OLIVER TWIST

1 Please, sir, I want some more.
Oliver
Oliver Twist (1838) ch. 2

2 Known by the *sobriquet* of 'The artful Dodger'.
Oliver Twist (1838) ch. 8

3 There is a passion for hunting something deeply implanted in the human breast.
Oliver Twist (1838) ch. 10

4 I only know two sorts of boys. Mealy boys, and beef-faced boys.
Mr Grimwig
Oliver Twist (1838) ch. 14

5 Oh, Mrs Corney, what a prospect this opens! What a opportunity for a jining of hearts and house-keepings!
Bumble
Oliver Twist (1838) ch. 27

6 'If the law supposes that,' said Mr Bumble . . . 'the law is a ass—a idiot.'
Bumble
Oliver Twist (1838) ch. 51; see **CHAPMAN** 216:8

OUR MUTUAL FRIEND

7 A literary man—*with* a wooden leg.
Mr Boffin, of Silas Wegg
Our Mutual Friend (1865) bk. 1, ch. 5

8 Professionally he declines and falls, and as a friend he drops into poetry.
Mr Boffin, of Silas Wegg
Our Mutual Friend (1865) bk. 1, ch. 5

9 Meaty jelly, too, especially when a little salt, which is the case when there's ham, is mellering to the organ.
Silas Wegg
Our Mutual Friend (1865) bk. 1, ch. 5

10 There is in the Englishman a combination of qualities, a modesty, an independence, a responsibility, a repose, combined with an absence of everything calculated to call a blush into the cheek of a young person, which one would seek in vain among the Nations of the Earth.
Mr Podsnap
Our Mutual Friend (1865) bk. 1, ch. 11

11 I think . . . that it is the best club in London.
Mr Twemlow, on the House of Commons
Our Mutual Friend (1865) bk. 2, ch. 3

12 He'd be sharper than a serpent's tooth, if he wasn't as dull as ditch water.
Fanny Cleaver
Our Mutual Friend (1865) bk. 3, ch. 10

13 I want to be something so much worthier than the doll in the doll's house.
Bella
Our Mutual Friend (1865) bk. 4, ch. 5

PICKWICK PAPERS

14 He had used the word in its Pickwickian sense . . . He had merely considered him a humbug in a Pickwickian point of view.
Mr Blotton
Pickwick Papers (1837) ch. 1

15 Kent, sir—everybody knows Kent—apples, cherries, hops, and women.
Jingle
Pickwick Papers (1837) ch. 2

16 I wants to make your flesh creep.
The Fat Boy
Pickwick Papers (1837) ch. 8

17 'It's always best on these occasions to do what the mob do.' 'But suppose there are two mobs?' suggested Mr Snodgrass. 'Shout with the largest,' replied Mr Pickwick.
Pickwick Papers (1837) ch. 13

18 Battledore and shuttlecock's a wery good game, when you an't the shuttlecock and two lawyers the battledores, in which case it gets too excitin' to be pleasant.
Mr Weller
Pickwick Papers (1837) ch. 20

19 Be wery careful o' vidders all your life.
Mr Weller
Pickwick Papers (1837) ch. 20

20 Poverty and oysters always seem to go together.
Sam Weller
Pickwick Papers (1837) ch. 22

21 'Do you spell it with a "V" or a "W"?' inquired the judge. 'That depends upon the taste and fancy of the speller, my Lord,' replied Sam [Weller].
Pickwick Papers (1837) ch. 34

22 'Little to do, and plenty to get, I suppose?' said Sergeant Buzfuz, with jocularity. 'Oh, quite enough to get, sir, as the soldier said ven they ordered him three hundred and fifty lashes,' replied Sam. 'You must not tell us what the soldier, or any other man, said, sir,' interposed the judge; 'it's not evidence.'
Pickwick Papers (1837) ch. 34; see **PROVERBS** 646:30

23 A good uniform must work its way with the women, sooner or later.
The Gentleman in Blue
Pickwick Papers (1837) ch. 37

24 'And a bird-cage, sir,' says Sam. 'Veels vithin veels, a prison in a prison.'
Pickwick Papers (1837) ch. 40

25 The have-his-carcase, next to the perpetual motion, is vun of the blessedest things as wos ever made.
Sam Weller
Pickwick Papers (1837) ch. 43

