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Poor Richard,

SELECTIONS
FROM HIS

Almanack

*To be Sold at the Ben Franklin
Print Shop*

*In the Colonial Village At the
Century of Progress
For the Year of Christ*

1934

Wherein is contained

Parts of the Preface to the ALMANACK OF 1758
sometimes known as FATHER ABRAHAM'S
SPEECH.

And many wise MAXIMS and EPIGRAMS, as found
in the various issues from 1733 to 1758

As Written

by *RICHARD SAUNDERS*, Philom.
Otherwise known as Benjamin Franklin.

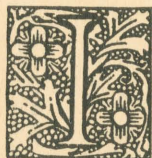
CHICAGO
The Ben Franklin Print Shop
On Meeting Street Across from Old North Tower



*Poor Richard's
Almanack*

P R E F A C E T O T H E 1 7 5 8
I S S U E

Courteous Reader,



I HAVE HEARD that nothing gives an Author so great Pleasure, as to find his Works respectfully quoted by other learned Authors. This pleasure I have seldom enjoyed. . . .

I concluded at length, that the People were the best Judges of my Merit; for they buy my Works; and besides, in my Rambles, where I am not personally known, I have frequently heard one or other of my Adages repeated, with, *as Poor Richard says*, at the End on 't; this gave me some Satisfaction, as it showed not only that my Instructions were regarded but discovered likewise some Respect for my Authority; and I own that to encourage the practice of remembering and repeating those wise Sentences, I have sometimes *quoted myself* with great gravity,

Judge then how much I must have been

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gratified by an Incident I am going to relate to you. I stopt my Horse lately where a great Number of people were collected at a Vendue of Merchant Goods. The Hour of Sale not being come, they were conversing on the Badness of the Times, and one of the Company call'd to a plain clean old Man, with white Locks, *Pray Father Abraham, what think you of the Times? Won't these heavy Taxes quite ruin the Country? How shall we BE EVER able to pay them? What would you advise us to?* — Father Abraham stood up, and reply'd, If you'd have my Advice, I'll give it you in short, *for a word to the Wise is enough, and many Words won't fill a Bushel, as Poor Richards says.* They join'd in desiring him to speak his Mind, and gathering round him, he proceeded as follows;

"Friends, says he, and Neighbours, the Taxes are indeed very heavy, and if those laid on by the Government were the only ones we had to pay, we might more easily discharge them; but we have many others, and much more grievous to some of us. We are taxed twice as much by our *Idleness*, three times as much by our *Pride*, and four times as much by our *Folly*, and from these

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Taxes the Commissioners cannot ease or deliver us by allowing an Abatement. However, let us harken to good Advice, and something may be done for us; *God helps them that help themselves*, as *Poor Richard* says in his Almanac of 1733.

It would be thought a hard Government that should tax its People one tenth Part of their *Time*, to be employed in its Service. But *Idleness* taxes many of us much more, if we reckon all that is spent in absolute *Sloth*, or doing of nothing, with that which is spent in idle Employments or Amusements, that amount to nothing. *Sloth*, by bringing on Diseases absolutely shortens life. *Sloth, like Rust, consumes faster than Labour wears, while the used Key is always bright*, as *Poor Richard* says. . . . If Time be of all Things the most precious, *wasting of Time* must be, as *Poor Richard* says, the greatest *Prodigality*, since, as he elsewhere tells us, *Lost Time is never found again*; and what we call *Time enough*, always *proves little enough*. Let us then be up and doing, and doing to the Purpose; so by Diligence shall we do more with less Perplexity. . . . While *Laziness travels so slowly*, that *Poverty soon overtakes him*, as we read

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in *Poor Richard*, who adds, *Drive thy Business, let not that drive thee; and Early to Bed, and early to Rise, makes a Man healthy, wealthy, and wise.*

