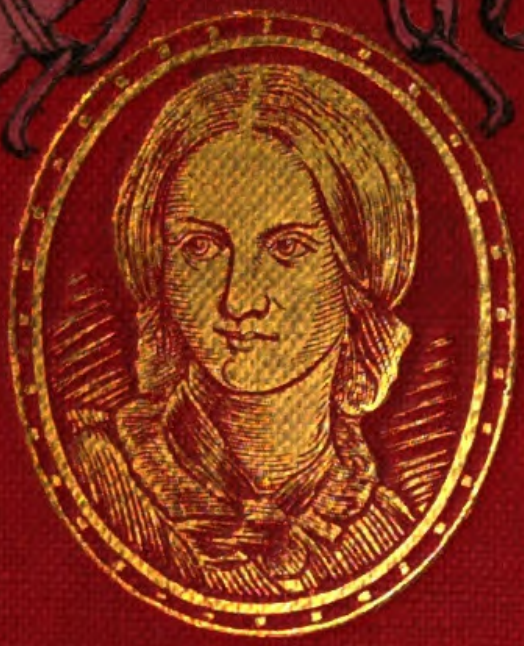
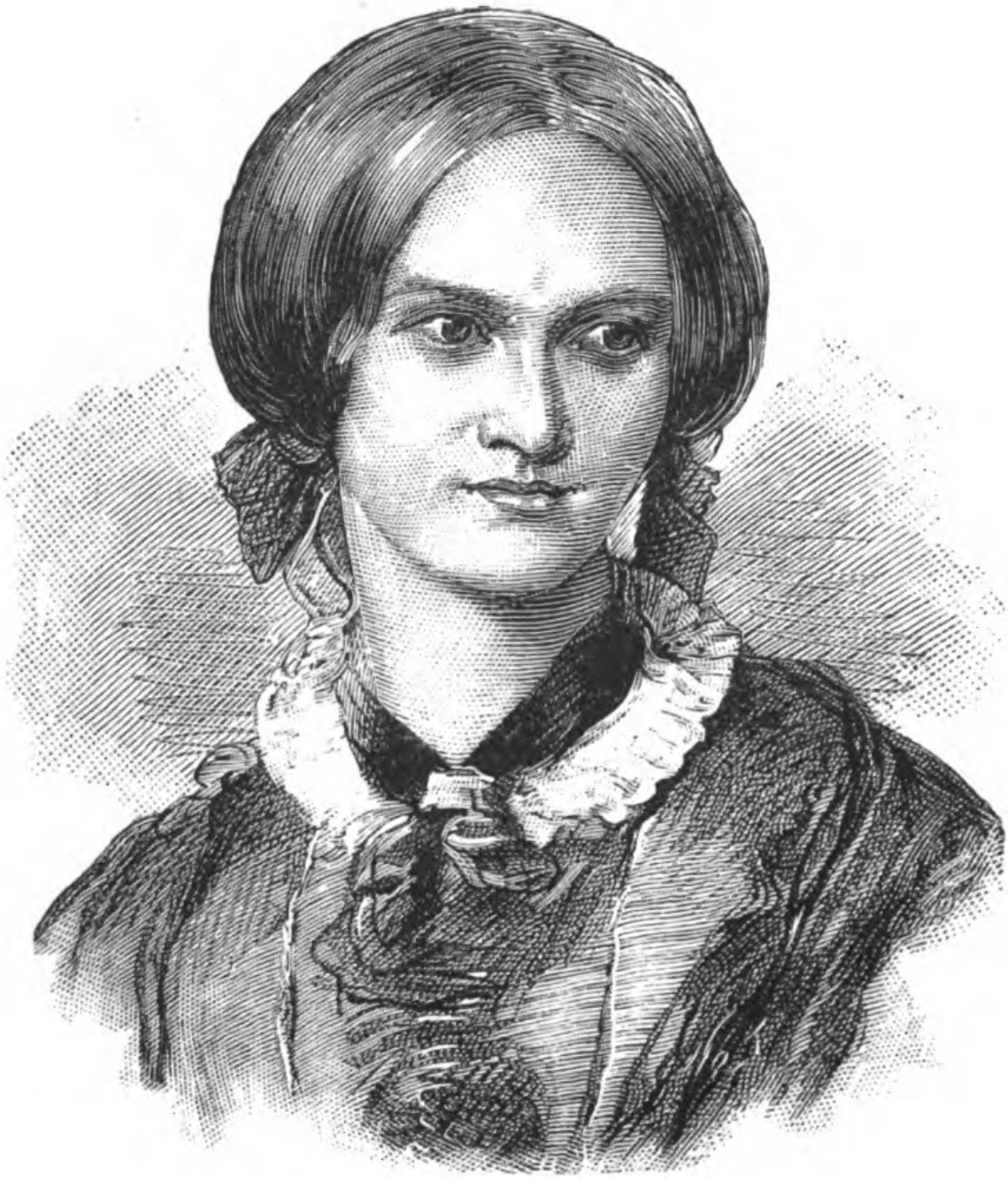
# The Brontë Birthday Record





CHARLOTTE BRONTË.

# THE BRONTË BIRTHDAY BOOK.

CONTAINING

EXTRACTS FOR EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR
FROM THE WORKS OF

THE SISTERS BRONTË.

*Selected and Arranged*

BY

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# THE BRONTË BIRTHDAY BOOK.

## JANUARY 1.

We have entered on a new year. Will it be stained as darkly as the last with all our sins, follies, secret vanities, and uncontrolled passions and propensities?

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 87.

## JANUARY 2.

One seldom has the fortune to be present at occurrences at which one would particularly wish to assist.

*Shirley*, 55.

## JANUARY 3.

Rough and steep was the path indicated by Divine suggestion; mossy and declining the green way along which temptation strewed flowers.

*The Professor*, 200.

## JANUARY 4.

If youth once falls under the influence of a shadowy terror, it imagines there will never be sunlight again—its first calamity it imagines will last a lifetime.

*Shirley*, 411.

## JANUARY 5.

To live amidst general regard . . . is like sitting in sunshine calm and sweet.

*Jane Eyre*, 376.

## JANUARY 6.

Good books are, we know, the best substitute for good society.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter.*

## JANUARY 7.

Life is so constructed that the event does not, cannot, will not, match the expectations.

*Villette*, 395.

## JANUARY 8.

One woman can appreciate the value of another better than a man can do.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 300.

## JANUARY 9.

You were born with a wooden spoon in your mouth, depend upon it.

I believe you; and I mean to make my wooden spoon do the work of some people's silver ladles: grasped firmly, and handled humbly, even a wooden spoon will shovel up broth.

*The Professor*, 219.

## JANUARY 10.

I am not one of those prone to take violent fancies, and consequently my friendship is more to be depended on.

*Shirley*, 53.

## JANUARY 11.

Feeling without judgment is a washy draught indeed, but judgment untempered by feeling is too bitter and husky a morsel for human delectation.

*Jane Eyre*, 241.

## JANUARY 12.

God, I think, is specially merciful to old age.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 193.

I believe in my heart we were intended to prize life.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 322.

## JANUARY 13.

Cheerfulness, it would appear, is a matter which depends fully as much on the state of things within, as on the state of things without and around us.

*Shirley*, 27.

## JANUARY 14.

I have taken notice that people who are only in each other's company for amusement, never really like each other so well, or esteem each other so highly, as those who work together, and perhaps suffer together.

*Villette*, 239.

## JANUARY 15.

A ruffled mind makes a restless pillow.

*The Professor*, 221.

He is one of the few gentlemen I have seen who combine politeness with an air of sincerity.

*Shirley*, 530.

## JANUARY 16.

The reel of silk has run smoothly enough so far; but I always knew there would come a knot and a puzzle.

*Jane Eyre*, 309.

## JANUARY 17.

I must not look forward nor must I look backward too often; I feel like one crossing an abyss on a narrow plank—a glance round might quite unnerve.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 186.

## JANUARY 18.

To leave a certainty for a complete uncertainty would be to the last degree imprudent.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life, Letter*, 299.

## JANUARY 19.

It is always the way of events in this life. . . . No sooner have you got settled in a pleasant resting place than a voice calls out to you to rise and move on, for the hour of repose is expired.

