

TURN OF PHRASE

HOLMES' DISTINCTIVE SENSE OF HUMOR AND WAY OF SPEAKING HAVE MADE HIM A POPULAR FIGURE FOR HISTORIANS AND LEGAL EXPERTS TO DISSECT. DR. TODD PEPPERS, IN CONDUCTING RESEARCH FOR HIS PLAY, "HOLMES," AMASSED QUITE A COLLECTION OF THESE "HOLMES-ISMS." BELOW ARE A FEW EXAMPLES.

"ONE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A GLIMPSE OF THE MEANING...OF THE UNIVERSE BEFORE ONE DIES, BUT ONE WHO THINKS AS I DO PERCEIVES THAT HE HAS NO RIGHT TO MAKE THE DEMAND, BUT SHOULD SHUT UP AND GO UNDER QUIETLY LIKE A GOOD SOLDIER."

"THE ETERNAL EFFORT OF ART, EVEN THE ART OF WRITING LEGAL DECISIONS, IS TO OMIT ALL BUT THE ESSENTIALS. "THE POINT OF CONTACT" IS THE FORMULA — THE PLACE WHERE THE BOY GOT HIS FINGERS PINCHED. THE REST OF THE MACHINERY DOESN'T MATTER."

"WE HAVE ENJOYED SO MUCH FREEDOM FOR SO LONG THAT PERHAPS WE ARE IN DANGER OF FORGETTING THAT THE BILL OF RIGHTS, WHICH COST SO MUCH BLOOD TO ESTABLISH, STILL IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR, AND THAT NO TITLE OF IT SHOULD BE ABRIDGED."

"ONE OF MY GREATEST PROBLEMS IS TO FIND AVAILABLE VICES FOR OLD AGE."

"LIFE IS LIKE AN ARTICHOKE; EACH DAY, WEEK, MONTH, YEAR, GIVES YOU ONE LITTLE BIT WHICH YOU NIBBLE OF — BUT PRECIOUS LITTLE COMPARED WITH WHAT YOU THROW AWAY."

"RUM BUSINESS, THIS GROWING OLDER. NATURE WITHDRAWS HERE A RAISIN AND THERE A PLUM FROM YOUR PUDDING, UNTIL ONE DOUBTS IF ANYTHING IS LEFT BUT SODDEN DOUGH."

"A WORD IS NOT A CRYSTAL, TRANSPARENT AND UNCHANGED; IT IS THE SKIN OF A LIVING THOUGHT AND MAY VARY GREATLY IN COLOR AND CONTENT ACCORDING TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE TIME IN WHICH IT IS USED."

"I HAVE SAID TO MY BRETHREN MANY TIMES THAT I HATE JUSTICE, WHICH MEANS THAT I KNOW IF A MAN BEGINS TO TALK ABOUT THAT, FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER HE IS SHIRKING THINKING IN LEGAL TERMS."

"IT IS REVOLTING TO HAVE NO BETTER REASON FOR A RULE OF LAW THAN THAT IT WAS LAID DOWN IN THE TIME OF HENRY IV."

"I DO DESPISE MAKING THE MOST OF ONE'S TIME. HALF THE PLEASURE OF LIFE CONSISTS OF THE OPPORTUNITIES ONE HAS NEGLECTED."

"EVERY CALLING IS GREAT WHEN GREATLY PURSUED."

