

Last Words

The last recorded words of a number of the famous and the not-so-famous.

Compiled by

Lionel Hartley, PhD

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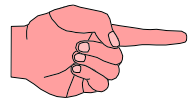


These are the last recorded words of a number of the famous and the not-so-famous.

Adams, John Quincy (1767-1848) Age 81
"This is the last of earth! I am content."

Alexander I, Emperor of Russia (1771-1825) Age 57
"What a beautiful day!"
(He died of a fever in Crimea)

Badby, John, English Martyr (d. 1409)
"Mercy, Lord!"



Bateman, Thomas

"I surely must be going now, my strength sinks so fast.
What glory! The angels are waiting for me!"

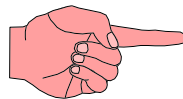
Beethoven, Ludwig van (1770-1827) Age 57

"I shall hear in heaven."

(Beethoven became deaf around 1802
yet continued to compose music.)

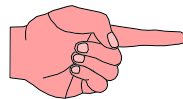
Bilney, Thomas, Martyr of Cambridge (d. 1528)

"Jesus, I believe."



Booth, Catherine (1829-1890) Age 61

“As I lie here on the brink of the eternal world, I want to tell you that you need have no fear for the integrity of those who have the direction of this great movement. God is with them. I would gladly have stayed here a little longer to have pushed forward the war, and to have taken part in the special effort for a hundred thousand souls just inaugurated by the General, but I shall hear of their ingathering as surely, and rejoice in it as fully, in the country whither I am going. Good-bye. I will meet you in the morning.”



Browne, John, Martyr of Kent (d. 1517)

“Into thy hands I commend my spirit.
You have redeemed me, O Lord of truth.”

Bunyan, John (1628-1688) Age 60

“Weep not for me, but for yourselves.”

Burns, James Drummond

“I have been dying for twenty years,
now I am going to live.”

Carver, Dirick of Sussex (d. 1555)

“Unto You do I commend my spirit,
and my soul rejoices in You.”



Cavell, Edith (1865-1915) Age 50

"Standing as I do in view of God and eternity, I realize that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness toward anyone."

Charles V, King of France (1338-1380) Age 42

"Ah, Jesus!"

Columbus, Christopher (1451-1506) Age 55

"Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit."



Fields, W. C., Actor (Originally William Claude Dukefield)
(1879-1946) Age 67

"On the whole I'd rather be in Philadelphia."

Flower, William ("The Branch") (d. c1555)

"O Son of God, have mercy on me."

Forrest, Henry, Scottish Martyr (d. c1530)

"Fie on falsehood! Fie on false friars!

Revealers of confession!

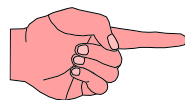
After this day let no man ever trust any friars,
condemners of God's Word and deceivers of men!"



Guiteau, Charles J. **from the scaffold** (1841-1882) Age 41
"Glory, hallelujah! Glory, hallelujah!
I am with the Lord! Glory, ready, go!"

Hamilton, Patrick, Abbot of Ferne (**first Scottish Christian Martyr**) (d. 1527)

"What I am about to suffer, dear friend, appears fearful and bitter to the flesh. But remember, it is the entrance into everlasting life , which none shall possess who deny their Lord. How long, O God, shall darkness cover this kingdom? How long will You allow this tyranny of men? Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."



Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich, **Philosopher** (1770-1821)
Age 51

"Only one man understood me and he didn't understand me."

Henry, O. - **pen-name of William Sydney Porter** (1862-1910) Age 48

"Turn up the lights; I don't want to go home in the dark."

Hobbes, Thomas, **Philosopher** (1588-1679) Age 91

"I am about to take my last voyage, a great leap in the dark."

(From "Anecdotes of Men of Learning")



Hudson, Thomas, Martyr of Norfolk (d. 1557)

(After a silent prayer)

"Now, thank God, I am strong,
and care not what man can do unto me."

Hunter, William, Martyr of London (1536-1555) Age 19

"Lord, Lord, Lord, receive my spirit."

Huss, John, Martyr from Prague, (d. 1415)

"Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, have mercy on
me."



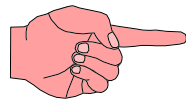
Ignatius (d. c150)

"I am the wheat of Christ: I am going to be ground...
that I may be found (as) pure bread."

Jerome of Prague, Martyr (d. 1416)

"What I have just sung*, I believe. This creed is my
whole faith,
but I am dying today because I refuse to deny that
John Huss was
a true preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

*(Canticles, hymns and the Doxology)



Jesus Christ (3BC-27AD) Age 30

"Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit"

(Matthew 23:46) or "It is finished" (John 19:30)

Lambert, John, Martyred Bible Scholar (d. 1538)

"None but Christ, none but Christ!"

Laud, William, from the scaffold (1573-1645) Age 72

"Lord, I am coming as fast as I can."

Luther, Katherine nee von Bora (1499-1552) Age 53

"I will stick to Christ as a burr to a topcoat."

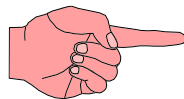


Marie Antoinette, Queen Josephe Jeanne, (1755-1793)
Age 38

"Courage! I have shown it for years;
think you I shall lose it at the moment
when my sufferings are to end?"

Marsh, George, Martyr of country Cambridge (d. c1555)
"Father in Heaven, have mercy on me."

Miller, Simon, Martyr of Lynn-Regis (d. 1557)
To Elizabeth Cooper, who was burnt at the stake with him, he said,
"(Be of good cheer) for, good sister,
we shall have a joyful meeting (in the) hereafter."



Milne, Walter, **Burnt at a stake in Scotland** (d. c1543)

“Depend only on Jesus Christ
and His mercy to save you.”