*Jane Eyre*, 254.

## JANUARY 20.

As much good-will may be conveyed in one hearty word as in many.

*Jane Eyre*, 230.

## JANUARY 21.

Why then should we ever sink overwhelmed with distress when life is so soon over, and death is so certain an entrance to happiness?

*Jane Eyre*, 67.

## JANUARY 22.

Reason might be right, yet no wonder we are glad at times to defy her, to rush from under her rod, and to give a truant hour to imagination, her soft, bright foe—our sweet help, our Divine hope.

*Villette*, 220.

## JANUARY 23.

Friendship, however, is a plant which cannot be forced. True friendship is no gourd springing in a night, and withering in a day.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 205.

## JANUARY 24.

It is not youth, nor good looks, nor grace, nor any gentle outside charm which makes either beauty or goodness in God's eyes.

*Shirley*, 234.

## JANUARY 25.

Every cup, however sweet, has its drop of bitterness in it.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 91.

I like you because you are patient.

*Shirley*, 521.

## JANUARY 26.

Great effects may spring from trivial causes.

*Shirley*, 416.

We must all be patient.

*C. B. and Circle*, 198.

## JANUARY 27.

There is a sort of stupid pleasure in giving a child sweets, a fool his bells, a dog a bone. You are repaid by seeing the child besmear his face with sugar, by witnessing how the fool's ecstacy makes a greater fool of him than ever, by watching the dog's nature come out over the bone.

*The Professor*, 223.

## JANUARY 28.

God surely did not create us and cause us to live with the sole end of wishing alway to die. I believe in my heart we were intended to prize life, and enjoy it so long as we retain it.

*Shirley*, 322.

## JANUARY 29.

What necessity to dwell on the past when the present is so much surer—the future so much brighter?

*Jane Eyre*, 322.

## JANUARY 30.

Happiness quite unshared can scarcely be called happiness—it has no taste.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 398.

## JANUARY 31.

God hears many a groan and compassionates much grief which man stops his ear against or frowns upon with impotent contempt.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life of C. Brontë, Letter*, 322.

## FEBRUARY 1.

Successful labour has its recompense; a vacant, weary, lonely, hopeless life has none.

*Shirley*, 186.

## FEBRUARY 2.

How I pity those whom mental pain stuns instead of rouses.

*Villette*, 221.

The right path is that which necessitates the greatest sacrifice of self interest.

*C. B., Letter.*

## FEBRUARY 3.

Some people, however indifferent they may become after a considerable space of time, alway contrive to leave a pleasant impression just at parting.

*The Professor*, 226.

## FEBRUARY 4.

The best of happiness is mine already—the power and the will to be useful.

*Agnes Grey*, 320.

## FEBRUARY 5.

The *noble sex* find it more difficult to wait, to plod, to work out their destiny inch by inch than their sisters do. They are always for walking so fast, and taking such long steps, one cannot keep up with them.

*C. B. and Circle*, 199.

## FEBRUARY 6.

Nothing irks me like the idea of being a burden or a bore.

*Shirley*, 175.

## FEBRUARY 7.

It is vain to say human beings ought to be satisfied with tranquillity; they must have action, and they will make it if they cannot find it.

*Jane Eyre*, 109.

## FEBRUARY 8.

There is a no more respectable character on this earth than an unmarried woman who makes her own way through life perseveringly.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life of C. Brontë, Letter.*

## FEBRUARY 9.

A good heart will help you to a bonny face.

*Wuthering Heights*, 44.

I like to taste leisurely of bliss.

*Shirley*, 421.

## FEBRUARY 10.

I wish to live, not to die. The future opens like Eden before me, and still when I look deep into the shades of my Paradise I see a vision that I like better than seraph or cherub glide across remote vistas.

*Shirley*, 289.

## FEBRUARY 11.

The crisis of bereavement has an acute pang which goads to exertion. To be desolate of the feeling sometimes paralyses.

*C. B. and Circle*, 193.

## FEBRUARY 12.

Solid satisfaction is only to be realized by doing one's duty.

*Shirley*, 330.

## FEBRUARY 13.

Human beings seldom deny themselves the pleasure of exercising a power which they are conscious of possessing, even though that power consists only in a capacity to make others wretched.

*The Professor*, 136.

## FEBRUARY 14.

Poverty and pride often go together.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 429.

Forgetfulness is not to be purchased with a wish.

*Wildfell Hall*, 265.

## FEBRUARY 15.

Nothing charms me more than when I meet my superior—one who makes me sincerely feel he is my superior.

*Shirley*, 177.

## FEBRUARY 16.

I say that when a man endures patiently what ought to be unendurable he is a fossil.

*Villette*, 32.

## FEBRUARY 17.

If she professes friendship, be certain she is sincere. She cannot feign, she scorns hypocrisy.

*Shirley*, 206.

## FEBRUARY 18.

I was wearied to death with small talk—nothing wears me out like that.

*Wildfell Hall*, 68.

## FEBRUARY 19.

It is good for a woman to be endowed with a soft blindness, to have mild, dim eyes that never penetrate below the surface of things.

*Shirley*, 223.

## FEBRUARY 20.

Be thankful that God gave you sense, for what are beauty, wealth, or even health without it?

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 227.

## FEBRUARY 21.

Difference of age and difference of temperament occasion difference of sentiment.

*Shirley*, 163.

## FEBRUARY 22.

Age will come on, and it is well you have something better than a nice face for friends to turn to when that is changed.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 224.

## FEBRUARY 23.

Do you like the truth? It is well for you: adhere to that preference—never swerve thence.

*Shirley*, 186.

## FEBRUARY 24.

Love is like the wild rose-briar:
Friendship like the holly-tree.
The holly is dark when the rose-briar blooms,
But which will bloom most constantly?

*Love and Friendship (Ellis Bell).*

## FEBRUARY 25.

A memory without a blot or contamination must be an exquisite treasure, an inexhaustible source of pure refreshment.

*Jane Eyre*, 186.

## FEBRUARY 26.

I shake hands with you: you have excellent points—you can be generous.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. II., 144.

## FEBRUARY 27.

Cherish hope, not anxiety.

*Shirley*, 57.

May God bestow on you all His blessings.

*C. B. and Circle*, 214.

## FEBRUARY 28.

One is forced, step by step, to get experience in the world; but the learning is so disagreeable.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. II., 3.

## FEBRUARY 29.

Fortune is proverbially called changeful, yet her caprice often takes the form of repeating again and again a similar stroke of luck in the same quarter.

*Charlotte Brontë's Letters*, 386.

## MARCH 1.

You think perhaps you look intelligent and polished. Carry your intellect and refinement to market and tell me in a private note what price is bid for them.

*The Professor*, 36.

## MARCH 2.

How wrong it is to neglect people because they are not pretty, and young, and merry. I am certain that old maids are a very unhappy race.

*Shirley*, 145.

## MARCH 3.

No coward soul is mine,
  No trembler in the world's storm-troubled
    sphere;
I see heaven's glories shine,
  And faith shine equal, arming me from fear.

*These last lines written by Emily Brontë.*

## MARCH 4.

I wish every woman in England had . . . a hope, a motive. Alas! there are many old maids who have neither.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 395.

## MARCH 5.

It is a queer thing all the world is so fond of talking over events. What good does your talking do?

*Shirley*, 292.

## MARCH 6.

I have always wished to guard you against exaggerated anticipations—calculate low when you calculate on me.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 199.

## MARCH 7.

It is better to arm and strengthen your hero than to disarm and enfeeble the foe.

*Wildfell Hall*, 24.

## MARCH 8.

Our power of being happy lies a great deal in ourselves.

*Shirley*, 173.

Each human being has his share of rights.

*Shirley*, 144.

## MARCH 9.

My face is as the Lord made it.

*The Professor*, 24.

I'll never marry, I'll be a bachelor.

*Shirley*, 130.

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## MARCH 10.

Who does not care for feeling—each feeling, however simply, even rudely expressed?

*Shirley*, 184.

## MARCH 11.

After all, depend upon it, it is better to be worn out with work in a thronged community than to perish of inaction in a stagnant solitude.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life, Letter*, Vol. II., 224.

