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# Quotes by La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

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We may give advice, but not the sense to use it.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Men give away nothing so liberally as their advice.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

The one thing people are the most liberal with, is their advice.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We give advice, but we cannot give the wisdom to profit by it.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

As one grows older, one becomes wiser and more foolish.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Few people know how to be old.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Old age is a tyrant, who forbids, under pain of death, the pleasures of youth.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Old men are fond of giving good advice to console themselves for their inability to give bad examples.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Old people love to give good advice to console themselves for no longer being able to set a bad example.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Decency is the least of all laws, but yet it is the law which is most strictly observed.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

The sure way to be cheated is to think one's self more cunning than others.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

How ever a brilliant an action, it should not be viewed as great unless it is the result of a great motive.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We never desire strongly, what we desire rationally.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

There are ways which lead to everything, and if we have sufficient will we should always have sufficient means.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

To safeguard one's health at the cost of too strict a diet is a tiresome illness indeed.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We would rather speak badly of ourselves than not talk about ourselves at all.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

True eloquence consists in saying all that should be said, and that only.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Our enemies come nearer the truth in the opinions they form of us than we do in our opinion of ourselves.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Our enemies approach nearer to truth in their judgments of us than we do ourselves.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

The sure mark of one born with noble qualities is being born without envy.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

It is not enough to succeed, others must fail.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Envy is more irreconcilable than hatred.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

There is hardly a man clever enough to recognize the full extent of the evil he does.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We often do good in order that we may do evil with impunity.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Nothing is so contagious as an example. We never do great good or evil without bringing about more of the same on the part of others.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

No persons are more frequently wrong, than those who will not admit they are wrong.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

It is for want of application, rather than of means that people fail,

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

The fame of great men ought to be judged always by the means they used to acquire it.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We forget our faults easily when they are known to ourselves alone.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Only the great can afford to have great defects.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

If we had no faults of our own, we should not take so much pleasure in noticing those in others.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

It is only persons of firmness that can have real gentleness. Those who appear gentle are, in general, only a weak character, which easily changes into asperity.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Self-love is the greatest of all flatterers.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

All women are flirts, but some are restrained by shyness, and others by sense.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

He who lives without folly isn't so wise as he thinks.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We pardon to the extent that we love.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

There is a kind of elevation which does not depend on fortune; it is a certain air which distinguishes us, and seems to destine us for great things; it is a price which we imperceptibly set upon ourselves.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

It is more shameful to distrust our friends than to be deceived by them.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

What men have called friendship is only a social arrangement, a mutual adjustment of interests, an interchange of services given and received; it is, in sum, simply a business from which those involved propose to derive a steady profit for their own self-love.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

In the misfortunes of our best friends we always find something not altogether displeasing to us.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

However rare true love may be, it is less so than true friendship.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

A true friend is the greatest of all blessings, and that which we take the least care to acquire.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Funeral pomp is more for the vanity of the living than for the honor of the dead.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

What seems to be generosity is often no more than disguised ambition, which overlooks a small interest in order to secure a great one.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

What is called generosity is usually only the vanity of giving; we enjoy the vanity more than the thing given.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

The reason why so few people are agreeable in conversation is that each is thinking more about what he intends to say than others are saying.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We seldom find any person of good sense, except those who share our opinions.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Great souls are not those who have fewer passions and more virtues than others, but only those who have greater designs.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

There are few good women who do not tire of their role.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Gracefulness is to the body what understanding is to the mind.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We seldom find people ungrateful so long as it is thought we can serve them.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

In most of mankind gratitude is merely a secret hope of further favors.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

To achieve greatness one should live as if they will never die.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We are more interested in making others believe we are happy than in trying to be happy

ourselves.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We are never so happy nor so unhappy as we imagine.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

When our hatred is violent, it sinks us even beneath those we hate.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

It is a wearisome disease to preserve health by too strict a regimen.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