26 Anythin' for a quiet life, as the man said wen he took the sitivation at the lighthouse.
Sam Weller
Pickwick Papers (1837) ch. 43; see **MIDDLETON** 534:7

1 'Never . . . see . . . a dead postboy, did you?' inquired Sam . . . 'No,' rejoined Bob, 'I never did.' 'No!' rejoined Sam triumphantly. 'Nor never vill; and there's another thing that no man never see, and that's a dead donkey.'
Pickwick Papers (1837) ch. 51

SKETCHES BY BOZ

2 Minerva House . . . where some twenty girls . . . acquired a smattering of everything, and a knowledge of nothing.
Sketches by Boz (1839) Tales, ch. 3 'Sentiment'

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

3 It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way.
A Tale of Two Cities (1859) bk. 1, ch. 1, opening words

4 A likely thing . . . If it was ever intended that I should go across salt water, do you suppose Providence would have cast my lot in an island?
Miss Pross
A Tale of Two Cities (1859) bk. 1, ch. 4

5 If you must go flopping yourself down, flop in favour of your husband and child, and not in opposition to 'em.
Jerry Cruncher
A Tale of Two Cities (1859) bk. 2, ch. 1

6 'It is possible—that it may not come, during our lives . . . We shall not see the triumph.' 'We shall have helped it,' returned madame.
Monsieur and Madame Defarge
A Tale of Two Cities (1859) bk. 2, ch. 16

7 It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to, than I have ever known.
Sydney Carton's thoughts on the scaffold
A Tale of Two Cities (1859) bk. 3, ch. 15

8 'And if you was to walk through the bedrooms now, you'd see the ragged mouldy bedclothes a-heaving and a-heaving like seas. And a-heaving and a-heaving with what?' he says. 'Why, with the rats under 'em'.
'Tom Tiddler's Ground' in *All the Year Round* 12 December 1861

9 My faith in the people governing is, on the whole, infinitesimal; my faith in The People governed is, on the whole, illimitable.
speech at Birmingham and Midland Institute, 27 September 1869, in K. J. Fielding (ed.) *Speeches of Charles Dickens* (1960)

Emily Dickinson 1830–86

American poet. On Dickinson: see CRANE 258:19

10 After great pain, a formal feeling comes.
'After great pain, a formal feeling comes' (1862)

11 Because I could not stop for Death—
He kindly stopped for me—
The Carriage held but just Ourselves—
And Immortality.
'Because I could not stop for Death' (c.1863)

12 Since then—'tis Centuries—and yet
Feels shorter than the Day
I first surmised the Horses Heads
Were toward Eternity.
'Because I could not stop for Death' (c.1863)

13 There is no Frigate like a Book
To take us Lands away
Nor any Coursers like a Page
Of prancing Poetry.
'A Book (2)' (c.1873)

14 The Bustle in a House
The Morning after Death
Is solemnest of industries
Enacted upon Earth—

The Sweeping up the Heart
And putting Love away
We shall not want to use again
Until Eternity.
'The Bustle in a House' (c.1866)

15 What fortitude the Soul contains,
That it can so endure
The accent of a coming Foot—
The opening of a Door.
'Elysium is as far as to' (c.1882)

16 Heaven is what I cannot reach
The apple on the tree
'Forbidden Fruit' (c.1861)

17 There interposed a Fly—

With Blue—uncertain stumbling Buzz—
Between the light—and me—
And then the Windows failed—and then
I could not see to see.
'I heard a Fly buzz—when I died' (c.1862)

18 It comes, without a consternation—
Dissolves—the same—
But leaves a sumptuous destitution—
Without a name.
'It comes, without a consternation' (c. 1876)

19 Parting is all we know of heaven,
And all we need of hell.
'My life closed twice before its close'

20 The Soul selects her own Society—
Then—shuts the Door—
To her divine Majority—
Present no more.
'The Soul selects her own Society' (c.1862)

21 Success is counted sweetest
By those who ne'er succeed.
To comprehend a nectar
Requires sorest need.
'Success is counted sweetest' (1859)

22 There's a certain Slant of light,
Winter Afternoons—

That oppresses like the Heft
Of Cathedral Tunes—
'There's a certain Slant of light' (c.1861)