## MARCH 12.

I think passion is the truest test of vulgarity or refinement.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 87.

## MARCH 13.

There is no happiness like that of being loved by your fellow creatures, and feeling that your presence is an addition to their comfort.

*Jane Eyre*, 250.

## MARCH 14.

Men and women never struggle so hard as when they struggle alone, without witness, counsellor, unencouraged, unadvised, and unpitied.

*Shirley*, 152.

## MARCH 15.

His heart was like a sensitive plant that opens for a moment in the sunshine, but curls up and shrinks into itself at the slightest touch of the finger or the lightest breath of wind.

*Wildfell Hall*, 29.

## MARCH 16.

Curiosity is a dangerous petition.

*Jane Eyre*, 266.

Will you be my friend as you have been hitherto?

*Wuthering Heights*, 113.

## MARCH 17.

The effort will do you good; no one ever does regret a step towards self-help, it is so much gained in independence.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 228.

## MARCH 18.

I believe temptations often assail the finest manly natures: as the pecking sparrow, or destructive wasp attacks the sweetest and mellowest fruit, eschewing what is sour and crude.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life, Letter*, Vol. II., 239.

## MARCH 19.

She is lovely in this world, and fitted for this world.

*Shirley*, 410.

## MARCH 20.

The future opens like Eden before me.

*Shirley*, 239.

All sinners would be miserable in Heaven.

*Wuthering Heights*, 60.

## MARCH 21.

I always take voices into account in judging of character.

*The Professor*, 8.

## MARCH 22.

The great knowledge of man is to know himself, and the bourne whither his own steps tread.

*Shirley*, 44.

## MARCH 23.

Dread remorse when you are tempted to err. . . . remorse is the poison of life.

*Jane Eyre*, 137.

## MARCH 24.

Fortitude is good, but fortitude itself must be shaken under us to teach us how weak we are.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 194.

## MARCH 25.

It is only the weak who make a butt of quiet worth.

*Shirley*, 169.

Reconcilement is always sweet.

*Villette*, 339.

## MARCH 26.

Two paths lie before you; you conscientiously wish to use the right one, even though it be the most steep, straight, and rugged. The right path is that which necessitates the greatest sacrifice of self-interest.

*C. B. Letter.*

## MARCH 27.

Remember Peter. Don't boast, but watch.

*Wildfell Hall*, 91.

She talked never of herself.

*Shirley*, 150.

## MARCH 28.

A lover masculine . . . can speak and urge explanation. A lover feminine can say nothing; if she did, the result would be shame and anguish, inward remorse for self-treachery.

*Shirley*, 84.

## MARCH 29.

The wife who brings riches to her husband sometimes also brings an idea of her own importance and a tenacity what she conceives to be her rights, little calculated to produce happiness in the married state.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 278.

## MARCH 30.

If you are generally unpopular, it is because you deserve to be.

*The Professor*, 217.

## MARCH 31.

Well, life is short at the best. Seventy years, they say, pass like a vapour, like a dream when one awaketh. And every path trod by human feet terminates in one bourne.

*Shirley*, 144.

## APRIL 1.

Believe me, though I was born in April, the month of cloud and sunshine, I am not changeful.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life, Letter*, Vol. I.

## APRIL 2.

Must one for ever think only of self?

*Shirley*, 57.

A man must have something to grumble about.

*Wildfell Hall*, 237.

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## APRIL 3.

I feel a firmer trust—a higher hope,
Rise in my soul—it dawns with dawning day.

*Pilate's Wife's Dream.*

(*Poem*) *Currer Bell.*

## APRIL 4.

As to disappointment, all must suffer disappointment at some period of their lives.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life, Letter*, Vol. I.

## APRIL 5.

The man of regular life and rational mind never despairs.

*The Professor*, 167.

## APRIL 6.

I do dearly like to think my own thoughts.

*Villette*, 275.

I am sure you have powers of persuasion.

*Agnes Grey*, 370.

## APRIL 7.

There is a charm in beauty for itself. . . . When it is blessed with goodness there is a powerful charm.

*Shirley*, 245.

## APRIL 8.

She talked never of herself—always of others. Their faults she passed over. Her theme was their wants, which she sought to supply; their sufferings, which she longed to alleviate.

*Shirley*, 150.

## APRIL 9.

If you would have your son to walk honourably through the world, you must not attempt to clear the stones from his path, but teach him to walk firmly over them—not insist upon leading him by the hand, but let him learn to go alone.

*Wildfell Hall*, 22.

## APRIL 10.

Anatomists will tell you that there is a heart in the withered old maid's carcase, the same as in that of any cherished wife or proud mother in the land. Can this be so? I really don't know, but feel inclined to doubt it.

*The Professor*, 230.

## APRIL 11.

I am slow, very slow, to believe the protestations of another. I know my own sentiments; I can read my own mind, but the minds of the rest of man and womankind are to me a sealed volume.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. I., 137.

## APRIL 12.

When I feel my company superfluous I can comfortably fold my independence round me like a mantle, and drop my pride like a veil, and withdraw to solitude.

*Shirley*, 175.

## APRIL 13.

Most people wish to please, and the conviction that they have not an exterior likely to second that desire brings anything but gratification.

*Jane Eyre*, 90.

## APRIL 14.

Men seldom like such of their fellows as read their inward nature too clearly and truly.

*Shirley*, 223.

## APRIL 15.

The All Powerful is likewise the All Merciful.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life, Letter*, 77, Vol. II.

## APRIL 16.

It is wrong to anticipate evil.

*Wuthering Heights*, 167.

We can none of us help our nature.

*Jane Eyre*, 127.

## APRIL 17.

Do you think God will be satisfied with half an oblation? Will He accept a mutilated sacrifice?

*Jane Eyre*, 418.

## APRIL 18.

I try to leave all in God's hands, to trust in His goodness, but faith and resignation are difficult to practise under some circumstances.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 166.

## APRIL 19.

Who cares for imagination? Who does not think it a rather dangerous, senseless attribute —akin to weakness—perhaps partaking of frenzy—a desire rather than a gift of the mind?

*Shirley*, 37.

## APRIL 20.

The end of religion is not to teach us how to die, but how to live.

*Agnes Grey*, 373.

## APRIL 21.

It can scarcely be expected that the eager and the young should hold the opinions of the cool and middle-aged.

*Shirley*, 163.

## APRIL 22.

Perhaps it is not always well to tell people when we approve of their actions, and yet it is very pleasant to do so.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 217.

## APRIL 23.

All men, taken singly, are, more or less, selfish, and, taken in a body, they are intensely so.

*Shirley*, 137.

## APRIL 24.

You have only seen the title-page of my happiness, you don't know the tale that follows, you cannot conceive the interest and sweet variety and thrilling excitement of the narrative.

*The Professor*, 258.

## APRIL 25.

They who trust in God, whose minds are unbeclouded by the mist of unbelief and sin, are never wholly comfortless.

*Wildfell Hall*, 282.

## APRIL 26.

His friendship was not a doubtful, wavering benefit, a cold, distant hope—a sentiment so brittle as not to bear the weight of a finger. I at once felt its support like that of some rock.

*Villette*, 392.

## APRIL 27.

Sweet is rest after labour, and calm after tempest.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 175.

## APRIL 28.

I know somebody to whose knee the black cat loves to climb against, whose shoulder and cheek it loves to purr. The old dog always comes out of his kennel and wags his tail, and whines affectionately when somebody passes.

*Shirley*, 176.

## APRIL 29.

I hate boldness—that boldness which is of the brassy brow and insensate nerves, but I love the courage of the strong heart.

*The Professor*, 177.

## APRIL 30.

If the shower will make the roses bloom,
O, why lament its fall?

*Life.*

(*Poem*) *Currer Bell.*

## MAY 1.

The rooks cawed, and blither birds sang: but nothing was so merry or so musical as my own rejoicing heart.

*Jane Eyre*, 262.

## MAY 2.

Originality is the pearl of great price.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. II., 233.

It is vain to limit a character like hers within ordinary boundaries—she will overstep them.

*C. B. and Circle*, 238.

## MAY 3.

Your judgment is well balanced, your heart is kind, your principles are sound. I know you are wise, I feel you are benevolent, I believe you are conscientious.

