

Poor Richard's Almanack

1733

Courteous Reader_,

I might in this place attempt to gain thy Favour, by declaring that I write Almanacks with no other View than that of the publick Good; but in this I should not be sincere; and Men are now a-days too wise to be deceiv'd by Pretences how specious soever. The plain Truth of the Matter is, I am excessive poor, and my Wife, good Woman, is, I tell her, excessive proud; she cannot bear, she says, to sit spinning in her Shift of Tow, while I do nothing but gaze at the Stars; and has threatned more than once to burn all my Books and Rattling-Traps (as she calls my Instruments) if I do not make some profitable Use of them for the good of my Family. The Printer has offer'd me some considerable share of the Profits, and I have thus begun to comply with my Dame's desire.

Indeed this Motive would have had Force enough to have made me publish an Almanack many Years since, had it not been overpower'd by my Regard for my good Friend and Fellow-Student, Mr. _Titan Leeds_, whose Interest I was extreamly unwilling to hurt: But this Obstacle (I am far from speaking it with Pleasure) is soon to be removed, since inexorable Death, who was never known to respect Merit, has

already prepared the mortal Dart, the fatal Sister has already
extended her destroying Shears, and that ingenious Man must soon be
taken from us. He dies, by my Calculation made at his Request, on
Oct. 17. 1733. 3 ho. 29 m. _P.M._ at the very instant of the xxx of
xxx and xxx: By his own Calculation he will survive till the 26th of
the same Month. This small difference between us we have disputed
whenever we have met these 9 Years past; but at length he is
inclinable to agree with my Judgment; Which of us is most exact, a
little Time will now determine. As therefore these Provinces may not
longer expect to see any of his Performances after this Year, I think
my self free to take up the Task, and request a share of the publick
Encouragement; which I am the more apt to hope for on this Account,
that the Buyer of my Almanack may consider himself, not only as
purchasing an useful Utensil, but as performing an Act of Charity, to
his poor _Friend and Servant_

R. SAUNDERS.

Never spare the Parson's wine, nor the Baker's pudding.

Visits should be short, like a winters day,

Lest you're too troublesom hasten away.

A house without woman & Fire-light, is like a body without soul or
sprite.

Kings & Bears often worry their keepers.

Light purse, heavy heart.

He's a Fool that makes his Doctor his Heir.

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

He's gone, and forgot nothing but to say _Farewel_ -- to his
creditors.

Love well, whip well.

Let my respected friend _J. G._

Accept this humble verse of me. _viz._

Ingenious, learned, envy'd Youth,

Go on as thou'st began;

Even thy enemies take pride

That thou'rt their countryman.

Hunger never saw bad bread.

Beware of meat twice boil'd, & an old foe reconcil'd.

Great Talkers, little Doers.

A rich rogue, is like a fat hog, who never does good til as
dead as a log.

Relation without friendship, friendship without power, power
without will, will witho. effect, effect without profit, & profit
without vertue, are not worth a farto.

Eat to live, and not live to eat.

March windy, and April rainy,
makes _May_ the pleasantest month of any.

The favour of the Great is no inheritance.

Fools make feasts and wise men eat 'em.

Beware of the young Doctor & the old Barber.

He has chang'd his one ey'd horse for a blind one.

The poor have little, beggars none, the rich too much, _enough_
not one.

After 3 days men grow weary, of a wench, a guest, & weather rainy.

To lengthen thy Life, lessen thy Meals.

The proof of gold is fire, the proof of woman, gold; the proof
of man, a woman.

After feasts made, the maker scratches his head.

Neither Shame nor Grace yet _Bob._

Many estates are spent in the getting,
Since women for tea forsook spinning & knitting.

He that lies down with Dogs, shall rise up with fleas.

A fat kitchen, a lean Will.

Distrust & caution are the parents of security.

Tongue double, brings trouble.

Take counsel in wine, but resolve afterwards in water.

He that drinks fast, pays slow.

Great famine when wolves eat wolves.

A good Wife lost is God's gift lost.

A taught horse, and a woman to teach, and teachers practising
what they preach.

He is ill cloth'd, who is bare of Virtue.

The heart of a fool is in his mouth, but the mouth of a wise
man is in his heart.

Men & Melons are hard to know.

He's the best physician that knows the worthlessness of the
most medicines.

Beware of meat twice boil'd, and an old Foe reconcil'd.

A fine genius in his own country, is like gold in the mine.

There is no little enemy.

He has lost his Boots but sav'd his spurs.

The old Man has given all to his Son: O fool! to undress thy
self before thou art going to bed.

Cheese and salt meat, should be sparingly eat.

Doors and walls are fools paper.

Anoint a villain and he'll stab you, stab him & he'l anoint you.

Keep your mouth wet, feet dry.

Where bread is wanting, all's to be sold.

There is neither honour nor gain, got in dealing with a vil-lain.

The fool hath made a vow, I guess,

Never to let the Fire have peace.

Snowy winter, a plentiful harvest.

Nothing more like a Fool, than a drunken Man.

God works wonders now & then;

Behold! a Lawyer, an honest Man!

He that lives carnally, won't live eternally.

Innocence is its own Defence.

Time _eateth_ all things, could old Poets say;

The Times are chang'd, our times _drink_ all away.

Never mind it, she'l be sober after the Holidays.

Poor Richard

1734

Courteous Readers,

Your kind and charitable Assistance last Year, in purchasing so large an Impression of my Almanacks, has made my Circumstances much more easy in the World, and requires my grateful Acknowledgment. My Wife has been enabled to get a Pot of her own, and is no longer oblig'd to borrow one from a Neighbour; nor have we ever since been without something of our own to put in it. She has also got a pair of Shoes, two new Shifts, and a new warm Petticoat; and for my part, I have bought a second-hand Coat, so good, that I am now not ashamed to go to Town or be seen there. These Things have render'd her Temper so much more pacifick than it us'd to be, that I may say, I have slept more, and more quietly within this last Year, than in the three foregoing Years put together. Accept my hearty Thanks therefor, and my sincere Wishes for your Health and Prosperity.

In the Preface to my last Almanack, I foretold the Death of my dear old Friend and Fellow-Student, the learned and ingenious Mr. _Titan Leeds_, which was to be on the 17th of _October_, 1733, 3 h. 29 m. _P.M._ at the very Instant of the xxx of xxx and xxx. By his

own Calculation he was to survive till the 26th of the same Month,
and expire in the Time of the Eclipse, near 11 a clock, _A.M._ At
which of these Times he died, or whether he be really yet dead, I
cannot at this present Writing positively assure my Readers;
forasmuch as a Disorder in my own Family demanded my Presence, and
would not permit me as I had intended, to be with him in his last
Moments, to receive his last Embrace, to close his Eyes, and do the
Duty of a Friend in performing the last Offices to the Departed.
Therefore it is that I cannot positively affirm whether he be dead or
not; for the Stars only show to the Skilful, what will happen in the
natural and universal Chain of Causes and Effects; but 'tis well
known, that the Events which would otherwise certainly happen at
certain Times in the Course of Nature, are sometimes set aside or
postpon'd for wise and good Reasons, by the immediate particular
Dispositions of Providence; which particular Dispositions the Stars
can by no Means discover or foreshow. There is however, (and I
cannot speak it without Sorrow) there is the strongest Probability
that my dear Friend is _no more_; for there appears in his Name, as I
am assured, an Almanack for the Year 1734, in which I am treated in a
very gross and unhandsome Manner; in which I am called _a false
Predicter, an Ignorant, a conceited Scribler, a Fool, and a Lyar._
Mr. _Leeds_ was too well bred to use any Man so indecently and so
scurrilously, and moreover his Esteem and Affection for me was

extraordinary: So that it is to be feared, that Pamphlet may be only
a Contrivance of somebody or other, who hopes perhaps to sell two or
three Year's Almanacks still, by the sole Force and Virtue of Mr.
Leeds's Name; but certainly, to put Words into the Mouth of a
Gentleman and a Man of Letters, against his Friend, which the meanest
and most scandalous of the People might be asham'd to utter even in a
drunken Quarrel, is an unpardonable Injury to his Memory, and an
Imposition upon the Publick.

Mr. _Leeds_ was not only profoundly skilful in the useful
Science he profess'd, but he was a Man of _exemplary Sobriety_, a
most _sincere Friend_, and an _exact Performer of his Word._ These
valuable Qualifications, with many others, so much endear'd him to
me, that although it should be so, that, contrary to all Probability,
contrary to my Prediction and his own, he might possibly be yet
alive, yet my Loss of Honour as a Prognosticator, cannot afford me so
much Mortification, as his Life, Health and Safety would give me Joy
and Satisfaction. I am,

_Courteous and kind Reader,

Your poor Friend and Servant, _

Octob. 30. 1733.

R. SAUNDERS.

Would you live with ease,

Do what you ought, and not what you please.

Principiis obsta.

Better slip with foot than tongue.

You cannot pluck roses without fear of thorns,

Nor enjoy a fair wife without danger of horns.

Without justice, courage is weak.

Many dishes many diseases,

Many medicines few cures.

Where carcasses are, eagles will gather,

And where good laws are, much people flock thither.

Hot things, sharp things, sweet things, cold things

All rot the teeth, and make them look like old things.

Blame-all and _Praise-all_ are two blockheads.

Be temperate in wine, in eating, girls, & sloth;
Or the Gout will seize you and plague you both.

No man e'er was glorious, who was not laborious.

What pains our Justice takes his faults to hide,
With half that pains sure he might cure 'em quite.

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.

Fools multiply folly.

Beauty & folly are old companions.

Hope of gain

Lessens pain.

All things are easy to Industry,

All things difficult to _Sloth._

If you ride a Horse, sit close and tight,

If you ride a Man, sit easy and light.

A new truth is a truth, an old error is an error,

Tho' _Clodpate_ wont allow either.

Don't think to hunt two hares with one dog.

Astrologers say,

This is a good Day,

To make Love in May.

Who pleasure gives,

Shall joy receive.

Be not sick too late, nor well too soon.

Where there's Marriage without Love, there will be Love without

Marriage.

Lawyers, Preachers, and Tomtits Eggs, there are more of them
hatch'd than come to perfection.

Be neither silly, nor cunning, but wise.

Neither a Fortress nor a Maidenhead will hold out long after
they begin to parly.

Jack _Little_ sow'd little, & little he'll reap.

All things are cheap to the saving, dear to the wasteful.

Would you persuade, speak of Interest, not of Reason.

Some men grow mad by studying much to know,

But who grows mad by studying good to grow.

Happy's the Woing, that's not long a doing.

Don't value a man for the Quality he is of, but for the
Qualities he possesses.

Bucephalus the Horse of _Alexand_ hath as lasting fame as

his Master.

Rain or Snow,
To _Chili_ go,
You'll find it so,
For ought we know.
Time will show.

There have been as great Souls unknown to fame as any of the
most famous.

Do good to thy Friend to keep him, to thy enemy to gain him.

A good Man is seldom uneasy, an ill one never easie.

Teach your child to hold his tongue, he'l learn fast enough to
speak.

He that cannot obey, cannot command.

An innocent _Plowman_ is more worthy than a vicious _Prince._

Sam's Religion is like a _Chedder Cheese_, 'tis made of the

milk of one & twenty Parishes.

Grief for a dead Wife, & a troublesome Guest,
Continues to the _threshold_, and there is at rest;
But I mean such wives as are none of the best.

As Charms are nonsense, Nonsense is a Charm.

An Egg to day is better than a Hen to-morrow.

Drink Water, Put the Money in your Pocket, and leave the
Dry-bellyach in the _Punchbowl._

He that is rich need not live sparingly, and he that can live
sparingly need not be rich.

If you wou'd be reveng'd of your enemy, govern your self.

A wicked Hero will turn his back to an innocent coward.

Laws like to _Cobwebs_ catch small Flies,
Great ones break thro' before your eyes.

Strange, that he who lives by Shifts, can seldom shift himself.

As sore places meet most rubs, proud folks meet most affronts.

The magistrate should obey the Laws, the People should obey the
magistrate.

When 'tis fair be sure take your Great coat with you.

He does not possess Wealth, it possesses him.

Necessity has no Law; I know some Attorneys of the name.

Onions can make ev'n Heirs and Widows weep.

Avarice and Happiness never saw each other, how then shou'd
they become acquainted.

The thrifty maxim of the wary _Dutch_,

Is to save all the Money they can touch.

He that waits upon Fortune, is never sure of a Dinner.

A learned blockhead is a greater blockhead than an ignorant
one.

Marry your Son when you will, but your Daughter when you can.

By Mrs. Bridget Saunders, my Dutchess, in Answer to the
December Verses of last Year.

He that for sake of Drink neglects his Trade,
And spends each Night in Taverns till 'tis late,
And rises when the Sun is four hours high,
And ne'er regards his starving Family;
God in his Mercy may do much to save him.
But, woe to the poor Wife, whose Lot it is to have him.

He that knows nothing of it, may by chance be a Prophet; while
the wisest that is may happen to miss.

If you wou'd have Guests merry with your cheer,
Be so your self, or so at least appear.

Famine, Plague, War, and an unnumber'd throng

Of Guilt-avenging Ills, to Man belong;
Is't not enough Plagues, Wars, and Famines rise
To lash our crimes, but must our Wives be wise?

Reader, farewell, all Happiness attend thee:
May each _New-Year_ better and richer find thee.

Poor Richard

1735

Courteous Reader,

This is the third Time of my appearing in print, hitherto very
much to my own Satisfaction, and, I have reason to hope, to the
Satisfaction of the Publick also; for the Publick is generous, and
has been very charitable and good to me. I should be ungrateful
then, if I did not take every Opportunity of expressing my Gratitude;
for _ingratum si dixeris, omnia dixeris_: I therefore return the
Publick my most humble and hearty Thanks.

Whatever may be the Musick of the Spheres, how great soever the
Harmony of the Stars, 'tis certain there is no Harmony among the
Stargazers; but they are perpetually growling and snarling at one
another like strange Curs, or like some Men at their Wives: I had

resolved to keep the Peace on my own part, and affront none of them;
and I shall persist in that Resolution: But having receiv'd much
Abuse from _Titan Leeds_ deceas'd, (_Titan Leeds_ when living would
not have us'd me so!) I say, having receiv'd much Abuse from the
Ghost of _Titan Leeds_, who pretends to be still living, and to write
Almanacks in spite of me and my Predictions, I cannot help saying,
that tho' I take it patiently, I take it very unkindly. And whatever
he may pretend, 'tis undoubtedly true that he is really defunct and
dead. First because the Stars are seldom disappointed, never but in
the Case of wise Men, _Sapiens dominabitur astris_, and they
foreshow'd his Death at the Time I predicted it. Secondly, 'Twas
requisite and necessary he should die punctually at that Time, for
the Honour of Astrology, the Art professed both by him and his Father
before him. Thirdly, 'Tis plain to every one that reads his two last
Almanacks (for 1734 and 35) that they are not written with that
Life his Performances use to be written with; the Wit is low and
flat, the little Hints dull and spiritless, nothing smart in them but
Hudibras's Verses against Astrology at the Heads of the Months in
the last, which no Astrologer but a _dead one_ would have inserted,
and no Man _living_ would or could write such Stuff as the rest. But
lastly, I shall convince him from his own Words, that he is dead,
(_ex ore suo condemnatus est_) for in his Preface to his Almanack for
1734, he says, _"Saunders adds another_ GROSS FALSHOOD _in his

Almanack, viz. that by my own Calculation I shall survive until
the 26th of the said Month October 1733, which is as untrue as
the former." Now if it be, as Leeds says, untrue and a gross
Falshood that he surviv'd till the 26th of October 1733, then it is
certainly true that he died before that Time: And if he died
before that Time, he is dead now, to all Intents and Purposes, any
thing he may say to the contrary notwithstanding. And at what Time
before the 26th is it so likely he should die, as at the Time by me
predicted, viz. the 17th of October aforesaid? But if some People
will walk and be troublesome after Death, it may perhaps be born with
a little, because it cannot well be avoided unless one would be at
the Pains and Expence of laying them in the Red Sea; however, they
should not presume too much upon the Liberty allow'd them; I know
Confinement must needs be mighty irksome to the free Spirit of an
Astronomer, and I am too compassionate to proceed suddenly to
Extremities with it; nevertheless, tho' I resolve with Reluctance, I
shall not long defer, if it does not speedily learn to treat its
living Friends with better Manners. I am,

Courteous Reader,

Your obliged Friend and Servant,

Octob. 30. 1734.

R. SAUNDERS.

Look before, or you'll find yourself behind.

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

Approve not of him who commends all you say.

By diligence and patience, the mouse bit in two the cable.

Full of courtesie, full of craft.

A little House well fill'd, a little Field well till'd, and a
little Wife well will'd, are great Riches.

Old Maids lead Apes there, where the old Batchelors are turn'd
to Apes.

Some are weatherwise, some are otherwise.

xxx

Dyrro lynn y ddoeth e fydd ddoethach.

The poor man must walk to get meat for his stomach, the rich

man to get a stomach to his meat.

He that goes far to marry, will either deceive or be deceived.

Eyes and Priests

Bear no Jests.

The Family of Fools is ancient.

Necessity never made a good bargain.

If Pride leads the Van, Beggary brings up the Rear.

There's many witty men whose brains can't fill their bellies.

Weighty Questions ask for deliberate Answers.

When xxx and xxx in xxx lie,

Then, Maids, whate'er is ask'd of you, deny.

Be slow in chusing a Friend, slower in changing.

Old _Hob_ was lately married in the Night,

What needed Day, his fair young Wife is light.

Pain wastes the Body, Pleasures the Understanding.

The cunning man steals a horse, the wise man lets him alone.

Nothing but Money,

Is sweeter than Honey.

Humility makes great men twice honourable.

A Ship under sail and a big-bellied Woman,

Are the handsomest two things that can be seen common.

Keep thy shop, & thy shop will keep thee.

The King's cheese is half wasted in parings: But no matter,

'tis made of the peoples milk.

What's given shines,

What's receiv'd is rusty.

Sloth and Silence are a Fool's Virtues.

Of learned Fools I have seen ten times ten,

Of unlearned wise men I have seen a hundred.

Three may keep a Secret, if two of them are dead.

Poverty wants some things, Luxury many things, Avarice all things.

A Lie stands on 1 leg, Truth on 2.

There's small Revenge in Words, but Words may be greatly revenged.

Great wits jump (says the Poet) and hit his Head against the Post.

A man is never so ridiculous by those Qualities that are his own as by those that he affects to have.

Deny Self for Self's sake.

Tim moderate fare and abstinence much prizes,

In publick, but in private gormandizes.

Ever since Follies have pleas'd, Fools have been able to
divert.

It is better to take many Injuries than to give one.

Opportunity is the great Bawd.

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

To be humble to Superiors is Duty, to Equals Courtesy, to
Inferiors Nobleness.

Here comes the Orator! with his Flood of Words, and his Drop of
Reason.

An old young man, will be a young old man.

Sal laughs at every thing you say. Why? Because she has
fine Teeth.

If what most men admire, they would despise,
'Twould look as if mankind were growing wise.

The Sun never repents of the good he does, nor does he ever
demand a recompence.

Are you angry that others disappoint you? remember you cannot
depend upon yourself.

One Mend-fault is worth two Findfaults, but one Findfault is
better than two Makefaults.

Reader, I wish thee Health, Wealth, Happiness,
And may kind Heaven thy Year's Industry bless.

Poor Richard

1736

Loving Readers,

Your kind Acceptance of my former Labours, has encouraged me to

continue writing, tho' the general Approbation you have been so good
as to favour me with, has excited the Envy of some, and drawn upon me
the Malice of others. These Ill-willers of mine, despited at the
great Reputation I gain'd by exactly predicting another Man's Death,
have endeavour'd to deprive me of it all at once in the most
effectual Manner, by reporting that I my self was never alive. They
say in short, _That there is no such a Man as I am_; and have spread
this Notion so thoroughly in the Country, that I have been frequently
told it to my Face by those that don't know me. This is not civil
Treatment, to endeavour to deprive me of my very Being, and reduce me
to a Non-entity in the Opinion of the publick. But so long as I know
my self to walk about, eat, drink and sleep, I am satisfied that
there is really such a Man as I am, whatever they may say to the
contrary: And the World may be satisfied likewise; for if there were
no such Man as I am, how is it possible I should appear publickly to
hundreds of People, as I have done for several Years past, in print?
I need not, indeed, have taken any Notice of so idle a Report, if it
had not been for the sake of my Printer, to whom my Enemies are
pleased to ascribe my Productions; and who it seems is as unwilling
to father my Offspring, as I am to lose the Credit of it: Therefore
to clear him entirely, as well as to vindicate my own Honour, I make
this publick and serious Declaration, which I desire may be believed,
to wit, _That what I have written heretofore, and do now write,

neither was nor is written by any other Man or Men, Person or Persons
whatsoever._ Those who are not satisfied with this, must needs be
very unreasonable.

My Performance for this Year follows; it submits itself, kind
Reader, to thy Censure, but hopes for thy Candor, to forgive its
Faults. It devotes itself entirely to thy Service, and will serve
thee faithfully: And if it has the good Fortune to please its Master,
'tis Gratification enough for the Labour of

_Poor

R. SAUNDERS._

He is no clown that drives the plow, but he that doth clownish
things.

If you know how to spend less than you get, you have the
Philosophers-Stone.

The good Paymaster is Lord of another man's Purse.

Fish & Visitors stink in 3 days.

He that has neither fools, whores nor beggars among his

kindred, is the son of a thunder-gust.

Diligence is the Mother of Good-Luck.

He that lives upon Hope, dies farting.

Do not do that which you would not have known.

Never praise your Cyder, Horse, or Bedfellow.

Wealth is not his that has it, but his that enjoys it.

Tis easy to see, hard to foresee.

In a discreet man's mouth, a publick thing is private.

Let thy maidservant be faithful, strong, and homely.

Keep flax from fire, youth from gaming.

Bargaining has neither friends nor relations.

Admiration is the Daughter of Ignorance.

There's more old Drunkards than old Doctors.

She that paints her Face, thinks of her Tail.

Here comes Courage! that seiz'd the lion absent, and run away
from the present mouse.

He that takes a wife, takes care.

Nor Eye in a letter, nor Hand in a purse, nor Ear in the secret
of another.

He that buys by the penny, maintains not only himself, but
other people.

He that can have Patience, can have what he will.

Now I've a sheep and a cow, every body bids me good morrow.

God helps them that help themselves.

Why does the blind man's wife paint herself.

None preaches better than the ant, and she says nothing.

The absent are never without fault, nor the present without
excuse.

Gifts burst rocks.

If wind blows on you thro' a hole,
Make your will and take care of your soul.

The rotten Apple spoils his Companion.

He that sells upon trust, loses many friends, and always wants
money.

