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I like a man who grins when he fights.

Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.

On the Battle of Britain

A fanatic is one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject.

The inherent vice of capitalism is the uneven division of blessings, while the inherent virtue of socialism is the equal division of misery.

It is no use saying, 'We are doing our best.' You have got to succeed in doing what is necessary.

The greatest lesson in life is to know that even fools are right sometimes.

He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire. *On Sir Stanley Cripps*

The problems of victory are more agreeable than the problems of defeat, but they are no less difficult.

Today we may say aloud before an awe-struck world: "We are still masters of our fate. We are still captain of our souls."

Never give in - never, never, never, never, in nothing great or small, large or petty, never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy.

There are a terrible lot of lies going about the world, and the worst of it is that half of them are true.

If you go on with this nuclear arms race, all you are going to do is make the rubble bounce.

A nation that forgets its past is doomed to repeat it.

Courage is the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees all others.

The price of greatness is responsibility.

In wartime, truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies.

A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on.

I like pigs. Dogs look up to us. Cats look down on us. Pigs treat us as equals.

A pig is man's best friend

For a dog will look up at you

A cat will look down on you

But a pig will look you right in the eye, as an equal.

Golf is a game whose aim is to hit a very small ball into an even smaller hole, with weapons singularly ill-designed for the purpose.

However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results.

There is nothing more exhilarating than to be shot at without result.

This report, by its very length, defends itself against the risk of being read.

When I am abroad I always make it a rule never to criticize or attack the Government of my country. I make up for lost time when I am at home.

We contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.

Truth is incontrovertible, ignorance can deride it, panic may resent it, malice may destroy it, but there it is.

The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter.

We are all worms. But I believe that I am a glow-worm.

Those who can win a war well can rarely make a good peace and those who could make a good peace would never have won the war.

Although prepared for martyrdom, I preferred that it be postponed.

Broadly speaking, the short words are the best, and the old words best of all.

Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb.

From now on, ending a sentence with a preposition is something up with which I will not put.

History will be kind to me for I intend to write it.

I cannot pretend to feel impartial about colors. I rejoice with the brilliant ones and am genuinely sorry for the poor browns.

I have always felt that a politician is to be judged by the animosities he excites among his opponents.

It is a mistake to try to look too far ahead. The chain of destiny can only be grasped one link at a time.

Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing ever happened.

Never hold discussions with the monkey when the organ grinder is in the room.

Never, never, never believe any war will be smooth and easy, or that anyone who embarks on the strange voyage can measure the tides and hurricanes he will encounter. The statesman who yields to war fever must realize that once the signal is given, he is no longer the master of policy but the slave of unforeseeable and uncontrollable events.

One ought never to turn one's back on a threatened danger and try to run away from it. If you do that, you will double the danger. But if you meet it promptly and without flinching, you will reduce the danger by half.

Personally I'm always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught.

Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm.

The only recorded instance in history of a rat swimming towards a sinking ship.

On former Conservative who proposed to stand as a Liberal

The reserve of modern assertions is sometimes pushed to extremes, in which the fear of being contradicted leads the writer to strip himself of almost all sense and meaning.

There are a terrible lot of lies going around the world, and the worst of it is half of them are true.

We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.

When the eagles are silent, the parrots begin to jabber.

Don't talk to me about Naval tradition! It's nothing but rum, sodomy and the lash.

We shall not fail or falter; we shall not weaken or tire. Neither the sudden shock of battle nor the long-drawn trials of vigilance and exertion will wear us down. Give us the tools and we will finish the job

BBC radio broadcast, Feb 9, 1941

The British nation is unique in this respect. They are the only people who like to be told how bad things are, who like to be told the worst.

I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat.

Speech to House of Commons, May 1940

Many forms of Government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.

[The Government] go on in strange paradox, decided only to be undecided, resolved to be irresolute, adamant for drift, solid for fluidity, all-powerful to be impotent.

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

I am prepared to meet my Maker. Whether my Maker is prepared for the great ordeal of meeting me is another matter. *On eve of his 75th birthday*

I am reminded of the professor who, in his declining hours, was asked by his devoted pupils for his final counsel. He replied, 'Verify your quotations.'

I cannot forecast to you the action of Russia. It is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.

One ought never to turn one's back on a threatened danger and try to run away from it. If you do that, you will double the danger. But if you meet it promptly and without flinching, you will reduce the danger by half.

Personally I'm always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught.

One day President Roosevelt told me that he was asking publicly for suggestions about what the war should be called. I said at once 'The Unnecessary War'. *The Second World War*

Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm.

The only recorded instance in history of a rat swimming towards a sinking ship.