*Shirley*, 515.

## MAY 4.

I feel it is necessary almost to speak of my happiness to someone who is kind-hearted enough to derive joy from seeing others joyful.

*The Professor*, 203.

## MAY 5.

It seems grievous indeed that those who have not sinned should suffer so largely.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 330.

## MAY 6.

Are you acquainted with the mood of mind in which, if you were seated alone, and the cat licking its kitten on the rug before you, you would watch the operation so intently that puss's neglect of one pat would put you seriously out of temper?

*Wuthering Heights*, 47.

## MAY 7.

Nature made her in the mood in which she makes her briars and thorns, whereas for the creation of some women she reserves the May morning hours, when, with light and dew, she woos the primrose from the turf and the lily from the wood-moss.

*Shirley*, 146.

## MAY 8.

Hope smiles on effort.

*The Professor*, 190.

True friendship is no gourd springing in a night.

*C. B. and Circle*, 205.

## MAY 9.

The need of religion is not to teach us how to die, but how to live, and the earlier you become wise and good the more of happiness you secure.

*Agnes Grey*, 373.

## MAY 10.

True enthusiasm is a fine feeling whose flash I admire whenever I see it.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 373.

## MAY 11.

In the matter of friendship I have observed that disappointment here arises chiefly not from liking our friends too well, or thinking of them too highly, but rather from an over-estimate of their liking for and opinion of us.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. II., 223.

## MAY 12.

There are people from whom we secretly shrink, whom we would personally avoid, though reason confesses that they are good people. There are others with faults of temper, etc., evident enough, beside whom we live content, as if the air about them did us good.

*Villette*, 171.

## MAY 13.

What we deeply feel is our own—we must keep it to ourselves.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 352.

## MAY 14.

Adversity agrees with you. Your good qualities are never so obvious as when under the pressure of affliction.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 223.

## MAY 15.

Sitting in the sunshine near the window she seemed to receive with its warmth a kind influence which made her both happy and good. Thus disposed, she looked her best, and her best was a pleasing vision.

*Shirley*, 59.

## MAY 16.

My youth has gone like a dream, and very little use have I made of it.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. II., 19.

## MAY 17.

I advocate consistency in all things.

*Jane Eyre*, 29.

Be my friend always.

*Shirley*, 515.

## MAY 18.

If life promised no enjoyment within my vocation, at least it offered no allurement out of it, and henceforth I would put my shoulder to the wheel and toil away like any poor drudge of a cart horse that was fairly broken in to its labour, and plod through life, not wholly useless, if not agreeable, and uncomplaining, if not content with my lot.

*Wildfell Hall*, 91.

## MAY 19.

This is a queer world, and men are made of the queerest dregs that chaos churned up in her ferment.

*Shirley*, 444.

## MAY 20.

It is a very strange sensation to inexperienced youth to feel itself quite alone in the world, cut adrift from every connection, uncertain whether the port to which it is bound can be reached, and prevented by many impediments from returning to that it has quitted.

*Jane Eyre*, 92.

## MAY 21.

That cutting asunder of the ties of nature is the pain we most dread, and which we are most certain to experience.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 468.

## MAY 22.

Let those who cannot with lucidity and with certainty discern the difference between the tones of hypocrisy and those of sincerity never presume to laugh at all, lest they should have the miserable misfortune to laugh in the wrong place and commit impiety, then they think they are achieving wit.

*Shirley*, 150.

## MAY 23.

Our likings are regulated by our circumstances.

*The Professor*, 124.

## MAY 24.

Let us each and all cherish humility.

*Shirley*, 234.

## MAY 25.

Ah! that gentleness, how far more potent it is than force.

*Jane Eyre*, 431.

## MAY 26.

Better to try all things and find all empty than to try nothing and leave your life a blank. To do nothing is to commit the sin of him who buried his talent in a napkin—a despicable sluggard.

*Shirley*, 330.

## MAY 27.

I hate to bore anyone.

*The Professor*, 30.

You are original.

*Jane Eyre*, 385.

## MAY 28.

No one is independent of genial society.

*Shirley*, 168.

## MAY 29.

Men, I believe, fancy women's minds something like those of children.

*Shirley*, 290.

## MAY 30.

We have none of us to live long. Let us help each other through seasons of want and woe.

*Shirley*, 218.

## MAY 31.

Friendship, however, is a plant which cannot be forced. True friendship is no gourd springing in a night, and withering in a day.

*Shirley*, 205.

## JUNE 1.

There are impulses we can control, but there are others that control us because they attain us with a tiger leap, and are our masters ere we have seen them.

*The Professor*, 235.

## JUNE 2.

The society of a calm, serenely cheerful companion soothes pain like a soft opiate, but I find it does not probe or heal the wound. Sharp, more severe means are necessary to make a remedy.

*C. B. and Circle*, 203.

## JUNE 3.

Love is a divine virtue.

*Shirley*, 261.

Who without presumption can assert that he has found the only true path upwards?

*C. B. and Circle*, 389.

## JUNE 4.

We were born to strive and endure.

*Jane Eyre*, 324.

I wish you success, I wish you high fortune and true happiness.

*Shirley*, 208.

## JUNE 5.

Cherish hope, not anxiety.

*Shirley*, 57.

Look twice before you leap.

*Shirley*, 125.

## JUNE 6.

The bread earned by honourable toil is sweeter than the bread of idleness.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 298.

## JUNE 7.

I know there is a kind of nature in the world—and a very noble, elevated nature too—whom love never comes near.

*Shirley*, 184.

## JUNE 8.

I have plenty of faults of my own. I know it, and I don't wish to palliate them, I assure you. God wot I need not be too severe about others. I have a past existence, a series of deeds, a colour of life to contemplate within my own breast, which might well call my sneers and censures from my neighbours to myself.

*Jane Eyre*, **136.**

## JUNE 9.

Indisputably a great, good, handsome man is the first of created things.

*Shirley*, **177.**

## JUNE 10.

I perceive myself that some light falls on earth from heaven — that some rays from the shrine of truth pierce the darkness of this life and world; but they are few, faint, and scattered, and who without presumption can assert that he has found the only true path upwards?

*C. B. and Circle*, **389.**

## JUNE 11.

A wise and worldly man,
Who never drew but selfish breath
Since first his life began.

*Gilbert.*

(*Poem*) *Currer Bell.*

## JUNE 12.

It is the Rock of Ages I ask you to lean on. Do not doubt but it will bear the weight of your human weakness.

*Jane Eyre*, 414.

## JUNE 13.

In spirit she was resigned, at heart she is, I believe, a true Christian. She looks beyond this life, and regards her home and rest as elsewhere than on earth.

*C. B. and Circle*, 193.

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## JUNE 14.

Be my companion through life; be my guide when I am ignorant; be my master when I am faulty; be my friend always.

*Jane Eyre*, 515.

## JUNE 15.

Love can excuse everything except meanness, but meanness kills love, cripples even natural affection. Without esteem true love cannot exist.

*Shirley*, 107.

## JUNE 16.

I have learnt that we are not to find solace in our own strength; we must seek it in God's omnipotence.

*C. B. and Circle*, 194.

## JUNE 17.

Ah, you judge with your heart; you should judge me with your head.

*Shirley*, 68.

## JUNE 18.

Tired wayfarer, look upward, march onward, join in friendly company. Dark through the wilderness of this world stretches the way for most of us; equal and steady be our tread, be our cross, our banner.

*Villette*, 422.

## JUNE 19.

Those who are reckless for themselves are generally ten times more so for their friends.

*The Professor*, 52.

## JUNE 20.

Affection, like love, will be unjust now and then.

*Shirley*, 204.

Sweet memory ! ever smile on me,
Nature's chief beauties spring from thee.

*Memory.*

(*Poem*) *Emily Brontë.*

## JUNE 21.

I worship her perfections, but it is her faults, or, at least, her foibles, that bring her near to me.

*Jane Eyre*, 428.

## JUNE 22.

I allow she has small claims to perfection: but, then, I maintain that if she were more perfect she would be less interesting.

*Wildfell Hall*, 16.