Don't throw stones at your neighbours, if your own windows are
glass.

The excellency of hogs is fatness, of men virtue.

Good wives and good plantations are made by good husbands.

Pox take you, is no curse to some people.

Force shites upon Reason's Back.

Lovers, Travellers, and Poets, will give money to be heard.

He that speaks much, is much mistaken.

Creditors have better memories than debtors.

Forwarn'd, forearm'd, unless in the case of Cuckolds, who are
often forearm'd before warn'd.

Three things are men most liable to be cheated in, a Horse, a
Wig, and a Wife.

He that lives well, is learned enough.

Poverty, Poetry, and new Titles of Honour, make Men ridiculous.

He that scatters Thorns, let him not go barefoot.

There's none deceived but he that trusts.

God heals, and the Doctor takes the Fees.

If you desire many things, many things will seem but a few.

Mary's mouth costs her nothing, for she never opens it but at
others expence.

Receive before you write, but write before you pay.

I saw few die of Hunger, of Eating 100000.

Maids of _America_, who gave you bad teeth?

Answ. Hot Souplings & frozen Apples.

Marry your Daughter and eat fresh Fish betimes.

If God blesses a Man, his Bitch brings forth Pigs.

He that would live in peace & at ease,

Must not speak all he knows, nor judge all he sees.

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Poor Richard

1737

Courteous and kind Reader,

This is the fifth Time I have appear'd in Publick, chalking out the future Year for my honest Countrymen, and foretelling what shall, and what may, and what may not come to pass; in which I have the Pleasure to find that I have given general Satisfaction. Indeed, among the Multitude of our astrological Predictions, 'tis no wonder if some few fail; for, without any Defect in the Art itself, 'tis well known that a small Error, a single wrong Figure overseen in a Calculation, may occasion great Mistakes: But however we Almanack-makers may _miss it_ in other Things, I believe it will be generally allow'd _That we always hit the Day of the Month_, and that I suppose is esteem'd one of the most useful Things in an Almanack.

As to the Weather, if I were to fall into the Method my Brother _J_ ----- n _ sometimes uses, and tell you, _Snow here or in New England, -- Rain here or in South-Carolina, -- Cold to the Northward, -- Warm to the Southward_, and the like, whatever Errors I might commit, I should be something more secure of not being detected in

them: But I consider, it will be of no Service to any body to know what Weather it is 1000 miles off, and therefore I always set down positively what Weather my Reader will have, be he where he will at the time. We modestly desire only the favourable Allowance of _a day or two before_ and _a day or two after_ the precise Day against which the Weather is set; and if it does not come to pass accordingly, let the Fault be laid upon the Printer, who, 'tis very like, may have transpos'd or misplac'd it, perhaps for the Conveniency of putting in his Holidays: And since, in spite of all I can say, People will give him great part of the Credit of making my Almanacks, 'tis but reasonable he should take some share of the Blame.

I must not omit here to thank the Publick for the gracious and kind Encouragement they have hitherto given me: But if the generous Purchaser of my Labours could see how often his _Fi'-pence_ helps to light up the comfortable Fire, line the Pot, fill the Cup and make glad the Heart of a poor Man and an honest good old Woman, he would not think his Money ill laid out, tho' the Almanack of his were one half blank Paper.

Friend and Servant R. SAUNDERS

HINTS for those that would be Rich.

The Use of Money is all the Advantage there is in having Money.

For 6 l. a Year, you may have the Use of 100 l. if you are
a Man of known Prudence and Honesty.

He that spends a Groat a day idly, spends idly above 6 l. a
year, which is the Price of using 100 l.

He that wastes idly a Groat's worth of his Time per Day, one
Day with another, wastes the Privilege of using 100 l. each Day.

He that idly loses 5 s. worth of time, loses 5 s. & might
as prudently throw 5 s. in the River.

He that loses 5 s. not only loses that Sum, but all the
Advantage that might be made by turning it in Dealing, which by the
time that a young Man becomes old, amounts to a comfortable Bag of
Mony.

Again, He that sells upon Credit, asks a Price for what he

sells, equivalent to the Principal and Interest of his Money for the Time he is like to be kept out of it: therefore

He that buys upon Credit, pays Interest for what he buys.

And he that pays ready Money, might let that Money out to Use: so that

He that possesses any Thing he has bought, pays Interest for the Use of it.

Consider then, when you are tempted to buy any unnecessary Housholdstuff, or any superfluous thing, whether you will be willing to pay _Interest, _and Interest upon Interest_ for it as long as you live; and more if it grows worse by using.

_Yet, in buying Goods, 'tis best to pay ready Money, because, _

He that sells upon Credit, expects to lose 5 _per Cent._ by bad Debts; therefore he charges, on all he sells upon Credit, an Advance that shall make up that Deficiency.

Those who pay for what they buy upon Credit, pay their Share of

this Advance.

He that pays ready Money, escapes or may escape that Charge.

_A Penny sav'd is Twopence clear, A Pin a day is a Groat a
Year. Save & have. Every little makes a mickle._

The greatest monarch on the proudest throne, is oblig'd to sit
upon his own arse.

The Master-piece of Man, is to live to the purpose.

He that steals the old man's supper, do's him no wrong.

A countryman between 2 Lawyers, is like a fish between two
cats.

He that can take rest is greater than he that can take cities.

The misers cheese is wholesomest.

Felix quem, _&c._

Love & lordship hate companions.

The nearest way to come at glory, is to do that for conscience
which we do for glory.

There is much money given to be laught at, though the
purchasers don't know it; witness _A's_ fine horse, & _B's_ fine
house.

He that can compose himself, is wiser than he that composes
books.

Poor Dick, eats like a well man, and drinks like a sick.

After crosses and losses men grow humbler & wiser.

Love, Cough, & a Smoke, can't well be hid.

Well done is better than well said.

Fine linnen, girls and gold so bright,

Chuse not to take by candle-light.

He that can travel well afoot, keeps a good horse.

There are no ugly Loves, nor handsome Prisons.

No better relation than a prudent & faithful Friend.

A Traveller should have a hog's nose, deer's legs, and an ass's
back.

At the working man's house hunger looks in but dares not enter.

A good Lawyer a bad Neighbour.

Certainlie these things agree,

The Priest, the Lawyer, & Death all three:

Death takes both the weak and the strong.

The lawyer takes from both right and wrong,

And the priest from living and dead has his Fee.

The worst wheel of the cart makes the most noise.

Don't misinform your Doctor nor your Lawyer.

I never saw an oft-transplanted tree,
Nor yet an oft-removed family,
That throve so well as those that settled be.

Let the Letter stay for the Post, and not the Post for the
Letter.

Three good meals a day is bad living.

Tis better leave for an enemy at one's death, than beg of a
friend in one's life.

To whom thy secret thou dost tell,
To him thy freedom thou dost sell.

If you'd have a Servant that you like, serve your self.

He that pursues two Hares at once, does not catch one and lets
t'other go.

If you want a neat wife, chuse her on a Saturday.

If you have time dont wait for time.

Tell a miser he's rich, and a woman she's old, you'll get no
money of one, nor kindness of t'other.

Don't go to the doctor with every distemper, nor to the lawyer
with every quarrel, nor to the pot for every thirst.

The Creditors are a superstitious sect, great observers of set
days and times.

The noblest question in the world is _What Good may I do in
it?_

Nec sibi, sed toto, genitum se credere mundo.

Nothing so popular as GOODNESS.

.

Poor Richard

PREFACE by Mistress SAUNDERS

_Dear Readers, _

My good Man set out last Week for _Potowmack_, to visit an old Stargazer of his Acquaintance, and see about a little Place for us to settle and end our Days on. He left the Copy of his Almanack seal'd up, and bid me send it to the Press. I suspected something, and therefore as soon as he was gone, I open'd it, to see if he had not been flinging some of his old Skitts at me. Just as I thought, so it was. And truly, (for want of somewhat else to say, I suppose) he had put into his Preface, that his Wife _Bridget_ -- was this, and that, and t'other. -- What a peasecods! cannot I have a little Fault or two, but all the Country must see it in print! They have already been told, at one time that I am proud, another time that I am loud, and that I have got a new Petticoat, and abundance of such kind of stuff; and now, forsooth! all the World must know, that _Poor Dick's_ Wife has lately taken a fancy to drink a little Tea now and then. A mighty matter, truly, to make a Song of! 'Tis true; I had a little Tea of a Present from the Printer last Year; and what, must a body throw it away? In short, I thought the Preface was not worth a printing, and so I fairly scratch'd it all out, and I believe you'll

like our Almanack never the worse for it.

Upon looking over the Months, I see he has put in abundance of
foul Weather this Year; and therefore I have scatter'd here and
there, where I could find room, some _fair, pleasant, sunshiny,_ &c.
for the Good-Women to dry their Clothes in. If it does not come to
pass according to my Desire, I have shown my Good-will, however; and
I hope they'll take it in good part.

I had a Design to make some other Corrections; and particularly
to change some of the Verses that I don't very well like; but I have
just now unluckily broke my Spectacles; which obliges me to give it
you as it is, and conclude

Your loving Friend,

BRIDGET SAUNDERS.

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

Great talkers should be cropt, for they've no need of ears.

If you'd have your shoes last, put no nails in 'em.

Who has deceiv'd thee so oft as thy self?

Is there any thing Men take more pains about than to render
themselves unhappy?

Nothing brings more pain than too much pleasure; nothing more
bondage than too much liberty, (or libertinism.)

Read much, but not many Books.

He that would have a short Lent, let him borrow Money to be
repaid at Easter.

Write with the learned, pronounce with the vulgar.

Fly Pleasures, and they'll follow you.

Squirrel-like she covers her back with her tail.

Caesar did not merit the triumphal Car, more than he that
conquers himself.

Hast thou virtue? acquire also the graces & beauties of virtue.

Buy what thou hast no need of; and e'er long thou shalt sell
thy necessities.

If thou hast wit & learning, add to it Wisdom and Modesty.

You may be more happy than Princes, if you will be more
virtuous.

If you wou'd not be forgotten

As soon as you are dead and rotten,

Either write things worth reading,

or do things worth the writing.

Sell not virtue to purchase wealth, nor Liberty to purchase
power.

God bless the King, and grant him long to Reign.

Let thy vices die before thee.

Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, half shut afterwards.

The ancients tell us what is best; but we must learn of the
moderns what is fittest.

Since I cannot govern my own tongue, tho' within my own teeth,
how can I hope to govern the tongues of others?

'Tis less discredit to abridge petty charges, than to stoop to
petty Gettings.

Since thou art not sure of a minute, throw not away an hour.

If you do what you should not, you must hear what you would
not.

Defer not thy well-doing; be not like St. _George_, who is
always a horseback, and never rides on.

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

As we must account for every idle word, so we must for every
idle silence.

I have never seen the Philosopher's Stone that turns lead into
Gold, but I have known the pursuit of it turn a Man's Gold into Lead.

Never intreat a servant to dwell with thee.

Time is an herb that cures all Diseases.

Reading makes a full Man, Meditation a profound Man, discourse
a clear Man.

If any man flatters me, I'll flatter him again; tho' he were my
best Friend.

Wish a miser long life, and you wish him no good.

None but the well-bred man knows how to confess a fault, or
acknowledge himself in an error.

Drive thy business; let not that drive thee.

There is much difference between imitating a good man, and
counterfeiting him.

Wink at small faults; remember thou hast great ones.

Eat to please thyself, but dress to please others.

Search others for their virtues, thy self for thy vices.

Never spare the Parson's wine, nor Baker's Pudding.

Each year one vicious habit rooted out,
In time might make the worst Man good throughout.

·
Poor Richard

1739

Kind Reader,

Encouraged by thy former Generosity, I once more present thee
with an Almanack, which is the 7th of my Publication. -- While thou

art putting Pence in my Pocket, and furnishing my Cottage with
Necessaries, _Poor Dick_ is not unmindful to do something for thy
Benefit. The Stars are watch'd as narrowly as old _Bess_ watch'd her
Daughter, that thou mayst be acquainted with their Motions, and told
a Tale of their Influences and Effects, which may do thee more good
than a Dream of last Year's Snow.

Ignorant Men wonder how we Astrologers foretell the Weather so
exactly, unless we deal with the old black Devil. Alas! 'tis as easy
as pissing abed. For Instance; The Stargazer peeps at the Heavens
thro' a long Glass: He sees perhaps _TAURUS_, or the great Bull, in a
mighty Chase, stamping on the Floor of his House, swinging his Tail
about, stretching out his Neck, and opening wide his Mouth. 'Tis
natural from these Appearances to judge that this furious Bull is
puffing, blowing, and roaring. Distance being consider'd, and Time
allow'd for all this to come down, there you have Wind and Thunder.
He spies perhaps _VIRGO_ (or the Virgin;) she turns her Head round as
it were to see if any body observ'd her; then crouching down gently,
with her Hands on her Knees, she looks wistfully for a while right
forward. He judges rightly what she's about: And having calculated
the Distance and allow'd Time for it's Falling, finds that next
Spring we shall have a fine _April_ shower. What can be more natural
and easy than this? I might instance the like in many other

particulars; but this may be sufficient to prevent our being taken
for Conjurers. O the wonderful Knowledge to be found in the Stars!
Even the smallest Things are written there, if you had but Skill to
read. When my Brother _J -- m --n_ erected a Scheme to know which
was best for his sick Horse, to sup a new-laid Egg, or a little
Broth, he found that the Stars plainly gave their Verdict for Broth,
and the Horse having sup'd his Broth; -- Now, what do you think
became of that Horse? You shall know in my next.

Besides the usual Things expected in an Almanack, I hope the
profess'd Teachers of Mankind will excuse my scattering here and
there some instructive Hints in Matters of Morality and Religion.
And be not thou disturbed, O grave and sober Reader, if among the
many serious Sentences in my Book, thou findest me trifling now and
then, and talking idly. In all the Dishes I have hitherto cook'd for
thee, there is solid Meat enough for thy Money. There are Scraps
from the Table of Wisdom, that will if well digested, yield strong
Nourishment to thy Mind. But squeamish Stomachs cannot eat without
Pickles; which, 'tis true are good for nothing else, but they provoke
an Appetite. The Vain Youth that reads my Almanack for the sake of
an idle Joke, will perhaps meet with a serious Reflection, that he
may ever after be the better for.

Some People observing the great Yearly Demand for my Almanack,
imagine I must by this Time have become rich, and consequently ought
to call myself _Poor Dick_ no longer. But, the Case is this, When I
first begun to publish, the Printer made a fair Agreement with me for
my Copies, by Virtue of which he runs away with the greatest Part of
the Profit. -- However, much good may't do him; I do not grudge it
him; he is a Man I have a great Regard for, and I wish his Profit ten
times greater than it is. For I am, dear Reader, his, as well as thy
Affectionate Friend,

R. SAUNDERS.

When Death puts out our Flame, the Snuff will tell,
If we were Wax, or Tallow by the Smell.

At a great Pennyworth, pause a while.

As to his Wife, _John_ minds St. _Paul_, He's one
That hath a Wife, and is as if he'd none.

Kings a be an Honour to them tho' they are dead.

If thou wouldst live long, live well; for Folly and Wickedness
shorten Life.

Prythee isn't Miss _Cloe's_ a comical Case?

She lends out her Tail, and she borrows her Face.

Trust thy self, and another shall not betray thee.

He that pays for Work before it's done, has but a pennyworth
for twopence.

Historians relate, not so much what is done, as what they would
have believed.

O Maltster! break that cheating Peck; 'tis plain,

When e'er you use it, you're a Knave in Grain.

Doll learning _propria quae maribus_ without book,

Like _Nomen crescentis genitivo_ doth look.

Grace thou thy House, and let not that grace thee.

Thou canst not joke an Enemy into a Friend; but thou may'st a

Friend into an Enemy.

Eyes & Priests

Bear no Jests.

He that falls in love with himself, will have no Rivals.

Let thy Child's first Lesson be Obedience, and the second may
be what thou wilt.

Blessed is he that expects nothing, for he shall never be
disappointed.

Rather go to bed supperless, than run in debt for a Breakfast.

Let thy Discontents be Secrets.

An infallible Remedy for the _Tooth-ach_, viz Wash the Root of
an aching Tooth, in _Elder Vinegar_, and let it dry half an hour in
the Sun; after which it will never ach more; _Probatum est_.

A Man of Knowledge like a rich Soil, feeds

If not a world of Corn, a world of Weeds.

A modern Wit is one of _David's_ Fools.

No Resolution of Repenting hereafter, can be sincere.

Pollio, who values nothing that's within,

Buys books as men hunt Beavers, -- for their Skin.

Honour thy Father and Mother, _i.e._ Live so as to be an Honour
to them tho' they are dead.

If thou injurest Conscience, it will have its Revenge on thee.

Hear no ill of a Friend, nor speak any of an Enemy.

Pay what you owe, and you'll know what's your own.

Be not niggardly of what costs thee nothing, as courtesy,
counsel, & countenance.

Thirst after Desert, not Reward.

Beware of him that is slow to anger: He is angry for something,
and will not be pleased for nothing.

No longer virtuous no longer free; is a Maxim as true with
regard to a private Person as a Common-wealth.

When Man and Woman die, as Poets sung,
His Heart's the last part moves, her last, the tongue.

Proclaim not all thou knowest, all thou owest, all thou hast,
nor all thou canst.

Let our Fathers and Grandfathers be valued for _their_
Goodness, ourselves for our own.

Industry need not wish.

Sin is not hurtful because it is forbidden but it is forbidden
because it's hurtful. Nor is a Duty beneficial because it is
commanded, but it is commanded, because it's beneficial.

A ---- , they say, has Wit; for what?

For writing? -- No; For writing not.

George came to the Crown without striking a Blow.

Ah! quoth the Pretender, would I could do so.

Love, and be lov'd.

O Lazy-Bones! Dost thou think God would have given thee Arms
and Legs, if he had not design'd thou should'st use them.

A Cure for Poetry,

Seven wealthy Towns contend for _Homer_, dead,

Thro' which the living _Homer_ beg'd his Bread.

Great Beauty, great strength, & great Riches, are really &
truly of no great Use; a right Heart exceeds all.

.

Poor Richard

1740

Courteous Reader, OCTOBER 7. 1739.

You may remember that in my first Almanack, published for the
Year 1733, I predicted the Death of my dear Friend _Titan Leeds_,
Philomat. to happen that Year on the 17th Day of _October_, 3 h. 29

m. _P.M._ The good Man, it seems, died accordingly: But _W.B._ and
A.B. have continued to publish Almanacks in his Name ever since;
asserting for some Years that he was still living; At length when the
Truth could no longer be conceal'd from the World, they confess his
Death in their Almanack for 1739, but pretend that he died not till
last Year, and that before his Departure he had furnished them with
Calculations for 7 Years to come. Ah, _My Friends_, these are poor
Shifts and thin Disguises; of which indeed I should have taken little
or no Notice, if you had not at the same time accus'd me as a false
Predictor; an Aspersion that the more affects me, as my whole
Livelyhood depends on a contrary Character.

But to put this Matter beyond Dispute, I shall acquaint the
World with a Fact, as strange and surprizing as it is true; being as
follows, _viz._

On the 4th Instant, towards midnight, as I sat in my little
Study writing this Preface, I fell fast asleep; and continued in that
Condition for some time, without dreaming any thing, to my Knowledge.
On awaking, I found lying before me the following Letter, _viz._

Dear Friend SAUNDERS,

My Respect for you continues even in this separate State, and I

am griev'd to see the Aspersions thrown on you by the Malevolence of
avaricious Publishers of Almanacks, who envy your Success. They say
your Prediction of my Death in 1733 was false, and they pretend that
I remained alive many Years after. But I do hereby certify, that I
did actually die at that time, precisely at the Hour you mention'd,
with a Variation only of 5 _min._ 53 _sec._ which must be allow'd to
be no great matter in such Cases. And I do farther declare that I
furnish'd them with no Calculations of the Planets Motions, _&c._
seven Years after my Death, as they are pleased to give out: so that
the Stuff they publish as an Almanack in my Name is no more mine than
'tis yours.

You will wonder perhaps, how this Paper comes written on your
Table. You must know that no separate Spirits are under any
Confinement till after the final Settlement of all Accounts. In the
mean time we wander where we please, visit our old Friends, observe
their Actions, enter sometimes into their Imaginations, and give them
Hints waking or sleeping that may be of Advantage to them. Finding
you asleep, I entred your left Nostril, ascended into your Brain,
found out where the Ends of those Nerves were fastned that move your
right Hand and Fingers, by the Help of which I am now writing unknown
to you; but when you open your Eyes, you will see that the Hand
written is mine, tho' wrote with yours.

The People of this Infidel Age, perhaps, will hardly believe this Story. But you may give them these three Signs by which they shall be convinc'd of the Truth of it. About the middle of _June_ next, _J. J ----- n_, Philomat, shall be openly reconciled to the _Church of Rome_, and give all his Goods and Chattles to the Chappel, being perverted by a certain _Country School-master._ On the 7_th_ of _September_ following my old Friend _W. B ----- t_ shall be sober 9 Hours, to the Astonishment of all his Neighbours: And about the same time _W.B._ and _A.B._ will publish another Almanack in my Name, in spight of Truth and Common-Sense.

As I can see much clearer into Futurity, since I got free from the dark Prison of Flesh, in which I was continually molested and almost blinded with Fogs arising from Tiff, and the Smoke of burnt Drams; I shall in kindness to you, frequently give you Informations of things to come, for the Improvement of your Almanack: Being Dear _Dick_,

Your affectionate Friend, T. Leeds.

For my own part I am convinc'd that the above Letter is genuine. If the Reader doubts of it, let him carefully observe the three Signs; and if they do not actually come to pass, believe as he

pleases.

I am his humble Friend,

R. SAUNDERS.

To bear other Peoples Afflictions, every one has Courage
enough, and to spare.

No wonder _Tom_ grows fat, th' unwieldy Sinner,
Makes his whole Life but one continual Dinner.

An empty Bag cannot stand upright.

Happy that nation, fortunate that age, whose history is not
diverting.

What is a butterfly? At best

He's but a caterpillar drest.

The gaudy Fop's his picture just.

None are deceived but they that confide.

An open Foe may prove a curse;

But a pretended friend is worse.

A wolf eats sheep but now and then,
Ten Thousands are devour'd by Men.

Man's tongue is soft, and bone doth lack;
Yet a stroke therewith may break a man's back.

Many a Meal is lost for want of meat.

To all apparent Beauties blind
Each Blemish strikes an envious Mind.

The Poor have little, Beggars none;
the Rich too much, enough not one.

There are lazy Minds as well as lazy Bodies.

Tricks and Treachery are the Practice of Fools, that have not
Wit enough to be honest.

