

QUOTATIONS

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Address of the London  
Times, England.

from a London Times Weekly Review  
September, 1954. The author was a  
British woman, not the movie actress.

## QUOTATIONS

"I have written little but it is all my best; I have never spoken when I had nothing to say, nor spared time or labor to make my words true. I have respected posterity; and should there be a posterity which cares for letters, I dare to hope that it will respect me."

— Coventry Patmore (quoted in Encyc. Brit.)

### ANTON CHEKHOV

"~~I~~ "I don't understand anything about the ballet. All I know about it is that during the intervals the ballerinas stink like horses."

"Medicine is my lawful wife and literature my mistress. When I get tired of one I spend a night with the other."

### BACON (in "The Advancement of Learning")

"The images of man's wits and knowledge remain in books, exempted from the wrong of time and capable of perpetual renovation."

STENDHAL

"A novel is a mirror taking a walk along the high road."

H. W. GARROD

A book of logarithms is not a book, nor any other book, of however great importance to mankind, which aims at instruction and information rather than at delight and edification. In a word, I call nothing a book which does not address a large part of its appeal to imagination and emotion."

— from "How To Know A Good Book From A Bad."

PAUL GAUGIN

"Nail up some indecency in plain sight over your door; from that time ~~onward~~ forward you will be rid of all respectable people, the most insupportable folk God has created."

— from "Intimate Journals"

RUM

"Le Rhum combat le Rhume"

— from a French advertising poster in 1953

AMBROSE BIERCE

"In each human heart are a tiger, a pig, an ass and a nightingale. Diversity of character is due to their unequal activity."

"THE IRON CURTAIN"

Jonas L. E. Lie, Norwegian novelist, wrote a book called "When the iron curtain falls", in 1901 (see book).

"The House of Lords"

"The House of Lords is not the watchdog of the Constitution; it is Mr. Balfour's poodle."  
— David Lloyd George

POCKET BOOKS

"She immersed herself in a novelette . . . . There was a regular supply of inexpensive fiction written to order by poor hacks for the consumption of the illiterate."

— Somerset Maugham, in "Of Human Bondage" p. 335

THE POWER OF THE PEN

"Lastly, powerfulest of all, least recognized of all, a noblesse of literature, without steel on their thigh, without gold in their purse, but with the grand thaumaturgic faculty of thought in their head" — Carlyle, "The French Revolution" — p. 13.

JOSEPH CONRAD

— "Kept in his fine detachment had lost the habit of asserting himself. I don't mean the courage of self-assertion, either moral or physical, but the mere way of it, the trick of the thing, the readiness of mind and the turn of the hand that come without reflection and lead the man to excellence in life, in art, in crime, in virtue and for the matter of that, even in love. Thinking is the great enemy of perfection. The habit of profound reflection, I am compelled to say, is the most pernicious of all the habits formed by the civilized man."

(from the second preface to "Victory")

JOSEPH CONRAD

"The perfect novelist should be chronicler, biographer, and historian."

— in a letter to H. G. Wells, April 1907.

"I have been all my life averse from exertion"

— from the foreword to "The Mirror of the Sea"

Mr. Chronicle-Thursday, Oct. 1, 1954

## Canadian's Play Staged

LONDON (CP) — The Stage, theatrical trade newspaper, says "A Jig for a Gypsy" by Canadian playwright Robertson Davies poses a situation which "never realizes its comic possibilities."

The play opened Saturday at the suburban Ealing Questors (amateur) theatre as part of a jubilee season. Davies, editor of the Peterborough Examiner, was present for the first English stage production of any of his works.

Says the Stage: "Essentially, it is a comedy of character, but Mr. Davies has been content with the quaint as opposed to the genuine. He has been sidetracked by argument, and gaiety evaporates in rambling dialogue."

Says the Thames Valley Times, a bi-weekly: "The dialogue was exceedingly witty and there was some lively satire."

"A Jig for a Gypsy" is set in the north of Wales of 1885 and concerns the use of augury in an election.

1954

Robertson Davies, a tall man much given to self-advertisement and display (including a black beard), has long been a self-imposed critic of the arts in Canada, especially of books & the theatre. He writes & speaks with an agile mind & a superficial cleverness on both subjects, & has produced a number of books & plays in Canada with the air of a prophet casting pearls before swine. All this has

impressed a number of people in Canada. In 1954 Davies made the mistake of putting on a play in London, where beards & sleight-of-hand are not so impressive. The comment by The Stage is true also of Davies himself — "a comedy of character, content with the quaint as opposed to the genuine."

King David and King Solomon  
Led merry, merry lives,  
With many, many lady friends  
And many, many wives;  
But when old age crept over them —  
With many, many qualms,  
King Solomon wrote the Proverbs  
And King David wrote the Psalms.

—James Ball Naylor

SHIP-WRECKERS

A favorite toast of the Scilly Islanders was:—

"Here's to me and my wife,  
To our son and his wife,  
We four, no more,  
May the Lord send a vessel ashore,  
Amen."

(Quoted in the London Times Weekly Review, Aug 19/54)

MODERN AUTHOR

"I was but a pen, what praise is due to a pen?"  
Richard Baxter, 1615 - 1691

A constant reader of English domestic novels is driven to the conclusion that their authors are steadily saying more and more, better and better, about less and less. The writing of our minor but respectable novelists is elegant, Woolfish, allusive; pregnant with an elusive meaning which seems to have escaped the authors themselves. What, if anything, is behind the broad, pensive brows of these fictional housewives pausing for a melancholy cigarette as they hang the washing on the line?

She was going to get another meal in a long line of meals she had got, by which, as it now seemed to her miraculously, she had managed to keep the children alive, to put flesh on them and to make them grow.

London Times Literary  
Supplement, Oct 1, 1954



GEORGES BIZET

The French composer (1838-75) declared at the height of his powers — "As a musician I declare that if you suppress adultery, fanaticism, crime, terror and the supernatural, it would be impossible to write a single note more."

ANTIQUES

"An antique is usually something that nobody liked well enough to wear out."

Franklin P. Jones, in Sat. Eve. Post Jan. 22, 1955

THOMAS TUSSER (1524-1580)

wrote a book called "A Hundreth good pointes of husbandry" later editions of which included "A dialogue of wyrring and thyrrepage". He was a poet, chorister & farmer, not very successful. Thomas Fuller said of him "he spread his bread with all sorts of butter, yet none would stick thereon."

## REASONS FOR READING A MODERN NOVEL

A broadcast on the B.B.C. by HILARY CORKE,  
reprinted in "The Listener", London, June 16, 1955.

I take it that there are three main reasons for which we may turn to a work of fiction. We may read because we cannot stop reading, because we 'cannot put it down'; we are held by the narrator's glittering eye; this is the novel as 'story', and its principal element is suspense. Or we may read because we wish to enlarge our experience, to live vicariously through human relationships not as yet encountered by us, perhaps unlikely ever to be; or to be carried into far-away places, slums, palaces, or long-past times; this is the novel as 'illusion', and its principal element is the willing suspension of the reader's disbelief. Finally, we may go to the novel for new light upon the human condition; from his delineation of particular events the novelist may be able to infer general tendencies, and to convey that inferential knowledge to his reader in a way that the 'straight' philosopher might find himself less able to do; this is the novel as 'illumination', and its principal element must reside in the novelist's own capacity and understanding of life.