## JUNE 23.

To her had not been denied the gift of beauty. It was not absolutely necessary to know her to like her. She was fair enough to please even at the first view.

*Shirley*, 60.

## JUNE 24.

Grief is a two-edged sword—it cuts both ways. The memory of our loss is the anticipation of another.

*C. B. and Circle*, 230.

## JUNE 25.

Men and women are so different; they are in such a different position. Women have so few things to think about—men so many. You may have a friendship for a man, while he is almost indifferent to you. Much that cheers your life may be dependent on him, while not a feeling or interest of moment in his eyes may have reference to you.

*Shirley*, 185.

## JUNE 26.

I consider that no service degrades which can better our race.

*Jane Eyre*, 363.

## JUNE 27.

Nothing refines like affection.

*Shirley*, 68.

She is so lovely one cannot but be loving towards her.

*Villette*, 142.

## JUNE 28.

Women are certainly quicker in some things than men.

*Villette*, 167.

Good nature implies indulgence.

*Shirley*, 174.

## JUNE 29.

Gratitude is a divine emotion. It fills the heart, but not to bursting; it warms it, but not to fever. I like to taste leisurely of bliss.

*C. B. and Circle*, 422.

## JUNE 30.

I know full well any man who wishes to live in decent comfort with me as a husband must be able to control me.

*Shirley*, 452.

## JULY 1.

Summer is decidedly a bad season for application, especially in the country, for the sunshine seems to get all your acquaintance astir, and, once bent on amusement, they will come to the ends of the earth in search thereof.

*C. B. and Circle*, 380.

## JULY 2.

Woe be to the man or woman who relied on her one inch beyond the point where it was her interest to be trustworthy. Interest was the master key of Madai's nature—the mainspring of her motives—the alpha and omega of her life.

*Villette*, 67.

## JULY 3.

I fair hate pride.

*Shirley*, 266.

At heart she is, I believe, a true Christian.

*C. B. and Circle*, 123.

## JULY 4.

I despise people who are always making rows, blustering, sending off one to the right and another to the left, urging and hurrying circumstances.

*The Professor*, 164.

## JULY 5.

Remember we are bid to work while it is day —warned that the night cometh when no man shall work.

*Jane Eyre*, 430.

## JULY 6.

It is quite possible to be a good Christian without ceasing to be a happy, merry-hearted man.

*Wildfell Hall*, 172.

## JULY 7.

To be together is for us to be at once as free as in solitude, as gay as in company.

*Shirley*, 465.

## JULY 8.

It is right not to think much of casual attentions; it is quite justifiable also to derive from them temporary gratification, inasmuch as they prove their object has the power of pleasing.

*C. B. and Circle*, 229.

## JULY 9.

Originality is the pearl of great price.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. II., 233.

Old habits have strong powers over her.

*Shirley*, 319.

## JULY 10.

I exhort all to hope.

*C. B. and Circle*, 98.

She has such generous yet soft fire in her eyes.

*Shirley*, 190.

## JULY 11.

You know the surest path to the heart of each swain I doubt not.

*Shirley*, 255.

## JULY 12.

Rough and steep was the path indicated by divine suggestion; mossy and declining the green way along which temptation strewed flowers.

*The Professor*, 200.

## JULY 13.

Fortuneless people may certainly marry, provided they previously resolve never to let the consequences of their marriage act as a burden on the hands of their relatives.

*C. B. and Circle*, 283.

## JULY 14.

God did not give me my life to throw away.

*Jane Eyre*, 426.

## JULY 15.

Human nature is human nature everywhere, whether under tile or thatch, and that in every specimen of human nature that breathes vice and virtue are ever found, blended in smaller or larger proportions.

*Shirley*, 47.

## JULY 16.

Most true it is that we are overruled by One above us—that in His hands our very will is as clay in the hands of the potter.

*C. B. and Circle.*

## JULY 17.

He undertakes to torture any number of cats, if their teeth be drawn and their claws pared.

*Wuthering Heights.*

## JULY 18.

Is it not a virtue in old maids that solitude rarely makes them negligent or disorderly?

*Shirley*, 147.

## JULY 19.

One woman can appreciate the value of another better than a man can do.

*C. B. and Circle*, 800.

## JULY 20.

I have few illusions: what I wish for now is active exertion—a stake in life.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. I., 306.

## JULY 21.

No one ever does regret a step towards self-help.

*C. B. and Circle*, 228.

Sincerity is never ludicrous.

*Shirley*, 150.

## JULY 22.

We often pity the poor because they have no leisure to mourn their departed relatives, and necessity obliges them to labour through their severest afflictions; but is not active employment the best remedy for overwhelming sorrow—the surest antidote for despair? It may be a rough customer; it may seem hard to be harassed with the cares of life when we have no relish for its enjoyments, to be goaded to labour when the heart is ready to break and the vexed spirit implores for rest to weep in silence; but is not labour better than the rest we covet, and are not those petty tormenting cares less hurtful than a continual brooding over the great affliction that oppresses us?

*Agnes Grey*, 357.

## JULY 23.

Mutual love and domestic calm are treasures far preferable to the possessions rust can corrupt and moths consume away.

*C. B. and Circle*, 298.

## JULY 24.

Undue humility makes tyranny; weak concessions create selfishness.

*Shirley*, 144.

## JULY 25.

When I spend my money I like to enjoy the full value of it.

*Wildfell Hall*, 155.

## JULY 26.

Evils seldom come singly.

*C. B. and Circle.*

There is no happiness like that of being loved.

*Jane Eyre*, 250.

## JULY 27.

I have never yet quitted a place without gaining a friend.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. I., 194.

## JULY 28.

When you behold an aspect for whose constant gloom and frown you cannot account, whose unvarying cloud exasperates you by its apparent causelessness, be sure that there is a canker somewhere, and a canker not the less deeply corroding because concealed.

*Shirley*, 149.

## JULY 29.

Birds teach their nestlings to fly as soon as their wings are strong enough, they even oblige them to quit the nest if they seem too unwilling to trust their pinions of their own accord. Do not the swallows and the starlings thus give a lesson by which man might profit?

*C. B. and Circle*, 382.

## JULY 30.

His will be done, as done it surely will be.

*Villette*, 422.

She was sweet as summer cherries.

*Shirley*, 403.

## JULY 31.

I am a social person: I cannot live alone.

*Shirley*, 215.

I always speak my mind.

*Wildfell Hall*, 232.

## AUGUST 1.

If the God on whom we must all depend will but vouchsafe us health and the power to continue in the strict line of duty, so as never under any temptation to swerve from it an inch, we shall have ample reason to be grateful and contented.

*C. B. and Circle*, 88.

## AUGUST 2.

We allus speak our minds i' this country.

*Shirley*, 46.

You must take life as it is and make the best of it.

*C. B. and Circle*, 380.

## AUGUST 3.

Every struggle any nation makes in the cause of freedom and truth has something noble in it.

*C. B. and Circle*, 373.

## AUGUST 4.

Human beings can never enjoy complete happiness in this world. I was not born for a different destiny to the rest of my species. To imagine such a lot befalling me is a fairy tale—a day dream.

*Jane Eyre*, 263.

## AUGUST 5.

Can you affirm that you are not bitter at heart because rich and great people forget you?

*Shirley*, 68.

## AUGUST 6.

There is a mercy beyond human compassion; a love stronger than this strong death that even you must face; a charity more potent than any sin; a pity which redeems worlds.

*Villette*, 406.

## AUGUST 7.

You have been compelled to cultivate your reflective faculties for want of occasions for frittering your life away in silly trifles.

*Wuthering Heights*, 47.

## AUGUST 8.

The human heart can suffer. It holds more tears than the ocean holds water. We never know how deep, how wide it is, until misery begins to unbind her clouds, and fill it with a rushing blackness.

*Shirley*, 356.

## AUGUST 9.

I would always rather be happy than dignified.

*Jane Eyre*, 422.

## AUGUST 10.

An honest man, and woman too, would always rather rise above expectation than fall below it.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 199.

## AUGUST 11.

My spirit is willing to do what is right; and my flesh, I hope, is strong enough to accomplish the will of Heaven when once that will is distinctly known to me.

*Jane Eyre*, 433.

