

23 January 2008 (mlc)

From the small booklet of quotations collected by Charles Lanphere -  
"Vol. XLIV, Excerptia, C. N. Lanphere, Potsdam, N.Y., Jan. 27, 1922"

"Anger is the worst leak in a man's store of self-respect.  
- Japanese

Queen Victoria once remarked: "Mr. Gladstone always addresses me as if I were a public meeting."

It was said of Robert Elsmere that he had a mind that was defenseless against truth.  
- Crothers

Some flowerets of Eden we still inherit  
Though the trail of the serpent is over them all.

The impulse of Ulysses -  
"For my sweet purpose holds  
to sail beyond the sunset, and the baths  
Of all the western tars, until I die.  
It may be that the gulfs will wash us down,  
It may be we shall touch the Happy Isles."

The trouble with facts is that there are so many of them.  
- Crothers

When Billington in Plymouth forest climbed a tree and saw in distance the shimmering waters of an inland pond, he wildly surmised that he had discovered the goal of hardy mariners - the Great South Sea: whereof the pond is known to this day as "Billingtons' sea."

There is a sense -  
"Of something here like something there,  
Of something done, I know not where,  
such as no language can declare."

Pull to pieces a man's Theory of Things and you will find it based upon facts collected at the suggestion of his desires.

- Herbert Spenser

#### Chaucer's Pilgrim

When that he wel dronken had the win,  
Then wold he speken no word but Latin

To say "I do not know" is not nearly as painful as it seems to those who have not tried it.

- Samuel McChord Crothers

"And there was no king in Israel, and every man did what was right in his own eyes."

"We bleed, and we hate, and suffer, and are blind,  
Uncomprehending; yet if one will mind (?),  
That light is shining still in Life's far side"

- Edwin Harold "Light of the World"

Live for something, have a purpose,  
And that purpose keep in view;  
Drifting like a helmless vessel,  
Thou canst ne'er to life be true.  
Half the wrecks that strew life's ocean,  
If some star had been their guide,  
Might have now been riding safely,  
But they drifted with the tide.

- Whitaker

In a century, in a millennium, one or two men, that is to say, one or two approximations to the right-state of every man. All the rest .... are content to be less.

- Emerson "Nature Addresses"

One truth will damn me with the mindless mob.

- Tennyson "Romney's Remorse"

Time is  
Too slow for those who wait,  
Too swift for those who fear,  
Too long for those who grieve,  
Too short for those who rejoice;  
But for those who love,  
Time is not!

- Henry Van Dyke

Men's Great actions are performed in minor struggles.

- Hugo "Les Miserables"

In every walk in life there are certain minutiae which are visible only to the man of insight.

- Bayne

The great comet of 1843 passed within three or four minutes of the surface of the sun.

- G. Newcomb

Bishop Burnett, in his "History of his Own Times", says that Bishop Forbes of Scotland, in the reign of James the First, "had a strange faculty of preaching five or six hours at a time."

Sincerity is the way of Heaven;  
The wise are the unassuming.  
- Confucius

"Philosophy has never brought me in a sixpence, but it has saved me many an expense."  
- Schopenhauer

The Chinese say of Confucius - "Three things the Master had not, - he had no prejudices; he had no obstinacy; he had no egotism."

"No laggard in love,  
nor dastard in war"

Chaucer's Knight

"Loved chevalrie, trouthe and honor, fredom and curtesie."

A sermon is seldom as long as it seems.  
- Crothers

"As late as the eighteenth century a traveler in Wales remarks that the ale house was usually kept by the parson."  
- Crothers

It was said of a certain English statesman that "His conscience, instead of being his monitor, became his accomplice."

In his desire for moderation, a good parson once prayed that the Lord might lead his people "in the safe, middle path between right - and wrong." - Crothers

In the palace built by the enchantment of Merlin were four zones of sculpture.

"And in the lowest, beasts are slaying men,  
And in the second, men are slaying beasts,  
And in the third are warriors, perfect men,  
And in the forth are men with growing wings."