Who says Jack is not generous? he is always fond of giving, and

cares not for receiving. -- What? Why; Advice.

The Man who with undaunted toils,
sails unknown seas to unknown soils,
With various wonders feasts his Sight:
What stranger wonders does he write?

Fear not Death; for the sooner we die, the longer shall we be
immortal.

Those who in quarrels interpose,
Must often wipe a bloody nose.

Promises may get thee Friends, but Nonperformance will turn
them into Enemies.

In other men we faults can spy,
And blame the mote that dims their eye;
Each little speck and blemish find;
To our own stronger errors blind.

When you speak to a man, look on his eyes; when he speaks to
thee, look on his mouth.

Jane, why those tears? why droops your head?

Is then your other husband dead?

Or doth a worse disgrace betide?

Hath no one since his death apply'd?

Observe all men; thy self most.

Thou hadst better eat salt with the Philosophers of _Greece_,
than sugar with the Courtiers of _Italy._

Seek Virtue, and, of that possest,

To Providence, resign the rest.

Marry above thy match, and thou'lt get a Master.

Fear to do ill, and you need fear nought else.

He makes a Foe who makes a jest.

Can grave and formal pass for wise,

When Men the solemn Owl despise?

Some are justly laught at for keeping their Money foolishly,
others for spending it idly: He is the greatest fool that lays it out
in a purchase of repentance.

Who knows a fool, must know his brother;
For one will recommend another.

Avoid dishonest Gain: No price;
Can recompence the Pangs of Vice.

When befriended, remember it:
When you befriend, forget it.

Great souls with gen'rous pity melt;
Which coward tyrants never felt.

Employ thy time well, if thou meanest to gain leisure.

A Flatterer never seems absurd:
The Flatter'd always take his Word.

Lend Money to an Enemy, and thou'lt gain him, to a Friend and
thou'lt lose him.

Neither praise nor dispraise, till seven Christmasses be over.

Poor Richard

1741

Enjoy the present hour, be mindful of the past;

And neither fear nor wish the Approaches of the last.

Learn of the skilful: He that teaches himself, hath a fool for

his master.

Best is the Tongue that feels the rein; --

He that talks much, must talk in vain;

We from the wordy Torrent fly:

Who listens to the chattering Pye?

Think _Cato_ sees thee.

No Wood without Bark.

Monkeys warm with envious spite,
Their most obliging FRIENDS will bite; --
And, fond to copy human Ways,
Practise new Mischiefs all their days.

Joke went out, and brought home his fellow, and they two
began a quarrel.

Let thy discontents be thy Secrets; -- if the world knows them,
'twill despise _thee_ and increase _them._

E'er you remark another's Sin,
Bid your own Conscience look within.

Anger and Folly walk cheek-by-jole; Repentance treads on both
their Heels.

Turn Turk _Tim_, and renounce thy Faith in Words as well as
Actions: Is it worse to follow _Mahomet_ than the Devil?

Don't overload Gratitude; if you do, she'll kick.

Be always asham'd to catch thy self idle.

Where yet was ever found the Mother,

Who'd change her booby for another?

At 20 years of age the Will reigns; at 30 the Wit; at 40 the
Judgment.

Christianity commands us to pass by Injuries; Policy, to let
them pass by us.

Lying rides upon Debt's back.

They who have nothing to be troubled at, will be troubled at
nothing.

Wife from thy Spouse each blemish hide

More than from all the World beside:

Let DECENCY be all thy Pride.

Nick's Passions grow fat and hearty; his Understanding looks
consumptive!

If evils come not, then our fears are vain:

And if they do, Fear but augments the pain.

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

Rob not for burnt offerings.

Bess brags she 'as _Beauty_, and can prove the same;

As how? why thus, Sir, 'tis her _puppy_'s name.

Up, Sluggard, and waste not life; in the grave will be sleeping
enough.

Well done, is twice done.

Clearly spoken, Mr. Fog! You explain English by Greek.

Formio bewails his Sins with the same heart,

As Friends do Friends when they're about to part.

Believe it _Formio_ will not entertain,

One chearful Thought till they do meet again.

Honours change Manners.

Jack eating rotten cheese, did say,

Like _Sampson_ I my thousands slay;

I vow, quoth _Roger_, so you do,

And with the self-same weapon too.

There are no fools so troublesome as those that have wit.

Quarrels never could last long,

If on one side only lay the wrong.

Let no Pleasure tempt thee, no Profit allure thee, no Ambition
corrupt thee, no Example sway thee, no Persuasion move thee, to do
any thing which thou knowest to be Evil; So shalt thou always live
jollily: for a good Conscience is a continual Christmass.

.

Poor Richard

1742

Courteous READER,

This is the ninth Year of my Endeavours to serve thee in the
Capacity of a Calendar-Writer. The Encouragement I have met with
must be ascrib'd, in a great Measure, to your Charity, excited by the
open honest Declaration I made of my Poverty at my first Appearance.
This my Brother _Philomaths_ could, without being Conjurors,
discover; and _Poor Richard_'s Success, has produced ye a _Poor
Will_, and a _Poor Robin_; and no doubt _Poor John_, &c. will follow,
and we shall all be _in Name_ what some Folks say we are already _in
Fact_, A Parcel of _poor Almanack Makers._ During the Course of these
nine Years, what Buffetings have I not sustained! The Fraternity
have been all in Arms. Honest _Titan_, deceas'd, was rais'd, and
made to abuse his old Friend. Both Authors and Printers were angry.
Hard Names, and many, were bestow'd on me. They deny'd me to be the
Author of my own Works; declar'd there never was any such Person;
asserted that I was dead 60 Years ago; prognosticated my Death to
happen within a Twelvemonth: with many other malicious
Inconsistences, the Effects of blind Passion, Envy at my Success; and
a vain Hope of depriving me (dear Reader) of thy wonted Countenance
and Favour. -- _Who knows him?_ they cry: _Where does he live?_ --
But what is that to them? If I delight in a private Life, have they
any Right to drag me out of my Retirement? I have good Reasons for
concealing the Place of my Abode. 'Tis time for an old Man, as I am,
to think of preparing for his great Remove. The perpetual Teasing of

both Neighbours and Strangers, to calculate Nativities, give
Judgments on Schemes, erect Figures, discover Thieves, detect
Horse-Stealers, describe the Route of Run-aways and stray'd Cattle;
The Croud of Visitors with a 1000 trifling Questions; _Will my Ship
return safe? Will my Mare win the Race? Will her next Colt be a
Pacer? When will my Wife die? Who shall be my Husband, and HOW LONG
first? _When is the best time to cut Hair, trim Cocks, or sow
Sallad?_ These and the like Impertinences I have now neither Taste
nor Leisure for. I have had enough of 'em. All that these angry
Folks can say, will never provoke me to tell them where I live. I
would eat my Nails first.

My last Adversary is _J. J ----- n_, Philomat. who _declares
and protests_ (in his Preface, 1741) that the _false Prophecy put in
my Almanack, concerning him, the Year before, is altogether_ false
and untrue: _and that I am one of Baal's false Prophets._ This
false, false Prophecy he speaks of, related to his Reconciliation
with the Church of _Rome_; which, notwithstanding his Declaring and
Protesting, is, I fear, too true. Two Things in his elegiac Verses
confirm me in this Suspicion. He calls the First of _November_ by
the Name of _All Hallows Day._ Reader; does not this smell of Popery?
Does it in the least savour of the pure Language of Friends? But the
plainest Thing is; his Adoration of Saints, which he confesses to be

his Practice, in these Words, page 4.

_When any Trouble did me befall,

To my dear _ Mary _then I would call: _

Did he think the whole World were so stupid as not to take
Notice of this? So ignorant as not to know, that all Catholicks pay
the highest Regard to the _Virgin-Mary_? Ah! Friend _John_, We must
allow you to be a Poet, but you are certainly no Protestant. I could
heartily wish your Religion were as good as your Verses.

RICHARD SAUNDERS.

Strange! that a Man who has wit enough to write a Satyr; should
have folly enough to publish it.

He that hath a Trade, hath an Estate.

Have you somewhat to do to-morrow; do it to-day.

No workman without tools,

Nor Lawyer without Fools,

Can live by their Rules.

The painful Preacher, like a candle bright,
Consumes himself in giving others Light.

Speak and speed: the close mouth catches no flies.

Visit your Aunt, but not every Day; and call at your Brother's,
but not every night.

Bis dat, qui cito dat.

Money and good Manners make the Gentleman.

Late Children, early Orphans.

Ben beats his Pate, and fancys wit will come;
But he may knock, there's no body at home.

The good Spinner hath a large Shift.

Tom, vain's your Pains; They all will fail:
Ne'er was good Arrow made of a Sow's Tail.

Empty Free-booters, cover'd with Scorn:

They went out for Wealth, & come ragged and torn,

As the Ram went for Wool, and was sent back shorn.

Ill Customs & bad Advice are seldom forgotten.

He that sows thorns, should not go barefoot.

Reniego de grillos, aunque sean d'oro.

Men meet, mountains never.

When Knaves fall out, honest Men get their goods: When Priests
dispute, we come at the Truth.

Kate would have _Thomas_, no one blame her can:

Tom won't have _Kate_, and who can blame the Man?

A large train makes a light Purse.

Death takes no bribes.

One good Husband is worth two good Wives; for the scarcer
things are the more they're valued.

He that riseth late, must trot all day, and shall scarce
overtake his business at night.

He that speaks ill of the Mare, will buy her.

You may drive a gift without a gimblet.

Eat few Suppers, and you'll need few Medicines.

You will be careful, if you are wise;
How you touch Men's Religion, or Credit, or Eyes.

After Fish,
Milk do not wish.

xxx

Heb Dduw heb ddim, a Duw a digon.

They who have nothing to trouble them, will be troubled at

nothing.

Against Diseases here, the strongest Fence,
Is the defensive Virtue, Abstinence.

Fient de chien, & marc d'argent,
Seront tout un au jour du jugement.

If thou dost ill, the joy fades, not the pains;
If well, the pain doth fade, the joy remains.

To err is human, to repent divine, to persist devilish.

Money & Man a mutual Friendship show:
Man makes _false_ Money, Money makes Man so.

Industry pays Debts, Despair encreases them.

Bright as the day and as the morning fair,
Such _Cloe_ is, & common as the air.

Here comes _Glib-tongue_: who can out-flatter a Dedication; and
lie, like ten Epitaphs.

Hope and a Red-Rag, are Baits for Men and Mackrel.

With the old Almanack and the old Year,

Leave thy old Vices, tho' ever so dear.

_Rules of Health and long Life, and to preserve from

Malignant Fevers, and Sickness in general._

Eat and drink such an exact Quantity as the Constitution of thy

Body allows of, in reference to the Services of the Mind.

They that study much, ought not to eat so much as those that

work hard, their Digestion being not so good.

The exact Quantity and Quality being found out, is to be kept

to constantly.

Excess in all other Things whatever, as well as in Meat and

Drink, is also to be avoided.

Youth, Age, and Sick require a different Quantity.

And so do those of contrary Complexions; for that which is too much for a flegmatick Man, is not sufficient for a Cholerick.

The Measure of Food ought to be (as much as possibly may be) exactly proportionable to the Quality and Condition of the Stomach, because the Stomach digests it.

That Quantity that is sufficient, the Stomach can perfectly concoct and digest, and it sufficeth the due Nourishment of the Body.

A greater Quantity of some things may be eaten than of others, some being of lighter Digestion than others.

The Difficulty lies, in finding out an exact Measure; but eat for Necessity, not Pleasure, for Lust knows not where Necessity ends.

Wouldst thou enjoy a long Life, a healthy Body, and a vigorous Mind, and be acquainted also with the wonderful Works of God? labour in the first place to bring thy Appetite into Subjection to Reason.

Rules to find out a fit Measure of Meat and Drink.

If thou eatest so much as makes thee unfit for Study, or other Business, thou exceedest the due Measure.

If thou art dull and heavy after Meat, it's a sign thou hast exceeded the due Measure; for Meat and Drink ought to refresh the Body, and make it chearful, and not to dull and oppress it.

If thou findest these ill Symptoms, consider whether too much Meat, or too much Drink occasions it, or both, and abate by little and little, till thou findest the Inconveniency removed.

Keep out of the Sight of Feasts and Banquets as much as may be; for 'tis more difficult to refrain good Cheer, when it's present, than from the Desire of it when it is away; the like you may observe in the Objects of all the other Senses.

If a Man casually exceeds, let him fast the next Meal, and all may be well again, provided it be not too often done; as if he exceed at Dinner, let him refrain a Supper, &c.

A temperate Diet frees from Diseases; such are seldom ill, but if they are surprised with Sickness, they bear it better, and recover sooner; for most Distempers have their Original from Repletion.

Use now and then a little Exercise a quarter of an Hour before Meals, as to swing a Weight, or swing your Arms about with a small Weight in each Hand; to leap, or the like, for that stirs the Muscles of the Breast.

A temperate Diet arms the Body against all external Accidents; so that they are not so easily hurt by Heat, Cold or Labour; if they at any time should be prejudiced, they are more easily cured, either of Wounds, Dislocations or Bruises.

But when malignant Fevers are rife in the Country or City where thou dwelst, 'tis adviseable to eat and drink more freely, by Way of Prevention; for those are Diseases that are not caused by Repletion, and seldom attack Full-feeders.

A sober Diet makes a Man die without Pain; it maintains the Senses in Vigour; it mitigates the Violence of Passions and Affections.

It preserves the Memory, it helps the Understanding, it allays
the Heat of Lust; it brings a Man to a Consideration of his latter
End; it makes the Body a fit Tabernacle for the Lord to dwell in;
which makes us happy in this World, and eternally happy in the World
to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

.

Poor Richard

1743

Friendly READER,

Because I would have every Man make Advantage of the Blessings
of Providence, and few are acquainted with the Method of making Wine
of the Grapes which grow wild in our Woods, I do here present them
with a few easy Directions, drawn from some Years Experience, which,
if they will follow, they may furnish themselves with a wholesome
sprightly Claret, which will keep for several Years, and is not
inferior to that which passeth for _French_ Claret.

Begin to gather Grapes from the 10th of _September_ (the ripest
first) to the last of _October_, and having clear'd them of Spider
webs, and dead Leaves, put them into a large Molosses- or

Rum-Hogshead; after having washed it well, and knock'd one Head out, fix it upon the other Head, on a Stand, or Blocks in the Cellar, if you have any, if not, in the warmest Part of the House, about 2 Feet from the Ground; as the Grapes sink, put up more, for 3 or 4 Days; after which, get into the Hogshead bare-leg'd, and tread them down until the Juice works up about your Legs, which will be in less than half an Hour; then get out, and turn the Bottom ones up, and tread them again, a Quarter of an Hour; this will be sufficient to get out the good Juice; more pressing wou'd burst the unripe Fruit, and give it an ill Taste: This done, cover the Hogshead close with a thick Blanket, and if you have no Cellar, and the Weather proves Cold, with two.

In this Manner you must let it take its first Ferment, for 4 or 5 Days it will work furiously; when the Ferment abates, which you will know by its making less Noise, make a Spile-hole within six Inches of the Bottom, and twice a Day draw some in a Glass. When it looks as clear as Rock-water, draw it off into a clean, rather than new Cask, proportioning it to the Contents of the Hogshead or Wine (*1) Vat; that is, if the Hogshead holds twenty Bushels of Grapes, Stems and all, the Cask must at least, hold 20 Gallons, for they will yield a Gallon per Bushel. Your Juice or (*2) Must thus drawn from the Vat, proceed to the second Ferment.

(*1) Vat _or_ Fatt, _a Name for the Vessel, in which you tread the Grapes, and in which the_ Must _takes its first Ferment._

(*2) Must _is a Name for the Juice of the Vine before it is fermented, afterwards 'tis called Wine._

You must reserve in Jugs or Bottles, 1 Gallon or 5 Quarts of the Must to every 20 Gallons you have to work; which you will use according to the following Directions.

Place your Cask, which must be chock full, with the Bung up, and open twice every Day, Morning and Night; feed your Cask with the reserved Must; two Spoonfuls at a time will suffice, clearing the Bung after you feed it, with your Finger or a Spoon, of the Grape-Stones and other Filth which the Ferment will throw up; you must continue feeding it thus until _Christmas_, when you may bung it up, and it will be fit for Use or to be rack'd into clean Casks or Bottles, by _February._

N. B. Gather the Grapes after the Dew is off, and in all dry
Seasons. Let not the Children come at the Must, it will scour them
severely. If you make Wine for Sale, or to go beyond Sea, one
quarter Part must be distill'd, and the Brandy put into the three
Quarters remaining. One Bushel of Grapes, heap Measure, as you
gather them from the Vine, will make at least a Gallon of Wine, if
good, five Quarts.

These Directions are not design'd for those who are skill'd in
making Wine, but for those who have hitherto had no Acquaintance with
that Art.

How few there are who have courage enough to own their Faults,
or resolution enough to mend them!

Men differ daily, about things which are subject to Sense, is
it likely then they should agree about things invisible.

Mark with what insolence and pride,
Blown _Bufo_ takes his haughty stride;
As if no toad was toad beside.

Ill Company is like a dog who dirties those most, that he loves
best.

In prosperous fortunes be modest and wise,
The greatest may fall, and the lowest may rise:
But insolent People that fall in disgrace,
Are wretched and no-body pities their Case.

xxx

Le sage entend a demi mot.

Sorrow is dry.

The World is full of fools and faint hearts; and yet every one
has courage enough to bear the misfortunes, and wisdom enough to
manage the Affairs of his neighbour.

Beware, beware! he'll cheat 'ithout scruple, who can without fear.

The Devil wipes his Back with poor Folks Pride.

Content and Riches seldom meet together,
Riches take thou, contentment I had rather.

Speak with contempt of none, from slave to king,

The meanest Bee hath, and will use, a sting.

The church the state, and the poor, are 3 daughters which we
should maintain, but not portion off.

xxx

A achwyno heb achos; gwneler achos iddo.

A little well-gotten will do us more good,
Than lordships and scepters by Rapine and Blood.

Borgen macht sorgen.

Let all Men know thee, but no man know thee thoroughly: Men
freely ford that see the shallows.

Tis easy to frame a good bold resolution;
but hard is the Task that concerns execution.

Cold & cunning come from the north:
But cunning sans wisdom is nothing worth.

Tis vain to repine,

Tho' a learned Divine

Will die _this day_ at nine.

xxx

A noddo duw, ry noddir.

Ah simple Man! when a boy two precious jewels were given thee,

Time, and good Advice; one thou hast lost, and the other thrown away.

xxx

Na funno i hun.

Na wnaid i un.

Dick told his spouse, he durst be bold to swear,

Whate'er she pray'd for, Heav'n would thwart her pray'r:

Indeed! says _Nell_, 'tis what I'm pleas'd to hear;

For now I'll pray for your long life, my dear.

The sleeping Fox catches no poultry. Up! up!

If you'd be wealthy, think of saving, more than of getting: The
Indies have not made _Spain_ rich, because her Outgoes equal her
Incomes.

Tugend bestehet wen alles vergehet.

Came you from Court? for in your Mien,
A self-important air is seen.

Hear what _Jack Spaniard_ says,
Con todo el Mundo Guerra,
Y Paz con Inglatierra.

If you'd have it done, Go: If not, send.

Many a long dispute among Divines may be thus abridg'd, It is
so: It is not so. It is so; It is not so.

Experience keeps a dear school, yet Fools will learn in no
other.

Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum.

How many observe Christ's Birth-day! How few, his Precepts!

O! 'tis easier to keep Holidays than Commandments.

.

Poor Richard

1744

Courteous Reader,

This is the Twelfth Year that I have in this Way laboured for
the Benefit -- of Whom? -- of the Publick, if you'll be so
good-natured as to believe it; if not, e'en take the naked Truth,
'twas for the Benefit of my own dear self; not forgetting in the mean
time, our gracious Consort and Dutchess the peaceful, quiet, silent
Lady _Bridget._ But whether my Labours have been of any Service to
the Publick or not, the Publick I must acknowledge has been of
Service to me; I have lived Comfortably by its Benevolent
Encouragement; and I hope I shall always bear a grateful Sense of its
continued Favour.

My Adversary _J -- n J ----- n_ has indeed made an Attempt to
out-shine me, by pretending to penetrate _a Year deeper_ into
Futurity; and giving his Readers _gratis_ in his Almanack for 1743 an
Eclipse of the Year 1744, to be beforehand with me: His Words are,

"The first Day of _April_ next Year 1744, there will be a GREAT ECLIPSE of the Sun; it begins about an Hour before Sunset. It being in the Sign Aries, the House of Mars, and in the 7th, shows Heat, Difference and Animositities between Persons of the highest Rank and Quality," _&c._ I am very glad, for the Sake of these Persons of Rank and Quality, that there is _no manner of Truth_ in this Prediction: They may, if they please, live in Love and Peace. And I caution his Readers (they are but few, indeed, and so the Matter's the less) not to give themselves any Trouble about observing this imaginary Great Eclipse; for they may stare till they're blind without seeing the least Sign of it. I might, on this Occasion, return Mr. _J ----- n_ the Name of _Baal_'s _false Prophet_ he gave me some Years ago in his Wrath, on Account of my Predicting his Reconciliation with the _Church of Rome_, (tho' he seems now to have given up that Point) but I think such Language between old Men and Scholars unbecoming; and I leave him to settle the Affair with the Buyers of his Almanack as well as he can, who perhaps will not take it very kindly, that he has done what in him lay (by sending them out to gaze at an invisible Eclipse on the first of _April_) to make _April Fools_ of them all. His old thread-bare Excuse which he repeats Year after Year about the _Weather_, "That no Man can be infallible therein, by Reason of the many contrary Causes happening at or near the same time, and the Unconstancy of the Summer Showers and gusts," _&c._ will hardly serve

him in the Affair of _Eclipses_; and I know not where he'll get another.

I have made no Alteration in my usual Method, except adding the Rising and Setting of the Planets, and the Lunar Conjunctions. Those who are so disposed, may thereby very readily learn to know the Planets, and distinguish them from each other.

_I am, dear Reader,

Thy obliged Friend,_

R. SAUNDERS.

He that drinks his Cyder alone, let him catch his Horse alone.

Who is strong? He that can conquer his bad Habits. Who is rich? He that rejoices in his Portion.

He that has not got a Wife, is not yet a compleat Man.

What you would seem to be, be really.

If you'd lose a troublesome Visitor, lend him Money.

Tart Words make no Friends: a spoonful of honey will catch more
flies than Gallon of Vinegar.

Make haste slowly.

Dine with little, sup with less:

Do better still; sleep supperless.

Industry, Perseverance, & Frugality, make Fortune yield.

I'll warrant ye, goes before _Rashness_; _Who'd-a-tho't it?_
comes sneaking after.