When critics complain of the decline or comparative unimportance of the modern novel, they do not perhaps always distinguish between these three functions as closely as they might. Clearly the novel, as 'story' pure and simple, will always be with us, as it always has been; it will take more than nuclear fission to kill the human desire to hear tales. But critics are united in denying the very name of 'novel' to tales that have not at least a smattering of illusion or illumination, and it is these two elements that may seem to have fallen upon evil days. In the first place, illusion (as a recent correspondent well pointed out) may cease to attract the mature mind; the reader may well have experienced quite enough in his own person for vicarious experience to have decidedly lost its charms. He will continue to enjoy such diverse eighteenth-century novelists as Sterne and Fielding, neither of whom stoops to insult his grown-up audience by suggesting for a moment that his fictions are anything but feigned; but since ninety-nine out of a hundred modern novelists employ all the piled-up parlour-tricks of two centuries in fruitless striving for total illusion, such a reader will pass 'New Novels' precipitately by.

As for illumination, the hard fact of the matter is that not more than a couple of minds in a generation are likely to be able to tell us anything new or relevant about the human condition whatsoever: but a hundred and one minds, labouring under the wholly erroneous impression

that they belong to that blessed pair, will parade a similar set of parlour-tricks in the effort to achieve significance, universality, etc., and a whole lot of other things that had probably better be arrived at unconsciously or not at all. The uncomfortable disparities between pretention and achievement, between the assumed content and the real, between the mountain of manner and the mouse of matter, probably account for most of the well-deserved unpopularity (with the responsible critic) of the novel today. Faced with the windy pronouncements of scribbling housewives, with dust-jackets yelling 'A deeply moving analysis of a woman's spiritual Calvary, by a merchant-seaman', he will turn to the *Critique of Pure Reason* on the one hand or to *The Ascent of Everest* on the other, or better still slip the *Faerie Queene* in his pocket and go for a long walk in the fields.

see Waller  
Lippman

Fridtjof Nansen

(Speaking to students of Saint Andrews University in 1925)

"The first great thing is to find yourself; and for that you need solitude and contemplation, at least sometimes. I tell you deliverance will not come from the rushing noisy centres of civilisation. It will come from the lonely places."

Elsewhere he wrote: "It is from the deserts, from the solitudes, from the elemental depths of Nature, that the new men have always come."

Robert Frost

"Having a wheel and four legs of its own  
Has never availed the cumbersome grindstone  
To get it anywhere that I can see ..."

Of fox-hunting

"The pursuit of the incredible by the unspeakable."  
— Oscar Wilde

### ROBERT WALPOLE

(Hearing the jubilation of excited Londoners on the declaration of war between Britain & Spain, 1739)

"They may ring the bells now, but they will soon be wringing their hands."

### ON HUNGARIANS

"Being a Hungarian is not a nationality, it is a profession." — Alexander Korda, the Hungarian who became a British subject, knighted for his production of British films, who died in 1956.

### VIKINGS

"They never wept for their sins, nor for the death of their friends"

— quoted by Winston Churchill in his History of the English-speaking Peoples.

### "PROGRESSIVE" POLITICIANS

"He doubts all his former beliefs, & believes all his former doubts."

— definition by an anonymous Virginia lawyer, quoted by Kenneth B. Rollins in a letter to "Time" Magazine, March 1956.

## AUTOMATION

According to "Time" Magazine, March 19, 1956, this word was coined in 1948 by (U.S.) Ford Motor Co. vice-president Delmar S. Hardet, who first used it to describe the automatic transfer of motor parts from one machine to another. By 1956 it had come to mean all automatic machines & processes which not only dispense with human hands but do their own "thinking" in operation. The forerunner of this word was "TECHNOCRACY", much used during the industrial depression of the 1930's, when it was said that men were starving because machines did most of the work.

## ON AMERICA

"Tobacco is the only excuse for Columbus' great mistake."

— Sigmund Freud (who detested the U.S.A.)

## ON THE VALUE OF HISTORY

"The greatest mistake made by the contemporary generation — any contemporary generation — is that it does not read the minutes of the last meeting."

— Anonymous, quoted in the Royal Bank Monthly Letter, April 1956.

## ON WRITING HISTORY

According to Lytton Strachey the required qualities are: - "a capacity for absorbing facts, a capacity for stating them, and a point of view."

According to Geoffrey Barraclough - "What is required is not so much new knowledge as a new vision playing on old facts."

## THE LESSONS OF HISTORY

"The greatest mistake of the contemporary generation - any contemporary generation - is that it does not read the ~~most~~ minutes of the last meeting."

- Anonymous, quoted in Royal Bank Monthly Letter, April 1956.

## ON G. K. Chesterton

"Chesterton spent his life crucifying Truth upside down."

- Sean Inge (the "Gloomy Sean")

## ON MILITARY CRITICS

According to Harry Butcher in his book "My three years with Eisenhower", General Eisenhower once said, during the war, to George Allen, that there were only two professions in the world in which the amateur <sup>was said to</sup> ~~excelled~~ the professional — the military strategist and the prostitute.

## DAMON RUNYON

"It may be that the race is not always to the swift nor the battle to the strong — but that's the way to bet."

## MARK TWAIN

"Julius Caesar is dead, Shakespeare is dead, Napoleon is dead, Abraham Lincoln is dead — and I am far from well myself."

## ON THE (PICTURE) MAGAZINE "LIFE" AND THE (NEWS) MAGAZINE "TIME"

"Everybody knows those two magazines — you know, the one for people who can't read and the one for people who can't think."

— Professor Zechariah ("Zach") Chafee, of Harvard Law School, in 1956, the year in which he retired.

## On Democratic Education

"Some think... that a university education is the birthright of every boy and girl in a democratic society. But that view confuses equality of opportunity (which is the democratic ideal) with equality of talent (which is nonsense). The fact that all men are born equal under the law does not make them equal under the skull." — Royal Bank monthly letter. 1956.

## The American University

"An American university is an athletic association in which certain opportunities for study are provided for the feeble-bodied."  
— Keyserling

## THE QUIET MEN (see Nansen)

"The world will go on somehow, and more crises will follow. It will go on best, however, if among us there are men who have stood apart, who refuse to be anxious or too much concerned, who were cool and inquiring, and had their eyes on a longer past and a longer future."

— Walter Lippman, in 1933, in an address to the graduating seniors of Columbia University. {Quoted in TIME} DEC. 22, 1958



## Scattered Philosophy

"Dieu me pardonnera; c'est son métier."  
(God will forgive me; that's his job.)  
— Heine

### On Scots

"The Scots are noted for keeping the Sabbath  
and anything else they can lay their hands on"  
— L. J. R. Cripps, in a letter to *The  
Listener*, publication of the B.B.C. November 1956

### The American credo

(according to Walter Hines Page.)