## AUGUST 12.

When women are sensible, and, above all, intelligible, I can get on with them.

*Shirley*, 359.

## AUGUST 13.

Youth has its romance, and maturity its wisdom, as morning and spring have their freshness, moon and summer their power, night and winter their repose.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. II., 161.

## AUGUST 14.

It seems to me you cannot always cut out men to fit their profession, and that you ought not to curse them because their profession sometimes hangs on them ungraciously.

*Shirley*, 28.

## AUGUST 15.

People who do their duty are always finally rewarded.

*Wuthering Heights*, 186.

## AUGUST 16.

He always says he could never do with a talking wife. He must have quiet at home. "You go out to gossip," he affirms; "you come home to read or reflect."

*Shirley*, 179.

## AUGUST 17.

One does not jump, and spring, and shout hurrah! on hearing one has got a fortune. One begins to consider responsibilities, and to ponder business—on a base of steady satisfaction rise certain grave cares—we contain ourselves, and brood over our bliss with a solemn brow.

*Jane Eyre*, 392.

## AUGUST 18.

He would spend an hour any time in talking freely with a shrewd workman of his own, or with some queer sagacious old woman amongst his cottagers, when he would have grudged a moment to a commonplace fine gentleman, or to the most fashionable and elegant, if frivolous, lady.

*Shirley*, 39.

## AUGUST 19.

If we have but one precious thing left we think much of it.

*C. B. and Circle*, 460.

## AUGUST 20.

Earnestness is ever deeply solemn.

*Jane Eyre*, 430.

We all want a friend, do we not?

*Shirley*, 421.

## AUGUST 21.

Men rarely like such of their fellows as read their inward nature too clearly or truly.

*Shirley*, 223.

## AUGUST 22.

Of God alone, and self-reliance,
I ask for solace, hope for aid.

*Frances.*

(*Poem*) *Currer Bell.*

## AUGUST 23.

I am always easy of belief when the creed pleases me.

*Shirley*, 215.

## AUGUST 24.

I could never rest in communication with strong, discreet, and refined minds . . . until I had passed the outworks of conventional reserve, and crossed the threshold of confidence, and won a place by their heart's very hearthstone.

*Jane Eyre*, 385.

## AUGUST 25.

You ought never to marry a good-tempered man; it would be mingling honey with sugar, like sticking white roses upon a black-thorn cudgel.

*C. B. and Circle*, 220.

## AUGUST 26.

Your very silence indicates your race. How little you talk in general, yet how deeply you scheme. You are far-seeing, you are calculating.

*Shirley*, 191.

## AUGUST 27.

The human heart is like india rubber, a little swells it, but a great deal will not burst it.

*Agnes Grey*, 320.

## AUGUST 28.

People hate to be reminded of ills they are unable or unwilling to remedy. Such reminder, in forcing on them a sense of their own incapacity, or a more painful sense of an obligation to make some unpleasant effort, troubles their ease, and shakes their self-complacency.

*Shirley*, 323.

## AUGUST 29.

Humility is a Christian grace.

*Jane Eyre*, 29.

I am sure there is a future state—God is good.

*Jane Eyre*, 78.

## AUGUST 30.

Regard all new ways in the light of fresh experience for you. If you see any honey gather it.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. II., 15.

## AUGUST 31.

I find in myself two creatures—one for work and business, and one for home and leisure.

*Shirley*, 208.

## SEPTEMBER 1.

Does not the consciousness of having done some real good in your day and generation give pleasure?

*Jane Eyre*, 400.

## SEPTEMBER 2.

Who holds the purse will wish to be master, depend on it, whether man or woman.

*C. B. and Circle.*

## SEPTEMBER 3.

You are in one of your sunless, inclement moods, when one feels a fellow creature's presence is not welcome to you.

*Shirley*, 213.

## SEPTEMBER 4.

Let whosoever grieves still cling fast to love and faith in God.

God will never deceive, never finally desert; him whom He loveth He chasteneth. These words are true, and should not be forgotten.

*Shirley*, 289.

## SEPTEMBER 5.

God has given us, in a measure, the power to make our own fate.

*Jane Eyre*, 371.

## SEPTEMBER 6.

I love Memory: I prize her as my best friend.

*Villette*, 34.

I can live alone if need be.

*Shirley*, 419.

## SEPTEMBER 7.

He is one of those who will attach themselves to very few, whose sensations are close and deep, like an underground stream running strong, but in a narrow channel.

*C. B. and Circle*, 476.

## SEPTEMBER 8.

You are docile, diligent, faithful, constant and courageous, very gentle, very heroic—cease to mistrust yourself.

*Jane Eyre*, 415.

## SEPTEMBER 9.

Ah, friend! you may search my countenance but you cannot read it.

*Shirley*, 298.

## SEPTEMBER 10.

God will judge us by our own thoughts and deeds; not by what others say about us.

*Wildfell Hall*, 301.

## SEPTEMBER 11.

Adversity is a good school—the poor are born to labour, and the dependent to endure.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life, Letter*, 194.

## SEPTEMBER 12.

I cannot bear that you should think better of me than I deserve.

*Shirley*, 494.

## SEPTEMBER 13.

A few friends I should like to have, and these few I should like to know well, if such knowledge brought proportionate regard.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. II., 175.

## SEPTEMBER 14.

The best way to enjoy oneself is to do what is right, and hate nobody.

*Agnes Grey*, 373.

## SEPTEMBER 15.

I thank my Maker that in the midst of judgment He has remembered mercy, I humbly entreat my Redeemer to give me strength to lead henceforth a purer life than I have done hitherto.

*Jane Eyre*, 462.

## SEPTEMBER 16.

There is nothing like self-reliance, self-dependence.

*Shirley*, 488.

## SEPTEMBER 17.

You cannot live in this world entirely for one aim; you must take along with some single serious purpose a hundred little minor duties, distractions; in short, you must take life as it is and make the best of it.

*C. B. and Circle*, 380.

## SEPTEMBER 18.

It would be folly for the feeble to wish to march with the strong.

*Jane Eyre*, 413.

## SEPTEMBER 19.

Better to be without logic than without feeling.

*Villette*, 283.

## SEPTEMBER 20.

Well-meaning women have their own consciences to comfort them after all.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life, Letter*, 323.

## SEPTEMBER 21.

You are a gentleman all through to the bone, and nowhere so perfect a gentleman as at your own fireside.

*Shirley*, 530.

## SEPTEMBER 22.

Party spirit has no mercy. Indignant freedom seldom shows forbearance in her hour of revolt.

*C. B. and Circle*, 374.

## SEPTEMBER 23.

A ruffled mind makes a restless pillow.

*The Professor*, 221.

Much loved was she, much loving.

*Shirley*, 122.

## SEPTEMBER 24.

In love affairs there is no mediator like a merry, simple-hearted child—ever ready to cement divided hearts, to span the unfriendly gulf of custom, to melt the ice of cold reserve, and overthrow the separating walls of dread formality and pride.

*Wildfell Hall*, 73.

## SEPTEMBER 25.

He is a good man, and a great man, but he forgets, pitilessly, the feelings and claims of little people in pursuing his own luxuries.

*Jane Eyre*, 429.

## SEPTEMBER 26.

I am slow, very slow, to believe the protestations of another. I know my own sentiments; I can read my own mind; but the minds of the rest of man and woman kind are to me sealed volumes, hieroglyphical scrolls, which I cannot easily either unseal or decipher.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. I., 137.

## SEPTEMBER 27.

I have seen the necessity of doing good. I have learned the downright folly of being selfish.

*Shirley*, 531.

## SEPTEMBER 28.

Humility is the groundwork of Christian virtues.

*Jane Eyre*, 414.

## SEPTEMBER 29.

Labour is the only radical cure for rooted sorrow.

*C. B. and Circle.*

## SEPTEMBER 30.

Indisputably a great, good, handsome man is the first of created things.

*Shirley*, 177.

## OCTOBER 1.

The blossom which the north wind nips, but fails to sweep away, may survive to hang a withered apple on the tree late into autumn; having braved the last frost of spring it may also have the first of winter.

*Shirley*, 158.

## OCTOBER 2.

I wonder people cannot judge more fairly of each other and themselves.