Prayers and Provender hinder no Journey.

Hear _Reason_, or she'll make you feel her.

Give me yesterday's Bread, this Day's Flesh, and last Year's
Cyder.

God heals, and the Doctor takes the Fees.

Sloth (like Rust) consumes faster than Labour wears: the used

Key is always bright.

Light Gains heavy Purses.

Keep thou from the Opportunity, and God will keep thee from the Sin.

Where there's no Law, there's no Bread.

As Pride increases, Fortune declines.

Drive thy Business, or it will drive thee.

A full Belly is the Mother of all Evil.

The same man cannot be both Friend and Flatterer.

He who multiplies Riches multiplies Cares.

An old Man in a House is a good Sign.

Those who are fear'd, are hated.

The Things which hurt, instruct.

The Eye of a Master, will do more Work than his Hand.

A soft Tongue may strike hard.

If you'd be belov'd, make yourself amiable.

A true Friend is the best Possession.

Fear God, and your Enemies will fear you.

Epitaph on a Scolding Wife by her Husband.

Here my poor _Bridgets_'s Corps doth lie,
she is at rest, -- and so am I.

Poor Richard

1745

Courteous Reader,

For the Benefit of the Publick, and my own Profit, I have performed this my thirteenth annual Labour, which I hope will be as acceptable as the former.

The rising and setting of the Planets, and their Conjunctions with the Moon, I have continued; whereby those who are unacquainted with those heavenly Bodies, may soon learn to distinguish them from the fixed Stars, by observing the following Directions.

All those glittering Stars (except five) which we see in the Firmament of Heaven, are called fixed Stars, because they keep the same Distance from one another, and from the Ecliptic; they rise and set on the same Points of the Horizon, and appear like so many lucid Points fixed to the celestial Firmament. The other five have a particular and different Motion, for which Reason they have not always the same Distance from one another; and therefore they have been called wandering Stars or Planets, _viz. Saturn_ xxx, _Jupiter_ xxx, _Mars_ xxx, _Venus_ xxx, and _Mercury_ xxx, and these may be distinguished from the fixed Stars by their not twinkling. The brightest of the five is _Venus_, which appears the biggest; and when this glorious Star appears, and goes before the Sun, it is called _Phosphorus_, or the Morning-Star, and _Hesperus_, or the Evening-Star, when it follows the Sun. _Jupiter_ appears almost as

big as _Venus_, but not so bright. _Mars_ may be easily known from the rest of the Planets, because it appears red like a hot Iron or burning Coal, and twinkles a little. _Saturn_, in Appearance, is less than _Mars_, and of a pale Colour, _Mercury_ is so near the Sun, that it is seldom seen.

Against the 6th Day of _January_ you may see xxx rise 10 35, which signifies the Planet _Mars_ rises 35 Minutes after 10 o' Clock at Night, when that Planet may be seen to appear in the East. Also against the 10th Day of _January_ you will find xxx sets 7 13, which shows _Venus_ sets 13 Minutes after 7 o'Clock at Night. If you look towards the West that Evening, you may see that beautiful Star till the Time of its setting. Again, on the 18th Day of the same Month, you will find xxx rise 9 18, which shews that _Saturn_ rises 18 Minutes after 9 at Night.

Or the Planets may be known by observing them at the Time of their Conjunctions with the Moon, _viz._ against the 14 Day of _January_ are inserted these Characters, xxx, which shews there will be a Conjunction of the Moon and _Saturn_ on that Day. If you look out about 5 o' Clock in the Morning, you will see _Saturn_ very near the Moon. The like is to be observed at any other time by the rising and setting of the Planets, and their Conjunctions with the Moon; by

which Method they may be distinctly known from the fixed Stars.

I have nothing further to add at present, but my hearty Wishes
for your Welfare, both temporal and spiritual, and Thanks for all
your past Favours, being,

Dear Reader,

Thy obliged Friend,

R. SAUNDERS.

Beware of little Expences, a small Leak will sink a great Ship.

Wars bring scars.

A light purse is a heavy Curse.

As often as we do good, we sacrifice.

Help, Hands;

For I have no Lands.

It's common for Men to give 6 pretended Reasons instead of one
real one.

Vanity backbites more than _Malice._

He's a Fool that cannot conceal his Wisdom.

Great spenders are bad lenders.

All blood is alike ancient.

You may talk too much on the best of subjects.

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

No gains without pains.

Had I revenged wrong, I had not worn my skirts so long.

Graft good Fruit all, or graft not at all.

Idleness is the greatest Prodigality.

Old young and old long.

Punch-coal, cut-candle, and set brand on end,
is neither good house wife, nor good house-wife's friend.

He who buys had need have 100 Eyes,
but one's enough for him that sells the Stuff.

There are no fools so troublesome as those that have wit.

Many complain of their Memory, few of their Judgment.

One Man may be more cunning than another, but not more cunning
than every body else.

To God we owe fear and love; to our neighbours justice and
charity; to our selves prudence and sobriety.

Fools make feasts and wise men eat them.

Light-heel'd mothers make leaden-heel'd daughters.

The good or ill hap of a good or ill life,
is the good or ill choice of a good or ill wife.

Tis easier to prevent bad habits than to break them.

Every Man has Assurance enough to boast of his honesty, few of
their Understanding.

Interest which blinds some People, enlightens others.

An ounce of wit that is bought,
Is worth a pound that is taught.

He that resolves to mend hereafter, resolves not to mend now.

·
Poor Richard

1746

PREFACE.

Who is _Poor Richard_? People oft enquire,
Where lives? What is he? -- never yet the nigher.
Somewhat to ease your Curiosity,

Take these slight Sketches of my Dame and me.

Thanks to kind Readers and a careful Wife,

With Plenty bless'd, I lead an easy Life;

My Business Writing; hers to drain the Mead,

Or crown the barren Hill with useful Shade;

In the smooth Glebe to see the Plowshare worn,

And fill the Granary with needful Corn.

Press nectarous Cyder from my loaded Trees,

Print the sweet Butter, turn the drying Cheese.

Some Books we read, tho' few there are that hit

The happy Point where Wisdom joins with Wit;

That set fair Virtue naked to our View,

And teach us what is _decent_, what is _true._

The Friend sincere, and honest Man, with Joy

Treating or treated oft our Time employ.

Our Table neat, Meals temperate; and our Door

Op'ning spontaneous to the bashful Poor.

Free from the bitter Rage of Party Zeal,

All those we love who seek the publick Weal.

Nor blindly follow Superstition's Lore,

Which cheats deluded Mankind o'er and o'er.

Not over righteous, quite beyond the Rule,

Conscience perplext by every canting Tool.

Nor yet when Folly hides the dubious Line,
Where Good and Bad their blended Colours join;
Rush indiscreetly down the dangerous Steep,
And plunge uncertain in the darksome Deep.
Cautious, if right; if wrong resolv'd to part
The Inmate Snake that folds about the Heart.
Observe the _Mean_, the _Motive_ and the _End_;
Mending our selves, or striving still to mend.
Our Souls sincere, our Purpose fair and free,
Without Vain Glory or Hypocrisy:
Thankful if well; if ill, we kiss the Rod;
Resign with Hope, and put our Trust in GOD.

When the Well's dry, we know the Worth of Water.

He that whines for Glass without G
Take away L and that's he.

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

A quarrelsome Man has no good Neighbours.

Wide will wear,
but Narrow will tear.

Silks and Sattins put out the Kitchen Fire.

Vice knows she's ugly, so puts on her Mask.

It's the easiest Thing in the World for a Man to deceive
himself.

Women & Wine, Game & Deceit,
Make the Wealth small and the Wants great.

All Mankind are beholden to him that is kind to the Good.

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

Virtue and Happiness are Mother and Daughter.

The generous Mind least regards money, and yet most feels the

Want of it.

For one poor Man there are an hundred indigent.

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

Good Sense is a Thing all need, few have, and none think they want.

What's proper, is becoming: See the Blacksmith with his white
Silk Apron!

The Tongue is ever turning to the aching Tooth.

Want of Care does us more Damage than Want of Knowledge.

Take Courage, Mortal; Death can't banish thee out of the Universe.

The Sting of a Reproach, is the Truth of it.

Do me the Favour to deny me at once.

The most exquisite Folly is made of Wisdom spun too fine.

A life of leisure, and a life of laziness, are two things.

Mad Kings and mad Bulls, are not to be held by treaties & packthread.

Changing Countries or Beds, cures neither a bad Manager, nor a Fever.

A true great Man will neither trample on a Worm, nor sneak to an
Emperor.

xxx

Ni ffyddra llaw dyn, er gwneithr da idd ei hun.

Tim and his Handsaw are good in their Place,

Tho' not fit for preaching or shaving a face.

Half-Hospitality opens his Doors and shuts up his Countenance.

Poor Richard

1747

Courteous Reader,

This is the 15th Time I have entertain'd thee with my annual Productions; I hope to thy Profit as well as mine. For besides the astronomical Calculations, and other Things usually contain'd in Almanacks, which have their daily Use indeed while the Year continues, but then become of no Value, I have constantly interspers'd _moral_ Sentences, _prudent_ Maxims, and _wise_ Sayings, many of them containing _much good Sense_ in _very few_ Words, and therefore apt to leave _strong_ and _lasting_ Impressions on the Memory of young Persons, whereby they may receive Benefit as long as they live, when both Almanack and Almanack-maker have been long thrown by and forgotten. If I now and then insert a Joke or two, that seem to have little in them, my Apology is, that such may have their Use, since perhaps for their Sake light airy Minds peruse the rest, and so are struck by somewhat of more Weight and Moment. The Verses on the Heads of the Months are also generally design'd to have the same Tendency. I need not tell thee that not many of them are of my own Making. If thou hast any Judgment in Poetry, thou wilt easily discern the Workman from the Bungler. I know as well as thee, that I am no _Poet born_; and it is a Trade I never learnt, nor indeed could learn. _If I make Verses, 'tis in Spight -- Of Nature and my Stars, I__write._ Why then should I give my Readers _bad Lines_ of my own,

when _good Ones_ of other People's are so plenty? 'Tis methinks a poor Excuse for the bad Entertainment of Guests, that the Food we set before them, tho' coarse and ordinary, is _of one's own Raising, off one's own Plantation,_ &c. when there is Plenty of what is ten times better, to be had in the Market. -- On the contrary, I assure ye, my Friends, that I have procur'd the best I could for ye, and _much Good may't do ye._

I cannot omit this Opportunity of making honourable Mention of the late deceased Ornament and Head of our Profession, Mr. JACOB TAYLOR, who for upwards of 40 Years (with some few Intermissions only) supply'd the good People of this and the neighbouring Colonies, with the most compleat Ephemeris and most accurate Calculations that have hitherto appear'd in _America._ -- He was an ingenious Mathematician, as well as an expert and skilful Astronomer; and moreover, no mean Philosopher, but what is more than all, He was a PIOUS and an HONEST Man. _Requiescat in pace._

I am thy poor Friend, to serve thee,

R. SAUNDERS.

Strive to be the _greatest_ Man in your Country, and you may be disappointed; Strive to be the _best_, and you may succeed: He may

well win the race that runs by himself.

Tis a strange Forest that has no rotten Wood in't.

And a strange Kindred that all are good in't.

None know the unfortunate, and the fortunate do not know
themselves.

There's a time to wink as well as to see.

Honest _Tom_! you may trust him with a house-full of untold
Milstones.

There is no Man so bad, but he secretly respects the Good.

When there's more Malice shown than Matter:

On the Writer falls the satyr.

Courage would fight, but _Discretion_ won't let him.

Delicate _Dick_! whisper'd the Proclamation.

Cornelius ought to be _Tacitus._

Pride and the _Gout_,
are seldom cur'd throughout.

We are not so sensible of the greatest Health as of the least
Sickness.

A good Example is the best sermon.

A Father's a Treasure; a Brother's a Comfort; a Friend is both.

Despair ruins some, Presumption many.

A quiet Conscience sleeps in Thunder,
but Rest and Guilt live far asunder.

He that won't be counsell'd, can't be help'd.

Craft must be at charge for clothes, but _Truth_ can go
naked.

Write Injuries in Dust, Benefits in Marble.

What is Serving God? 'Tis doing Good to Man.

What maintains one Vice would bring up two Children.

Many have been ruin'd by buying good pennyworths.

Better is a little with content than much with contention.

A Slip of the Foot you may soon recover:

But a Slip of the Tongue you may never get over.

What signifies your Patience, if you can't find it when you
want it.

d. wise, l. foolish.

Time enough, always proves _little enough._

It is wise not to seek a Secret, and Honest not to reveal it.

A Mob's a Monster; Heads enough, but no Brains.

The Devil sweetens Poison with Honey.

He that cannot bear with other People's Passions, cannot govern
his own.

He that by the Plow would thrive,
himself must either hold or drive.

._Poor Richard Improved_

1748

_Kind Reader, _

The favourable Reception my annual Labours have met with from
the Publick these 15 Years past, has engaged me in Gratitude to
endeavour some Improvement of my Almanack. And since my Friend
Taylor is no more, whose _Ephemerides_ so long and so agreeably
serv'd and entertain'd these Provinces, I have taken the Liberty to
imitate his well-known Method, and give two Pages for each Month;
which affords me Room for several valuable Additions, as will best
appear on Inspection and Comparison with former Almanacks. Yet I have
not so far follow'd his Method, as not to continue my own where I
thought it preferable; and thus my Book is increas'd to a Size beyond

his, and contains much more Matter.

Hail Night serene! thro' Thee where'er we turn

Our wond'ring Eyes, Heav'n's Lamps profusely burn;

And Stars unnumber'd all the Sky adorn.

But lo! -- what's that I see appear?

It seems far off a pointed flame;

From Earthwards too the shining Meteor came:

How swift it climbs th' etherial Space!

And now it traverses each Sphere,

And seems some knowing Mind, familiar to the Place.

Dame, hand my Glass, the longest, strait prepare; --

'Tis He -- 'tis TAYLOR's Soul, that travels there.

O stay! thou happy Spirit, stay,

And lead me on thro' all th' unbeaten Wilds of Day;

Where Planets in pure Streams of Ether driven,

Swim thro' the blue Expanse of Heav'n.

There let me, thy Companion, stray

From Orb to Orb, and now behold

Unnumber'd Suns, all Seas of molten Gold,

And trace each Comet's wandring Way. -----

Souse down into Prose again, my Muse; for Poetry's no more thy

Element, than Air is that of the Flying-Fish; whose Flights, like
thine, are therefore always short and heavy. -----

We complain sometimes of hard Winters in this Country; but our
Winters will appear as Summers, when compar'd with those that some of
our Countrymen undergo in the most Northern British Colony on this
Continent, which is that upon Churchill River, in Hudson's Bay,
Lat. 58d. 56m. Long. from London 94d. 50m. West. Captain
Middleton, a Member of the Royal Society, who had made many
Voyages thither, and winter'd there 1741 -- 2, when he was in Search
of the North-West Passage to the South-Sea, gives an Account of
it to that Society, from which I have extracted these Particulars,
viz.

The Hares, Rabbits, Foxes, and Partridges, in September and
the Beginning of October, change their Colour to a snowy White, and
continue white till the following Spring.

The Lakes and standing Waters, which are not above 10 or 12
Feet deep, are frozen to the Ground in Winter, and the Fishes therein
all perish. Yet in Rivers near the Sea, and Lakes of a greater Depth
than 10 or 12 Feet, Fishes are caught all the Winter, by cutting
Holes thro' the Ice, and therein putting Lines and Hooks. As soon as

the Fish are brought into the open Air, they instantly freeze stiff.

Beef, Pork, Mutton, and Venison, kill'd in the Beginning of the Winter, are preserved by the Frost for 6 or 7 Months, entirely free from Putrefaction. Likewise Geese, Partridges, and other Fowls, kill'd at the same Time, and kept with their Feathers on and Guts in, are preserv'd by the Frost, and prove good Eating. All Kinds of Fish are preserv'd in the same Manner.

In large Lakes and Rivers, the Ice is sometimes broken by imprison'd Vapours; and the Rocks, Trees, Joists, and Rafters of our Buildings, are burst with a Noise not less terrible than the firing of many Guns together. The Rocks which are split by the Frost, are heaved up in great Heaps, leaving large Cavities behind. If Beer or Water be left even in Copper Pots by the Bed-side, the Pots will be split before Morning. Bottles of strong Beer, Brandy, strong Brine, Spirits of Wine, set out in the open Air for 3 or 4 Hours, freeze to solid Ice. The Frost is never out of the Ground, how deep is not certain; but on digging 10 or 12 Feet down in the two Summer Months, it has been found hard frozen.

All the Water they use for Cooking, Brewing, _&c._ is melted Snow and Ice; no Spring is yet found free from freezing, tho' dug

ever so deep down. -- All Waters inland, are frozen fast by the
Beginning of _October_, and continue so to the Middle of _May._

The Walls of the Houses are of Stone, two Feet thick; the
Windows very small, with thick wooden Shutters, which are close shut
18 Hours every Day in Winter. In the Cellars they put their Wines,
Brandies, _&c._ Four large Fires are made every Day, in great Stoves
to warm the Rooms: As soon as the Wood is burnt down to a Coal, the
Tops of the Chimnies are close stopped, with an Iron Cover; this
keeps the Heat in, but almost stifles the People. And
notwithstanding this, in 4 or 5 Hours after the Fire is out, the
Inside of the Walls and Bed-places will be 2 or 3 Inches thick with
Ice, which is every Morning cut away with a Hatchet. Three or four
Times a Day, Iron Shot, of 24 Pounds Weight, are made red hot, and
hung up in the Windows of their Apartments, to moderate the Air that
comes in at Crevices; yet this, with a Fire kept burning the greatest
Part of 24 Hours, will not prevent Beer, Wine, Ink, _&c._ from
Freezing.

For their Winter Dress, a Man makes use of three Pair of Socks,
of coarse Blanketting, or Duffeld, for the Feet, with a Pair of
Deerskin Shoes over them; two Pair of thick _English_ Stockings, and
a Pair of Cloth Stockings upon them; Breeches lined with Flannel; two

or three _English_ Jackets, and a Fur, or Leather Gown over them; a large Beaver Cap, double, to come over the Face and Shoulders, and a Cloth of Blanketting under the Chin; with Yarn Gloves, and a large Pair of Beaver Mittins, hanging down from the Shoulders before, to put the Hands in, reaching up as high as the Elbows. Yet notwithstanding this warm Clothing, those that stir Abroad when any Wind blows from the Northward, are sometimes dreadfully frozen; some have their Hands, Arms, and Face blistered and froze in a terrible Manner, the Skin coming off soon after they enter a warm House, and some lose their Toes. And keeping House, or lying-in for the Cure of these Disorders, brings on the Scurvy, which many die of, and few are free from; nothing preventing it but Exercise and stirring Abroad.

The Fogs and Mists, brought by northerly Winds in Winter, appear visible to the naked Eye to be Icicles innumerable, as small as fine Hairs, and pointed as sharp as Needles. These Icicles lodge in their Clothes, and if their Faces and Hands are uncover'd, presently raise Blisters as white as a Linnen Cloth, and as hard as Horn. Yet if they immediately turn their Back to the Weather, and can bear a Hand out of the Mitten, and with it rub the blister'd Part for a small Time, they sometimes bring the Skin to its former State; if not, they make the best of their Way to a Fire, bathe the Part in hot Water, and thereby dissipate the Humours raised by the frozen

Air; otherwise the Skin wou'd be off in a short Time, with much hot,
serous, watry Matter, coming from under along with the Skin; and this
happens to some almost every Time they go Abroad, for 5 or 6 Months
in the Winter, so extreme cold is the Air, when the Wind blows any
Thing strong. -- Thus far Captain _Middleton._ And now, my tender
Reader, thou that shudderest when the Wind blows a little at N-West,
and criest, _'Tis extrrrrream cohohold! 'Tis terrrrrrible cohohold!_
what dost thou think of removing to that delightful Country? Or dost
thou not rather chuse to stay in _Pennsylvania_, thanking God that
He has caused thy Lines to fall in pleasant Places.

_I am,

Thy Friend to serve thee,

R. SAUNDERS.

Robbers must exalted be,
Small ones on the Gallow-Tree,
While greater ones ascend to Thrones,
But what is that to thee or me?

Lost Time is never found again.

On the 19th of this Month, _Anno_ 1493, was born the famous
Astronomer _Copernicus_, to whom we owe the Invention, or rather the
Revival (it being taught by _Pythagoras_ near 2000 Years before) of
that now generally receiv'd System of the World which bears his Name,
and supposes the Sun in the Center, this Earth a Planet revolving
round it in 365 Days, 6 Hours, _&c._ and that Day and Night are
caused by the Turning of the Earth on its own Axis once round in 24
h. _&c._ The _Ptolomean_ System, which prevail'd before _Copernicus_,
suppos'd the Earth to be fix'd, and that the Sun went round it daily.
Mr. _Whiston_, a modern Astronomer, says, the Sun is 230,000 times
bigger than the Earth, and 81 Millions of Miles distant from it: That
vast Body must then have mov'd more than 480 Millions of Miles in 24
h. A prodigious Journey round this little Spot! How much more
natural is _Copernicus_'s Scheme! -- _Ptolomy_ is compar'd to a
whimsical Cook, who, instead of Turning his Meat in Roasting, should
fix That, and contrive to have his whole Fire, Kitchen and all,
whirling continually round it.

To lead a virtuous Life, my Friends, and get to Heaven
in Season,
You've just so much more Need of _Faith_, as you have
less of _Reason._

To avoid Pleurisies, _&c._ in cool Weather; Fevers, Fluxes,
&c. in hot; beware of _Over-Eating_ and _Over-Heating._

The Heathens when they dy'd, went to Bed without a Candle.

Knives & Nettles are akin;
stroak 'em kindly, yet they'll sting.

On the 20th of this month, 1727, died the prince of astronomers
and philosophers, sir _Isaac Newton_, aged 85 years: Who, as
Thomson expresses it, _Trac'd the boundless works of God, from laws
sublimely simple._

What were his raptures then! how pure! how strong!
And what the triumphs of old _Greece_ and _Rome_,
By his diminish'd, but the pride of boys
In some small fray victorious! when instead
Of shatter'd parcels of this earth usurp'd
By violence unmanly, and sore deeds
Of cruelty and blood; _Nature_ herself
Stood all-subdu'd by him, and open laid

Her every latent glory to his view.

Mr. _Pope_'s epitaph on sir _Isaac Newton_, is justly admired
for its conciseness, strength, boldness, and sublimity:

Nature and nature's laws lay hid in night;

God said, _Let_ NEWTON _be_, and all was light.

Life with Fools consists in Drinking;

With the wise Man Living's Thinking.

Eilen thut selten gut.