1 They shut me up in prose—
As when a little girl
They put me in the closet—
Because they liked me 'still'.
'They shut me up in prose' (c.1862)

2 This is my letter to the world
That never wrote to me.
'This is my letter to the world' (c.1862)

3 This quiet Dust was Gentlemen and Ladies
And Lads and Girls—
Was laughter and ability and Sighing
And Frocks and Curls.
'This quiet Dust was Gentlemen and Ladies' (c.1864)

4 Will you tell me my fault, frankly as to yourself, for I had rather wince, than die. Men do not call the surgeon to commend the bone, but to set it, Sir.
letter to T. W. Higginson, July 1862

5 Friday I tasted life. It was a vast morsel. A Circus passed the house—still I feel the red in my mind though the drums are out. The Lawn is full of south and the odors tangle, and I hear to-day for the first time the river in the tree.
letter to Mrs J. G. Holland, May 1866, in T. H. Johnson (ed.) *The Letters of Emily Dickinson* vol. 2 (1958)

John Dickinson 1732–1808

American politician, lawyer, and pamphleteer

6 We have counted the cost of this contest, and find nothing so dreadful as voluntary slavery . . . Our cause is just, our union is perfect.
declaration of reasons for taking up arms against England, presented to Congress, 8 July 1775
C. J. Stillé *The Life and Times of John Dickinson* (1891) ch. 5

7 Then join hand in hand, brave Americans all,—
By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall.
'The Liberty Song' (1768), in *The Writings of John Dickinson* vol. 1 (1895); see **PROVERBS** 646:1

Paul Dickson 1939–

American writer

8 Rowe's Rule: the odds are five to six that the light at the end of the tunnel is the headlight of an oncoming train.
in *Washingtonian* November 1978; see **LOWELL** 503:10

Bo Diddley 1928–2008

American rock musician

9 I've never got paid. A dude with a pencil is worse than a cat with a machine gun.
on his failure to receive royalties
in *Galveston County Daily News* 17 September 1999

Denis Diderot 1713–84

French philosopher and man of letters

10 *Et des boyaux du dernier prêtre*
Serrons le cou du dernier roi.
And [with] the guts of the last priest
Let's shake the neck of the last king.
Dithrambe sur fête de rois; see **MESLIER** 533:7

11 Poetry wants something enormous, barbarous, savage.
Discours de la poésie dramatique (1758)

12 There are two sorts of laws, those of absolute equity and universality, and the bizarre ones which owe their autonomy only to blindness or to the force of circumstance. The latter merely cover the man who is breaking them with a passing disgrace, which time then transfers to the judges and the nations, on whom it remains forever.
Oeuvres romanesques (ed. H. Bénac, revised L. Perol, 1981) translated by Peter France

13 The first vows sworn by two creatures of flesh and blood were made at the foot of a rock that was crumbling to dust; they called as witness to their constancy a heaven which never stays the same for one moment; everything within them and around them was changing, and they thought their hearts were exempt from vicissitudes. Children!
Oeuvres romanesques (ed. H. Bénac, revised L. Perol, 1981) translated by Peter France

14 *L'esprit de l'escalier.*
Staircase wit.
the witty riposte one thinks of only when one has left the drawing-room and is already on the way downstairs
Paradoxe sur le Comédien (written 1773–8, published 1830)

15 Be a hypocrite, if you like, but don't talk like one.
Rameau's Nephew (written 1761)

16 See this egg. It is with this that all the schools of theology and all the temples of the earth are to be overturned.
on how life develops from an insensitive mass
Le Rêve de d'Alembert (written 1769, published 1830) pt. 1

17 Oh Richardson! thou singular genius.
Isaac D'Israeli *Curiosities of Literature* (1849 ed.)

Joan Didion 1934–

American writer

18 Was there ever in anyone's life span a point free in time, devoid of memory, a night when choice was any more than the sum of all the choices gone before?
Run River (1963) ch. 4

19 When we start deceiving ourselves into thinking not that we want something or need something, not that it is a pragmatic necessity for us to have it, but that it is a *moral imperative* that we have it, then is when we join the fashionable

madmen, and then is when the thin whine of hysteria is heard in the land, and then is when we are in bad trouble.
Slouching towards Bethlehem (1968) 'On Morality'