"Good mornin', Mrs. McCann," said an Irish laborer to a "lady" at the washtub.

"An' the top of the mornin' to you Mister Mullin," she replied..

"Oi t'ought," said he, "Oi'd shtep in t' say your husban' has shtopped shmokin', Mrs. McCann."

"Saints be praised! It's 75 cints a mont' he'll be savin'."

"Oi'm layin' bets he won't," said Mr. Mullin. "He wor lightin' his pipe in the powder factory an' he dropped the match." (Cartoon sketch included)

That man alone has a great tomorrow who has back of him a multitude of greart yesterdays.  
- Hillis

There never was a handsome idiot.  
There never was a beautiful fool.  
But sweetness and wisdom will glorify the plainest face.  
- Hillis

Old Roger Ascham remarked that he labored “with uncontented care to write better than he could.”

How pleasant it is to go about in expectation of accidents. - Sancho Panza

Verse of an old Pirate Song - “Drain, drain the bowl, each fearless soul!  
Let the world wag as it will;  
Let the heavens growl, let the devil howl,  
Drain, drain the deep bowl and fill! [fall ?]

A pessimist is a man who is so unfortunate as to have been born into a world which is inadequate to his expectations.  
- Crothers

Demand of every common thing in life, whether it be your body, your money or your daily experience, that it shall bloom into fine results in your own soul and in your influence on the world.  
- Phillips Brooks

If you would keep your conscience in good repair, you must give it some reasonable relaxation.  
- Crothers

“Pleasantness of disposition is a great key to do good.” - Geo. Herbert

Many virtues weighted by excess sink among the vices;  
Many vices, amicably buoyed, float among the virtues,  
- Tupper “Verbial Phil.”

“Why skip ye so, Sir Fool?” - Sir Tristram

Professional Humorest: “I have brought you a funny book”  
Gentle Reader: “Thank you” he answers, struggling against his melancholy forebodings “You will pardon me if I seem to take my pleasure sadly.”  
- Crothers

Bunyan speaks of a “brisk young lad named ignorance.”

Four things a man must learn to do,  
If he would make his record true:  
To think without confusion clearly;  
To love his fellow-men sincerely;  
To act from truest motives purely;  
To trust in God and Heaven securely.  
- Henry Van Dyke

Little minds are too much wounded by little things; great minds see all and are not even hurt.  
- La Rochefoucauld

“Half wake I heard  
The parson taking wide and wider sweeps.”  
- Tennyson

Erasmus, in the dedication of his Praise of Folly” says:  
“My endeavor is to make mirth rather than to bite.”

“He that is down need fear no fall.” - Boy’s song in “Pilgrim’s Progress”

Old Doctor South said: “It is a greater guilt to enjoy the contemplation of our neighbor’s sins than to commit the same offenses in our proper persons.”

The dejected reformer said: “The time is out of joint: O cursed spite,  
That ever I was born to set it right!”

And there was no day like that, before or after it. - Josh. 10:14

Speaking of the attitude of Erasmus, Luther said: “ Erasmus stands looking at creation like a calf at a new door.”

Enchanted land, we know not where,  
But lovely as a landscape in a dream”

It is Good to Be Alive  
Charlotte Perkins Stetson

It is good to be alive when the trees shine green,  
And the steep red hills stand up against the sky;  
Big sky, blue sky, with flying clouds between -  
It is good to be alive and see the clouds drive by!

It is good to be alive when the strong winds blow,  
The strong, sweet winds blowing straightly off the sea;  
Great sea, green sea, with swinging ebb and flow -  
It is good to be alive and see the waves run by.

Natural history note: A turtle always leaves its umbrella at home.

“If she be not fair to me  
What care I how fair she be?”

The world deals good naturedly with good natured people. - Thackeray

The very law which moulds a tear,  
And bids it trickle from its source  
That law preserves the earth a sphere,  
And guides the planets in their course.

“Impossible is the adjective of fools” - Napoleon

It thunders!