*Shirley*, 304.

## OCTOBER 3.

A wanderer's repose, or a sinner's repentance, should never depend upon a fellow creature.

*Jane Eyre*, 222.

## OCTOBER 4.

They that have beauty, let them be thankful for it, and make a good use of it, like any other talent; they that have it not, let them console themselves, and do the best they can without it. Certainly, though liable to be over-estimated, it is a gift of God, and not to be despised.

*Agnes Grey*, 341.

## OCTOBER 5.

Adversity might set against him her most sullen front. He was a man to bear her down with smiles.

*Villette*, 167.

## OCTOBER 6.

If the society of fools irritates, as you say, the society of clever men leaves its own peculiar pain also. Where the goodness or talent of your friend is beyond and above all, doubt of your own worthiness to be his associate often becomes a matter of question.

*Shirley*, 174.

## OCTOBER 7.

I wish that in all matters in this world there was fair and open dealing, and no underhand work.

*C. B. and Circle*, 498.

## OCTOBER 8.

When a lady does consent to listen to an argument against her own opinions, she is always predetermined to withstand it—to listen only with her bodily ears, keeping the mental organs resolutely closed against the strongest reasoning.

*Wildfell Hall*, 26.

## OCTOBER 9.

He talks little; what he does say is ever to the point.

*Jane Eyre*, 454.

## OCTOBER 10.

You have always found me something like a new servant, who requires to be told where everything is, and shown how everything is to be done.

*C. B. and Circle*, 226.

## OCTOBER 11.

No one is independent of genial society.

*Shirley*, 169.

The best way to enjoy yourself is to do what is right and hate nobody.

*Agnes Grey*, 373.

## OCTOBER 12.

It is time the imagination should be pruned and trimmed, that the judgment should be cultivated, and a few, at least, of the countless illusions of early youth should be cleared away.

*C. B. and Circle*, 301.

## OCTOBER 13.

The sternest seeming stoic is human after all: and to burst with boldness and good-will into the silent sea of their souls is often to confer on them the first of obligations.

*Jane Eyre*, 328.

## OCTOBER 14.

I hate talking where there is no exchange of ideas, or sentiments, and no good given or received.

*Wildfell Hall*, 68.

## OCTOBER 15.

In sunshine, in prosperity, the flowers are very well, but how many wet days there are in life! November seasons of disaster, when a man's hearth and home would be cold indeed without the clear cheering gleam of intellect.

*The Professor*, 9.

## OCTOBER 16.

We will remember that with what measure we mete it shall be measured unto us, and so we will give no scorn, only affection.

*Shirley*, 497.

## OCTOBER 17.

If a woman is fair and amiable, she is praised for both qualities, but especially the former by the bulk of mankind; if, on the other hand, she is disagreeable in person and character, her plainness is commonly inveighed against as her greatest crime, because, to common observers, it gives the greatest offence; while, if she is plain and good, provided she is a person of retiring manners and secluded life, no one ever knows of her goodness except her immediate connections. *Agnes Grey*, 340.

## OCTOBER 18.

A woman liable to take strong prejudices, I should fancy, and stick to them through thick and thin, twisting everything into conformity with her own preconceived opinions—too hard, too sharp, too bitter for my taste.

*Wildfell Hall*, 33.

## OCTOBER 19.

The strength, if strength we have, is certainly never in our own selves, it is given us.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. II., 120.

## OCTOBER 20.

God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb, and He will doubtless care for a good, though afflicted, man amidst whatever difficulties he may be thrown.

*C. B. and Circle*, 276.

## OCTOBER 21.

Submission, courage, exertion, where practicable. These seem to be the weapons with which we must fight life's long battle.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 232.

## OCTOBER 22.

I am an honest woman, and as such will be treated.

*Shirley*, 456.

## OCTOBER 23.

Who is without their drawback, their scourge, their skeleton behind the curtain?

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. II., 51.

## OCTOBER 24.

Man is, indeed, an amazing piece of mechanism when you see, so to speak, the full weakness of what he calls his strength.

*C. B. and Circle*, 490.

## OCTOBER 25.

Enjoy the blessings Heaven bestows.

Trust God and keep His statutes still
Upright and firm through good and ill.

*Vanitas Vanitate.*

(*Poem*) *Acton Bell.*

## OCTOBER 26.

What is it that constitutes virtue? Is it the circumstance of being able and willing to resist temptation, or having no temptation to resist? Is he a strong man that overcomes great obstacles and performs surprising achievements, through dint of great muscular exertion and at the risk of some subsequent fatigue, or he that sits in his chair all day with nothing more laborious than stirring the fire and carrying his food to his mouth?

*Wildfell Hall*, 22.

## OCTOBER 27.

Her anger was never furious, her love never fierce, it was deep and tender.

*Wuthering Heights*, 138.

## OCTOBER 28.

I like practical sense which works to the good of others.

*C. B. and Circle*, 394.

## OCTOBER 29.

No man likes to acknowledge that he has made a mistake in the choice of his profession, and every man worthy of the name will row long against wind and tide before he allows himself to cry out, "I am baffled," and submits to be floated.

*Shirley*, 26.

## OCTOBER 30.

It seems to me that sorrow must come sometimes to everybody, and those that scarcely taste it in their youth often have a more briny and bitter cup to drain in after years. Whereas those who exhaust the dregs early, who drink the lees before the wine, may reasonably expect a purer and more palatable draught to succeed. So at least one fain would hope.

*C. B. and Circle*, 228.

## OCTOBER 31.

Intimate acquaintance must precede real friendship.

*Wildfell Hall*, 106.

## NOVEMBER 1.

What though November days be drear,
Full soon will they be gone.

*Presentiment.*

(*Poem*) *Currer Bell.*

## NOVEMBER 2.

The longer I live the more I suspect exaggerations.

*C. B. and Circle*, 497.

I am disposed to be content as a queen.

*Jane Eyre*, 402.

## NOVEMBER 3.

I am not an affectionate man; the attachments of a very few suffice me.

*Shirley*, 58.

## NOVEMBER 4.

He always said I was a good wife and did my duty; and he always did his—bless him! He was steady and punctual, seldom found fault without a reason, always did justice to my good dinners, and hardly ever spoilt my cookery by delay—and that is as much as any woman can expect of any man.

*Wildfell Hall*, 46.

## NOVEMBER 5.

One great curse of a single female life is its dependency.

*C. B. and Circle*, 394.

Grasped firmly, even a wooden spoon will shovel up broth.

*The Professor*, 219.

## NOVEMBER 6.

We seldom converse tête-à-tête, but I am made to feel that the basis of his character is not of eider-down.

*Shirley*, 258.

## NOVEMBER 7.

A thorn in the flesh for each—some burden—some conflict for all.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. II.

## NOVEMBER 8.

Proud people breed sad sorrow for themselves.

*Wuthering Heights*, 43.

Work first, then pleasure.

*C. B. and Circle*, 274.

## NOVEMBER 9.

A sweet countenance is never so sweet as when the moved heart animates it with compassionate tenderness.

*Shirley*, 148.

## NOVEMBER 10.

It is good to be attracted out of ourselves—to be forced to take a near view of the sufferings, the privations—the efforts—the difficulties of others.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. II., 232.

## NOVEMBER 11.

No one can be happy in eternal solitude.

*Wildfell Hall*, 48.

She was a strong-minded woman.

*Shirley*, 121.

## NOVEMBER 12.

Human feelings are queer things.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. II., 202.

I have felt life sweet.

*Shirley*, 419.

## NOVEMBER 13.

I hate bad manners.

*Shirley*.

You were made to be great: you shall be great.

*C. B. and Circle*, 68.

## NOVEMBER 14.

He is untiringly active; great and exalted deeds are what he loves to perform.

*Jane Eyre*, 454.

## NOVEMBER 15.

Time brought resignation and a melancholy sweeter than common joy.

*Wuthering Heights*, 134.

## NOVEMBER 16.

I think you know in the right spirit how to withdraw yourself from the vexations, the cares, the weariness of life, and to derive comfort from purer sources than this world can afford.

*C. B. and Circle*, 216.

## NOVEMBER 17.

There is another life both for you and for me. If it be the will of God that we should sow in tears now, it is only that we may reap joy hereafter.

