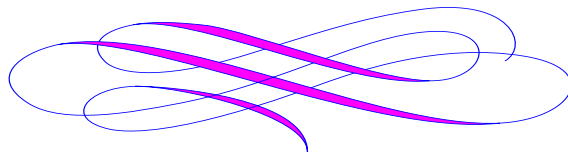




The last recorded words of a number
of the famous and the not-so-famous.



Compiled by
Lionel Hartley, PhD

Last Words

The last recorded words of a number of the famous and the not-so-famous.
Compiled by Lionel Hartley, PhD

First Electronic Edition ©1999 (Also available in an expanded print edition - y2005)

Published by L & R Hartley - www.geocities.com/freepublish

P O Box 1471 Murwillumbah NSW Australia 2484

eMail Lionel@Christian.net

Free edition courtesy The Writer's Showcase

© LDC Hartley 1999, 2005

Copyright in all countries All rights reserved.

This book is copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review as permitted under the Copyright Act, no part of this book may be reproduced by any process without the written permission of the publisher.

First print Edition ©1998

Second print Edition ©1999

Third and expanded print Edition ©2005

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 outstretched 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.”

Sources:

Foxe, John, "Foxe's Christian Martyrs of the World", Barbour & Co, 1989

Holy Bible (King James version)

Matthew 23:46 and John 19:30 (Jesus)

Acts 7:60 (Stephen)

Hartley, L. D. C. - (unpublished) Vertical Files

"Leadership", Vol. 17, no. 2. (Marie Antoinette)

Magnus Magnusson, ed., "Chamber's Biographical Dictionary", W&R Chambers NY 1990

Shannon, Robert C., "1000 Windows", (Cincinnati, Ohio: Standard Publishing Company, 1997)

Compiler's note: If you know any "Last Words" that are not in the above list, please let us know and we may be able to include them in future editions. All contributions need to be referenced, and will be acknowledged if used.

Published by L & R Hartley

P O Box 1471 Murwillumbah NSW Australia 2484

eMail hartley@telstra.easymail.com.au

Counselling service by eMail (Cleared & replied to once weekly)

listeningpost@telstra.easymail.com.au