1 We tell ourselves stories in order to live.
The White Album (1979)

John G. Diefenbaker 1895–1979

Canadian Progressive Conservative statesman, Prime Minister 1957–63

2 There can be no dedication to Canada's future without a knowledge of its past.
in *Toronto Star* 9 October 1964

Howard Dietz 1896–1983

American songwriter

3 *Ars gratia artis.*
Art for art's sake.
motto of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film studios, apparently intended to say 'Art is beholden to the artists'
Bosley Crowthier *The Lion's Share* (1957); see **CONSTANT** 249:21

Wentworth Dillon, Lord Roscommon *c.*1633–85

Irish poet and critic

4 Men ever had, and ever will have leave,
To coin new words well suited to the age:
Words are like leaves, some wither every year,
And every year a younger race succeeds.
Art of Poetry (1680) l. 73; see **HORACE** 408:19

5 But words once spoke can never be recalled.
Art of Poetry (1680) l. 438; see **HORACE** 410:14

6 Choose an author as you choose a friend.
Essay on Translated Verse (1684) l. 96

7 Immodest words admit of no defence,
For want of decency is want of sense.
Essay on Translated Verse (1684) l. 113

8 The multitude is always in the wrong.
Essay on Translated Verse (1684) l. 183; see **DEBS** 270:2, **IBSEN** 424:5

Ernest Dimnet 1866–1954

French priest, writer, and lecturer

9 Architecture, of all the arts, is the one which acts the most slowly, but the most surely, on the soul.
What We Live By (1932) pt. 2, ch. 12

Isak Dinesen (Karen Blixen) 1885–1962

Danish novelist and short-story writer

10 Out of Africa.
title of book (1937); see **PROVERBS** 644:17

11 A herd of elephant . . . pacing along as if they had an appointment at the end of the world.
Out of Africa (1937) pt. 1, ch. 1

12 The giraffe, in their queer, inimitable, vegetative gracefulness . . . a family of rare, long-stemmed, speckled gigantic flowers slowly advancing.
Out of Africa (1937) pt. 1, ch. 1

13 What is man, when you come to think upon him, but a minutely set, ingenious machine for turning, with infinite artfulness, the red wine of Shiraz into urine?
Seven Gothic Tales (1934) 'The Dreamers'

Diogenes *c.*400–*c.*325 BC

Greek Cynic philosopher. On Diogenes: see ALEXANDER 12:2

14 Alexander . . . asked him if he lacked anything. 'Yes,' said he, 'that I do: that you stand out of my sun a little.'
Plutarch *Parallel Lives* 'Alexander' ch. 14, sect. 4 (translated by T. North, 1579)

15 This is Plato's man.
presenting Plato's disciples with a plucked chicken after **PLATO** *defined Man as 'a two-footed, featherless animal'; Plato subsequently added 'with broad flat nails'*
Diogenes Laertius *Lives of the Philosophers*

16 I am looking for a man.
on his reason for taking around a lamp in daylight; the context implies 'a good man', but often quoted as 'an honest man'
Diogenes Laertius *Lives of the Philosophers*

17 To get practice in being refused.
on being asked why he was begging for alms from a statue
Diogenes Laertius *Lives of the Philosophers*

Dionysius of Halicarnassus fl. 30–7 BC

Greek historian, resident in Rome from 30 BC

18 History is philosophy from examples.
Ars Rhetorica ch. 11, sect. 2

Pseudo-Dionysius fl. 6th century

unidentified author of theological and Neoplatonist works

19 The most holy mysteries are set forth in two modes: one by means of similar and sacred representations akin to their nature, and the other through unlike forms designed with every possible discordance and difference.
The Celestial Hierarchies

Paul Dirac 1902–84

British theoretical physicist

20 It is more important to have beauty in one's equations than to have them fit experiment . . . It seems that if one is working from the point of view of getting beauty in one's equations, and if one has a really sound insight, one is on a sure line of progress. If there is not complete agreement between the results of one's work and experiment, one should not allow oneself to be too discouraged, because the discrepancy may well be due to minor features that are not

properly taken into account and that will get cleared up with further developments of the theory.
in *Scientific American* May 1963

