FAMOUS QUOTES OF MONTESQUIEU

18th Century France

“To become truly great, one has to stand with people, not above them.”

“There is no greater tyranny than that which is perpetrated under the shield of the law and in the name of justice.”

“The tyranny of a prince in an oligarchy is not so dangerous to the public welfare as the apathy of a citizen in a democracy.”

“I've never known any trouble that an hour's reading did not relieve.”

“Success in the majority of circumstances depends on knowing how long it takes to succeed.”

“Liberty is the right of doing whatever the laws permit.”

“An author is a fool who, not content with boring those he lives with, insists on boring future generations.”

“Useless laws weaken the necessary laws.”

“False happiness renders men stern and proud, and that happiness is never communicated. True happiness renders them kind and sensible, and that happiness is always shared.”

“The less men think, the more they talk”.

“An empire founded by war has to maintain itself by war.”

“There is no nation so powerful, as the one that obeys its laws not from principals of fear or reason, but from passion.”

“We must have constantly present in our minds the difference between independence and liberty. Liberty is a right of doing whatever the laws permit, and if a citizen could do what they forbid he would no longer be possessed of liberty.”