"God has yet made nothing or nobody equal  
to the American people; and I don't think He  
ever will or can."

— *The Life & Letters of Walter Hines Page*

### The Parachute

"It's a damned poor substitute for transportation."

— General James Gavin, U.S. paratroops.

## BRITISH DEMOCRACY AND QUEEN VICTORIA

Re the so-called "Bedchamber Crisis" of 1839, when incoming Prime Minister Peel requested that the Queen substitute Tory ladies for her Whig ones, & Victoria refused. Prince Albert was introduced into this explosive atmosphere, by his marriage to the Queen, in February 1840. Albert had earlier escaped from the stifling environment of his father's small principality of Saxe-Coburg into the fresher air of the Belgian court. His uncle Leopold's succession to the Belgian throne in 1830 had made an important breach in European autocracy, & Belgium was becoming a model constitutional monarchy. So Albert received from Leopold & his confidential adviser Baron Stockmar an early grounding in the new theories of government.

In July 1841 Leopold, on a visit to England, told George Anson, Queen Victoria's private secretary — "The monarchy of this country has its sole foundation in the will of the People . . . The Commonwealth has shown that the country can exist and flourish without a monarchy . . . The sovereign should be forcibly reminded by this fact that the sovereign of a free people cannot be the sovereign of a party."

— quoted from "Fresh Light on the Constitutional Monarchy" — a talk by FRANK EYCK on the British Broadcasting Company network, 1957.

JAMES JOYCE

In a letter to Miss Harriet Weaver, his benefactress, who published first his books "Dubliners" and "Portrait of an Artist," Joyce once wrote:—

"Here is an example of my emptiness. I have not read a work of literature in years. My head is full of pebbles and rubbish and broken matches and glass picked up 'most everywhere'."

His brother Stanislaus once wrote him:—  
"What are you doing ah? To make the English language incomprehensible. Literary Bolshevism."

Paul Claudel wrote him — "I thought I knew English until I read it."

(Both of these remarks refer to his publication of "Anna Livia".)

All the above is quoted from a talk on the B.B.C. (London) in 1957, regarding a new book, "Letters of James Joyce" by Stuart Gilbert. The anonymous author of the broadcast review included ~~some~~ <sup>such</sup> personal gems as — "these letters are a timely reminder of our debt to a superb craftsman, the playboy of the western word, the archpriest of all who sit on both sides of the fence."

SOMERSET MAUGHAM

(On garnishing facts with fiction, as a novelist must.)

"I have taken the liberty that historians have taken from the time of Herodotus, to put into the mouths of the persons of my narrative speeches that I did not myself hear and could not possibly have heard. I have done this for the same reasons that as the historians have, to give liveliness and verisimilitude to scenes that would have been ineffective if they had been merely recounted."

(from the first chapter of "The Razor's Edge".)

(on Henry James)

"It is very difficult to know people and I don't think one can ever really know any but one's own countrymen..... Even so subtle and careful an observer as Henry James, though he lived in England for forty years, never managed to create an Englishman who was through and through English."

(from his preface to "Creatures of Circumstance", a book of short stories.)

It is a misfortune for me that the telling of a story, just for the sake of the story, is not an activity that is in favour with the intelligence. I endeavour to bear my misfortune with fortitude."

## On the Americans - 1957

"We may feel that the American male has mis-read his historic documents, and believes himself entitled to love, libertinism, and the happiness of pursuit."

"The incalculable oscillations of her foreign policy may lead us to suspect that Washington, D.C., has been re-wired as Washington, A.C."

- both quotes from David L. Thomson, F.R.Y.C., in an address before the Royal Society of Canada, 1957

## ON USING ALL ONE'S TALENTS

"I think that anyone who can communicate in any medium can do so in other ways — and ought to try."

- Orson Welles, famous actor, director and writer, in a TV interview on C.B.C., Feb. 25, 1960

## ON JAMES JOYCE:-

Nora Joyce sighed after wading through her husband's *Ulysses*:- "I guess the man's a genius but what a dirty mind he has, surely!"

- quote from *Time Magazine*, June 24, 1966

## Young Men in Love

Not a girl goes walking  
Along the Cotswold lanes  
But knows men's eyes in April  
Are quicker than their brains.

— John Downkwater, in "Cotswold Lanes".

## "Brogues and Hose"

Related to me by J. H. S. Macdonald, who said it was an old joke in Nova Scotia.

When the first Highland settlers came to Nova Scotia they were unprepared for the winter cold, and suffered much in consequence. In the spring they wrote a letter to their folk in Scotland, asking for a large shipment of hose and brogues. Their handwriting was poor, and anyhow no one knew much about spelling in English. The folk in Scotland interpreted the request as "whores and rogues" — so they sent out a whole ship-load of Macdonalds.

## SARAH CHURCHILL

Actress daughter of Sir Winston. Twice unhappily married, (to a jazz orchestra leader and a fashion designer - the latter hanged himself) and a play-girl in two continents. Several times arrested for drunken behaviour in public. Once, in her 40's, in a London play, she had the part of a dissolute beauty. She played it very well. On being congratulated by a stage reporter Sarah said: "After all, she & I have something in common - we both know how to burn your scandals at both ends."

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## ON LONDON PROSTITUTES

"They will charge a five - your lordships will forgive my being sordid and vulgar - for a long spell, and one pound for a quick bash."

— Baroness Ravensdale, speaking in the House of Lords in a debate on prostitution, June 1960.

## American Destiny

(as expounded by the American financier in Joseph Conrad's "Nostromo", published in 1904. Page 77.)

"Time itself has got to wait on the greatest country in the whole of God's Universe. We shall be giving the word for everything: industry, trade, law, journalism, art, politics and religion, from Cape Horn clear over to Smith's Sound, and beyond, too, if anything worth taking hold of turns up at the North Pole. And then we shall have the leisure to take in hand the outlying islands and continents of the earth. We shall run the world's business whether the world likes it or not. The world can't help it - and neither can we, I guess."

## THE PASSING OF SAILING SHIPS AND MEN

(Joseph Conrad, "The Mirror of the Sea", p. 30)

"History repeats itself, but the special call of an art which has passed away is never reproduced. It is as utterly gone out of the world as the song of a destroyed wild bird."



JOSEPH CONRAD

(from "Mirror of the Sea", p. 149).

From a long & miserable experience of suffering, injustice, disgrace, and aggression, the nations of the earth are mostly swayed by fear — fear of the sort that a little cheap oratory turns easily to rage, hate and violence.

JOHN BARRYMORE, AMERICAN ACTOR

"Women bear up under the emotional puzleburly much better than we do. They scream, or reach for the poison bottle now & then. Yet if the world could hear the cyclonic yowlings that go on INSIDE the frustrated male, the din would rupture every eardrum within a thousand leagues." (Speaking of marriage, and quoted by Gene Fowler in his Barrymore biography, "Good Night, Sweet Prince".)