On former Conservative who proposed to stand as a Liberal

The empires of the future are the empires of the mind.

For myself I am an optimist - it does not seem to be much use being anything else.

The reserve of modern assertions is sometimes pushed to extremes, in which the fear of being contradicted leads the writer to strip himself of almost all sense and meaning.

From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic an iron curtain has descended across the Continent.

Speech in March 1946

Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.

Speech in November 1942, on the Battle of Egypt

We shall show mercy, but we shall not ask for it. *Speech in House of Commons, July 14, 1940*

A love of tradition has never weakened a nation, indeed it has strengthened nations in their hour of peril; but the new view must come, the world must roll forward.

I have taken more out of alcohol than alcohol has taken out of me.

What is our policy?... to wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark lamentable catalogue of human crime. *Speech in House of Commons, May 1940*

What is our aim?... Victory - victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival.

Speech in House of Commons, May 1940

[Ramsey] MacDonald has the gift of compressing the largest amount of words into the smallest amount of thoughts.

My wife and I tried to breakfast together, but we had to stop or our marriage would have been wrecked.

There but for the grace of God goes God. *On Sir Stafford Cripps*

A modest man, who has much to be modest about.

On Clement Attlee

I wish Stanley Baldwin no ill, but it would have been much better if he had never lived.

If Hitler invaded Hell, I would make at least a favorable reference to the Devil in House of Commons.

The Second World War

The ability to foretell what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month, and next year. And to have the ability afterwards to explain why it didn't happen.

On qualifications desirable for prospective politician

I remember when I was a child, being taken to the celebrated Barnum's Circus, which contained an exhibition of freaks and monstrosities, but the exhibit on the program which I most desired to see was the one described as "The Boneless Wonder". My parents judged that the spectacle would be too demoralizing and revolting for my youthful eye and I have waited fifty years, to see The Boneless Wonder sitting on the Treasury Bench.

On Ramsay MacDonald

Mr. Gladstone read Homer for fun, which I thought served him right.

My Early Life

Unless the right honorable gentleman changes his policy and methods and moves without the slightest delay, he will be as great a curse to this country in peace as he was a squalid nuisance in time of war.

On Aneurin Bevan

A sheep in sheep's clothing.

On Clement Attlee

The candle in that great turnip has gone out. *On Stanley Baldwin*

Nancy Astor: If you were my husband I would put poison in your coffee."

Winston Churchill: And if I were your husband, I would drink it.

Bessie Braddock: Mr Churchill, you are drunk.

Winston Churchill: And you madam, are ugly. But I shall be sober tomorrow.

Writing is an adventure. To begin with, it is a toy and an amusement. Then it becomes a mistress, then it becomes a master, then it becomes a tyrant. The last phase is that just as you are about to be reconciled to your servitude, you kill the monster and fling him to the public.

An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat him last.

On Neville Chamberlain

There is no finer investment for any community than putting milk into babies.

The substance of the eminent Socialist gentleman's speech is that making a profit is a sin, but it is my belief that the real sin is taking a loss.

When I warned them [the French Government] that Britain would fight on alone whatever they did, their generals told their Prime Minister and his divided Cabinet, "In three weeks England will have her neck wrung like a chicken." Some chicken! Some neck!

The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings; the inherent virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of miseries.

Some regard private enterprise as if it were a predatory tiger to be shot. Others look upon it as a cow that they can milk. Only a handful see it for what it really is - the strong horse that pulls the whole cart.

A communist is like a crocodile: when it opens its mouth you cannot tell whether it is trying to smile or preparing to eat you up.

When you have to kill a man it costs nothing to be polite.

On formal declarations of war

Criticism may not be agreeable, but it is necessary. It fulfils the same function as pain in the human body. It calls attention to an unhealthy state of things.

We shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.

Speech in House of Commons, June 4, 1940

Everyone has his day and some days last longer than others.

In War: Resolution. In Defeat: Defiance. In Victory: Magnanimity. In Peace: Goodwill.

In defeat, unbeatable; in victory, unbearable. *On Field Marshal Montgomery*

George Bernard Shaw (Telegram inviting Churchill to opening night of Pygmalion): Am reserving two tickets for you for my premiere. Come and bring a friend - if you have one.

Churchill wired back: Impossible to be present for the first performance. Will attend the second - if there is one.

The Prime Minister has nothing to hide from the President of the United States.

On stepping from his bath in presence of startled President Roosevelt

We make this wide encircling movement in the Mediterranean, having for its primary object the recovery of the command of that vital sea, but also having for its object the exposure of the under-belly of the Axis, especially Italy, to heavy attack.