On the 25th of this month, _Anno_ 1599, was OLIVER CROMWELL
born, the son of a private gentleman, but became the conqueror and
protector (some say the tyrant) of three great kingdoms. His son
Richard succeeded him, but being of an easy peaceable disposition,
he soon descended from that lofty station, and became a private man,
living, unmolested, to a good old age; for he died not till about the
latter end of queen _Anne_'s reign, at his lodgings in
Lombard-street, where he had lived many years unknown, and seen

great changes in government, and violent struggles for that, which,
by experience, he knew could afford no solid happiness.

Oliver was once about to remove to _New-England_, his goods
being on shipboard; but somewhat alter'd his mind. There he would
doubtless have risen to be a _Select Man_, perhaps a _Governor_; and
then might have had 100 bushels of _Indian_ corn _per Annum_, the
salary of a governor of that then small colony in those days.

Sell-cheap kept Shop on _Goodwin Sands_, and yet had Store of
Custom.

Liberality is not giving much but giving wisely.

Finikin _Dick_, curs'd with nice Taste,
Ne'er meets with good dinner, half starv'd at a feast.

Alas! that Heroes ever were made!

The _Plague_, and the _Hero_, are both of a Trade!

Yet the Plague spares our Goods which the Heroe does not;

So a Plague take such Heroes and let their Fames rot.

Q. P. D.

The 19th of this month, 1719, died the celebrated _Joseph Addison_, Esq; aged 47, whose writings have contributed more to the improvement of the minds of the _British_ nation, and polishing their manners, than those of any other _English_ pen whatever.

To Friend, Lawyer, Doctor, tell plain your whole Case;

Nor think on bad Matters to put a good Face:

How can they advise, if they see but a Part?

'Tis very ill driving black Hogs in the dark.

Suspicion may be no Fault, but shewing it may be a great one.

He that's secure is not safe.

The second Vice is Lying; the first is Running in Debt.

The Muses love the Morning.

Muschitoes, or _Musketoos_, a little venomous fly, so light,

that perhaps 50 of them, before they've fill'd their bellies, scarce
weigh a grain, yet each has all the parts necessary to life, motion,
digestion, generation, _&c._ as veins, arteries, muscles, _&c._ each
has in his little body room for the five senses of seeing, hearing,
feeling, smelling, tasting: How inconceivably small must their organs
be! How inexpressibly fine the workmanship! And yet there are
little animals discovered by the microscope, to whom a _Musketto_ is
an _Elephant_! -- In a scarce summer any citizen may provide
Musketoes sufficient for his own family, by leaving tubs of
rain-water uncover'd in his yard; for in such water they lay their
eggs, which when hatch'd, become first little fish, afterwards put
forth legs and wings, leave the water, and fly into your windows.
Probatum est.

Two Faults of one a Fool will make;
He half repairs, that owns & does forsake.

Harry Smatter,
has a Mouth for every Matter.

When you're good to others, you are best to yourself.

Half Wits talk much but say little.

If _Jack's_ in love, he's no judge of _Jill_'s Beauty.

Most Fools think they are only ignorant.

On the 14th of this month, _Anno_ 1644, was born WILLIAM PENN,
the great founder of this Province; who prudently and benevolently
sought success to himself by no other means, than securing the
liberty, and endeavouring the _happiness_ of his people. Let no
envious mind grudge his posterity those advantages which arise to
them from the wisdom and goodness of their ancestor; and to which
their own merit, as well as the laws, give them an additional title.

On the 28th, _Anno_ 1704, died the famous _John Locke_, Esq;
the _Newton_ of the _Microcosm_: For, as _Thomson_ says,

He made the whole internal world _his own._

His book on the _Human Understanding_, shows it. _Microcosm_,
honest reader, is a hard word, and, they say, signifies the _little
world_, man being so called, as containing within himself the four

elements of the _greater_, &c. &c. I here explain _Greek_ to thee by
English, which, I think, is rather a more intelligible way, than
explaining _English_ by _Greek_, as a certain writer does, who
gravely tells us, _Man is rightly called_ a little world, _because he
is a_ Microcosm.

On the 29th, _Anno_ 1618, was the famous sir _Walter Rawleigh_
beheaded; to the eternal shame of the attorney-general, who first
prosecuted him, and of the king, who ratify'd the sentence.

How happy is he, who can satisfy his hunger with any
food, quench his thirst with any drink, please his ear with any
musick, delight his eye with any painting, any sculpture, any
architecture, and divert his mind with any book or any company! How
many mortifications must he suffer, that cannot bear any thing but
beauty, order, elegance & perfection! _Your man of_ taste, _is
nothing but a man of_ distaste.

Pardoning the Bad, is injuring the Good.

He is not well-bred, that cannot bear Ill-Breeding in others.

In Christmas feasting pray take care;

Let not your table be a Snare;

but with the Poor God's Bounty share.

·
Poor Richard Improved

1749

Wealth and Content are not always Bed-fellows.

Wise Men learn by others harms; Fools by their own.

On the 7th of this month 1692 died _Robert Boyle_, Esq; one of the greatest philosophers the last age produced. He first brought the machine called an _Airpump_, into use; by which many of the surprizing properties of that wonderful element were discovered and demonstrated. His knowledge of natural history, and skill in chymistry, were very great and extensive; and his piety inferior to neither.

----- BOYLE, _whose pious search

Amid the dark recesses of his works

The great_ CREATOR _sought:_ ----- Thomson.

is therefore an instance, that tho' _Ignorance_ may in some be the
Mother of Devotion, yet true learning and exalted piety are by no means
inconsistent.

When we read in antient history of the speeches made by
generals to very numerous armies, we sometimes wonder how they could
be well heard; but supposing the men got together so close, that each
took up no more ground than two foot in breadth, and one in depth,
45000 might stand in a space that was but 100 yards square, and 21780
on a single acre of ground. There are many voices that may be heard
at 100 yards distance.

The end of Passion is the beginning of Repentance.

Words may shew a man's Wit, but _Actions_ his Meaning.

On the 18th of this month, _anno_ 1546 died that famous reformer, LUTHER: who struck the great blow to papal tyranny in _Europe._ He was remarkably _temperate_ in meat and drink, sometimes fasting four days together; and at other times, for many days eating only a little bread and a herring. _Cicero_ says, _There was never any_ great _man_ who was not an_ industrious _man_; to which may, perhaps, be added, _There was never any_ industrious _man_ who was not a_ temperate _man_: For intemperance in diet, abates the vigour and dulls the action both of mind and body.

OF SOUND.

Mr. _Flamstead_, Dr. _Halley_ and Mr. _Derham_, agree that sound moves 1142 feet in a second, which is one _English_ mile in 4 seconds and 5 8ths; that it moves in the same time in every different state of the atmosphere; that winds hardly make any difference in its velocity; that a languid or loud sound moves with the same velocity; and that different kinds of sounds, as of bells, guns, &c. have the same velocity, and are equally swift in the beginning as end of their motion.

'Tis a well spent penny that saves a groat.

Many Foxes grow grey, but few grow good.

Presumption first blinds a Man, then sets him a running.

The nose of a lady here, is not delighted with perfumes that
she understands are in _Arabia._ Fine musick in _China_ gives no
pleasure to the nicest ear in _Pennsylvania._ Nor does the most
exquisite dish serv'd up in _Japan_, regale a luxurious palate in any
other country. But the benevolent mind of a virtuous man, is
pleas'd, when it is inform'd of good and generous actions, in what
part of the world soever they are done.

A cold April,

The Barn will fill.

Content makes poor men rich; Discontent makes rich Men poor.

Too much plenty makes Mouth dainty.

On the 7th of this month, 1626, died that _great little_ man,
Sir FRANCIS BACON; _great_ in his prodigious genius, parts and
learning; and _little_, in his servile compliances with a _little_
court, and submissive flattery of a _little_ prince. _Pope_
characterises him thus, in one strong line;

If Parts allure thee, think how BACON _shin'd,
The wisest, brightest, meanest of mankind._

He is justly esteem'd the father of the modern experimental
philosophy. And another poet treats him more favourably, ascribing
his blemishes to a wrong unfortunate choice of his way of Life;

----- BACON, hapless in his choice,
Unfit to stand the civil storm of state,
And thro' the smooth barbarity of courts,
With firm, but pliant virtue, forward still
To urge his course. Him for the studious shade
Kind nature form'd, deep, comprehensive, clear,
Exact, and elegant; in one rich soul,
PLATO, the STAGYRITE, and TULLY join'd.
The great deliverer he! who from the gloom

Of cloister'd monks, and jargon-teaching schools,
Led forth the true Philosophy, there long
Held in the magic chain of words and forms,
And definitions void: He led her forth,
Daughter of HEAV'N! that slow ascending still,
Investigating sure the chain of things,
With radiant finger points to HEAV'N again.

If _Passion_ drives, let _Reason_ hold the Reins.

Neither trust, nor contend, nor lay wagers, nor lend;
And you'll have peace to your Lives end.

Drink does not drown _Care_, but waters it, and makes it grow
faster.

Who dainties love, shall Beggars prove.

On the 27th anno 1564, died at _Geneva_ that famous reformer,
Mr. _John Calvin_, A man of equal _temperance_ and _sobriety_ with
Luther, and perhaps yet greater _industry_. His lectures were
yearly 186, his sermons yearly 286; he published besides every year

some great volume in folio; to which add his constant employments, in governing the church, answering letters from all parts of the reformed world, from pastors, concerning doubts, or asking ocounsel, &c. &c. He ate little meat, and slept but very little; and as his whole time was filled up with useful action, he may be said to have lived lon, tho' he died at 55 years of age; since sleep and sloth can hardly be called living.

A Man has no more Goods than he gets Good by.

Welcome, Mischief, if thou comest alone.

Different Sects like different clocks, may be all near the matter, 'tho they don't quite agree.

On the 15th of this month, anno 1215, was Magna Charta sign'd by King John, for declaring and establishing English Liberty.

It was wise counsel given to a young man, Pitch upon that course of life which is most excellent, and CUSTOM will make it the

most delightful._ But many pitch on no course of life at all, nor
form any scheme of living, by which to attain any valuable end; but
wander perpetually from one thing to another.

Hast thou not yet propos'd some certain end,
To which thy life, thy every act may tend?
Hast thou no mark at which to bend thy bow?
Or like a boy pursu'st the carrion crow
With pellets and with stones, from tree to tree,
A fruitless toil, and liv'st _extempore_?
Watch the disease in time: For when, within
The dropsy rages, and extends the skin,
In vain for helebore the patient cries,
And sees the doctor, but too late is wise:
Too late for cure, he proffers half his wealth;
Ten thousand doctors cannot give him health.
Learn, wretches, learn the motions of the mind,
Why you were mad, for what you were design'd,
And the great _moral end_ of human kind.
Study thy self; what rank or what degree,
The wise creator has ordain'd for thee:
And all the offices of that estate,
Perform, and with thy prudence guide thy fate.

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

Pretty & _Witty_,

will wound if they hit ye.

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

Tis a laudable Ambition, that aims at being better than his

Neighbours.

The wise Man draws more Advantage from his Enemies, than the

Fool from his Friends.

PRIDE is said to be the _last_ vice the good man gets clear of.

'Tis a meer _Proteus_, and disguises itself under all manner of

appearances, putting on sometimes even the mask of _humility._ If

some are proud of neatness and propriety of dress; others are equally

so of despising it, and acting the perpetual sloven.

All would live long, but none would
be old.

Declaiming against Pride, is not always a Sign of Humility.

Neglect kills Injuries, Revenge increases them.

9 Men in 10 are suicides.

Doing an Injury puts you below your Enemy; _Revenging_ one
makes you but _even_ with him; _Forgiving_ it sets you _above_ him.

Most of the Learning in use, is of no great Use.

Great Good-nature, without Prudence, is a great Misfortune.

Keep Conscience clear,

Then never fear.

A Man in a Passion rides a mad Horse.

Reader farewell, all Happiness attend thee;

May each New-Year, better and richer find thee.

On the 25th of this month, _anno_ 1642, was born the great Sir
ISAAC NEWTON, prince of the modern astronomers and philosophers. But
what is all our little boasted knowledge, compar'd with that of the
angels? If they see our actions, and are acquainted with our
affairs, our whole body of science must appear to them as little
better than ignorance; and the common herd of our learned men, scarce
worth their notice. Now and then one of our very great philosophers,
an _Aristotle_, or a _Newton_, may, perhaps, by his most refined
speculations, afford them a little entertainment, as it seems a
mimicking of their own sublime amusements. Hence _Pope_ says of the
latter,

_Superior beings, when of late they saw
A mortal man unfold all nature's law,
Admir'd such wisdom in a human shape,
And shew'd a _Newton_, _as we shew an ape._

How to get RICHES.

The Art of getting Riches consists very much in THRIFT. All Men

are not equally qualified for getting Money, but it is in the Power of every one alike to practise this Virtue.

He that would be beforehand in the World, must be beforehand with his Business: It is not only ill Management, but discovers a slothful Disposition, to do that in the Afternoon, which should have been done in the Morning.

Useful Attainments in your Minority will procure Riches in Maturity, of which Writing and Accounts are not the meanest.

Learning, whether Speculative or Practical, is, in Popular or Mixt Governments, the Natural Source of Wealth and Honour.

PRECEPT I.

In Things of moment, on thy self depend,
Nor trust too far thy Servant or thy Friend:
With private Views, thy Friend may promise fair,
And Servants very seldom prove sincere.

PRECEPT II.

What can be done, with Care perform to Day,
Dangers unthought-of will attend Delay;

Your distant Prospects all precarious are,
And Fortune is as fickle as she's fair.

PRECEPT III.

Nor trivial Loss, nor trivial Gain despise;
Molehills, if often heap'd, to Mountains rise:
Weigh every small Expence, and nothing waste,
Farthings long sav'd, amount to Pounds at last.

._Poor Richard Improved._

1750

To the READER.

The Hope of acquiring lasting FAME, is, with many Authors, a most powerful Motive to Writing. Some, tho' few, have succeeded; and others, tho' perhaps fewer, may succeed hereafter, and be as well known to Posterity by their Works, as the Antients are to us. We _Philomaths_, as ambitious of Fame as any other Writers whatever, after all our painful Watchings and laborious Calculations, have the constant Mortification to see our Works thrown by at the End of the Year, and treated as mere waste Paper. Our only Consolation is, that short-lived as they are, they out-live those of most of our

Cotemporaries.

Yet, condemned to renew the Sisyphean Toil, we every Year
heave another heavy Mass up the Muses Hill, which never can the
Summit reach, and soon comes tumbling down again.

This, kind Reader, is my seventeenth Labour of the Kind. Thro'
thy continued Good-will, they have procur'd me, if no Bays, at
least Pence; and the latter is perhaps the better of the two; since
'tis not improbable that a Man may receive more solid Satisfaction
from Pudding, while he is living, than from Praise, after he is
dead.

In my last, a few Faults escap'd; some belong to the Author,
but most to the Printer: Let each take his Share of the Blame,
confess, and amend for the future. In the second Page of August, I
mention'd 120 as the next perfect Number to 28; it was wrong, 120
being no perfect Number; the next to 28 I find to be 496. The first
is 6; let the curious Reader, fond of mathematical Questions, find
the fourth. In the 2d Page of March, in some Copies, the Earth's
Circumference was said to be nigh 4000, instead of 24000 Miles, the
Figure 2 being omitted at the Beginning. This was Mr. Printer's
Fault; who being also somewhat niggardly of his Vowels, as well as

profuse of his Consonants, put in one Place, among the Poetry, _mad_, instead of _made_, and in another _wrapp'd_, instead of _warp'd_; to the utter demolishing of all Sense in those Lines, leaving nothing standing but the Rhime. These, and some others, of the like kind, let the Readers forgive, or rebuke him for, as to their Wisdom and Goodness shall seem meet: For in such Cases the Loss and Damage is chiefly to the Reader, who, if he does not take my Sense at first Reading, 'tis odds he never gets it; for ten to one he does not read my Works a second Time.

Printers indeed should be very careful how they omit a Figure or a Letter: For by such Means sometimes a terrible Alteration is made in the Sense. I have heard, that once, in a new Edition of the _Common Prayer_, the following Sentence, _We shall all be changed in a Moment, in the Twinkling of an Eye_; by the Omission of a single Letter, became, _We shall all be hanged in a Moment,_ &c. to the no small Surprise of the first Congregation it was read to.

May this Year prove a happy One to Thee and Thine, is the hearty Wish of, Kind Reader,

Thy obliged Friend,

R. SAUNDERS.

There are three Things extreamly hard, Steel, a Diamond and to know one's self.

Hunger is the best Pickle.

He is a Governor that governs his Passions, and he a Servant that serves them.

A Cypher and Humility make the other Figures & Virtues of ten-fold Value.

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

Wouldst thou confound thine Enemy, be good thy self.

Pride is as loud a Beggar as _Want_, and a great deal more saucy.

Pay what you owe, and what you're worth you'll know.

Sorrow is good for nothing but Sin.

Many a Man thinks he is buying Pleasure, when he is really
selling himself a Slave to it.

Graft good Fruit all,
Or graft not at all.

Tis hard (but glorious) to be poor and honest: An empty Sack
can hardly stand upright; but if it does, 'tis a stout one!

He that can bear a Reproof, and mend by it, if he is not wise,
is in a fair way of being so.

Beatus esse sine Virtute, nemo potest.

Sound, & sound Doctrine, may pass through a Ram's Horn, and a
Preacher, without straitening the one, or amending the other.

Clean your Finger, before you point at my Spots.

He that spills the Rum, loses that only; He that drinks it,
often loses both that and himself.

That Ignorance makes devout, if right the Notion,

'Troth, _Rufus_, thou'rt a Man of great Devotion.

What an admirable Invention is Writing, by which a Man may communicate his Mind without opening his Mouth, and at 1000 Leagues Distance, and even to future Ages, only by the Help of 22 Letters, which may be joined 5852616738497664000 Ways, and will express all Things in a very narrow Compass. 'Tis a Pity this excellent Art has not preserved the Name and Memory of its Inventor.

Those that have much Business must have much Pardon.

Discontented Minds, and Fevers of the Body are not to be cured by changing Beds or Businesses.

Little Strokes,
Fell great Oaks.

You may be too cunning for One, but not for All.

Genius without Education is like Silver in the Mine.

Many would live by their Wits, but break for want of Stock.

Poor _Plain dealing_! dead without Issue!

You can bear your own Faults, and why not a Fault in your Wife.

Tho' Modesty is a Virtue, Bashfulness is a Vice.

Hide not your Talents, they for Use were made.

What's a Sun-Dial in the Shade!

What signifies knowing the Names, if you know not the Natures
of Things.

Tim was so learned, that he could name a Horse in nine
Languages; So ignorant, that he bought a Cow to ride on.

The Golden Age never was the present Age.

'Tis a Shame that your Family is an Honour to you! You ought
to be an Honour to your Family.

Glass, China, and Reputation, are easily crack'd, and never

well mended.

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Poor Richard Improved

1751

COURTEOUS READER,

Astrology is one of the most ancient Sciences, had in high

Esteem of old, by the Wise and Great. Formerly, no Prince would make

War or Peace, nor any General fight a Battle, in short, no important

Affair was undertaken without first consulting an _Astrologer_, who

examined the Aspects and Configurations of the heavenly Bodies, and

mark'd the _lucky Hour._ Now the noble Art (more Shame to the Age we

live in!) is dwindled into Contempt; the Great neglect us, Empires

make Leagues, and Parliaments Laws, without advising with us; and

scarce any other Use is made of our learned Labours, than to find the

best Time of cutting Corns, or gelding Pigs. -- This Mischief we owe

in a great Measure to ourselves: The Ignorant Herd of Mankind, had

they not been encourag'd to it by some of us, would never have dared

to depreciate our sacred Dictates; but _Urania_ has been betray'd by

her own Sons; those whom she had favour'd with the greatest Skill in

her divine Art, the most eminent Astronomers among the Moderns, the

Newtons, _Halleys_, and _Whistons_, have wantonly contemn'd and

abus'd her, contrary to the Light of their own Consciences. Of

these, only the last nam'd, _Whiston_, has liv'd to repent, and speak his Mind honestly. In his former Works he had treated _Judiciary Astrology_ as a Chimera, and asserted, That not only the fixed Stars, but the Planets (Sun and Moon excepted) were at so immense a Distance, as to be incapable of any Influence on this Earth, and consequently nothing could be foretold from their Positions: but now in the Memoirs of his Life, publish'd 1749, in the 82d Year of his Age, he foretels, Page 607, the sudden Destruction of the _Turkish_ Empire, and of the House of _Austria_, _German_ Emperors, _&c._ and _Popes_ of _Rome_; the Restoration of the _Jews_, and Commencement of the _Millennium_; all by the Year 1766; and this not only from Scripture Prophecies; but (take his own Words) -- "From the remarkable _astronomical_ Signals that are to alarm Mankind of what is coming, _viz._ The _Northern Lights_ since 1715; the six Comets at the Protestant Reformation in four Years, 1530, 1531, 1533, 1534, compar'd with the seven Comets already seen in these last eleven Years 1737, 1739, 1742, 1743, 1744, 1746, and 1748. -- From the great Annular Eclipse of the Sun, _July_ 14, 1748, whose Center pass'd through all the four Monarchies, from _Scotland_ to the _East-Indies._ -- From the Occultation of the _Pleiades_ by the Moon each periodical Month, after the Eclipse last _July_, for above three Years, visible to the whole _Roman_ Empire; as there was a like Occultation of the _Hyades_ from _A._ 590, to _A._ 595, for six Years

foretold by _Isaiah._ -- From the Transit of _Mercury_ over the
Sun, _April_ 25, 1753, which will be visible thro' that Empire. --
From the Comet of _A. D._ 1456, 1531, 1607, and 1682, which will
appear again about 1757 ending, or 1758 beginning, and will also be
visible thro' that Empire. -- From the Transit of _Venus_ over the
Sun, _May_ 26, 1761, which will be visible over the same Empire:
And lastly, from the annular Eclipse of the _Sun_, _March_ 11, 1764,
which will be visible over the same Empire." -- From these
Astronomical Signs, he foretels those great Events, That within 16
Years from this Time, "the _Millennium_ or 1000 Years Reign of Christ
shall begin, there shall be a _new Heavens_, and a _new Earth_; there
shall be no more an Infidel in _Christendom_, Page 398, nor a
Gaming-Table at _Tunbridge_!" -- When these Predictions are
accomplished, what glorious Proofs they will be of the Truth of our
Art? -- And if they happen to fail, there is no doubt but so profound
an Astronomer as Mr. _Whiston_, will be able to see _other_ Signs in
the Heavens, foreshowing that the Conversion of Infidels was to be
postponed, and the _Millennium_ adjourn'd. -- After these great
Things can any Man doubt our being capable of predicting a little
Rain or Sun-shine? -- Reader, Farewell, and make the best Use of your
Years and your Almanacks, for you see, that according to _Whiston_,
you may have at most, but sixteen more of them.