ON THE PLEASURES OF WALKING

"Never have I thought so much, existed so much, lived so much, been so much myself, if I may dare to say it, as when I went alone and afoot."  
— Rousseau

## ON CRITICS

"Critics are like eunuchs in a harem. They see the trick done every night, they know how it's done, but they're quite incapable of doing it themselves."

— Irish playwright Brendan Behan, on a CBC television show at Toronto, Nov. 1, 1960

## DEFINITION OF THE SHORT STORY

"The short story is a piece of fiction, of any length you choose, which deals with a single situation; but this situation may be a mood, a character or an event. It is only the fashion of the moment that decrees that the delineation of a mood is of more consequence than the other two. Indeed, looking back on the past, it is possible to argue that the narration of an event has more chance of enduring than the description of a mood or the analysis of a character."

— W. Somerset Maugham, in his introduction to the Short Stories section of "Traveller's Library"

## OXFORD UNIVERSITY

"The only important thing about Oxford is that people know you were there."

— Freddy Bland, in W. Somerset Maugham's short story "The Alien Corn".

## TRADITION IN THE ROYAL NAVY

When the invasion of Sicily was being planned in the early months of 1943, one of Mr. Churchill's naval staff kept insisting that the Royal Navy must be given a more aggressive and dramatic role than the mere cover-operation laid down in the plans. His pet phrase was "the tradition of the Royal Navy". Churchill loved the Navy, but this officer's insistence made him testy, and at last he barked, "Tradition! Do you know what the tradition of the Royal Navy is? I will tell you in three words — gin, women, and the lash!"

— quoted by a former naval officer in the documentary T.V. film, made with Churchill's approval in 1960, entitled "The Valiant Years".

## CHURCHILL ON STRONG DRINK

"When I was younger I made it a rule never to take strong drink before lunch. It is ~~now~~ now my rule never to do so before breakfast."

- Spoken to King George VI at the London airport, Jan. 31, 1951, a cold windy morning, when seeing off Princess Elizabeth & Prince Philip on their tour of New Zealand, Australia & East Africa. Quoted by Lord Ismay (Memoirs, page 457)

## PRESIDENT HERBERT HOOVER, U.S.A.

"We in America today are nearer to the final triumph over poverty than ever before in the history of ~~the~~ any land."

- from a campaign speech in 1928, the year before the stock market crash of 1929, & the subsequent depression which made millions of Americans jobless and poor.

BERMAN vs LAYTON

During the <sup>late</sup> 1940's there appeared among the avant garde literary coterie of Montreal a stocky swarthy <sup>young</sup> man, always carefully unkempt, with a mop of black & somewhat greasy hair swept back over the broad skull from the forehead. He wrote blank verse & short stories with some competence but little visible meaning, which nobody outside of the coterie ever read. Yearning for publicity, he began to bob up at literary lectures & other similar gatherings, spouting criticism of the lecturer, & in a loud voice running on with a spate of talk about himself, his work, & the failure of the public to appreciate it.

I first saw & heard him at a literary lecture conducted by the Royal Society of Canada in Montreal in 1956. A glib wind-bag, it was impossible to shut him up by any polite means. Seizing a ready-made audience, his system was to shout down the chairman, & anybody else who might wish to contribute to the discussion.

After two or three years of this, his system began to work. The name of Irving Layton became well known in Montreal. Then the T.V. stations began to invite him into literary discussions

for a note of comic relief. To Layton this was nectar & he made the most of it. He even succeeded in getting some of his verse & short stories taken up by publishers, purely on the strength of his publicity.

In March, 1961, he appeared on a T.V. discussion panel of 4 people, one of whom was Mr. Shelley Berman, a well known American night-club entertainer, monologist & wit. The subject was the American artist (in all fields), his rapport with critics & the public, & the effect of this upon himself. The immediate theme was a recent assertion by American novelist, Norman Mailer, that the American public attitude was destructive to the artist because it was always extreme in its acceptance or rejection of his work.

Layton declared that the true artist ignored the public. Berman, speaking for the entertainment field, said mildly that the artist on the stage needed a receptive audience if he was to work at his best. As usual Layton then ran off with the subject, pouring scorn upon the public, which always failed to appreciate the true artist, leaving him to struggle alone in obscurity. This kept the T.V. camera trained upon himself, of course, as he intended.

But at last even he had to pause for breath. There was a little silence, & Berman spoke.

"It must be very difficult to be a writer whose work nobody reads."

(T.H.R.)

## CECIL RHODES

"Imperialism is philanthropy plus five per cent."  
- quoted (p. 694) in "The Heritage of Man" by Goldwin Smith, 1960

## ON QUARRERING

"The quarrel is a very pretty quarrel as it stands;  
we should only spoil it by trying to explain it."  
- Sheridan

## ON THE VALUE OF DOCUMENTS IN HISTORY

"Beware of documents, they are pitfalls for  
historians" - Clemenceau, quoted in "The  
Mist Procession", the memoirs of Sir Robert Vansittart.

## ON BERNARD SHAW

"Apart from conceit, which he tried to disguise as  
fun, Shaw was likable; & it is a pity that he  
ventured into international affairs, where he was as  
childish as his later plays. It is sad to see  
great talent mistake itself for genius."  
- Sir Robert Vansittart, in his memoirs, "The  
Mist Procession".

### ON MEMORY

"Memory, the only source from which we can regain the shape of the past without counting the bones."

— Sir Robert Vansittart, in his memoirs, "The Mist Procession"

### ON PERSONAL CONVICTIONS

"At 18 our convictions are hills from which we look; at 45 they are caves in which we hide."

— F. Scott Fitzgerald, in "Flappers and Philosophers", Saturday Evening Post, 1920.

### A WRITER'S FORMATIVE YEARS

"The years from eight to fifteen are the formative period in a writer's life. He may acquire a great many interesting & vivid impressions in his mature years, but his thematic material he acquires under fifteen years of age."

Willa Cather, quoted in Mark Schorer's life of Sinclair Lewis.



### VILLAGE HISTORIES

"The history of a nation is only the history of its villages written large."  
Woodrow Wilson, in 1900.

### HENRY MILLER

"I said to myself, I too love everything that flows: rivers, sewers, lava, semen, blood, bile, words, sentences. I love the words of hysterics and the sentences that flow on like dysentery and mirror all the sick images of the soul."

- from "Tropic of Cancer"

### LEWIS CARROLL ON "WUTHERING HEIGHTS"

"Finished reading that extraordinary book Wuthering Heights: it is of all novels I ever read the one I should least like to be a character in myself."

- Charles Lutwidge Dodgson ("Lewis Carroll")  
in a diary entry, May 1856.

### BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE

"Blackwood's is completely in accord with the civilised present without losing touch with the civilised past." - Sir Compton Mackenzie, quoted in an advertisement for Blackwoods in *The Spectator*, Nov. 24, 1967.

## PERICLES

(From the address to the Athenians, early in the year 430 B.C. on the men killed in the first year of the war with Sparta.)

"The man who can most truly be accounted brave is he who best knows the meaning of what is sweet in life and of what is terrible, and then goes out undeterred to meet what is to come."

## THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A BOOKMAN AND A CRITIC

"How does a bookman differ from a critic? He differs in that he assumes as given the whole sphere of values. The bookman does not judge, nor is he asked to judge. He appreciates, he enjoys, he communicates pleasure. In the world of the bookman, taste is the main affair, enthusiasm, gusto, relish."

— Van Wyck Brooks in "The Flowering of New England", p. 522

## LONGFELLOW WRITES A NOVEL

"The tale was feeble enough, for Longfellow's mind was poor and thin without its mantle of verse."

— Van Wyck Brooks, in "The Flowering of New England", p. 443

"A fathomless calm of innocent goodness brooded in the air that spread with Longfellow's poems over the world. Nothing disturbed the poet's magnanimous mildness." — ditto p. 509

"One cannot turn over any old falsehood without a terrible squirming and scattering of the unpleasant little population that dwells under it."

— Van Wyck Brooks, in "The Flowering of New England" p. 489

JOHN HOLMES (brother of ~~John~~ Dr. O. P. Holmes)

"wrote a series of letters to one of his nephews about 'Goliath Tittle, the Kennebunk sailor'. Goliath was tattooed in circles by a tribe in the South Sea Islands, and then he was captured by another tribe who changed all the circles into squares."

— Van Wyck Brooks, in "The Flowering of New England" p. 507

ON SWINBURNE'S POETRY AND PERSONALITY

"I am too old to have a painted hetaira palmed off on me for a Muse"

— James Russell Lowell

ON CARLYLE

"He goes about with his Diogenes dark-lantern, professing to seek a man, but inwardly resolved to find a monkey."

— James Russell Lowell

## THE BEST YEARS OF A MAN'S LIFE

"Grow up as soon as you can. It pays. The only time you really live fully is from thirty to sixty. The young are slaves to dreams; the old are servants of regrets. Only the middle-aged have all their five senses in the keeping of their wits."

— Gibo, in the novel "Anthony Adverse" by Hervey Allen, page 447.

## RETIREMENT

(Quoted in Wall Street Journal, Oct. 21, 1964)

"Retirement is when a man works harder at loafing than he used to loaf at working."

— Ervan Coor.

## THE NEED OF FORCE IN A CIVILIZED SOCIETY

"No large conglomeration of civilized human beings has ever been able to exist anywhere in comparative peace and prosperity without a system of law and order, without some kind of government whose power to enforce the law against the individual law-breakers rests ultimately on some kind of force." — Leonard Woolf, in his autobiography, 1968.

## THE CHARACTER OF A CORNISHMAN

"The Cornish live, like their fellow Celts, on the west fringe of Europe, driven there by pressure from the east. There, in a climate both wet and warm, they are fighting all the time mainly against the elements. Therefore they are in no way soft; yet they often display a remarkable indolence, and again a startling capacity for intense effort. This contradiction is carried right through their character; harshness and gentleness, cruelty and tenderness, gaiety and melancholy. As that enthusiastic Cornishman, A. L. Rouse, puts it:-  
"A difficult temperament, chancy and moody, easy on the surface but really rather recalcitrant"  
— J. W. Lambert, in "Cornwall",  
a guidebook to the county, published in 1939.

PRINCE EDWARD (LATER DUKE OF KENT)

Writing from Gibraltar in 1790:-

..... "but there is one very essential requisite towards rendering the life of a soldier happy, in a solitary place like this, I mean, a partner for his leisure hours, which, selon mon goût, I am incapable to provide myself with here."

— The Correspondence of George, Prince of Wales, 1770-1812, (Vol. 2 1789-94) edited by A. Aspinall, published in London by Cassell 1964.

### FREUD ON UNSOUND MINDS

"I must tell you that in private life I have no patience at all with lunatics."

— from one of his letters, quoted by Leonard Woolf in his book "A Calendar of Consolation".

## DE GAULLE Y FRENCH GRANDEUR

The French writer Jean Cau summed it up in an epigram: - "De Gaulle does not exist. He is just the idea the French have about themselves."

- Quoted in an article entitled "Grand Subject" by Henri de Lorraine in the N.Y. Times Magazine, Sep 12, 1965.

## INVECTIVE WITH FLAIR

John Randolph, speaking of an opponent in Washington: -

"Like a rotten mackerel in the moonlight he shines and stinks."

## THE PUBLIC AND THE ARTS

"Men attach importance only to self-preservation and the propagation of their species. It is only when these instincts are satisfied that they consent to occupy themselves with the entertainment which is provided for them by writers, painters and poets."

— "Gronshaw" in Somerset Maugham's "Of Human Bondage", p. 233

## AN AMERICAN'S VIEW OF CANADIANS

"It is well known that the favorite Canadian sport, after hockey and contemplating the national navel, is taking a dim view of the States."

— Mason Wade, in his address "A View From The South", read before the Canadian Historical Association at Vancouver, 1965.

## MRS. PATRICK CAMPBELL

"It doesn't matter what you do in the bedroom, as long as you don't do it in the street and frighten the horses."

— Quoted in New York Times Book Review, Nov. 6, 1966, as a witty comment on Late Victorian mores.



### THE FRENCH CANADIANS

"The French Canadians reacted to confederation schemes as they did initially to most suggestions of change, by going into the house, bolting the door and pulling down the blinds. As this attitude is incompatible with civilized living they invariably had to open the door again, if only to permit bargaining to be carried on."

— Josephine Phelan in "The Ardent Exile", a biography of Thomas D'Arcy Mc Gee.

### MODERN ART

"Trying to understand modern art is somewhat like trying to follow the plot in a bowl of alphabet soup."

— Mary H. Waldrip in the Advertiser and News, published in Dawson County, Georgia, 1967.

### THE FRENCH AS A PEOPLE

"The French carry their heart on the left and their wallet on the right"

— André Siegfried

## THE "V FOR VICTORY SIGN"

Early in the Hitler war 1939-45, Winston Churchill adopted & made famous his gesture of holding up his fist with the forefinger & second finger extended in the shape of a V.

The telegraph signal for V was ... - , three dots and a dash - familiar to everyone in the armed services. In the telegraphers' head-phones etc. it sounded a more-or-less musical "DEE-DEE-DEE-LAH".

The B.B.C., in its broadcasts to occupied Europe, began to use it by playing the familiar opening notes of a Beethoven sonata, which had exactly that sound. According to the London Times Literary Supplement, Feb. 9, 1967, page 104, this use of Beethoven was suggested by a distinguished British historian, C. E. Stevens, who was one of the academics on the British propaganda staff.

(Stevens' actual words were: - "Have you ever thought of the letter V in Morse code - dot-dot-dot-dash? It fits the opening bars of Beethoven's Fifth. Just an idea.")

## THE BRITISH NAVY AND THE PRESS GANG

"The one paradoxical failure was in the recruiting of seamen, a failure that badly warped naval administration. Parliament failed to provide the incentives to raise a trained reserve. Hence the navy had to fall back on coercion, and the liberties of Englishmen were protected from foreign attack by fleets of floating prisons".