Almighty! Trembling like a timid child,  
I hear thy awful voice, - alarmed, afraid,  
I see the flashes of thy lightning wild,  
And in the very grave would hide my head.”

He is the best orator who can turn men’s ears into eyes.” - Arabian Proverb

“Gentlemen and ladies,” said the showman, “here you have a magnificent painting of Daniel in the lion’s den.

Daniel can be easily distinguished from the lions by the green cotton umbrella under his arm.”

“O not for one offense mistrust Heaven’s mercy.  
Nor quit thy hope of happy days to come.”  
- Lamb

“That form of maiden loveliness  
‘ Twixt childhood and ‘twixt youth.”  
- Scott “Bride of

Joy thou in what he gives thee, this paradise  
And thy fair Eve.” - Milton

Paul Hentzner, writing of England some centuries ago said: “If they see a foreigner very well made, or particularly handsome, they will say: ‘It is a pity he is not an Englishman!’”

Of the great men of the Reformation there was an old saying that: “Cambridge bred them and Oxford burned them.”

Henry James said of the lawn sward at Oxford “it is delicious to one’s sentient boot sole.”

In a flowery sermon once preached by Richard Traverter, he said -

“I have brought you some fine biscuits baked in the oven of charity, carefully conserved for the chickens of the church, for the sparrows of the spirit, and the sweet swallows of salvation.”  
(This in Oxford in the 16<sup>th</sup> cen.)

Men of faith are men of fiber. The only true faith is the faith that works.

- Charles Edward Locke

In 1550, John Gregg, of Canterbury, England, was sent to Rome on a mission to the Pope. In a letter to Archbishop Warhain [Warham] he writes:

“I am in great favor with the Pop hys sister, the which  
Knoweth his nature.”

You resemble the spirit which you understand. - Goethe

When a great man has a dark corner in him, it is terribly dark. - Goethe

And thus it could not be another way,  
I venture to imagine.

- Bishop Blougram

“The common problem, your’s, mine, every one’s,  
Is - not to fancy what were fair in life  
Provided it could be, - but finding first  
What may be, then find how to make it fair  
Up to our means,”

- Browning “Bishop Blougram’s Apology”

“We mortals cross the ocean of this world  
Each in his average cabin of a life;  
The best’s not big, the worst yields elbow-room.”

- Browning

“Try to be a Shakespeare, leave the rest to fate.” - Bish. Blougram.

God means mankind should strive for  
and show forth  
Whatever be the process to that end.”

- Bishop Blougram

“If you desire fath - then you’ve faith enough” -Bishop Blougram

Some think creation's meant to show him (God) forth:  
I say it's meant to hide him all it can;  
And that's what all the blessed evil's for."  
- Bishop Blougram

"...When the fight begun within himself,  
A man's worth something. God stoops o'er his head,  
Satan looks up between his feet - both tug -  
He's left, himself n the middle: The soul wakes  
And grows.  
- Bishop Blougram

Repentance is being sorry enough to stop.

Heat always untunes the harp of my nervous system. - De Quiney

Knowledge and timber shouldn't be much used till they are seasoned. - Holmes

No man can hope to muddle others without first muddling himself. - Howells

In Eliot's Indian bible, the word that means a great chief - such as Joshua, or Gideon, or Joab - is  
'mugwump.'  
- Fiske "Beginnings of N.E."

SMILE!

It's *easy* to stride where the road is wide  
And the pavement is firm and fine;  
It's *easy* to skip at a good stiff clip  
When the road is a long white line;  
It's jolly good fun down the hills to run  
If there isn't a chance to fall;

BUT -

A MAN'S TRUE BLUE IF HE JUST PLUGS  
THROUGH  
WHERE THERE ISN'T A PATH AT ALL!