R. SAUNDERS.

Patowmack, July 30, 1750.

Pray don't burn my House to roast your Eggs.

Some _Worth_ it argues, a Friend's _Worth_ to know;

Virtue to own the Virtue of a Foe.

Prosperity discovers Vice, Adversity Virtue.

The _Romans_ were 477 Years, without so much as a Sun-dial to show the Time of Day: The first they had was brought from _Sicily_, by _Valerius Messala_: One hundred and eighteen Years afterwards, _Scipio Nasica_, produced to them an Invention for measuring the Hours in cloudy Weather, it was by the Dropping of Water out of one Vessel into another, somewhat like our Sand-Glasses. Clocks and Watches, to shew the Hour, are very modern Inventions. The Sub-dividing Hours into Minutes, and Minutes into Seconds, by those curious Machines, is not older than the Days of our Fathers, but now brought to a surprising Nicety.

Since our Time is reduced to a Standard, and the Bullion of the

Day minted out into Hours, the Industrious know how to employ every
Piece of Time to a real Advantage in their different Professions: And
he that is prodigal of his Hours, is, in Effect, a Squanderer of
Money. I remember a notable Woman, who was fully sensible of the
intrinsic Value of _Time._ Her Husband was a Shoemaker, and an
excellent Craftsman, but never minded how the Minutes passed. In
vain did she inculcate to him, That _Time is Money._ He had too much
Wit to apprehend her, and it prov'd his Ruin. When at the Alehouse
among his idle Companions, if one remark'd that the Clock struck
Eleven, _What is that,_ says he, _among us all?_ If she sent him Word
by the Boy, that it had struck Twelve; _Tell her to be easy, it can
never be more._ If, that it had struck One, _Bid her be comforted,
for it can never be less._

If we lose our Money, it gives us some Concern. If we are
cheated or robb'd of it, we are angry: But Money lost may be found;
what we are robb'd of may be restored: The Treasure of Time once
lost, can never be recovered; yet we squander it as tho' 'twere
nothing worth, or we had no Use for it.

The Bell strikes _One_: We take no Note of Time,
But from its Loss. To give it then a Tongue
Is wise in Man. If heard aright

It is the Knell of our departed Hours;

Where are they? With the Years beyond the Flood:

It is the Signal that demands Dispatch;

How much is to be done? -----

Be wise To-day, 'tis Madness to defer;

Next day the fatal Precedent will plead;

Thus on, till Wisdom is push'd out of Life:

Procrastination is the Thief of Time,

Year after Year it steals till all are fled,

And to the Mercies of a Moment leaves

The vast Concerns of an eternal Scene.

If not so frequent, would not this be strange?

That 'tis so frequent, _This_ is stranger still.

Many a Man would have been worse, if his Estate had been

better.

We may give Advice, but we cannot give Conduct.

He that is conscious of a Stink in his Breeches, is jealous of

every Wrinkle in another's Nose.

Love and _Tooth-ach_ have many Cures, but none infallible,
except _Possession_ and _Dispossession._

There are lazy Minds as well as lazy Bodies.

Most People return small Favours, acknowledge middling ones,
and repay great ones with Ingratitude.

That admirable Instrument the MICROSCOPE has opened to us of
these latter Ages, a World utterly unknown to the Ancients. There
are very few Substances, in which it does not shew something curious
and unexpected; but for the Sake of such Readers as are unacquainted
with that Instrument, I shall set down some of the most remarkably
entertaining Objects, upon which actual Observations have been made.

1. The Globules of the Blood, which are computed to be almost a
two thousandth Part of an Inch in Diameter, each consisting of six
small Globules, each of which again probably consists of six smaller,
and so on. The Circulation of the Blood is to be seen very
distinctly in the Tail of a small Fish, the Web of the Foot of a
Frog, _&c._ and the Globules to split and divide, before they can
enter the smallest Vessels.

2. The Bones of all Creatures, sliced extremely thin, afford an entertaining Object for the Microscope, consisting of innumerable Perforations, and Ramifications, disposed in an endless Variety of Forms.

3. The Flesh of all Land and Sea Animals dried, and cut into very thin Slices, gives a beautiful View of the various Fibres, and their Convolutions. The Brain, the spinal Marrow, and even the Hairs of Animals, exhibit different Curiosities.

4. The human Skin, by the Help of the Microscope, is found to be covered over with an infinite Number of Scales lying over one another, as in fishes; and it is probably the same in other Animals. It has been computed that a Grain of Sand will cover two hundred of these Scales.

5. All Sorts of Feathers, especially those of the Peacock, afford a surprizing View in the Microscope. It is supposed that a single Feather contains no less than a Million of different Parts.

6. Flies are found by the Microscope to be produced from Eggs laid by the Mothers, from whence they are hatched in the Form of

Maggots, or small Worms, which are afterwards transformed into Aurelias, and these into perfect Flies. This is the Process most of the winged Insects go through in their Production. They have a great Number of Eyes fixed to their Heads, so that they see on all Sides around them, without turning their Heads or Eyes. A common Fly is supposed to have eight thousand, and a great Drone Fly no less than fourteen thousand Eyes, with a distinct optic Nerve to each; and each Eye appears through the Microscope, tho' magnified many hundred thousand Times, more exactly shaped, and more curiously polished, than human Art could finish an Object as large as the whole Cluster, containing seven thousand distinct ones. The Wings of Flies, especially of the Moth and Butterfly Kind, are found to be contrived with admirable Art, to answer their Use, and with inimitable Beauty and Ornament. The Dust, which sticks to the Fingers, when we handle them, is found to be Feathers; each of which has its Quill and vane Parts as compleat as that of a Fowl or a Goose, and are inserted in the Film of the Wing, with the utmost Regularity of Arrangement. With the Microscope, the Stings of Moths and Bees appear to be Instruments finished to the highest Perfection; their Points, and saw-like Teeth, being perfectly polished and sharp; whereas the Edge of a Razor appears like that of a Butcher's Cleaver, and the Point of a Lancet like an iron Spike just come from the Anvil.

7. By the Help of the Microscope the innumerable and
inconceivably minute Animalcules in various Fluids are discovered, of
the Existence of which we have no Reason to suppose any Mortal had
the least Suspicion, till last Century. In the Melt of a single
Cod-fish ten Times more living Creatures are contained, than the
Inhabitants of _Europe_, _Asia_, _Africa_, and _America_, taking it
for granted, that all Parts of the World are as well peopled as
Holland, which is very far from being the Case. Of a certain
Species some are discovered so extremely minute, that it has been
computed, three Millions of them, or three Times the Number of the
Inhabitants of _London_ and _Westminster_, would not equal the Bulk
of a Grain of Sand. Of Animalcules, some Species resemble Tadpoles,
Serpents or Eels, others are of a roundish or oval Form, others of
very curiously turned and various Shapes; but in general they are
extremely vigorous and lively, and almost constantly in Motion.
Animalcules are to be found (besides those in the Bodies of Animals)
in the Infusions of Pepper, Senna, Pinks, Roses, Jessamin, Tea,
Raspberry Stalks, Fennel, Sage, Melons, sour Grapes, Wheat, Hay,
Straw, and almost all vegetable Substances; in the Water, that is in
the Shells of Oysters, Cockles, and other Shell-fish, in the Foulness
upon our Teeth, and those of other Animals, in our Skins when
affected with certain Diseases; in Vinegar, and Paste, and so on
infinitely. In each of these Substances, when exposed to the Air

some Time, Multitudes of living Creatures, beyond the Reach of Numbers, are discovered, of which many Hundreds of Species are already known, as different from one another as those of the largest Animals, and very probably there are many more yet unknown. As it is certain, that in the above mentioned Fluids few or no Animalcules are to be found, when covered from the Air, but when open to the Access of the Air, their Numbers are beyond reckoning; it is hardly to be doubted, but that either the Air is replete with infinite Multitudes of living Creatures too small for Sight, which come and deposite their Eggs in Places proper for the Nutrition of the Young, or that their Eggs are floating every where in the Air, and falling promiscuously every where, only those are hatched, or come to Perfection, which fall upon Places fitted for them, and the others perish. However it is, the countless Numbers of those living Creatures, the Profusion of Life every where to be observed, is above Measure astonishing, and shews the Maker to be an infinite Being.

8. By the Help of the Microscope, we find that the Scales of almost every different Fish are different from those of others, in internal Texture; and that all of them are wrought with surprising Art and Beauty.

9. By Means of this noble Instrument we find, that the Seeds of

almost all Manner of Vegetables contain in them the Stamina of the future Plant or Tree, and that their Production from the Seed, and their Growth to Maturity is only the Swelling and Enlarging of the Stamina by the Addition of nutritious Juices. It is probable the Manner of Production and Growth of Animals is analogous to this. The Fertility of some Plants is almost beyond Belief. One particularly is said by Naturalists to produce annually a Million of Seeds from one. The Farina of Flowers is found by the Help of the Microscope to be a regular organized Body, and not a meer Dust, as it appears to the naked Eye, and is reasonably supposed to be necessary to Fertility in Plants and Trees.

10. By the Microscope have been discovered many singular Properties of that most unaccountable of all Creatures the Polype, which is found at the Bottom of Ditches, and standing Waters; whose Manner of Production, Feeding and Digestion, are different from those of all other Animals. The young ones come out of the Sides of the old, like Buds and Branches from Trees, and at length drop off perfect Polypes. They do not seem to be of different Sexes. They take in Worms, and other Sustenance, by Means of a Sett of long Arms or _Antennae_, which surround their Mouths, and after keeping them some Time in their Stomachs, throw them out again the same Way. The Animal's Body consists of a single Cavity, like a Tube or Gut, and

what is wonderful, and almost beyond Belief, is, that it will live and feed after it is turned inside out, and even when cut into a great many Pieces, each several Piece becomes a compleat Polype. They are infested with a Kind of Vermin, as are almost all Animals from the largest down to Bees and other Insects. These Vermin sometimes in a long Time will eat up the Head and Part of the Body of a Polype, after which, if it be cleared of them, it shall have the devoured Parts grow up again, and become as compleat as ever. Some Polypes have around their Mouths a Sort of Plume, which they whirl round, and making with it an Eddy in the Water, draw in their Prey, and devour it.

11. By the Microscope it is found, that neither the Wood, the Bark, the Root, the Leaves, the Fruit, nor even the Pith of the meanest Vegetable is a Mass of crude or indigested Matter; but that every different Species is different in its internal Structure, and all curiously and delicately wrought. A Bit of Cork, cut extremely thin, a Slice of Oak or Fir, or a Bit of Elder Pith, in the Microscope, are so many curious Pieces of _Mosaic_ Work. Even a Bit of Charcoal or burnt Wood appears with the Microscope an admirable Object.

12. By this Instrument it is found, that what we call

Mouldiness upon Flesh, Leather, or other Substances, is no other than a great Number of extremely small, but perfect Plants, having Stalks and Tops like Mushrooms, and sometimes an Appearance of Leaves. The Seeds of these minute Plants must, in all Probability, be diffused universally through the Air, and falling upon Substances fit for their Growth, spring up in astonishing Profusion. There is, in short, no End of microscopic Objects. A Sprig of Moss, with the Help of that Instrument, is found to be a regular Plant, consisting of a Root, a Stock, Branches, Leaves, _&c._ and Naturalists tell us, there are some Hundreds of different Species of it. A Bit of Sponge before the Microscope is a curious Piece of Net-work. Every different chymical Salt has its Parts differently figured. A Leaf of a common stinging Nettle, the Beard of a wild Oat, the Surfaces of some Pebble-stones, a Flake of Snow, a few Grains of Sand, or almost any natural Thing, with this Instrument, exhibit exquisite Beauties; while, on the contrary, the most delicate Works of Art, can by no Means bear its Examination; but degenerate before it into Masses of Irregularity, and Deformity.

Fond Pride of Dress is sure an empty Curse;

E're _Fancy_ you consult, consult your Purse.

Youth is pert and positive, _Age_ modest and doubting: So
Ears of Corn when young and light, stand bolt upright, but hang their
Heads when weighty, full, and ripe.

'Tis easier to suppress the first Desire, than to satisfy all
that follow it.

Don't judge of Mens Wealth or Piety, by their _Sunday_
Appearances.

Friendship increases by visiting Friends, but by visiting
seldom.

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

What more valuable than Gold? Diamonds. Than Diamonds?
Virtue.

To-day is Yesterday's Pupil.

If worldly Goods cannot save me from Death, they ought not to
hinder me of eternal Life.

'Tis great Confidence in a Friend to tell him _your_ Faults,
greater to tell him _his._

Talking against Religion is unchaining a Tyger; The Beast let
loose may worry his Deliverer.

Ambition often spends foolishly what _Avarice_ had wickedly
collected.

Pillgarlic was in the _Accusative_ Case, and bespoke a Lawyer
in the _Vocative_, who could not understand him till he made use of
the _Dative._

Great Estates may venture more;
Little Boats must keep near Shore.

Nice Eaters seldom meet with a good Dinner.

Not to oversee Workmen, is to leave them your Purse open.

The Wise and Brave dares own that he was wrong.

Cunning proceeds from Want of Capacity.

It is an amusing Speculation to look back, and compute what
Numbers of Men and Women among the Ancients, clubb'd their Endeavours
to the Production of a single Modern. As you reckon backwards the
Number encreases in the same Proportion as the Price of the Coat
which was sold for a Half-penny a Button, continually doubled.

Thus, a present Nobleman (for Instance) is 1

His Father and Mother were 2

His Grandfathers and Grandmothers 4

His Great Grandfathers and Great Grandmothers, 8

And, supposing no Intermarriages among Relations,

the next Predecessors will be 16

The next Ditto,	32	The next Ditto,	8192
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The next Ditto,	64	The next Ditto,	16384
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The next Ditto,	128	The next Ditto,	32768
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The next Ditto,	256	The next Ditto,	65536
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The next Ditto,	512	The next Ditto,	131072
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The next Ditto,	1024	The next Ditto,	262144
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The next Ditto,	2048	The next Ditto,	524288
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The next Ditto,	4096	The next Ditto.	1048576
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Here are only computed 21 Generations, which, allowing 3 Generations to 100 Years, carry us back no farther than the _Norman_ Conquest, at which Time each present Nobleman, to exclude all ignoble Blood from his Veins, ought to have had One Million, Forty-eight Thousand, Five Hundred and Seventy-six noble Ancestors. Carry the Reckoning back 300 Years farther, and the Number amounts to above 500 Millions; which are more than exist at any one Time upon Earth, and shews the Impossibility of preserving Blood free from such Mixtures, and that the Pretension of such Purity of Blood in ancient Families is a mere Joke. Hence we see how it happens that every Nation has a kind of general Cast of Feature, by which it may be distinguished; continual Intermarriages for a Course of Ages rendring all the People related by Blood, and, as it were, of one Family.

The Proud hate Pride -- in others.

Who judges best of a Man, his Enemies or himself?

Drunkenness, that worst of Evils, makes some Men Fools, some Beasts, some Devils.

'Tis not a Holiday that's not kept holy.

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Poor Richard Improved

1752

KIND READER,

Since the King and Parliament have thought fit to alter our Year, by taking eleven Days out of _September_, 1752, and directing us to begin our Account for the future on the First of _January_, some Account of the Changes the Year hath heretofore undergone, and the Reasons of them, may a little gratify thy Curiosity.

The Vicissitude of _Seasons_ seems to have given Occasion to the first Institution of the _Year._ Man naturally curious to know the Cause of that Diversity, soon found it was the Nearness and Distance of the Sun; and upon this, gave the Name _Year_ to the Space of Time wherein that Luminary, performing his whole Course, returned to the same Point of his Orbit.

And hence, as it was on Account of the Seasons, in a great Measure, that the _Year_ was instituted, their chief Regard and

Attention was, that the same Parts of the _Year_ should always correspond to the same Seasons; _i. e._ that the Beginning of the Year should always be when the Sun was in the same Point of his Orbit; and that they should keep Pace, come round, and end together.

This, different Nations aimed to attain by different Ways; making the _Year_ to commence from different Points of the Zodiac; and even the Time of his Progress different. So that some of their Years were much more perfect than others, but none of them quite just; _i. e._ none of them but whose Parts shifted with Regard to the Parts of the Sun's Course.

It was the _Egyptians_, if we may credit _Herodotus_, that first formed the _Year_, making it to contain 360 Days, which they subdivided into twelve Months, of thirty Days each.

Mercury Trismegistus added five Days more to the Account. -- And on this Footing _Thales_ is said to have instituted the Year among the _Greeks._ Tho' that Form of the Year did not hold throughout all _Greece._ Add that the _Jewish_, _Syrian_, _Roman_, _Persian_, _Ethiopic_, _Arabic_, &c. Years, are all different.

In effect, considering the poor State of Astronomy in those

Ages, it is no Wonder different People should disagree in the
Calculus of the Sun's Course. We are even assured by _Diodorus
Siculus_, _Plutarch_, and _Pliny_, that the _Egyptian Year_ itself
was at first very different from what it became afterwards.

According to our Account, the _Solar Year_, or the Interval of
Time in which the Sun finishes his Course thro' the Zodiac, and
returns to the same Point thereof from which he had departed, is 365
Days, 5 Hours, 49 Minutes; tho' some Astronomers make it a few
Seconds, and some a whole Minute less; as _Kepler_, for Instance, who
makes it 365 Days, 5 Hours, 48 Minutes, 57 Seconds, 39 Thirds.
Ricciolus, 365 Days, 5 Hours, 48 Minutes. _Tycho Brahe_, 365 Days,
5 Hours, 48 Minutes.

The _Civil Year_ is that Form of the _Year_ which each Nation
has contrived to compute Time by; or the _Civil_ is the _Tropical
Year_, considered as only consisting of a certain Number of whole
Days; the odd Hours and Minutes being set aside, to render the
Computation of Time in the common Occasions of Life more easy.

Hence as the _Tropical Year_ is 365 Days, 5 Hours, 49 Minutes;
the _Civil Year_ is 365 Days. And hence also, as it is necessary to
keep Pace with the Heavens, it is required that every fourth Year

consist of 366 Days, which would for ever keep the Year exactly right, if the odd Hours of each Year were precisely 6.

The ancient _Roman Year_, as first settled by _Romulus_, consisted of ten Months only; _viz._ I. _March_, containing 31 Days. II. _April_, 30. III. _May_, 31. IV. _June_, 30. V. _Quintilis_, 31. VI. _Sextilis_, 30. VII. _September_, 30. VIII. _October_, 31. IX. _November_, 30. X. _December_, 30; in all 304 Days; which came short of the _Solar Year_, by 61 Days.

Hence the Beginning of _Romulus_'s Year was vague, and unfixed to any precise Season; which Inconvenience to remove, that Prince ordered so many Days to be added yearly, as would make the State of the Heavens correspond to the first Month, without incorporating these additional Days, or calling them by the Name of any Month.

Numa Pompilius corrected this irregular Constitution of the Year, and composed two new Months, _January_ and _February_, of the Days that were used to be added to the former Year. Thus, _Numa_'s _Year_ consisted of twelve Months; _viz._ I. _January_, containing 29 Days. II. _February_, 28. III. _March_, 31. IV. _April_, 29. V. _May_, 31. VI. _June_, 29. VII. _Quintilis_, 31. VIII. _Sextilis_, 29. IX. _September_, 29. X. _October_, 31. XI. _November_, 29.

XII. December, 29; in all 355 Days, which came short of the common Solar Year by ten Days; so that its Beginning was vague and unfixed.

Numa, however, desiring to have it fixed to the Winter Solstice, ordered 22 Days to be intercalated in February every second Year, 23 every fourth, 22 every sixth, and 23 every eighth Year.

But this Rule failing to keep Matters even, Recourse was had to a new Way of Intercalating; and instead of 23 Days every eighth Year, only 15 were added; and the Care of the whole committed to the Pontifex Maximus, or High Priest; who, neglecting the Trust, let Things run to the utmost Confusion. And thus the Roman Year stood till Julius Caesar made a Reformation.

The Julian Year, is a Solar Year, containing commonly 365 Days; tho' every fourth Year, called Bissextile, contains 366. -- The Names and Order of the Months of the Julian Year, and the Number of Days in each, are well known to us, having been long in Use.

The astronomical Quantity, therefore, of the Julian Year, is 365 Days, 6 Hours, which exceeds the true Solar Year by 11 Minutes;

which Excess in 131 Years amounts to a whole Day. -- And thus the
Roman Year stood, till the Reformation made therein by Pope
Gregory.

Julius Caesar, in the Contrivance of his Form of the Year,
was assisted by _Sosigenes_, a famous Mathematician, called over from
Egypt for this very Purpose; who, to supply the Defect of 67 Days
which had been lost thro' the Fault of the High Priests, and to fix
the Beginning of the Year to the Winter Solstice, made that Year to
consist of 15 Months, or 445 Days; which for that Reason is used to
be called _Annus Confusionis_, the _Year of Confusion._

This Form of the Year was used by all Christian Nations, till
the Middle of the 16th Century; and still continues to be so by
several Nations; among the Rest, by the _Swedes_, _Danes_, &c. and by
the _English_ till the second of _September_ next, when they are to
assume the Use of the _Gregorian Year._

The GREGORIAN YEAR is the _Julian Year_ corrected by this Rule;
that whereas on the common Footing, every Secular or Hundredth Year,
is _Bissextile_; on the new Footing, three of them are common Years,
and only the fourth _Bissextile._

The Error of eleven Minutes in the _Julian Year_, little as it was, yet, by being repeated over and over, at length became considerable; and from the Time when _Caesar_ made his Correction, was grown into 13 Days, by which the Equinoxes were greatly disturbed. To remedy this Irregularity, which was still a growing, Pope _Gregory_ the XIII. called together the chief Astronomers of his Time, and concerted this Correction; and to restore the Equinoxes to their Place threw out the ten Days that had been got from the Council of _Nice_, and which had shifted the fifth of _October_ to the 15th.

In the Year 1700, the Error of ten Days was grown to eleven; upon which the Protestant States of _Germany_, to prevent further Confusion, accepted the _Gregorian_ Correction. And now in 1752, the _English_ follow their Example.

Yet is the _Gregorian Year_ far from being perfect, for we have shewn, that, in four Centuries, the _Julian Year_ gains three Days, one Hour, twenty Minutes: But it is only the three Days are kept out in the _Gregorian Year_; so that here is still an Excess of one Hour, twenty Minutes, in four Centuries; which in 72 Centuries will amount to a whole Day.