- Professor John Norris, University of B.C., writing in the Canadian Historical Review, March, 1967, a review of "British Naval Administration in the Age of Walpole" by Daniel A. Baugh.

## THE INFANTRYMAN

"Man is the only constant factor in war, and the natural state of man is on his feet".

- Major-General M. P. Bogert, on his retirement in June 1962. He was then head of Canada's Eastern Command, with H.Q. at Halifax. In W.W.2 he commanded the West Nova Scotia Regiment in Sicily & Italy, & he commanded a brigade of Canadian infantry in the Korean War. He retired at the age of 54 to go into insurance business in London, England.

## ERNEST HEMINGWAY

Advice to a would-be writer:— "Real seriousness in regard to writing is one of the two absolute necessities. The other, unfortunately, is talent."

— Quoted from William White's book "By-line: Ernest Hemingway", a collection of Hemingway's journalistic pieces, published 1967.

## ON CERTAIN SHAKESPEARIAN CHARACTERS

"I've always ~~had~~ thought that Macbeth and Romeo were the most stupid men that Shakespeare ever created. Macbeth was just a bit thick, but Romeo was an absolute dumkopf. The lady is a smashing part for a woman, though — Elizabeth can do it, I think. But apart from one other actress, I've never seen a lady Macbeth I wanted to leap into bed with."

— famous Welsh actor (stage & screen) Richard Burton, regarding his projected film of "Macbeth". He had not decided (Feb. 1968) whether to act in it, or merely to direct it. "Elizabeth" refers of course to his wife, the many-times-married femme fatale in actual life, Elizabeth Taylor.

## AUBREY BEARDSLEY.

This young English artist died in 1898 at the age of 25. He had a brief vogue from 1893 until his death, chiefly with black-&-white illustrations to Oscar Wilde's "Salome" and the Yellow Book Magazine. His art was ~~was~~ of the bizarre sort, and he said himself, "I have one aim - the grotesque. If I am not grotesque I am nothing."

In the cult of the grotesque which gripped all the arts of the western world after World War Two, Beardsley's work was re-discovered about the year 1966, & had a new vogue for a time.

## CAPITAL SYSTEM vs. COMMUNISM

"It is quite possible that the most important international event of the past ten years - more important than the Cuba missile crisis or the Middle East war - has been the discovery that, when capitalism is run properly it is a more efficient economic system than communism is. Keynes has trumped Marx."

- The Economist, London, July 22, 1967.

## CHURCH GOING IN BRITAIN, 1968

"... fewer than 10 per cent of the people of Great Britain regularly attend any place of worship..."

- editorial in the London Times Literary Supplement, July 4, 1968.

### BASIC FACT ABOUT WOMAN.

When English actress Marie Tempest was staying at the Hotel Royal in Dieppe, shortly before the 1914 war, someone asked her, "What do you consider your most important part?"

Her instant reply - "The one I'm sitting on".  
(Quoted in *The London Spectator*, 11 August 1967.)

### LORD BEAVERBROOK

He was always aware that he was given his peerage in 1916 (despite the outraged protests of King George V) primarily because the Government suddenly wanted his Ashton-under-Lyne Commons seat for another man.

He took the title Beaverbrook from the Acadian hamlet of Beaver Brook Station, which lies 10 miles north of Newcastle. ("I wanted Miramichi but my friend Rudyard Kipling said my enemies would call me Merry Mickey", he once explained.)

— from an article entitled "The bittersweet taste of Beaverbrook's gifts" in the *Toronto Globe Magazine*, Sep. 9, 1967.

ROBERT LORNE STANFIELD ON YOUTH

(Spoken at the breakfast of the Young Progressive Conservatives, during the party leadership convention in Toronto in September 1967. His address lasted only two minutes. The best part of it was this.)

"Being young doesn't entitle you to anything in particular, except participation. I'm no more convinced of the invincibility of your generation than I am satisfied with the performance of my own."

SOLDIERING V. BRAINS

"The nation that will insist on drawing a broad line of demarcation between the fighting man and the thinking man is liable to find its fighting done by fools and its thinking by cowards."

— Sir William Butler, famous British soldier & husband of military artist Elizabeth Thompson. Quoted in the biography, "Remember Butler", by Edward McCourt.

## THE PROTESTANT MISSION AT CHISSAMBA, ANGOLA

It was started by a Congregationalist named Currie. In 1886 Currie wrote: "We may as well face the cold bleak uninviting fact that the natives do not feel the need of the Gospel. And are not eager to learn it. They have little wish for missionaries among them except for the temporary benefits they expect to reap."

- quoted in the biography, "Currie of Chissamba", written by Dr. John Tucker.

Miss Diadem Bell, of Milton, Queens County, Nova Scotia, went to Angola in the 1890's and joined the mission at Chissamba. She returned to Canada at five year intervals for 1 year's furlough, which she spent touring Canada to lecture and raise funds for the Chissamba mission. On furlough in 1919, while touring Ontario, she was stricken suddenly with acute appendicitis, and died.

Within a few hundred yards of her home in Milton lived a small white tribe of shack-dwellers, poor, ignorant, without religion, whose amusements ran all the way from drunkenness to incest. The Congregational church of Milton stood on the junction of the main street and "the old back road", where these benighted people lived, sinned, & died.



## ON THE LITERARY INTELLECTUALS

JAMES JONES (AUTHOR OF "FROM HERE TO ETERNITY" AND OTHER BEST SELLING AMERICAN NOVELS).

"Intellectuals have taken over the whole damned process of writing. It's not like the days of Hemingway and Faulkner, when writers were first of all men. Now all writers are English majors with Ph.D.'s. The world of literature has been taken over by collegiate values. .... I'm not writing for Ph.D.'s at Harvard. I'd like to be read and understood by the rank and file of the United States, not just by some professor of English. I'm the last of the proletarian novelists."

— from an interview by Milton Viorst, published in the magazine "Esquire", February 1968.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

"Talent alone cannot make a writer. There must be a man behind the book."

## WAR IS NOT THE UGLIEST THING

"War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest thing. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which <sup>thinks</sup> nothing worth a war is worse . . . a man who has nothing which he cares about more than his personal safety is a miserable creature who has no chance of being free, unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself."

— John Stuart Mill, quoted by Henry Cabot Lodge regarding the war in Viet Nam, 1968.

## ON MIXING RACES

"Do you see the trees out there, spruce and pine and poplar? They do not mix. They grow side by side and get along well. People can do the same thing. I hope there will always be Indians."

— Walking Buffalo, of the Stony (Assiniboine) tribe of Alberta, 96 years old in 1967. Quoted in the Hudson Bay Co.'s magazine "The Beaver", Spring edition, 1968.

### HONOURS FOR BRITISH AUTHORS

"Hardy, Conrad, Shaw, Bennett, Galsworthy, Maugham, all refused the knighthoods offered them. To have accepted would have been to put themselves on a par with party hacks and successful grocers."

— Walter Allen, in his column "London Letter", New York Times Book Review, March 3, 1968.