There are heroes in evil as well as in good.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Hope and fear are inseparable.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Hope is the last thing that dies in man; and though it be exceedingly deceitful, yet it is of this good use to us, that while we are traveling through life it conducts us in an easier and more pleasant way to our journey's end.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Humility is often a false front we employ to gain power over others.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

The happiness or unhappiness of men depends as much on their humors as on fortune.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Fortune and humor govern the world.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Hypocrisy is the homage that vice pays to virtue.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

The only good imitations are those that poke fun at bad originals.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

There is only one kind of love, but there are a thousand imitations.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Too great a hurry to discharge an obligation is a kind of ingratitude.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Those who are incapable of committing great crimes do not readily suspect them in others.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

It's easier to be wise for others than for ourselves.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

The virtues and vices are all put in motion by interest.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

In jealousy there is more of self-love than love.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Live on doubts; it becomes madness or stops entirely as soon as we pass from doubt to certainty.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Jealousy is always born with love but it does not die with it.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Jealousy contains more of self-love than of love.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Everyone complains of the badness of his memory, but nobody of his judgment.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

If I advance, follow me! If I retreat, kill me! If I die, avenge me!

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Our desires always disappoint us; for though we meet with something that gives us satisfaction, yet it never thoroughly answers our expectation.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Nothing so much prevents our being natural as the desire to seem so.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

To establish yourself in the world a person must do all they can to appear already established.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Quarrels would not last so long if the fault lay only on one side.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Listening well and answering well is one of the greatest perfections that can be obtained in conversation.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

What makes us so bitter against people who outwit us is that they think themselves

cleverer than we are.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We are nearer loving those who hate us than those who love us more than we wish.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

True love is like ghosts, which everybody talks about and few have seen.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We love those who admire us, but not those whom we admire.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

What makes lovers never tire of one another is that they talk always about themselves.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

There is no disguise that can for long conceal love where it exists or simulate it where it does not.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

It is with true love as it is with ghosts; everyone talks about it, but few have seen it.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

If we are to judge of love by its consequences, it more nearly resembles hatred than

friendship.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

There are few people who are not ashamed of their love affairs when the infatuation is over.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

The more one loves a mistress, the more one is ready to hate her.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Although men flatter themselves with their great actions, they are not so often the result of a great design as of chance.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Chance corrects us of many faults that reason would not know how to correct.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Why is our memory good enough to recall to the last detail things that have happened to us, yet not good enough to recall how often we have told them to the same person.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

It is easier to know men in general, than men in particular.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Not all those who know their minds know their hearts as well.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

The mind is always the patsy of the heart.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Before we set our hearts too much on anything, let us examine how happy are those who already possess it.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Moderation in people who are contented comes from that calm that good fortune lends to their spirit.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Moderation is an ostentatious proof of our strength of character.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

The height of cleverness is being able to conceal it.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We promise according to our hopes and perform according to our fears.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We would frequently be ashamed of our good deeds if people saw all of the motives that produced them.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We should often be ashamed of our finest actions if the world understood all the motives behind them.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We think very few people sensible, except those who are of our opinion.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We credit scarcely any persons with good sense except those who are of our opinion.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

In the human heart new passions are forever being born; the overthrow of one almost always means the rise of another.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Passion makes idiots of the cleverest men, and makes the biggest idiots clever.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

If we resist our passions, it is more through their weakness than from our strength.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

The passions are the only orators which always persuade.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

When a man finds no peace within himself, it is useless to seek it elsewhere.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

A person well satisfied with themselves is seldom satisfied with others, and others, rarely are with them.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

There are people who in spite of their merit disgust us, and others who please us in spite of their faults.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Few things are impracticable in themselves; and it is for want of application, rather than of means, that men fail to succeed.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Those who occupy their minds with small matters, generally become incapable of greatness.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

The accent of one's birthplace remains in the mind and in the heart as in one's speech.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Nothing is impossible; there are ways that lead to everything, and if we had sufficient will we should always have sufficient means. It is often merely for an excuse that we say things are impossible.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