As to the Commencement of the Year, the _legal Year_ in

England used to begin on the Day of the _Annunciation_; _i. e._ on the 25th of _March_; tho' the historical Year began on the Day of the _Circumcision_; _i. e._ the first of _January_, on which Day the _Italian_ and _German_ Year also begins; and on which Day ours is to begin from this Time forward, the first Day of _January_ being now by Act of Parliament declared the first Day of the Year 1752.

At the Yearly Meeting of the People called _Quakers_, held in _London_, since the Passing of this Act, it was agreed to recommend to their Friends a Conformity thereto, both in omitting the eleven Days of _September_ thereby directed to be omitted, and beginning the Year hereafter on the first Day of the Month called _January_, which is henceforth to be by them called and written, _The First Month_, and the rest likewise in their Order, so that _September_ will now be the _Ninth Month_, _December_ the _Twelfth._

This _Act of Parliament_, as it contains many Matters of Importance, and extends expresly to all the _British Colonies_, I shall for the Satisfaction of the Publick, give at full length: Wishing withal, according to ancient Custom, that this _New Year_ (which is indeed a New Year, such an one as we never saw before, and shall never see again) may be a happy Year to all my kind Readers.

I am, Your faithful Servant,

R. SAUNDERS.

Observe old _Vellum_; he praises former Times, as if he'd a
mind to sell 'em.

Kings have long Arms, but Misfortune longer: Let none think
themselves out of her Reach.

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.

Calamity and Prosperity are the Touchstones of Integrity.

The Prodigal generally does more Injustice than the Covetous.

Generous Minds are all of kin.

'Tis more noble to forgive, and more manly to despise, than to
revenge an Injury.

A Brother may not be a Friend, but a Friend will always be a Brother.

Meanness is the Parent of Insolence.

Mankind are very odd Creatures: One Half censure what they practise, the other half practise what they censure; the rest always say and do as they ought.

Severity is often Clemency; Clemency Severity.

Bis dat qui cito dat: He gives twice that gives soon; _i. e._ he will soon be called upon to give again.

A Temper to bear much, will have much to bear.

Pride dines upon Vanity, sups on Contempt.

Great Merit is coy, as well as great Pride.

An undutiful Daughter, will prove an unmanageable Wife.

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

The too obliging Temper is evermore disobliging itself.

Hold your Council before Dinner; the full Belly hates Thinking
as well as Acting.

The Brave and the Wise can both pity and excuse; when Cowards
and Fools shew no Mercy.

Ceremony is not Civility; nor Civility Ceremony.

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

It is ill Jestng with the Joiner's Tools, worse with the
Doctor's.

Children and Princes will quarrel for Trifles.

Praise to the undeserving, is severe Satyr.

Success has ruin'd many a Man.

Great Pride and Meanness sure are near ally'd;

Or thin Partitions do their Bounds divide.

·
Poor Richard Improved

1753

COURTEOUS READER,

This is the twentieth Time of my addressing thee in this

Manner, and I have reason to flatter myself my Labours have not been unacceptable to the Publick. I am particularly pleas'd to understand that my _Predictions of the Weather_ give such general Satisfaction; and indeed, such Care is taken in the Calculations, on which those Predictions are founded, that I could almost venture to say, there's not a single One of them, promising _Snow_, _Rain_, _Hail_, _Heat_, _Frost_, _Fogs_, _Wind_, or _Thunder_, but what comes to pass _punctually_ and _precisely_ on the very Day, in some Place or other on this little _diminutive_ Globe of ours; (and when you consider the vast Distance of the Stars from whence we take our Aim, you must allow it no small Degree of Exactness to hit any Part of it) I say on

this Globe; for tho' in other Matters I confine the Usefulness of my
Ephemeris to the _Northern Colonies_, yet in that important Matter
of the Weather, which is of such _general Concern_, I would have it
more extensively useful, and therefore take in both Hemispheres, and
all Latitudes from _Hudson's Bay_ to _Cape Horn._

You will find this Almanack in my former Method, only
conformable to the _New-Stile_ established by the Act of Parliament,
which I gave you in my last at length; the new Act since made for
Amendment of that first Act, not affecting us in the least, being
intended only to regulate some Corporation Matters in _England_,
before unprovided for. I have only added a Column in the second Page
of each Month, containing the Days of the _Old Stile_ opposite to
their corresponding Days in the _New_, which may, in many Cases, be
of Use; and so conclude (believing you will excuse a short Preface,
when it is to make Room for something better)

Thy Friend and Servant,

R. SAUNDERS.

'Tis against some Mens Principle to pay Interest, and seems
against others Interest to pay the Principal.

Philosophy as well as Foppery often changes Fashion.

Setting too good an Example is a Kind of Slander seldom
forgiven; 'tis _Scandalum Magnatum._

A great Talker may be no Fool, but he is one that relies on
him.

When Reason preaches, if you won't hear her she'll box your
Ears.

It is not Leisure that is not used.

The Good-will of the Governed will be starv'd, if not fed by
the good Deeds of the Governors.

Paintings and Fightings are best seen at a distance.

If you would reap Praise you must sow the Seeds,
Gentle Words and useful Deeds.

Ignorance leads Men into a Party, and _Shame_ keeps them from
getting out again.

Haste makes Waste.

Many have quarrel'd about Religion, that never practis'd it.

Sudden Power is apt to be insolent, _Sudden Liberty_ saucy;
that behaves best which has grown gradually.

He that best understands the World, least likes it.

Anger is never without a Reason, but seldom with a good One.

He that is of Opinion Money will do every Thing, may well be
suspected of doing every Thing for Money.

An ill Wound, but not an ill Name, may be healed.

When out of Favour, none know thee; when in, thou dost not know
thyself.

A lean Award is better than a fat Judgment.

God, _Parents_, and _Instructors_, can never be requited.

He that builds before he counts the Cost, acts foolishly; and
he that counts before he builds, finds he did not count wisely.

Patience in Market, is worth Pounds in a Year.

Danger is Sauce for Prayers.

If you have no Honey in your Pot, have some in your Mouth.

A Pair of good Ears will drain dry an hundred Tongues.

Serving God is Doing Good to Man, but Praying is thought an
easier Service, and therefore more generally chosen.

Nothing humbler than _Ambition_, when it is about to climb.

The discontented Man finds no easy Chair.

Virtue and a Trade, are a Child's best Portion.

Gifts much expected, are _paid_, not _given._

How to secure Houses, &c. from LIGHTNING.

It has pleased God in his Goodness to Mankind, at length to discover to them the Means of securing their Habitations and other Buildings from Mischief by Thunder and Lightning. The Method is this: Provide a small Iron Rod (it may be made of the Rod-iron used by the Nailers) but of such a Length, that one End being three or four Feet in the moist Ground, the other may be six or eight Feet above the highest Part of the Building. To the upper End of the Rod fasten about a Foot of Brass Wire, the Size of a common Knitting-needle, sharpened to a fine Point; the Rod may be secured to the House by a few small Staples. If the House or Barn be long, there may be a Rod and Point at each End, and a middling Wire along the Ridge from one to the other. A House thus furnished will not be damaged by Lightning, it being attracted by the Points, and passing thro the Metal into the Ground without hurting any Thing. Vessels also, having a sharp pointed Rod fix'd on the Top of their Masts, with a Wire from the Foot of the Rod reaching down, round one of the Shrouds, to the Water, will not be hurt by Lightning.

.

Poor Richard Improved

1754

Kind READER,

I have now serv'd you three Apprenticeships, yet, old as I am,
I have no Inclination to quit your Service, but should be glad to be
able to continue in it three times three Apprenticeships longer.

The first _Astrologers_ I think, were honest Husbandmen; and so
it seems are the last; for my Brethren _Jerman_ and _Moore_, and
myself, the only remaining Almanack-makers of this Country, are all
of that Class: Tho' in intermediate Times our Art has been cultivated
in great Cities, and even in the Courts of Princes; witness History,
from the Days of King NEBUCHADNEZZAR I. of _Babylon_, to those of
Queen JAMES I. of _England._ -- But you will ask, perhaps, how I
prove that the first Astrologers were Countrymen? -- I own this is a
Matter beyond the Memory of History, for Astrology was before
Letters; but I prove it from the Book of the Heavens, from the Names
of the twelve Signs, which were mostly given to remark some
Circumstance relative to rural Affairs, in the several successive
Months of the Year, and by that Means to supply the Want of
Almanacks. -- Thus, as the Year of the Ancients began most naturally
with the Spring, _Aries_ and _Taurus_, that is, the Ram and the Bull,

represented the successive Addition to their Flocks of Sheep and Kine, by their Produce in that Season, Lambs and Calves. -- _Gemini_ were originally the Kids, but called the Twins, as Goats more commonly bring forth two than one: These follow'd the Calves. -- _Cancer_, the Crab, came next, when that Kind of Fish were in Season. -- Then follow'd _Leo_, the Lion, and _Virgo_, the Wench, to mark the Summer Months, and Dog-days, when those Creatures were most mischievous. In Autumn comes first _Libra_, the Ballance, to point out the Time for weighing and selling the Summer's Produce; or rather, a Time of Leisure for holding Courts of Justice in which they might plague themselves and Neighbours; I know some suppose this Sign to signify the equal Poise, at that Time, of Day and Night; but the other Signification is the truer, as plainly appears by the following Sign _Scorpio_, or the Scorpion, with the Sting in his Tail, which certainly denotes the Paying of Costs. -- Then follows _Sagittary_, the Archer, to show the Season of Hunting; for now the Leaves being off the Trees and Bushes, the Game might be more easily seen and struck with their Arrows. -- The _Goat_ accompanies the short Days and long Nights of Winter, to shew the Season of Mirth, Feasting and Jollity; for what can _Capricorn_ mean, but Dancing or Cutting of _Capers_? -- At length comes _Aquarius_, or the Water-bearer, to show the Season of Snows, Rains and Floods; and lastly _Pisces_, or the two Shads, to denote the approaching Return of those Fish up the

Rivers: Make your Wears, hawl your Seins; Catch 'em and pickle 'em,
my Friends; they are excellent Relishers of old Cyder. -- But if you
can't get Shad, Mackrell may do better.

I know, gentle Readers, that many of you always expect a
Preface, and think yourselves slighted if that's omitted. So here
you have it, and much good may't do ye. As little as it is to the
Purpose, there are many less so, now-a-days. -- I have left out, you
see, all the usual Stuff about the _Importunity of Friends_, and the
like, or I might have made it much bigger. You think, however, that
'tis big enough o'Conscience, for any Matter of Good that's in it; --
I think so too, if it fills the Page, which is the Needful at
present, from

Your loving Friend to serve,

R. SAUNDERS.

The first Degree of Folly, is to conceit one's self wise; the
second to profess it; the third to despise Counsel.

Take heed of the Vinegar of sweet Wine, and the Anger of
Good-nature.

The Bell calls others to Church, but itself never minds the
Sermon.

Cut the Wings of your Hens and Hopes, lest they lead you a
weary Dance after them.

In Rivers & bad Governments, the lightest Things swim at top.

The Cat in Gloves catches no Mice.

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

The Horse thinks one thing, and he that saddles him another.

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

When _Prosperity_ was well mounted, she let go the Bridle, and
soon came tumbling out of the Saddle.

Some make Conscience of wearing a Hat in the Church, who make
none of robbing the Altar.

In the Affairs of this World Men are saved, not by Faith, but

by the Want of it.

Friendship cannot live with _Ceremony_, nor without
Civility.

Praise little, dispraise less.

The learned Fool writes his Nonsense in better Language than
the unlearned; but still 'tis Nonsense.

A Child thinks 20 _Shillings_ and 20 Years can scarce ever be
spent.

Don't think so much of your own Cunning, as to forget other
Mens: A cunning Man is overmatch'd by a cunning Man and a Half.

Willows are weak, but they bind the Faggot.

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

He that doth what he should not, shall feel what he would not.

To be intimate with a foolish Friend, is like going to bed to a
Razor.

Little Rogues easily become great Ones.

You may sometimes be much in the wrong, in owning your being in
the right.

Friends are the true Sceptres of Princes.

Where Sense is wanting, every thing is wanting.

Many Princes sin with _David_, but few repent with him.

He that hath no _ill_ Fortune will be troubled with _good._

For Age and Want save while you may;

No Morning Sun lasts a whole Day.

Learning to the Studious; Riches to the Careful; Power to the
Bold; Heaven to the Virtuous.

Now glad the Poor with _Christmas_ Cheer;

Thank God you're able so to end the Year.

·
Poor Richard Improved

1755

COURTEOUS READER,

It is a common Saying, that _One Half of the World does not know how the other Half lives._ To add somewhat to your Knowledge in that Particular, I gave you in a former Almanack, an Account of the Manner of living at _Hudson's-Bay_, and the Effects produced by the excessive Cold of that Climate, which seem'd so strange to some of you, that it was taken for a Romance, tho' really authentick. -- In this, I shall give you some Idea of a Country under the Torrid Zone, which for the Variety of its Weather (where one would naturally expect the greatest Uniformity) is extreamly remarkable. The Account is extracted from the Journal of Monsieur _Bouguer_, one of the _French_ Academicians, sent by their King to measure a Degree of Latitude under the Equinoctial, in order to settle a Dispute between the _English_ and _French_ Philosophers concerning the Shape of the Earth, others being at the same Time sent for the same Purpose to _Lapland_, under the Polar Circle. -- The Mountains in that Country

are so lofty, that the highest we have, being compared to them, are mere Mole-hills. This Extract relates chiefly to the Country among those Mountains.

The Method of this Almanack is the same I have observed for some Years past; only in the third Column the Names of some of the principal fixed Stars are put down against those Days on which they come to the Meridian at nine a Clock in the Evening, whereby those unacquainted, may learn to know them. I am,

Your obliged Friend and Servant,

R. SAUNDERS.

A Man without a Wife, is but half a Man.

Speak little, do much.

He that would travel much, should eat little.

When the Wine enters, out goes the Truth.

If you would be loved, love and be loveable.

Ask and have, is sometimes dear buying.

The hasty Bitch brings forth blind Puppies.

Where there is Hunger, Law is not regarded; and where Law is not regarded, there will be Hunger.

Two dry Sticks will burn a green One.

The honest Man takes Pains, and then enjoys Pleasures; the Knave takes Pleasure, and then suffers Pains.

Think of three Things, whence you came, where you are going, and to whom you must account.

Necessity has no Law; Why? Because 'tis not to be had without Money.

There was never a good Knife made of bad Steel.

The Wolf sheds his Coat once a Year, his Disposition never.

Who is wise? He that learns from every One.

Who is powerful? He that governs his Passions.

Who is rich? He that is content.

Who is that? Nobody.

A full Belly brings forth every Evil.

The Day is short, the Work great, the Workmen lazy, the Wages
high, the Master urgeth; Up, then, and be doing.

The Doors of Wisdom are never shut.

Much Virtue in Herbs, little in Men.

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

When you taste Honey, remember Gall.

Being ignorant is not so much a Shame, as being unwilling to
learn.

God gives all Things to Industry.

An hundred Thieves cannot strip one naked Man, especially if
his Skin's off.

Diligence overcomes Difficulties, Sloth makes them.

Neglect mending a small Fault, and 'twill soon be a great One.

Bad Gains are truly Losses.

A long Life may not be good enough, but a good Life is long enough.

Be at War with your Vices, at Peace with your Neighbours, and let every New-Year find you a better Man.

.

Poor Richard Improved

1756

COURTEOUS READER,

I suppose my Almanack may be worth the Money thou hast paid for it, hadst thou no other Advantage from it, than to find the Day of the Month, the remarkable Days, the Changes of the Moon, the Sun and Moon's Rising and Setting, and to foreknow the Tides and

the _Weather_; these, with other Astronomical Curiosities, I have yearly and constantly prepared for thy Use and Entertainment, during now near two Revolutions of the Planet _Jupiter._ But I hope this is not all the Advantage thou hast reaped; for with a View to the Improvement of thy _Mind_ and thy _Estate_, I have constantly interspers'd in every little Vacancy, _Moral Hints_, _Wise Sayings_, and _Maxims of Thrift_, tending to impress the Benefits arising from _Honesty_, _Sobriety_, _Industry_ and _Frugality_; which if thou hast duly observed, it is highly probable thou art _wiser_ and _richer_ many fold more than the Pence my Labours have cost thee. Howbeit, I shall not therefore raise my Price because thou art better able to pay; but being thankful for past Favours, shall endeavour to make my little Book more worthy thy Regard, by adding to those _Recipes_ which were intended for the _Cure_ of the _Mind_, some valuable Ones regarding the _Health_ of the _Body._ They are recommended by the Skilful, and by successful Practice. I wish a Blessing may attend the Use of them, and to thee all Happiness, being

Thy obliged Friend,

R. SAUNDERS.

A Change of _Fortune_ hurts a wise Man no more than a Change of the _Moon._

Does Mischief, Misconduct, & Warrings displease ye;

Think there's a Providence, 'twill make ye easy.

Mine is better than _Ours._

Love your Enemies, for they tell you your Faults.

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

Be civil to _all_; serviceable to _many_; familiar with _few_;

Friend to _one_; Enemy to _none._

Vain-Glory flowereth, but beareth no Fruit.

As I spent some Weeks last Winter, in visiting my old

Acquaintance in the _Jerseys_, great Complaints I heard for Want of

Money, and that Leave to make more Paper Bills could not be obtained.

Friends and Countrymen, my Advice on this Head shall cost you

nothing, and if you will not be angry with me for giving it, I

promise you not to be offended if you do not take it.

You spend yearly at least _Two Hundred Thousand Pounds_, 'tis said, in _European_, _East-Indian_, and _West-Indian_ Commodities: Supposing one Half of this Expence to be in _Things absolutely necessary_, the other Half may be call'd _Superfluities_, or at best, Conveniences, which however you might live without for one little Year, and not suffer exceedingly. Now to save this Half, observe these few Directions.

1. When you incline to have new Cloaths, look first well over the old Ones, and see if you cannot shift with them another Year, either by Scouring, Mending, or even Patching if necessary. Remember a Patch on your Coat, and Money in your Pocket, is better and more creditable than a Writ on your Back, and no Money to take it off.

2. When you incline to buy China Ware, Chinces, _India_ Silks, or any other of their flimsey slight Manufactures; I would not be so hard with you, as to insist on your absolutely _resolving against it_; all I advise, is, to _put it off_ (as you do your Repentance) _till another Year_; and this, in some Respects, may prevent an Occasion of Repentance.

3. If you are now a Drinker of Punch, Wine or Tea, twice a Day;

for the ensuing Year drink them but once a Day. If you now drink them but once a Day, do it but every other Day. If you do it now but once a Week, reduce the Practice to once a Fortnight. And if you do not exceed in Quantity as you lessen the Times, half your Expence in these Articles will be saved.

4thly and lastly, When you incline to drink Rum, fill the Glass half with Water.

Thus at the Year's End, there will be An Hundred Thousand Pounds more Money in your Country.

If Paper Money in ever so great a Quantity could be made, no Man could get any of it without giving something for it. But all he saves in this Way, will be his own for nothing; and his Country actually so much richer. Then the Merchants old and doubtful Debts may be honestly paid off, and Trading become surer thereafter, if not so extensive.

Laws too gentle are seldom obeyed; too severe, seldom executed.

Trouble springs from _Idleness_; _Toil_ from _Ease._

Love, and be _loved._

A wise Man will desire no more, than what he may get justly,
use soberly, distribute chearfully, and leave contentedly.

The diligent Spinner has a large Shift.

A false Friend and a Shadow, attend only while the Sun shines.

To-morrow, every Fault is to be amended; but that _To-morrow_
never comes.

Plough deep, while Sluggards sleep;

And you shall have Corn, to sell and to keep.

He that sows Thorns, should never go barefoot.

Laziness travels so slowly, that _Poverty_ soon overtakes
him.

Sampson with his _strong Body_, had a _weak Head_, or he
would not have laid it in a Harlot's Lap.

When a Friend deals with a Friend

Let the Bargain be clear and well penn'd,

That they may continue Friends to the End.

He that never eats too much, will never be lazy.

To be _proud_ of _Knowledge_, is to be _blind_ with _Light_; to
be _proud_ of _Virtue_, is to _poison_ yourself with the _Antidote._

Get what you can, and what you get, hold;

'Tis the _Stone_ that will turn all your Lead into Gold.

An honest Man will receive neither _Money_ nor _Praise_, that
is not his Due.

Well, my Friend, thou art now just entering the last Month of
another Year. If thou art a Man of Business, and of prudent Care,
belike thou wilt now settle thy Accounts, to satisfy thyself whether
thou hast gain'd or lost in the Year past, and how much of either,

the better to regulate thy future Industry or thy common Expences.

This is commendable. -- But it is not all. -- Wilt thou not examine also thy _moral_ Accompts, and see what Improvements thou hast made in the Conduct of Life, what Vice subdued, what Virtue acquired; how much _better_, and how much _wiser_, as well as how much _richer_ thou art grown? What shall it _profit_ a Man, if he _gain_ the whole World, and _lose_ his own Soul? Without some Care in this Matter, tho' thou may'st come to count thy Thousands, thou wilt possibly still appear poor in the Eyes of the Discerning, even _here_, and be really so for ever _hereafter._

Saying and _Doing_, have quarrel'd and parted.

Tell me my Faults, and mend your own.

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Poor Richard Improved

1757

COURTEOUS READER,

As no temporal Concern is of more Importance to us than

Health, and that depends so much on the Air we every Moment breathe, the Choice of a good wholesome Situation to fix a Dwelling in, is a very serious Affair to every Countryman about to begin the World, and well worth his Consideration, especially as not only the _Comfort_ of Living, but even the _Necessaries of Life_, depend in a great Measure upon it; since a Family frequently sick can rarely if ever thrive. -- The following Extracts therefore from a late Medical Writer, Dr. _Pringle_, on that Subject, will, I hope, be acceptable and useful to some of my Readers.

I hear that some have already, to their great Advantage, put in Practice the Use of Oxen recommended in my last. -- 'Tis a Pleasure to me to be any way serviceable in communicating useful Hints to the Publick; and I shall be obliged to others for affording me the Opportunity of enjoying that Pleasure more frequently, by sending me from time to time such of their own Observations, as may be advantageous if published in the Almanack.

I am thy obliged Friend,

RICHARD SAUNDERS.

How to make a STRIKING SUNDIAL, _by which not only a Man's own Family, but all his Neighbours for ten Miles round, may know what

o Clock it is, when the Sun shines, without seeing the Dial._

Choose an open Place in your Yard or Garden, on which the Sun may shine all Day without any Impediment from Trees or Buildings. On the Ground mark out your Hour Lines, as for a horizontal Dial, according to Art, taking Room enough for the Guns. On the Line for One o' Clock, place one Gun; on the Two o' Clock Line two Guns, and so of the rest. The Guns must all be charged with Powder, but Ball is unnecessary. Your Gnomon or Style must have twelve burning Glasses annex'd to it, and be so placed as that the Sun shining through the Glasses, one after the other, shall cause the Focus or burning Spot to fall on the Hour Line of One, for Example, at one a Clock, and there kindle a Train of Gunpowder that shall fire one Gun. At Two a Clock, a Focus shall fall on the Hour Line of Two, and kindle another Train that shall discharge two Guns successively; and so of the rest.