So what signifies *wishing* and *hoping* for better times. We may make these Times better if we bestir ourselves. *Industry need not wish* as *Poor Richard* says, and *He that lives upon Hope will die fasting. There are no Gains without Pains; then Help Hands, for I have no Lands, or if I have, they are smartly taxed.* And as *Poor Richard* likewise observes, *He that hath a Trade hath an Estate, and He that hath a Calling hath an Office of Profit and Honour;* but then the *Trade* must be worked at, and the *Calling* well followed, or neither the *Estate*, nor the *Office*, will enable us to pay our Taxes. If we are industrious we shall never starve; for as *Poor Richard* says, *At the working Man's House Hunger looks in, but dares not enter.* Nor will the Bailiff or the Constable enter, for *Industry pays Debts while Despair increaseth them,* says *Poor Richard*. What though you have found no Treasure, nor has any rich Relative left you a Legacy, *Diligence is the Mother of Good-luck,* as *Poor Richard* says, and *God gives*

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all things to Industry. Then *plough deep, while Sluggards sleep, and you shall have Corn to sell and to keep,* says *Poor Dick*. Work while it is called *Today*, for you know not how much you may be hindered *Tomorrow*, which makes *Poor Richard* say, *One Today is worth Two Tomorrows;* and farther, *Have you somewhat to do Tomorrow, do it Today.* . . . Handle your tools without Mittens; remember that *the Cat in Gloves catches no Mice,* as *Poor Richard* says. 'T is true there is much to be done, and perhaps, you are weak-handed, but stick to it steadily, and you will see great Effects, for *constant Dropping wears away stones,* and *by Diligence and Patience, the Mouse ate in two the Cable;* and *little Strokes fell great Oaks,* as *Poor Richard* says in his Almanack, the Year I cannot just now remember.

Methinks, I hear some of you say, *Must a Man afford himself no Leisure?* I will tell thee My Friend, what *Poor Richard* says, *Employ thy Time well if thou meanest to gain Leisure;* and *since thou art not sure of a Minute, throw not away an Hour.* Leisure is Time for doing something useful. This Leisure the diligent man will obtain, but the lazy man never. . . .

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Thus the old Gentleman ended his Harangue. The People heard it, and approved the Doctrine, and immediately practised the contrary, just as if it had been a common Sermon; for the Vendue opened, and they began to buy extravagantly, notwithstanding all his Cautions, and their own Fear of Taxes. The frequent mention he made of me must have tired anyone else, but my Vanity was wonderfully delighted with it, though I was conscious that not a tenth Part of this Wisdom was my own which he ascribed to me, but rather the *Gleanings* I had made of the Sense of all Ages and Nations. However, I resolved to be the better for the Echo of it; and though I had at first determined to buy Stuff for a new Coat, I went away resolved to wear my old one a little longer. *Reader*, if thou wilt do the same, thy Profit will be as great as mine.

I am, as ever,

Thine to serve thee,

RICHARD SAUNDERS.

July 7, 1757

*Poor Richard's
Almanack*

LIGHT purse, heavy heart.

Ne'er take a wife till thou hast a house
(and a fire) to put her in.

Eat to live, and not live to eat.

Take counsel in wine, but resolve afterwards
in water.

Men and melons are hard to know.

In success be moderate.

Take this remark from Richard, poor and lame,
Whate'er's begun in anger, ends in shame.

What one relishes, nourishes.

Laws like to cobwebs, catch small flies,
Great ones break through before your eyes.

An egg today is better than a hen to-morrow.

He that waits upon fortune, is never sure of a
dinner.

Bad commentators spoil the best of books,
So God sends meat, (they say,) the devil cooks.

Necessity never made a good bargain.

Be slow in chusing a friend, slower in changing.

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Keep thy shop and thy shop will keep thee.

Of learned fools, I have seen ten times ten: of
unlearned wise men, I have seen a hundred.

Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man
healthy, wealthy, and wise.

If you know how to spend less than you get, you
have the philosopher's-stone.

He that can have patience can have what he
will.

God helps them that helps themselves.

He that speaks much, is much mistaken.

Well done is better than well said.

The worst wheel of the cart makes most noise.