A refusal of praise is a desire to be praised twice.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

When we disclaim praise, it is only showing our desire to be praised a second time.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Pride does not wish to owe and vanity does not wish to pay.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

In all professions each affects a look and an exterior to appear what he wishes the world to believe that he is. Thus we may say that the whole world is made up of appearances.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

It is easier to appear worthy of a position one does not hold, than of the office which one

fills.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

The intellect is always fooled by the heart.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We are never so ridiculous by the qualities we have, as by those we affect to have.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

One can find women who have never had one love affair, but it is rare indeed to find any who have had only one.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We have more ability than will power, and it is often an excuse to ourselves that we imagine that things are impossible.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Honest people will respect us for our merit: the public, for our luck.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

How can we accept another to keep our secret if we have been unable to keep it ourselves.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

The confidence which we have in ourselves gives birth to much of that which we have in others.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Lovers never get tired of each other because they are forever talking about themselves.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

The shame that arises from praise which we do not deserve often makes us do things we should otherwise never have attempted.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Weak people cannot be sincere.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

If it requires great tact to speak to the purpose, it requires no less to know when to be silent.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Passions are the only orators to always convinces us.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We all have enough strength to endure the misfortunes of others.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Nothing prevents one from appearing natural as the desire to appear natural.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

To know how to hide one's ability is great skill.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

The height of ability consists in a thorough knowledge of the real value of things, and of the genius of the age in which we live.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Our actions are like the terminations of verses, which we rhyme as we please.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We like to see others, but don't like others to see through us.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Few persons have sufficient wisdom to prefer censure, which is useful, to praise which deceives them.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

There is such a thing as a general revolution which changes the taste of men as it

changes the fortunes of the world.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Weakness of character is the only defect which cannot be amended.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

There are few virtuous women who are not bored with their trade.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

The only thing that should surprise us is that there are still some things that can surprise us.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Taste may change, but inclination never.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

The happiness and misery of men depend no less on temper than fortune.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Timidity is a fault for which it is dangerous to reprove persons whom we wish to correct of it.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Perfect Valor is to do, without a witness, all that we could do before the whole world.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

What makes vanity so insufferable to us, is that it hurts our own.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We do not despise all those who have vices, but we do despise those that have no virtue.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We are more often treacherous, through weakness than through calculation.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

It is more easy to be wise for others than for ourselves.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

It is great folly to wish to be wise all alone.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

As it is the characteristic of great wits to say much in few words, so small wits seem to have the gift of speaking much and saying nothing.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

It's the height of folly to want to be the only wise one.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

The common foible of women who have been handsome is to forget that they are no longer so.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Bodily labor alleviates the pains of the mind and from this arises the happiness of the poor.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

He who imagines he can do without the world deceives himself much; but he who fancies the world cannot do without him is still more mistaken.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

There are few people who are more often in the wrong than those who cannot endure to be so.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Absence diminishes little passions and increases great ones, as wind extinguishes candles and fans a fire.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We always love those who admire us; we do not always love those whom we admire.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

The desire to seem clever often keeps us from being so.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

It is great cleverness to know how to conceal our cleverness.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

If it were not for the company of fools, a witty man would often be greatly at a loss.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Usually we praise only to be praised.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We only confess our little faults to persuade people that we have no big ones.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Silence is the safest course for any man to adopt who distrust himself.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

When we cannot find contentment in ourselves, it is useless to seek it elsewhere.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We often forgive those who bore us, but we cannot forgive those whom we bore.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Conceit causes more conversation than wit.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Perfect courage is to do without witnesses what one would be capable of doing with the world looking on.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

True bravery is shown by performing without witness what one might be capable of doing before all the world.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

We can never be certain of our courage until we have faced danger.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

There are crimes which become innocent and even glorious through their splendor, number and excess.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Neither the sun nor death can be looked at with a steady eye

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De





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