Walt Disney 1901–66

American animator and film producer

1 I don't know, fellows, I guess I'm getting too old for animation.
on seeing rushes from The Jungle Book *(1967 film)*
Richard Schickel *The Disney Version* (1986)

2 Fancy being remembered around the world for the invention of a mouse!
during his last illness
Leonard Mosley *Disney's World* (1985)

Benjamin Disraeli, Lord Beaconsfield 1804–81

British Tory statesman and novelist, Prime Minister 1868, 1874–80. On Disraeli: see SALISBURY 678:12, SALISBURY 678:17

3 Though I sit down now, the time will come when you will hear me.
maiden speech in the House of Commons, 7 December 1837

4 The Continent will [not] suffer England to be the workshop of the world.
speech, House of Commons, 15 March 1838; see CHAMBERLAIN 214:2

5 Thus you have a starving population, an absentee aristocracy, and an alien Church, and in addition the weakest executive in the world. That is the Irish Question.
speech, House of Commons, 16 February 1844

6 The noble Lord is the Prince Rupert of Parliamentary discussion.
of Edward Stanley, later Lord **DERBY**
speech, House of Commons, 24 April 1844; see BULWER-LYTTON 170:11

7 The right hon. Gentleman caught the Whigs bathing, and walked away with their clothes.
on Sir Robert **PEEL***'s abandoning protection in favour of free trade, traditionally the policy of the Whig Opposition*
speech, House of Commons, 28 February 1845

8 Protection is not a principle, but an expedient.
speech, House of Commons, 17 March 1845

9 A Conservative Government is an organized hypocrisy.
BAGEHOT*, quoting Disraeli in* The English Constitution *(1867) 'The House of Lords', elaborated on the theme with the words 'so much did the ideas of its "head" differ from the sensations of its "tail" '*
speech, House of Commons, 17 March 1845

10 He traces the steam-engine always back to the tea-kettle.
of Robert **PEEL**
speech, House of Commons, 11 April 1845

11 Justice is truth in action.
speech, House of Commons, 11 February 1851

12 I read this morning an awful, though monotonous, manifesto in the great organ of public opinion, which always makes me tremble: Olympian bolts; and yet I could not help fancying amid their rumbling terrors I heard the plaintive treble of the Treasury Bench.
speech, House of Commons, 13 February 1851

13 Petulance is not sarcasm, and . . . insolence is not invective.
speech, House of Commons, 16 December 1852

14 England does not love coalitions.
speech, House of Commons, 16 December 1852

15 Finality is not the language of politics.
speech, House of Commons, 28 February 1859

16 It was a melancholy day for human nature when that stupid Lord Anson, after beating about for three years, found himself again at Greenwich. The circumnavigation of our globe was accomplished, but the illimitable was annihilated and a fatal blow [dealt] to all imagination.
written 1860, in *Reminiscences* (ed. H. and M. Swartz, 1975) ch. 6

17 You are not going, I hope, to leave the destinies of the British Empire to prigs and pedants.
speech, House of Commons, 5 February 1863

18 Party is organized opinion.
speech at Oxford, 25 November 1864, in *The Times* 26 November 1864

19 Man, my Lord, is a being born to believe.
speech at Oxford, 25 November 1864, in *The Times* 26 November 1864

20 Is man an ape or an angel? Now I am on the side of the angels.
speech at Oxford, 25 November 1864, in *The Times* 26 November 1864; see HUXLEY 423:16

21 Assassination has never changed the history of the world.
speech, House of Commons, 1 May 1865

22 I had to prepare the mind of the country, and . . . to educate our party.
speech at Edinburgh, 29 October 1867, in *The Times* 30 October 1867

23 Change is inevitable in a progressive country. Change is constant.
speech at Edinburgh, 29 October 1867, in *The Times* 30 October 1867

24 There can be no economy where there is no efficiency.
Address to his Constituents, 1 October 1868, in *The Times* 3 October 1868

25 I believe that without party Parliamentary government is impossible.
speech at Manchester, 3 April 1872, in *The Times* 4 April 1872

26 You behold a range of exhausted volcanoes.
of the Treasury Bench
speech at Manchester, 3 April 1872, in *The Times* 4 April 1872; see BURKE 176:3

27 Increased means and increased leisure are the two civilizers of man.
speech at Manchester, 3 April 1872, in *The Times* 4 April 1872