There are three faithful friends—an old wife,
an old dog, and ready money.

Who has deceived thee so oft as thyself?

Read much but not too many books.

Wish not so much to live long, as to live well.

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I have never seen the Philosopher's stone that
turns lead into gold, but I have known the pur-
suit of it turn a man's gold into lead.

Never intreat a servant to dwell with thee.

A cure for poetry.—Seven wealthy towns con-
tend for Homer dead,
Thro' which the living Homer beg'd his bread.

Lend money to an enemy, and thou'lt gain him;
to a friend and thou'lt lose him.

If you would keep your secret from an enemy,
tell it not to a friend.

Well done, is twice done.

He that hath a Trade, hath an Estate.

He who gives promptly, gives twice as much.

Borrowing makes sorrowing.

Make haste slowly.

A Man without ceremony has need of great
merit in its place.

No gains without pains.

'T is easier to prevent bad habits than break
them.

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A good Wife & Health, is a Man's best Wealth.

A Plowman on his Legs is higher than a Gentleman on his Knees.

Dost thou love Life? Then do not squander Time; for that's the Stuff Life is made of.

He that wont be counsell'd, can't be helped.

Write Injuries in Dust, Benefits in Marble.

What is Serving God? 'T is doing Good to Man.

A Slip of the Foot you may soon recover,
But a Slip of the Tongue you may never get over.

He that cannot bear with other Peoples Passions, cannot govern his own.

He that's secure is not safe.

The end of Passion is the beginning of Repentance.

If your head is wax, don't walk in the Sun.

Having been poor is no shame, but being ashamed of it, is.

A man in a Passion rides a mad Horse.

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If it were not for the Belly, the Back might wear Gold.

Little Strokes, Fell great Oaks.

Hide not your Talents, they for Use were made.
What's a Sun-Dial in the Shade?

There are lazy Minds as well as lazy Bodies.

If your Riches are yours, why don't you take them with you to the t'other World?

For want of a Nail the Shoe is lost; for want of a Shoe the Horse is Lost; for want of a Horse the Rider is lost.

The busy Man has few idle Visitors; to the boiling Pot the Flies come not.

Old Boys have their Playthings as well as young Ones; the Difference is only in the Price.

If Man could have Half his Wishes, he would double his Troubles.

Success has ruin'd many a Man.

Haste makes Waste.

The Cat in Gloves catches no Mice.

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If you'd know the Value of Money, go and
borrow some.

Love your Neighbour; yet don't pull down your
Hedge.

Praise little, dispraise less.

You may give a Man an Office, but you cannot
give him Discretion.

The Master's Eye will do more Work than both
his Hands.

He that hath a Trade has an Office of Profit and
Honour.

One Today is worth two Tomorrows.

The way to be safe is never to be secure.

Dally not with other Folk's Women nor Money.

You may delay, but Time will not.

He that's content hath enough.

With bounteous cheer.
Conclude the Year.



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN heard how three Dutchmen in Leyden, Holland, in experimenting with the newly discovered electricity had gotten sparks and flashes by means of friction. This was in 1745. He saw an imported friction tube and began, himself, to experiment. Presently he came to the conclusion that friction did not make electricity, ~ it was in existence already, ~ friction materialized it! He had long been curious about the character of lightning. He thought it was electricity and "could be drawn from a cloud." In 1749 he wrote an essay to prove it. The English laughed at it, but presently it was published in France by a philosopher of note named Buffon. There the theory was welcomed with delight, and King Louis XV caused the experiment to prove it to be carried out, just as Franklin had said it should be. It was a great success and proved lightning to be electricity.

FRANKLIN also performed the experiment in Philadelphia. He used a silk kite, from the tip of which extended a wire "lightning catcher." A cord connected the kite to a key and Franklin held it by means of a silk ribbon tied to the key. He flew it in a thunder storm and the kite became charged with electricity. On touching this key he drew forth a most significant spark, for it started men on that long struggle which has made a servant of electricity.