Moody, Dwight Lyman (1837-1899) Age 62

“Earth recedes, heaven opens. I’ve been through the
gates! Don’t call me back ... if this is death, it’s sweet.
Dwight! Irene! I see the children’s faces.”

(Dwight and Irene were his dead grandchildren)

More, Hannah (1745-1833) Age 88

“Joy!”

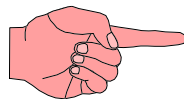


Paine, Thomas (1737-1809) Age 72

"I would give worlds, if I had them, that Age of Reason had not been published. O Lord, help me! Christ, help me! O God what have I done to suffer so much? But there is no God! But if there should be, what will become of me hereafter? Stay with me, for God's sake! Send even a child to stay with me, for it is hell to be alone. If ever the devil had an agent, I have been that one."

Palmerston, (Lord) John Henry Temple (1784-1865) Age 81

"Die, my dear doctor? That's the last thing I shall do."



Polycarp - to executioner (c69-c155) Age c86

"Eighty-six years I have served him,
and he has done me no wrong.

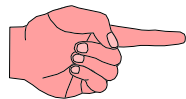
How can I blaspheme my King who has saved me?"

Rhodes, Cecil John (1853-1902) Age 49

"So little done, so much to do."

Rousseau, Jean Jacques (1712-1778) Age 66

"Don't you see that God is waiting for me?"



Salmasius, Claudius (1588-1653) Age 65

"I have lost a world of time! Had I one year more, it should be spent in perusing David's Psalms and Paul's Epistles. Mind the world less and God more."

Sanders, Lawrence (d. 1543)

"Welcome everlasting life!"

Severus, Lucius Septimius (146-211) Age 65

"I have been everything and everything is nothing. A little urn will contain all that remains of one for whom the whole world was too little."



Smith, Adam (1723-1790) Age 67

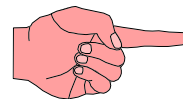
"I believe we must adjourn this meeting to some other place."

Stephen the Apostle (d. c36AD)

"Lord, lay not this sin to their charge" (Acts 7:60)

Stuart, Mary (1542-1587) Age 45

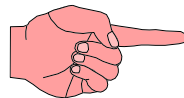
"Like as thy arms, Lord Jesus Christ, were stretched out upon the cross, even so receive me with the out-stretched arms of thy mercy."



Taylor, Rowland of Suffolk (d. 1555)
"Merciful Father of Heaven,
for Jesus Christ my Saviour's sake,
receive my soul Into Your hands."

Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897) Age 24
"I am not dying. I am entering into life."

Tyndale, William, Bible translator (d. 1536)
"Lord, open the king of England's eyes!"



Wallace, Adam, martyr of Edinburgh (d. c1543)

To the crowd:

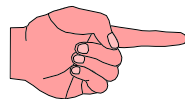
"Don't be offended by my dying for the truth's sake. The disciple is no greater than his master. They will not let me speak!"

Washington, George (1732-1799) Age 67

"Doctor, I die hard, but I am not afraid to go."

Waid, Christopher of Kent (d. 1555)

"Lord Jesus, receive my soul."



Watts, Thomas of Essex (d. 1555)

"You, (Lord Rich of Chelmsford) are the cause of my death."

White, Rawlins, Martyr of Cardiff (d. c1555)

"O Lord, receive my soul, O Lord, receive my spirit."

Wishart, George, Martyr of Cambridge (d. 1543)

Foxe tells us that after Wishart asked God to forgive those who condemned him, the hangman kneeled before him and said, "Sir, please forgive me, I am not guilty of your death." Wishart replied,

"Come here." After he had planted a kiss upon the executioner's cheek, he said, "There's a token of my forgiveness.

Do your job."



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Company, 1997)

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Published by Bo0kw0rm Publishing House

Derwent Bridge, Tasmania

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Compiled and electronically engineered by Lionel Hartley, PhD

Second Electronic Edition 1999

Published by the Bo0kw0rm Publishing House
Derwent Bridge, Tasmania
Ref. LWB-E01

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John Quincy Adams

Alexander I - Emperor of Russia

John Badby

Thomas Bateman

Ludwig van Beethoven

Thomas Bilney

Catherine Booth

The Branch (William Flower)

John Browne

John Bunyan

James Drummond Burns

Dirick Carver of Sussex

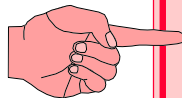
Edith Cavell

King Charles V of France

Christopher Columbus

W. C. Fields (William Claude

Dukefield)



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William Flower ("The Branch")

Henry Forrest

Charles J. Guiteau

Patrick Hamilton

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel

O. Henry (William Sydney Porter)

Thomas Hobbes

Thomas Hudson

William Hunter

John Huss

Ignatius

Jerome of Prague

Jesus Christ

John Lambert

William Laud

Katherine Luther nee von Bora

Queen Josephe Jeanne

Marie-Antoinette

George Marsh

Simon Miller

Walter Milne

Dwight Lyman Moody

Hannah More

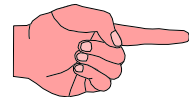
Thomas Paine

John Henry Temple (Lord)

Palmerston

Polycarp

William Sydney Porter (O Henry)



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Cecil John Rhodes

Jean Jacques Rousseau

Claudius Salmasius

Lawrence Sanders

Lucius Septimius Severus

Adam Smith

Stephen the Apostle

Mary Stuart

Rowland Taylor of Suffolk

Therese of Lisieux

William Tyndale

Christopher Waid

Adam Wallace

George Washington

Thomas Watts

Rawlins White

George Wishart

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