep cool; anger is not an argument.

- Webster, Daniel

The world is governed more by appearances than by realities, so that it is fully as necessary to seem to know something as to know it.

- Webster, Daniel

Mind is the great lever of all things.

- Webster, Daniel

A mass of men equals a mass of opinions.

- Webster, Daniel

I see nothing in it new and valuable. What is valuable is not new, and what is new is not valuable.

- Webster, Daniel

The past is at least secure.

- Webster, Daniel

There is always room at the top.

- Webster, Daniel

Labor in this country is independent and proud. It has not to ask the patronage of capital, but capital solicits the aid of labor.

- Webster, Daniel

One country, one constitution, one destiny.

- Webster, Daniel

Wisdom begins at the end.

- Webster, Daniel

Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions,

promote all its great interests, and see whether we also, in our day and generation, may not perform something worthy to be remembered.

- Webster, Daniel

Whatever makes men good Christians, makes them good citizens.

- Webster, Daniel

There is no refuge from confession but suicide; and suicide is confession.

- Webster, Daniel

This is a Senate of equals, of men of individual honor and personal character, and of absolute independence. We know no masters, we acknowledge no dictators. This is a hall for mutual consultation and discussion; not an arena for the exhibition of champions.

- Webster, Daniel

He smote the rock of the national resources, and abundant streams of revenue gushed forth. He touched the dead corpse of the Public Credit, and it sprung upon its feet. The fabled birth of Minerva, from the brain of Jove, was hardly more sudden or more perfect than the financial system of the United States, as it burst forth from the conceptions of Alexander Hamilton.

- Webster, Daniel

Whatever government is not a government of laws, is a despotism, let it be called what it may.

- Webster, Daniel

Other misfortunes may be borne, or their effects overcome. If disastrous war should sweep our commerce from the ocean, another generation may renew it; if it exhaust our treasury, future industry may replenish it; It were but a trifle even if the walls of yonder Capitol were to crumble, if its lofty pillars should fall, and its gorgeous decorations be all covered by the dust of the valley. All these might be rebuilt. But who shall reconstruct the fabric of demolished government? Who shall rear again the well-proportioned columns of constitutional liberty? No, if these columns fall, they will be raised not again. they will be the remnants of a more glorious edifice than Greece or Rome ever saw, the edifice of constitutional American liberty.

- Webster, Daniel

The materials of wealth are in the earth, in the seas, and in their natural and unaided productions.

- Webster, Daniel

Credit is the vital air of the system of modern commerce. It has done more, a thousand times, to enrich nations, than all the mines of all the world. It has excited labor, stimulated manufactures, pushed commerce over every sea, and brought every nation, every kingdom, and every small tribe, among the races of men, to be known to all the rest. It has raised armies, equipped navies, and, triumphing over the gross power of mere numbers, it has established national superiority on the foundation of intelligence, wealth, and well-directed industry. Credit is to money what money is to articles of merchandise. As hard money represents property, so credit represents hard money; and it is capable of

supplying the place of money so completely, that there are writers of distinction, especially of the Scotch school, who insist that no hard money is necessary for the interests of commerce. I am not of that opinion. I do not think any government can maintain an exclusive paper system, without running to excess, and thereby causing depreciation.

- Webster, Daniel

We have been taught to regard a representative of the people as a sentinel on the watch-tower of liberty.

- Webster, Daniel

It is, Sir, as I have said, a small College, And yet, there are those who love it.

- Webster, Daniel

What do we want with this vast, worthless area? This region of savages and wild beasts, of deserts of shifting sands and whirlwinds of dust, of cactus and prairie dogs? To what use could we ever hope to put these great deserts, or those endless mountain ranges, impenetrable and covered to their very base with eternal snow? What can we ever hope to do with the western coast, a coast of three thousand miles, rock-bound, cheerless, uninviting, and not a harbor on it? What use have we for this country?