\*\*\*\*

It's *easy* to grin when the cash rolls in  
And your life is a cloudless day;  
It's *easy* to prance in the costliest dance  
If the Fiddler's received his pay;  
It's *easy* to sing till the rafters ring  
If Joy is the Heart of the Song;

BUT -

GIVE ME THE FELLOW THAT DOESN'T SHOW  
YELLOW  
WHEN EVERYTHING'S GONE DEAD  
WRONG! \*\*\*

So, *remember*, Friends, until Cosmos ends,  
Until Chaos shall rule supreme;  
Until Day and Night take their last long flight  
And the World is a Shattered dream;  
Remember! *Your* frown pulls the *next man* down.  
Lend a Hand! Make *his* life *worth while!*

GIVE !  
A BEAMING FACE TO THE HUMAN RACE!  
FACE FATE WITH - A BRAVE  
SWEET  
SMILE!

To a mosquito -  
Thou shouldst have gazed at distance and admired,  
Murmured thy admiration & retired.  
- Bryant

No black envy shall make my grave. - Shakespeare

It is worth the labor - saith Plotinus - to consider well of Love, whether it be a God, or a divell, or  
a passion of the minde, or prtly God, partly divell, partly passion. - Burton's Anatomy.

"See how he nappeth, see!" - Chaucer

"I love thee, and I feel  
that on the fountain of my heart a seal  
Is set to keep its waters pure and bright  
for thee.

- Shelley

Philosophy triumphs easily over past  
evils and future evils; but present evils  
triumph over it.

- La Rochefoucauld

We pardon in the degree that we love.

- La Rochefoucauld

There are truths which are not for all men, nor for all times.

- Voltaire

Over the gates of the cemetaries of Paris,  
in 1794, were inscribed these words -  
    “Death is an eternal sleep.”

Over the door of the library at Thebes  
was inscribed this line -  
    “Medicine for the soul.”

Much may be made of a Scotchman  
if he be caught young  
    - Johnson

“To make one pound of the  
attar of roses - 22000 pounds  
of rose petals, or about 3,000,000  
blossoms are required.”

Nicotia, dearer to the muse  
Than all the grape’s bewildering juice”  
    - Lowell “To My Fireside”

Across the fields of yesterday  
    He sometimes comes to me,  
A little lad just back from play-  
    The lad I used to be.

And yet he smiles so wistfully  
    Once he has crept within,  
I wonder if he hopes to see  
    The man I might have been.  
    - Thomas S. Jones, Jr.

Every Christian is expected to light the community for ten miles around.  
    - George Fox

Anaxagoras said to a man who was grieving because he was dying in a foreign land, “The  
descent into Hades is the same from every place.”  
    - Diogenes Laertius

Our education would do well to remember the reply of Aristippus when asked what were the most necessary things for boys to learn. He said: "Those things which they will put into practice as men."

Diogenes, when asked what was the proper time for supper made answer:

"If you are a rich man, whenever you please;  
If you are a poor man, whenever you can,"

Dante speaks of "the wretched souls of those who lived without praise or blame."

Rabelais refers to a kind of disease called "lack of money."

"The laws of conscience, which we pretend to be derived from nature, proceed from custom."  
- Montaigne

A closed mouth catches no flies. - Cervantes

Many go out for wool and come home themselves shorn. - Cervantes

Have a heart that never hardens, a temper that never tires and a touch that never hurts. - Dickens

Things that have a common quality ever quickly seek their kind. - Marcus Aurelius

John Kepler said of his book in 1630 "It may well wait a century for a reader, as God has waited six thousand years for an observer."

"A prosperous fool is a grievous burden." - Aeschylus

Try first thyself, and after call in God:  
For to the worker God himself lends aid.

- Euripides

Let thy speech be better than silence, or be silent. - Dionysius the Elder

The grass is softer to my tread,  
For rest it yields unnumbered feet,  
Sweeter to me the wild rose red,  
Because she makes the whole world sweet.

- Lucy Larcom

Even the worthy Homer sometimes nods. - Horace

Agesilaus being invited to hear a man who admirably imitated the nightingale, he declined, saying he had heard the nightingale itself. - Plutarch

Plutarch tells of a man who threw a stone at a bitch but hit his ste-mother, on which he exclaimed: "not to bad!"