### ORWELL ON MAUGHAM

"I believe the modern writer who has influenced me most is Somerset Maugham, whom I admire immensely for his power of telling a story straightforwardly and without frills."

— George Orwell. Quoted in "The Collected Essays, Journalism and Letters of George Orwell" Published by Secker & Warburg, 1968.

### ORWELL ON MODERN SEX WRITING

"I really think that the modern habit of describing lovemaking in detail is something that future generations will look back on as we do on things like Little Nell."

— The Collected Essays, etc. as above.

## "The Deformed South school"

"Reflections in a Golden Eye" ..... a characteristically clotted novel by the late, Carson McCullers, high priestess of the Deformed South school of American writers"

— from a review of the movie made from the book, in London's "New Statesman", April 19, 1968.

### MODERN WRITING AS REFLECTED IN THE THEATRE

"Recent changes in taste have ~~probably~~ probably promoted the lunatic asylum into the key image of our society"

— Philip French, in the "New Statesman" 19 July, 1968

### THE OBSCURANT AUTHORS

"The sole virtue of great complexity in a book is that it gives run-of-the-mill dons and critics something to occupy their largely futile time."

— Rayner Heppenstall, in the New Statesman, London, 20 December 1968.

THE WAR OF 1812 -- COMMENT BY EX-PRESIDENT  
HARRY TRUMAN -- QUOTED IN "PLAIN SPEAKING" BY

MERLE MILLER, 1974

"James Madison had a terrible time with his generals. He just sort of stumbled into the War of 1812. It never would have happened if it hadn't been for a few hotheads like Henry Clay.

"Clay was an expansionist, wanted to extend the country west, and wanted to take over everything that wasn't tied down. He even wanted to annex Canada, and that is one of the reasons he was so much for getting into war with Britain. He thought we'd gain a lot of new territory.

But most of the people along the east coast, and that was a good part of the country at that time, they weren't for the war at all. Silliest damn war we ever had, made no sense at all.

Madison didn't want it but he was a very weak President. He just couldn't seem to make up his mind about anything. And when he blundered into the War of 1812, except for Andy Jackson he didn't have a general who was worth a good goddamn. They weren't not only weren't any good, they wouldn't do what he told them. And that's the reason the British were able to take Washington and burn the White House. When Madison heard the British were coming, he ran around like a chicken with its head cut off. It wasn't that he was a coward, he just didn't know what to do."

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But most of the people along the east coast, and that was a good part of the country at that time, they weren't for the war at all. Still, damn war we ever had, made no sense at all.

Madison didn't want to be a very weak President. He just couldn't seem to make up his mind about anything. And when he dithered in the war of 1812, except for Andy Jackson he didn't have a General who was worth a good goddam. They weren't only weren't any good, they wouldn't do what he told them. And that's the reason the British were able to take Washington and burn the White House. When Madison heard the British were coming, he ran around like a chicken with its head cut off. It wasn't that he was a coward, he just didn't know what to do."

"The whole point of the war was to get us back to where we were and off the wall. There was nothing to be gained from the war."

— Roger Heywood, in the New Yorker  
October 20, December 1948

## REVOLUTION

"The revolution is an idea which has found bayonets."

— Napoleon Buonaparte, quoted in the article on Fascism in the 1953 edition, *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

## THE FRENCH AND MONEY

Lee Schubert summed up Sarah Bernhardt thus:-

"English she couldn't talk; English she couldn't pronounce; but, boy, could she count in English!"

— quoted in *The Brothers Schubert*, author Jerry Stagg, published by Random House in 1968.

## JAMES ~~JOYCE~~ JOYCE

The case built up against Joyce is stronger. He was an extravagant man and he had no moral qualms about accepting money from women and spending it on luxuries. He had a consuming ambition to write a masterpiece and he had also a vision of what was necessary for literary survival—namely, to write books so packed with references and cross-references that a Ph.D. industry could be founded on them.

Clipping from the (London)  
*Times Literary Supplement* { Nov. 14  
1965  
Part of a review of W. G.  
Rogers' book "Ladies Beautiful",  
which dealt with the woman  
(mostly American) who helped to

support Joyce & other writers in Europe in the  
1920's & 1930's.

PABLO PICASSO

"When I am alone with myself, I have not the courage to think of myself as an artist in the great and ancient sense of the term. Giotto, Titian, Rembrandt and Goya were great painters; I am only a public entertainer who has understood his times and has exhausted as best he could the imbecility, the vanity, the cupidity of his contemporaries. Mine is a bitter confession, more painful than it may appear, but it has the merit of being sincere."

— This confession was quoted at the end of a whole issue of Life magazine (Dec. 31, 1968) devoted to Picasso and his life, his loves, & his work.

It proved to be a forgery, which first appeared in an Italian pseudo-biography some years before or Picasso lied in denying it. "Life" printed an apology some time later.



## THE CANADIAN IDENTITY

"Perhaps instead of constantly deploring our lack of identity we should attempt to understand and explain the regional, ethnic and class identities that we do have. It might just be that it is in these limited identities that ~~the~~ 'Canadianism' is found, and that except for our over-heated nationalist intellectuals Canadians find this situation quite satisfactory."

— (Professor) G. Ramsay Cook, writing on "Canadian Centennial Celebrations" in "International Journal", autumn 1967.

## MAN IN THE JET TRAVEL AGE

"If statesmen, politicians, & business men would fly a little more slowly they would <sup>NOT</sup> arrive at their destination in advance of their brains, with the consequent mess they have made of the world"

- Compton Mackenzie, in the 9th "octave" of his autobiography, published in 1970.

## THE UNREST OF YOUTH IN THE 1960's and 70's

- "the eternal tantrums of the young."

London Times Literary Supplement, 14 August 1970

## THE UNREST OF YOUTH IN ANY PERIOD

"The youth gets together his materials to build a bridge to the moon ... and at length the middle-aged man concludes to build a woodshed with them." - Henry David Thoreau

"I am not young enough to know everything." - Sir James Barrie

## CULTURE IN CONVERSATION

"The advantage of culture is that it enables you to talk nonsense with distinction."

— H. Somerset Maugham, in his short story "Giulia Lazzari"

## KING EDWARD VIII and MRS. WALLIS SIMPSON

When the weak & pleasure-loving Edward gave up his throne to marry the twice-divorced Mrs. Simpson in 1936, there were many sly jokes about them.

One was that Mister Simpson's only regret was that he had only one wife to lay down for his King.

The best one:— "Ah, poor Edward! He used to be Lord High Admiral of the British Navy, and now he's just the third mate of an American tramp."

## ON A SOCIETY OF AUTHORS

"I mentioned my having spent an evening with a society of authors, who seemed to be jealous & afraid of one another. My uncle was not at all surprised to hear me say I was disappointed in their conversation. 'A man may be very entertaining & instructive upon paper,' said he, 'and exceedingly dull in common discourse. I have observed that those who shine most in private company are but secondary stars in the constellation of genius. A small stock of ideas is more easily managed, & sooner displayed, than a great quantity crowded together. There is very seldom anything extraordinary in the appearance and address of a good writer; whereas a dull author generally distinguishes himself by some oddity or extravagance.'