It [Chinese Labour in South Africa] cannot, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, be classified as slavery in the extreme acceptance of the word without some risk of terminological inexactitude.

Speech in House of Commons

To build may have to be the slow and laborious task of years. To destroy can be the thoughtless act of a single day.

You see these dictators on their pedestals, surrounded by the bayonets of their soldiers and the truncheons of their police. Yet in their hearts there is unspoken - unspeakable! - fear. They are afraid of words and thoughts! Words spoken abroad, thoughts stirring at home, all the more powerful because they are forbidden. These terrify them. A little mouse - a little tiny mouse! - of thought appears in the room, and even the mightiest potentates are thrown into panic.

To jaw-jaw is always better than to war-war.

I must point out that my rule of life prescribed as an absolutely sacred rite smoking cigars and also the drinking of alcohol before, after, and if need be during all meals and in the intervals between them.

Said during lunch with Arab leader Ibn Saud, when he heard the king's religion forbade smoking and alcohol

I did not suffer from any desire to be relieved of my responsibilities. All I wanted was compliance with my wishes after a reasonable discussion.

Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duty, and so bear ourselves that if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, "This was their finest hour."

On Battle of Britain, June 18, 1940

You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life.

The maxim of the British people is "Business as usual."

Success is going from failure to failure without losing your enthusiasm.

Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.

There is no doubt that it is around the family and the home that all the greatest virtues, the most dominating virtues of human society, are created, strengthened and maintained.

A medal glitters, but it also casts a shadow.

Neville Chamberlain looked at foreign affairs through the wrong end of a municipal drainpipe.

True genius resides in the capacity for evaluation of uncertain, hazardous, and conflicting information.

Great man? Why, he's selfish, he's arrogant, he thinks he's the centre of the universe - yes, you're right.

He "is" a great man!

On Charles de Gaulle

If you're going through hell, keep going.

Anyone can rat, but it takes a certain amount of ingenuity to re-rat.

Saving is a very fine thing. Especially when your parents have done it for you.

I have never accepted what many people have kindly said - namely that I inspired the nation . . . It was the nation and the race dwelling all round the globe that had the lion's heart. I had the luck to be called upon to give the roar.

A joke is a very serious thing.

If you have ten thousand regulations you destroy all respect for the law.

Personally I'm always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught.

All men make mistakes, but only wise men learn from their mistakes.

Headmasters have powers at their disposal with which Prime Ministers have never yet been invested.

My Early Life

It is a great mistake to try to look too far ahead. The chain of destiny can only be grasped one link at a time.

The Times is speechless, and it takes three columns to express its speechlessness.

Politics is not a game. It is an earnest business.

The power of man has grown in every sphere, except over himself.

When I look back on all these worries, I remember the story of the old man who said on his deathbed that he had had a lot of trouble in his life, most of which had never happened.

There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction.

A hard-boiled egg of a man - at once a callous, a crafty and an ill-formed man. *On Stalin*

My education was interrupted only by my schooling.

War is a game that is played with a smile. If you can't smile, grin. If you can't grin, keep out of the way till you can.

Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.

I sometimes marvel at the extra-ordinary docility with which Americans submit to speeches.

If you have an important point to make, don't try to be subtle or clever. Use a pile driver. Hit the point once. Then come back and hit it again. Then hit it a third time - a tremendous whack.

Haven't you heard yet that I put something more than whiskey into my speeches?

Don't be nervous. Do just as I do. Whenever I get up to speak, I always make a point of taking a good look around the audience. Then I say to myself, 'What a lot of silly fools.' And then I always feel better.

It is no use saying, "We are doing our best." You have got to succeed in doing what is necessary.

There is no such thing as a good tax.

Curse ruthless time! Curse our mortality. How cruelly short is the allotted span for all we must cram into it.

This is no time for ease and comfort. It is the time to dare and endure.

Without tradition, art is a flock of sheep without a shepherd. Without innovation, it is a corpse.

A love for tradition has never weakened a nation, indeed it has strengthened nations in their hour of peril.

One ought never to turn one's back on a threatened danger and try to run away from it. If you do that, you will double the danger. But if you meet it promptly and without flinching, you will reduce the danger by half. Never run away from anything. Never!

Dictators ride to and fro upon tigers which they dare not dismount. And the tigers are getting hungry.

The loyalties which center upon number one are enormous. If he trips he must be sustained. If he makes mistakes they must be covered. If he sleeps he must not be wantonly disturbed. If he is no good he must be pole-axed. But this last extreme process cannot be carried out every day; and certainly not in the days after he has been chosen.

The Second World War

I'm bored with it all.

Last words, before slipping into a coma. Died 9 days later on January 24, 1965
