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Quotes about Aristocracy

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Nobility is a graceful ornament to the civil order. It is the Corinthian capital of polished society.

- Burke, Edmund

Real nobility is based on scorn, courage, and profound indifference.

- Camus, Albert

Aristocracy has three successive ages. First superiority, then privileges and finally vanities. Having passed from the first, it degenerates in the second and dies in the third.

- Chateaubriand, Vicomte De

A fully equipped duke costs as much to keep up as two Dreadnoughts, and dukes are just as great a terror -- and they last longer.

- George, David Lloyd

All that is noble is in itself of a quiet nature, and appears to sleep until it is aroused and summoned forth by contrast.

- Goethe, Johann Wolfgang Von

I have known a German Prince with more titles than subjects, and a Spanish nobleman

with more names than shirts.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

There is a natural aristocracy among men. The grounds of this are virtue and talents.

- Jefferson, Thomas

What is the use of your pedigrees?

- Juvenal, (Decimus Junius Juvenalis)

Actual aristocracy cannot be abolished by any law: all the law can do is decree how it is to be imparted and who is to acquire it.

- Lichtenberg, Georg C.

Lords are lordliest in their wine.

- Milton, John

An aristocracy in a republic is like a chicken whose head has been cut off: it may run about in a lively way, but in fact it is dead.

- Mitford, Nancy

I hate the noise and hurry inseparable from great Estates and Titles, and look upon both as blessings that ought only to be given to fools, for 'Tis only to them that they are blessings.

- Montagu, Lady Mary Wortley

Aristocracy is always cruel.

- Phillips, Wendell

A degenerate nobleman is like a turnip. There is nothing good of him but that which is underground.

- Saying, English

Put more trust in nobility of character than in an oath.

- Solon

If, in looking at the lives of princes, courtiers, men of rank and fashion, we must perforce depict them as idle, profligate, and criminal, we must make allowances for the rich men's failings, and recollect that we, too, were very likely indolent and voluptuous, had we no motive for work, a mortal's natural taste for pleasure, and the daily temptation of a large income. What could a great peer, with a great castle and park, and a great fortune, do but be splendid and idle?

- Thackeray, William M.

Nothing is quite so wretchedly corrupt as an aristocracy which has lost its power but kept its wealth and which still has endless leisure to devote to nothing but banal enjoyments. All its great thoughts and passionate energy are things of the past, and nothing but a host of petty, gnawing vices now cling to it like worms to a corpse.

- Tocqueville, Alexis De

It is nobler to be good, and it is nobler to teach others to be good -- and less trouble!

- Twain, Mark

You should study the Peerage, Gerald. It is the one book a young man about town should know thoroughly, and it is the best thing in fiction the English have ever done.

- Wilde, Oscar

Those comfortably padded lunatic asylums which are known, euphemistically, as the stately homes of England.

- Woolf, Virginia



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