- Smollett, in "Humphrey Clinker"

PROSE & POETRY BY MODERN COLLEGE STUDENTS

(A note by T.H.R.)

In the spring of 1971 I was one of three judges of the annual Dennis Memorial contest — the other two judges being professors at Mount Saint Vincent and St. Mary's. I quote from my diary:—

"March 20, 1971 Received by mail a great bundle of prose & 'poetry' submitted by Dalhousie students for the Dennis prizes. One or two had something to say & said it well. Most of it was absolute drivel, in the doleful self-pitying vein so popular with modern youth. One 'poet', in a piece called 'Light Lifts Down', quite unconsciously summed up the whole lot of them in these immortal words:—

"... his unfinished mind  
reaches for what is not there."

G. B. SHAW ON THE WORKS OF HENRY JAMES

"It is really a damnable sin to drag with such consummate art a houseful of rubbish."

JOSEPH CONRAD SAID IT FIRST AND BEST:-

"The Langiacomo band was not making music; it was simply murdering ~~the~~ silence with a vulgar, ferocious energy."

- in his novel "Victory", finished in the spring of 1914.

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"I do not write history, but fiction, and I am therefore entitled to choose as I please what is most suitable in regard to characters and particulars to help me in the general impression I wish to produce."

- Conrad to G. J. Aubrey

## CANADA

"Any outstanding Canadian economist wanted to have English government, American efficiency, and French culture in Canada. What Canada got was American culture, English efficiency, and French government."

- attributed in 1978 to Henry Kissinger, former U.S. State Department official and globe-trotter, in a letter to Maclean's Magazine, Nov. 20/78 issue.

Dr. Henry <sup>Hicks</sup> Fox retiring in 1980 from the Presidency of Dalhousie University, after 17 years, in which he transformed a respected but small institution into a huge, bustling, complex. The student enrolment was quadrupled, the capital assets increased ten-fold, and the annual budget had become \$65,000,000 - fifteen times what it was when he took over.

- "I really believe that a good plumber or machinist is a more valuable member of society than a poor lawyer, and will probably be a happier member of society."

- quoted from an article in the January-February 1980 issue of the Nova Scotian magazine "Atlantic Insight".



## WINSTON CHURCHILL

Writing to his mother in 1899:-

"Solitary trees, if they grow at all, grow strong; and a boy deprived of a father's care often develops, if he escape the perils of youth, an independence and a vigour of thought which may restore in after life the heavy loss of early days."

He was then 24.

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## THE UNLUCKY YEAR 1903

Joseph Conrad and Ford Madox Ford collaborated in the book "Romance", which was published in 1903. What was unfortunate was the collaboration, not the year. However, in his book "Return to Yesterday" published many years later, Ford wrote:-

"Romance" was published in 1903, and shortly afterwards Conrad and I determined to shew ourselves in London. The move to London was for me the beginning of a series of disasters. That was perhaps because the year was 1903. Those digits added up to thirteen. No one should have done anything in that year."

## OBSCENITY IN TRINT

"When little boys have learned a new bad word they are never happy till they have chalked it up on a door. And this also is Literature."

Rudyard Kipling, in "The Phantom Rickshaw"

"Human speech is like a cracked tin kettle, on which we hammer out tunes to make bears dance, when we long to move the stars."

Flaubert, in "Madame Bovary"

SPEAKING OF CONRAD'S WORK

"A truly great novel is a tale to the simple, a parable to the wise, and a direct revelation of reality to the man who has made it part of his being."

- John Middleton Murry in 1924

Carlos Baker, going further with it, wrote that Murry's comment summarized "the triple power which Conrad brought to the art of the novel."

THE MAKE-UP OF A MAN (wishes?)

Ambrose Bierce.

"In every man there is a lion, a pig, an ass, and a nightingale, and all differences in character result from the unequal distribution of those qualities."

## AN AUTHOR'S CREED IN NINE WORDS

"I try all things; I achieve what I can."  
- Herman Melville, in "Moby Dick"

## OLD AGE

"The secret of good old age is simply an honourable pact with solitude."

- Gabriel Garcia Marquez, quoted by Philip Ziegler in his biography of Lord Louis Mountbatten.

## On being Nova Scotians in the 18th. century

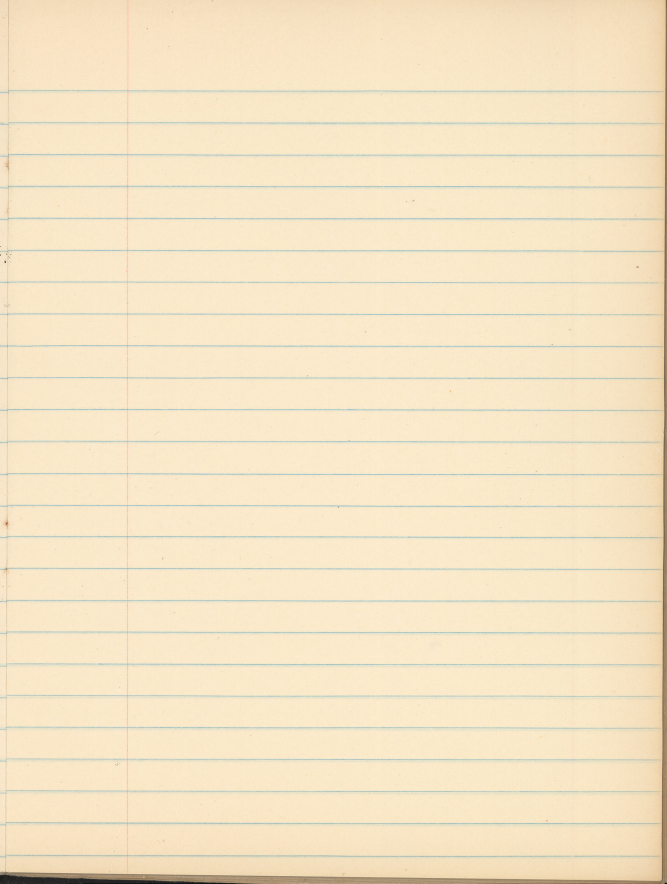
"Nova Scotians could and did subsist themselves, but not entirely as they thought, by the products which they wrested from their farms and from the forests, rivers and seas. They earned and enjoyed a standard of living considerably beyond their own capacities of production because by the mere courage not to give up, but to go on being Nova Scotians, they served in curiously mixed fashions some immediate and some remote ends of England and New England."

-J. B. Brebner, page 127. "The Neutral Yankees of Nova Scotia".

ON HENRY JAMES

"To represent life with any breadth, depth, feeling, a man must have had to be up to the neck in it somewhere, and not merely gone about on tiptoe, peeping at it."

— J. B. Priestly in "Literature and Western Man"



On Henry James

"To represent life with any breadth, depth, feeling, a man must have had to be up to the neck in it sometimes, and not merely gaze about on tiptoe, peeping at it."

— J. B. Priestly in "Literature and Western Man"