- Webster, Daniel

Gentlemen, the character of Washington is among the most cherished contemplations of my life. It is a fixed star in the firmament of great names, shining without twinkling or obscuration, with clear, steady, beneficent light.

- Webster, Daniel

While the Union lasts, we have high, exciting, gratifying prospects spread out before us, for us and our children. Beyond that I seek not to penetrate the veil. God grant that in my day, at least, that curtain may not rise! God grant that on my vision never may be opened what lies behind! When my eyes shall be turned to behold for the last time the sun in heaven, may I not see him shining on the broken and dishonored fragments of a once glorious Union; on States dissevered, discordant, belligerent; on a land rent with civil feuds, or drenched, it may be, in fraternal blood! Let their last feeble and lingering glance rather behold the gorgeous ensign of the republic, now known and honored throughout the earth, still full and high advanced, its arms and trophies streaming in their original lustre, not a strip erased or polluted, nor a single star obscured, bearing for its motto, no such miserable interrogatory as What is all this worth? nor those other words of delusion and folly, Liberty first and Union afterwards; but everywhere, spread all over in characters of living light, blazing on all its ample folds, as they float over the sea and over the land, and in every wind under the whole heavens, that other sentiment, dear to every true American heart, Liberty and Union, now and for ever, one and inseparable!

- Webster, Daniel

The freest government, if it could exist, would not be long acceptable, if the tendency of the laws were to create a rapid accumulation of property in few hands, and to render the great mass of the population dependent and penniless. In such a case, the popular power would be likely to break in upon the rights of property, or else the influence of property to limit and control the exercise of popular power. Universal suffrage, for example, could not long exist in a community where there was great inequality of property. In the nature of

things, those who have not property, and see their neighbors possess much more than they think them to need, cannot be favorable to laws made for the protection of property. When this class becomes numerous, it grows clamorous. It looks on property as its prey and plunder, and is naturally ready, at all times, for violence and revolution.

- Webster, Daniel

The Senator says the territory of California is three times greater than the average extent of the new States of the Union. Well, Sir, suppose it is. We all know that it has more than three times as many mountains, inaccessible and rocky hills, and sandy wastes, as are possessed by any State of the Union. But how much is there of useful land? how much that may be made to contribute to the support of man and of society? These ought to be the questions. Well, with respect to that, I am sure that everybody has become satisfied that, although California may have a very great sea-board, and a large city or two, yet that the agricultural products of the whole surface now are not, and never will be, equal to one half part of those of the State of Illinois; no, nor yet a fourth, or perhaps a tenth part.

- Webster, Daniel

When the mariner has been tossed for many days in thick weather, and on an unknown sea, he naturally avails himself of the first pause in the storm, the earliest glance of the sun, to take his latitude, and ascertain how far the elements have driven him from his true course. Let us imitate this prudence, and, before we float farther on the waves of this debate, refer to the point from which we departed, that we may at least be able to conjecture where we now are.

- Webster, Daniel

He who tampers with the currency robs labor of its bread.

- Webster, Daniel

If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work on brass, time will efface it. If we rear temples, they will crumble to dust. But if we work on mens immortal minds, if we impress on them high principles, the just fear of God, and love for their fellow-men, we engrave on those tablets something which no time can efface, and which will brighten and brighten to all eternity.

- Webster, Daniel

Where is it written in the Constitution, in what article or section is it contained, that you may take children from their parents, and parents from their children, and compel them to fight the battles of any war in which the folly or the wickedness of government may engage it?

- Webster, Daniel

God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it.

- Webster, Daniel

The contest, for ages, has been to rescue Liberty from the grasp of executive power.

- Webster, Daniel

When the spotless ermine of the judicial robe fell on John Jay, it touched nothing less spotless than itself.

- Webster, Daniel

They are usually denominated labor-saving machines, but it would be more just to call them labor-doing machines.

- Webster, Daniel





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