"The world is -  
A comedy to those who think:  
A tragedy to those who feel."  
- Horace Walpole

If the man who "turnips" cries,  
Cry not when his father dies,  
'Tis a proof that he had rather  
Have a turnip than his father."  
- Johnstone

Of Oliver Goldsmith, Dr. Johnson said:  
"No man was more foolish when he has not a pen in his hand,  
or more wise when he had."

Woven of heroism and grief, of the bravery of men and women's tears, of righteousness and battle, of sacrifice and anguish and triumph, - it is these that make our flag a Holy Thing.  
- Albert J. Beveridge

Dr. Johnson's "dunce" was "not only dull himself, but the cause of dullness in others."

No man but a blockhead ever wrote except for money. (?) - Johnson

Johnson said he could repeat a complete chapter of the "Natural History of Iceland" from the Danish of Horrebow, the whole of which is exactly thus:

Chap. 72  
"There are no snakes to be met with throughout the whole island."

Every investigation that is guided by principles of nature fixes its ultimate aim entirely on pacifying the stomach.  
- Athenaeus

Mere unassisted merit advances slowly, if - what is not very common - it advances at all.  
- Johnson

“Let observation with extension view  
survey mankind, from China to Peru.”

- Dr. Johnson

De Quincy quotes the criticism of some writer, who contends with some reason that this high-sounding couplet of Dr. Johnson amounts in effect to this: “Let observation with extensive observation observe mankind extensively.”

Whoe'er has travell'd life's dull round,  
Where'er his stages may have been,  
May sigh to think he still has found  
The warmest welcome at an inn.

-Shenstone “Written on the window of an Inn”

If a man can make a better book, preach a better sermon, make a better basket than his neighbor, although he builds his house in the woods, the world will make a beaten path to his door.

- Emerson

“Thy modesty's a candle to thy merit. - Fielding

Full wise is he that can himself know. - Chaucer “Monks Tale”

The lyfe so short, the craft so long to lerne,  
Th' assay so hard, so sharp the conquering.  
- Chaucer

“There is nothyng that more dyspleaseth God,  
Than from theyr children to spare the rod.”  
- John Skelton

Kings are like stars: they rise  
and set: they have  
The worship of the world, but no repose.  
- Shelley “Hellas”

We are ancients of the earth  
And in the morning of the times.  
- Tennyson “The Day Dream”

He first deceased; she for a little tried  
To live without him, liked it not, & died.”  
- Wotton (1568 - 1639)

Excerpts embodying rare beauty of expression -

“From whose eyelids also as they gazed dropped love.”  
- Hesiod “The Theogony”

Knowest then the land where the lemon trees bloom,  
Where the gold orange glows in the deep thickets gloom,  
Where the wind ever soft - from the blue heaven blows,  
And the groves are of laurel and myrtle and rose?  
- Goethe

The horned moon & one bright star,  
Within the nether tip.  
- Coleridge

When the sun's last rays are fading  
Into twilight soft & dim  
- Th. L. Barker

With the multitudinous music of a thousand ages gone.  
- Steadman

“The wrath of fire racing in the wings of the wind.”  
- De Quincy

“On a sudden open fly  
The infernal gates, and on their hinges grate  
Harsh thunder”

Such gusts of horned thunder,  
Such groans of roaring wind and rain!”

“There crept  
A little noiseless noise among the leaves  
Born of the very sigh that silence heaves”

As raging seas are want to soar  
When Storm his wrathful wreck does th  
The rolling billows beat the ragged shore.”

With you the stars perform their singing  
And the sea its long, moon-silvered roll.  
- Tennyson

“Bang-whang-whang goes to drum  
And tootle-te-tootle the fife”  
- Up at a Villa

The soft complaining flute,  
In dying notes discovers  
The woes of hapless lovers;  
Whose dirge is whispered by the warbling lute”

How soft the music of those village bells,  
Falling at intervals upon the ear  
In cadence sweet! Now dying all away  
Now pealing loud again and louder still,  
Clear and sonorous as the gale comes in.”

The brazen throat of war has ceased to roar.