*Wildfell Hall*, 279.

## NOVEMBER 18.

We know that God is everywhere, but certainly we feel His presence most when His works are on the grandest scale spread out before us.

*Jane Eyre*, 322.

## NOVEMBER 19.

An old maid's life must doubtless be void and vapid—her heart strained and empty. Had I been an old maid I should have spent existence in efforts to fill the void and ease the aching. I should have probably failed, and died weary and disappointed, despised and of no account, like other single women. But I am not an old maid.

*The Professor*, 271.

## NOVEMBER 20.

The prisoner in solitary confinement, the toad in the block of marble, all in time shape themselves to their lot.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, **396.**

## NOVEMBER 21.

I have that regard for you that I could bear you in my presence for ever, and not for the fraction of a second do I wish to be rid of you.

*Shirley*, **215.**

## NOVEMBER 22.

Duty—necessity—these are stern mistresses who will not be disobeyed.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life, Letter*, **147.**

## NOVEMBER 23.

Do what you feel is right. Obey me (conscience), and even in the Slough of Want I will plant for you fair footing.

*The Professor*, 199.

## NOVEMBER 24.

It is not right to anticipate evil, and to be always looking forward in an apprehensive spirit.

*C. B. and Circle, Letter*, 230.

## NOVEMBER 25.

Do not fret yourself with care for the future. Believe me, you had better not. Let to-morrow take thought for the things of itself.

*Shirley*, 308.

## NOVEMBER 26.

Of him to whom less is given less will be required, but our utmost exertions are required of us all.

*Wildfell Hall*, 171.

## NOVEMBER 27.

Remember the fate of Dives who had his good things in this life. God give you strength to choose that better part which shall not be taken from you.

*Jane Eyre*, 430.

## NOVEMBER 28.

If anyone likes me, I cannot help liking them.

*C. B. and Circle*, 79.

Nothing ever charms me more than when I meet my superior—one who makes me sincerely feel he is my superior.

*Shirley*, 177.

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## NOVEMBER 29.

However little you may value the opinions of those about you, however little you may esteem them as individuals, it is not pleasant to be looked upon as a liar and a hypocrite, to be thought to practise what you abhor, and to encourage the vices you would discontinue, to find your good intentions frustrated, and your hands crippled by your supposed unworthiness, and to bring disgrace on the principles they profess.

*Wildfell Hall*, 83.

## NOVEMBER 30.

Existence never was originally meant to be that useless, blank, pale, slow, trailing thing it often becomes to many.

*Shirley*, 322.

## DECEMBER 1.

I often think that this world would be the most terrible of enigmas were it not for the firm belief that there is a world to come where conscientious effort and patient pain will meet their reward.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. II., 251.

## DECEMBER 2.

Reading is my favourite occupation.

*Agnes Grey*, 335.

Happy to the heart's core.

*Jane Eyre*, 285.

## DECEMBER 3.

Where there is energy to command well enough obedience never fails.

*Jane Eyre*, 433.

## DECEMBER 4.

Some real lives do—for some certain days or years—actually anticipate the happiness of Heaven, and I believe if such perfect happiness is once felt by good people, its sweet effect is never wholly lost. Whatever trials follow, whatever pains of sickness or shades of death, the glory precedent still shines through, cheering the keen anguish and tinging the deep cloud.

*Villette*, 421.

## DECEMBER 5.

Let all the single be satisfied with their freedom.

*Shirley*, 313.

## DECEMBER 6.

Should I shrink from the work God has set before me because it was not fitted for my taste? Did not He know best what I should do and where I ought to labour, and should I long to quit His service before I have finished my task, and expect to enter into His rest without having laboured to earn it?

*Agnes Grey*, 363.

## DECEMBER 7.

Silence was only failure of the power to talk—never of the will.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. II., 137.

## DECEMBER 8.

Good fortune opens the hand as well as the heart wonderfully, and to give somewhat when we have largely received is but to afford a vent to the unusual ebullition of the sensations.

*Jane Eyre*, 399.

## DECEMBER 9.

Most desirable it is that all men and women should have the power and the will to work for themselves.

*C. B. and Circle*, 382.

## DECEMBER 10.

I have often noticed that your only notion of charity is to give shillings and half-crowns in a careless, free-handed sort of way, which is liable to continual abuse.

*Shirley*, 217.

## DECEMBER 11.

She holds her head high, and probably can be saucy enough where she dare; she wouldn't be a woman otherwise.

*Shirley*, 160.

## DECEMBER 12.

The longer I live the more plainly I see that gentle must be the strain on fragile human nature—it will not bear much.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. II., 279.

## DECEMBER 13.

We do well to worship God in His works; and I know none of them in which so many of His attributes — so much of His own spirit shines as in His faithful servants.

*Agnes Grey*, 337.

## DECEMBER 14.

You owe many duties to Society—it is not permitted you to please only yourself.

*Shirley*, 383.

## DECEMBER 15.

Death takes from him what he loves, roots up and tears violently away the stem round which his affections were twined—a dark, dismal time, a frightful wrench—but some morning Religion looks in at his desolate house with sunshine, and says that in another world, another life, he shall meet his kindred again.

*The Professor*, 167.

## DECEMBER 16.

Our wishes are like tinder; the flint and steel of circumstances are continually striking out sparks which vanish immediately unless they chance to fall upon the tinder of our wishes, when they instantly ignite, and the flame of hope is kindled in a moment.

*Agnes Grey*, 353.

## DECEMBER 17.

You are a peculiar personage; quiet as you look, there is both force and depth somewhere within, not easily reached or appreciated.

*Shirley*, 215.

## DECEMBER 18.

We sometimes take a partiality to books as to character, not on account of any brilliant intellect or striking peculiarity they boast, but for the sake of something good, delicate, and genuine.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. II., 128.

## DECEMBER 19.

Love is like the wild rose briar,
  Friendship like the holly tree;
The holly is dark when the rose briar blooms,
  But which will bloom most constantly?

*Love and Friendship.*

(*Poem.*)

## DECEMBER 20.

With your powerful mind you must feel independent of help, of advice, of society.

*Shirley*, 418.

## DECEMBER 21.

I believe there are some human beings so born, so reared, so guided from a soft cradle to a calm and late grave, that no excessive suffering penetrates their lot, and no tempestuous blackness overcasts their journey. And often these are not pampered, selfish beings, but Nature's elect, harmonious and benign, men and women filled with charity, kind agents of God's kind attributes.

*Villette*, 421.

## DECEMBER 22.

How odd it is that we so often weep for each other's distresses, when we shed not a tear for our own.

*Wildfell Hall*, 234.

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## DECEMBER 23.

If I had a means of happiness at my command . . . I would employ that means often. . . . I would keep it bright with use, and not let it lie for weeks aside till it gets rusty.

*Shirley*, 62.

## DECEMBER 24.

What honest man, on being casually taken for a housebreaker, does not feel rather tickled than vexed at the mistake?

*Villette*, 92.

## DECEMBER 25.

(CHRISTMAS DAY.)

Music I love—but never strain
  Could kindle raptures so divine,
So grief assuage, so conquer pain,
  And rouse this pensive heart of mine,
As that we hear on Christmas morn,
  Upon the wintry breezes borne.

*Christmas Morning.*

(*Poem*) *Acton Bell*, 377.

## DECEMBER 26.

It is folly indeed for the tongue to stammer a negative when the heart is proclaiming an affirmative.

*C. B. and Circle.*

## DECEMBER 27.

All men of talent, whether they be men of feeling or not, whether they be zealots or aspirants or despots, provided only they be sincere, have their sublime moments when they see, do, and rule.

*Jane Eyre*, 436.

## DECEMBER 28.

Most people have motives of some sort for their actions.

*Shirley*, 451.

## DECEMBER 29.

I can do better, and I will.

*The Professor*, 262.

Necessity dare not be nice.

*Villette*, 51.

## DECEMBER 30.

I hate to part from those to whom I have become attached.

*Shirley*, 196.

## DECEMBER 31.

It remains only to do one's best, and endure with patience what God sends.

*Mrs Gaskell's Life*, Vol. II., 52.

# Memoranda

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