Note, There must be 78 Guns in all. Thirty-two Pounders will be best for this Use; but 18 Pounders may do, and will cost less, as well as use less Powder, for nine Pounds of Powder will do for one Charge of each eighteen Pounder, whereas the Thirty-two Pounders would require for each Gun 16 Pounds.

Note also, That the chief Expence will be the Powder, for the Cannon once bought, will, with Care, last 100 Years.

Note moreover, That there will be a great Saving of Powder in cloudy Days.

Kind Reader, Methinks I hear thee say, _That it is indeed a good Thing to know how the Time passes, but this Kind of Dial, notwithstanding the mentioned Savings, would be very expensive; and the Cost greater than the Advantage._ Thou art wise, my Friend, to be so considerate beforehand; some Fools would not have found out so much, till they had made the Dial and try'd it. -- Let all such learn that many a private and many a publick Project, are like this _Striking Dial_, great Cost for little Profit.

He that would rise at Court, must begin by Creeping.

Many a Man's own Tongue gives Evidence against his Understanding.

Nothing dries sooner than a Tear.

Tis easier to build two Chimneys, than maintain one in Fuel.

Anger warms the Invention, but overheats the Oven.

It is Ill-Manners to silence a Fool, and Cruelty to let him go
on.

Scarlet, Silk and Velvet, have put out the Kitchen Fire.

He that would catch Fish, must venture his Bait.

Men take more pains to mask than mend.

One _To-day_ is worth two _To-morrows._

Since Man is but of a very limited Power in his own Person, and
consequently can effect no great Matter merely by his own personal
Strength, but as he acts in Society and Conjunction with others; and
since no Man can engage the active Assistance of others, without
first engaging their Trust; And moreover, since Men will trust no
further than they judge one, for his _Sincerity_, fit to be trusted;
it follows, that a discovered Dissembler can atchieve nothing great

or considerable. For not being able to gain Mens Trust, he cannot gain their Concurrence; and so is left alone to act singly and upon his own Bottom; and while that is the Sphere of his Activity, all that he can do must needs be contemptible.

Sincerity has such resistless Charms,
She oft the fiercest of our Foes disarms:
No Art she knows, in native Whiteness dress'd,
Her Thoughts all pure, and therefore all express'd:
She takes from Error its Deformity;
And without her all other Virtues die.
Bright Source of Goodness! to my Aid descend,
Watch o'er my Heart, and all my Words attend.

The way to be safe, is never to be secure.

Dally not with other Folks Women or Money.

Work as if you were to live 100 Years, Pray as if you were to die To-morrow.

It is generally agreed to be Folly, _to hazard the Loss of a Friend, rather than lose a Jest._ But few consider how easily a Friend may be thus lost. Depending on the known Regard their Friends have for them, Jesters take more Freedom with Friends than they would dare to do with others, little thinking how much deeper we are wounded by an Affront from one we love. But the strictest Intimacy can never warrant Freedoms of this Sort; and it is indeed preposterous to think they should; unless we can suppose Injuries are less Evils when they are done us by Friends, than when they come from other Hands.

Excess of Wit may oftentimes beguile:

Jests are not always pardon'd -- by a Smile.

Men may disguise their Malice at the Heart,

And seem at Ease -- tho' pain'd with inward Smart.

Mistaken, we -- think all such Wounds of course

Reflection cures; -- alas! it makes them worse.

Like Scratches they with double Anguish seize,

Rankle in time, and fester by Degrees.

But sarcastical Jests on a Man's Person or his Manners, tho' hard to bear, are perhaps more easily borne than those that touch his Religion. Men are generally warm in what regards their religious

Tenets, either from Tenderness of Conscience, or a high Sense of their own Judgments. People of plain Parts and honest Dispositions, look on Salvation as too serious a Thing to be jested with; and Men of speculative Religion, who profess from the Conviction rather of their Heads than Hearts, are not a bit less vehement than the real Devotees. He who says a slight or a severe Thing of their Faith, seems to them to have thereby undervalued their Understandings, and will consequently incur their Aversion, which no Man of common Sense would hazard for a lively Expression; much less a Person of good Breeding, who should make it his chief Aim to be well with all.

Like some grave Matron of a noble Line,
With awful Beauty does Religion shine.
Just Sense should teach us to revere the Dame,
Nor, by imprudent Jests, to spot her Fame.
In common Life you'll own this Reas'ning right,
That none but Fools in gross Abuse delight:
Then use it here -- nor think the Caution vain;
To be _polite_, Men need not be profane.

Pride breakfasted with _Plenty_, dined with _Poverty_, supped
with _Infamy._

Retirement does not always secure Virtue; _Lot_ was upright in the City, wicked in the Mountain.

Idleness is the Dead Sea, that swallows all Virtues: Be active in Business, that _Temptation_ may miss her Aim: The Bird that sits, is easily shot.

Shame and the _Dry-belly-ach_ were Diseases of the last Age; this seems to be cured of them.

In studying Law or Physick, or any other Art or Science, by which you propose to get your Livelihood, though you find it at first hard, difficult and unpleasing, use _Diligence, Patience_ and _Perseverance_; the Irsomness of your Task will thus diminish daily, and your Labour shall finally be crowned with Success. You shall go beyond all your Competitors who are careless, idle or superficial in their Acquisitions, and be at the Head of your Profession. --
Ability will command _Business_, _Business Wealth_; and _Wealth_ an easy and honourable _Retirement_ when Age shall require it.

Near to the wide extended Coasts of _Spain_,
Some Islands triumph o'er the raging Main;
Where dwelt of old, as tuneful Poets say,
Slingers, who bore from all the Prize away.
While Infants yet, their feeble Nerves they try'd;
Nor needful Food, till won by Art, supply'd.
Fix'd was the Mark, the Youngster oft in vain,
Whirl'd the misguided Stone with fruitless Pain:
'Till, by long Practice, to Perfection brought,
With easy Sleight their former Task they wrought.
Swift from their Arm th' unerring Pebble flew,
And high in Air, the flutt'ring Victim slew.
So in each Art Men rise but by Degrees,
And Months of Labour lead to Years of Ease.

Tho' the Mastiff be gentle, yet bite him not by the Lip.

Great-Alms-giving, lessens no Man's Living.

The royal Crown cures not the Head-ach.

Act uprightly, and despise Calumny; Dirt may stick to a Mud

Wall, but not to polish'd Marble.

PARADOXES.

I. The _Christians_ observe the _first_ Day of the Week for their _Sunday_, the _Jews_ the _Seventh_ for their Sabbath, the _Turks_ the _sixth_ Day of the Week for the Time of their Worship; but there is a particular Place of the Globe, to which if a _Christian_, _Jew_, and _Turk_ sail in one and the same Ship, they shall keep the Time for their Worship on different Days, as above, all the Time they are sailing to that particular Place; but when they arrive at that Place, and during the Time they remain at it, they shall all keep their Sabbath on one and the same Day; but when they depart from that Place, they shall all differ as before.

II. There is a certain Port, from which if three Ships depart at one and the same time, and sail on three particular different Courses, till they return to the Port they departed from; and if in one of these Ships be _Christians_, in the second _Jews_, and in the third _Turks_, when they return to the Port they departed from, they shall differ so with respect to real and apparent Time, that they all shall keep their Sabbath on one and the same Day of the Week, and yet each of them separately shall believe that he keeps his Sabbath on

the Day of the Week his Religion requires.

The _Borrower_ is a Slave to the _Lender_; the _Security_ to
both.

Singularity in the right, hath ruined many: Happy those who are
convinced of the general Opinion.

Proportion your Charity to the Strength of your Estate, or God
will proportion your Estate to the Weakness of your Charity.

The Tongue offends, and the Ears get the Cuffing.

Some antient Philosophers have said, that Happiness depends
more on the inward Disposition of Mind than on outward Circumstances;
and that he who cannot be happy in any State, can be so in no State.

To be happy, they tell us we must be content. Right. But they do
not teach how we may become content. _Poor Richard_ shall give you a
short good Rule for that. _To be content, look backward on those who
possess less_ _than yourself, not forward on those who possess more._
If this does not make you _content_, you don't deserve to be _happy._

Sleep without Supping, and you'll rise without owing for it.

When other Sins grow old by Time,

Then Avarice is in its prime,

Yet feed the Poor at _Christmas_ time.

Learning is a valuable Thing in the Affairs of this Life, but of infinitely more Importance is _Godliness_, as it tends not only to make us happy here but hereafter. At the Day of Judgment, we shall not be asked, what Proficiency we have made in Languages or Philosophy; but whether we have liv'd virtuously and piously, as Men endued with Reason, guided by the Dictates of Religion. In that Hour it will more avail us, that we have thrown a Handful of Flour or Chaff in Charity to a Nest of contemptible Pismires, than that we could muster all the Hosts of Heaven, and call every Star by its proper Name. For then the Constellations themselves shall disappear, the Sun and Moon shall give no more Light, and all the Frame of Nature shall vanish. But our good or bad Works shall remain for ever, recorded in the Archives of Eternity.

Unmov'd alone the _Virtuous_ now appear,
And in their Looks a calm Assurance wear.
From East, from West, from North and South they come,
To take from the most righteous Judge their Doom;
Who thus, to them, with a serene Regard;
(The Books of Life before him laid,
And all the secret Records wide display'd)
"According to your Works be your Reward:
Possess immortal Kingdoms as your Due,
Prepar'd from an eternal Date for you."

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Poor Richard Improved

1758

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; for tho' I have been, if I may
say it without Vanity, an _eminent Author_ of Almanacks annually now
a full Quarter of a Century, my Brother Authors in the same Way, for

what Reason I know not, have ever been very sparing in their Applauses; and no other Author has taken the least Notice of me, so that did not my Writings produce me some solid _Pudding_, the great Deficiency of _Praise_ would have quite discouraged me.

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 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 Richard 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 Taxes the Commissioners cannot ease or deliver us by allowing an Abatement. However let us hearken to good Advice, and something may be done for us; _God helps them that help themselves_, as _Poor Richard_ says, in his Almanack 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. But _dost thou love Life, then do not squander Time, for that's the Stuff Life is made of_, as _Poor Richard_ says. -- How much more than is necessary do we spend in Sleep! forgetting that _The sleeping Fox catches no Poultry_, and that _there will be sleeping enough in the Grave_, as _Poor Richard_ says. If Time be of all Things the most precious, _wasting 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 up and be doing, and doing to the Purpose; so by Diligence shall we do more with less Perplexity. _Sloth makes all Things difficult, but Industry all easy_, as _Poor Richard_ says; and _He that riseth late, must trot all Day, and shall scarce overtake his Business at Night._ While _Laziness travels so slowly, that Poverty soon over-takes him_, as we read 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 encreaseth
them_, says _Poor Richard_. -- _What though you have found no
Treasure, nor has any rich Relation left you a Legacy, _Diligence is
the Mother of Good-luck, as _Poor Richard_ says, and _God gives 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 To-day, for you know not how much you may be
hindered To-morrow, which makes _Poor Richard_ say, _One To-day is
worth two To-morrows_; and farther, _Have you somewhat to do
To-morrow, do it To-day._ If you were a Servant, would you not be
ashamed that a good Master should catch you idle? Are you then your
own Master, _be ashamed to catch yourself idle_, as _Poor Dick_ says.
When there is so much to be done for yourself, your Family, your
Country, and your gracious King, be up by Peep of Day; _Let not the
Sun look down and say, Inglorious here he lies._ Handle your Tools

without Mittens; remember that _the Cat in Gloves catches no Mice_,
as _Poor Richard_ says. 'Tis 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; so that, as _Poor Richard_ says, a
Life of Leisure and a Life of Laziness are two Things. Do you
imagine that Sloth will afford you more Comfort than Labour? No, for
as _Poor Richard_ says, _Trouble springs from Idleness, and grievous
Toil from needless Ease. Many without Labour, would live by their_
WITS _only, but they break for want of Stock._ Whereas Industry gives
Comfort, and Plenty, and Respect: _Fly Pleasures, and they'll follow
you. The diligent Spinner has a large Shift_; and _now I have a
Sheep and a Cow, every Body bids me Good morrow_; all which is well
said by _Poor Richard._

But with our Industry, we must likewise be _steady_, _settled_
and _careful_, and oversee our own Affairs _with our own Eyes_, and
not trust too much to others; for, as _Poor Richard_ says,

_I never saw an oft removed Tree,
Nor yet an oft removed Family,
That throve so well as those that settled be._

And again, _Three Removes is as bad as a Fire_; and again,
Keep thy Shop, and thy Shop will keep thee; and again, _If you
would have your Business done, go; If not, send._ And again,

_He that by the Plough would thrive,
Himself must either hold or drive._

And again, _The Eye of a Master will do more Work than both his
Hands_; and again, _Want of Care does us more Damage than Want of
Knowledge_; and again, _Not to oversee Workmen, is to leave them your
Purse open._ Trusting too much to others Care is the Ruin of many;
for, as the _Almanack_ says, _In the Affairs of this World, Men are
saved, not by Faith, but by the Want of it_; but a Man's own Care is

profitable; for, saith _Poor Dick_, _Learning is to the Studious_,
and _Riches to the Careful_, as well as _Power to the Bold_, and
Heaven to the Virtuous. And farther, _If you would have a faithful
Servant, and one that you like, serve yourself._ And again, he
adviseth to Circumspection and Care, even in the smallest Matters,
because sometimes _a little Neglect may breed great Mischief_;
adding, _For want of a Nail the Shoe was lost; for want of a Shoe the
Horse was lost; and for want of a Horse the Rider was lost_, being
overtaken and slain by the Enemy, all for want of Care about a
Horse-shoe Nail.

So much for Industry, my Friends, and Attention to one's own
Business; but to these we must add _Frugality_, if we would make our
Industry more certainly successful. A Man may, if he knows not how
to save as he gets, _keep his Nose all his Life to the Grindstone_,
and die not worth a _Groat_ at last. _A fat Kitchen makes a lean
Will_, as _Poor Richard_ says; and,

_Many Estates are spent in the Getting,
Since Women for Tea forsook Spinning and Knitting,
And Men for Punch forsook Hewing and Splitting.

If you would be wealthy,_ says he, in another Almanack, _think

of Saving as well as of Getting: The _ Indies _ have not made _ Spain
_ rich, because her _ Outgoes _ are greater than her _ Incomes. Away
then with your expensive Follies, and you will not have so
much Cause to complain of hard Times, heavy Taxes, and chargeable
Families; for, as _ Poor Dick _ says,

_ Women and Wine, Game and Deceit,
Make the Wealth small, and the Wants great._

And farther, _ What maintains one Vice, would bring up two
Children._ You may think perhaps, That a _ little _ Tea, or a _ little _
Punch now and then, Diet a _ little _ more costly, Clothes a _ little _
finer, and a _ little _ Entertainment now and then, can be no _ great _
Matter; but remember what _ Poor Richard _ says, _ Many _ a Little _ makes
a Mickle_; and farther, _ Beware of _ little _ Expences_; _ a small Leak
will sink a great Ship_; and again, _ Who Dainties love, shall Beggars
prove_; and moreover, _ Fools make Feasts, and wise Men eat them._

Here you are all got together at this Vendue of _ Fineries _ and
_ Knickknacks._ You call them _ Goods_, but if you do not take Care,
they will prove _ Evils _ to some of you. You expect they will be sold
_ cheap_, and perhaps they may for less than they cost; but if you
have no Occasion for them, they must be _ dear _ to you. Remember what

Poor Richard says, _Buy what thou hast no Need of, and ere long thou shalt sell thy Necessaries._ And again, _At a great Pennyworth pause a while_: He means, that perhaps the Cheapness is _apparent_ only, and not _real_; or the Bargain, by straitning thee in thy Business, may do thee more Harm than Good. For in another Place he says, _Many have been ruined by buying good Pennyworths._ Again, _Poor Richard_ says, _'Tis foolish to lay out Money in a Purchase of Repentance_; and yet this Folly is practised every Day at Vendues, for want of minding the Almanack. _Wise Men_, as _Poor Dick_ says, _learn by others Harms, Fools scarcely by their own_; but, _Felix quem faciunt aliena Pericula cautum._ Many a one, for the Sake of Finery on the Back, have gone with a hungry Belly, and half starved their Families; _Silks and Sattins, Scarlet and Velvets_, as _Poor Richard_ says, _put out the Kitchen Fire._ These are not the _Necessaries_ of Life; they can scarcely be called the _Conveniencies_, and yet only because they look pretty, how many _want_ to _have_ them. The _artificial_ Wants of Mankind thus become more numerous than the _natural_; and, as _Poor Dick_ says, _For one_ poor _Person_, there are an hundred _indigent_. By these, and other Extravagancies, the Genteel are reduced to Poverty, and forced to borrow of those whom they formerly despised, but who through _Industry_ and _Frugality_ have maintained their Standing; in which Case it appears plainly, that a _Ploughman_ on his Legs is higher than

a Gentleman on his Knees_, as _Poor Richard_ says. Perhaps they have had a small Estate left them, which they knew not the Getting of; they think _'tis Day, and will never be Night_; that a little to be spent out of _so much_, is not worth minding; _(a Child and a Fool, as _Poor Richard_ says, _imagine_ Twenty Shillings _and Twenty Years can never be spent)_ but, _always taking out of the Meal-tub, and never putting in, soon comes to the Bottom_; then, as _Poor Dick_ says, _When the Well's dry, they know the Worth of Water._ But this they might have known before, if they had taken his Advice; _If you would know the Value of Money, go and try to borrow some_; for, _he that goes a borrowing goes a sorrowing_; and indeed so does he that lends to such People, when he goes _to get it in again._ -- _Poor Dick_ farther advises, and says,

Fond Pride of Dress, _is sure a very Curse;

E'er_ Fancy _you consult, consult your Purse._

And again, _Pride is as loud a Beggar as Want, and a great deal more saucy._ When you have bought one fine Thing you must buy ten more, that your Appearance may be all of a Piece; but _Poor Dick_ says, _'Tis easier to_ suppress _the first Desire, than to_ satisfy _all that follow it._ And 'tis as truly Folly for the Poor to ape the Rich, as for the Frog to swell, in order to equal the Ox.

_Great Estates may venture more,
But little Boats should keep near Shore._

'Tis however a Folly soon punished; for _Pride that dines on
Vanity sups on Contempt_, as _Poor Richard_ says. And in another
Place, _Pride breakfasted with Plenty, dined with Poverty, and supped
with Infamy._ And after all, of what Use is this _Pride of
Appearance_, for which so much is risked, so much is suffered? It
cannot promote Health, or ease Pain; it makes no Increase of Merit in
the Person, it creates Envy, it hastens Misfortune.

_What is a Butterfly? At best
He's but a Caterpillar drest.
The gaudy Fop's his Picture just,_

as _Poor Richard_ says.

But what Madness must it be to _run in Debt_ for these
Superfluities! We are offered, by the Terms of this Vendue, _Six
Months Credit_; and that perhaps has induced some of us to attend it,
because we cannot spare the ready Money, and hope now to be fine
without it. But, ah, think what you do when you run in Debt; _You

give to another Power over your Liberty._ If you cannot pay at the Time, you will be ashamed to see your Creditor; you will be in Fear when you speak to him; you will make poor pitiful sneaking Excuses, and by Degrees come to lose your Veracity, and sink into base downright lying; for, as _Poor Richard_ says, _The second Vice is Lying, the first is running in Debt._ And again, to the same Purpose, _Lying rides upon Debt's Back._ Whereas a freeborn _Englishman_ ought not to be ashamed or afraid to see or speak to any Man living. But Poverty often deprives a Man of all Spirit and Virtue: _'Tis hard for an empty Bag to stand upright_, as _Poor Richard_ truly says. What would you think of that Prince, or that Government, who should issue an Edict forbidding you to dress like a Gentleman or a Gentlewoman, on Pain of Imprisonment or Servitude? Would you not say, that you are free, have a Right to dress as you please, and that such an Edict would be a Breach of your Privileges, and such a Government tyrannical? And yet you are about to put yourself under that Tyranny when you run in Debt for such Dress! Your Creditor has Authority at his Pleasure to deprive you of your Liberty, by confining you in Goal for Life, or to sell you for a Servant, if you should not be able to pay him! When you have got your Bargain, you may, perhaps, think little of Payment; but _Creditors, Poor Richard_ tells us, _have better Memories than Debtors_; and in another Place says, _Creditors are a superstitious Sect, great Observers of set Days and Times._ The

Day comes round before you are aware, and the Demand is made before
you are prepared to satisfy it. Or if you bear your Debt in Mind,
the Term which at first seemed so long, will, as it lessens, appear
extreamly short. _Time_ will seem to have added Wings to his Heels
as well as Shoulders. _Those have a short Lent,_ saith _Poor
Richard, _who owe Money to be paid at Easter._ Then since, as he
says, _The Borrower is a Slave to the Lender, and the Debtor to the
Creditor_, disdain the Chain, preserve your Freedom; and maintain
your Independency: Be _industrious_ and _free_; be _frugal_ and
free. At present, perhaps, you may think yourself in thriving
Circumstances, and that you can bear a little Extravagance without
Injury; but,

_For Age and Want, save while you may;

No Morning Sun lasts a whole Day,_

as _Poor Richard_ says. -- Gain may be temporary and uncertain,
but ever while you live, Expence is constant and certain; and _'tis
easier to build two Chimnies than to keep one in Fuel_, as _Poor
Richard_ says. So _rather go to Bed supperless than rise in Debt.

_Get what you can, and what you get hold;

Tis the Stone that will turn all your Lead into Gold,_

as _Poor Richard_ says. And when you have got the
Philosopher's Stone, sure you will no longer complain of bad Times,
or the Difficulty of paying Taxes.

This Doctrine, my Friends, is _Reason_ and _Wisdom_; but after
all, do not depend too much upon your own _Industry_, and
Frugality, and _Prudence_, though excellent Things, for they may
all be blasted without the Blessing of Heaven; and therefore ask that
Blessing humbly, and be not uncharitable to those that at present
seem to want it, but comfort and help them. Remember _Job_ suffered,
and was afterwards prosperous.

And now to conclude, _Experience_ keeps a dear School, but Fools
will learn in no other, and scarce in that_; for it is true, _we may
give Advice, but we cannot give Conduct_, as _Poor Richard_ says:
However, remember this, _They that won't be counselled, can't be
helped_, as _Poor Richard_ says: And farther, That _if you will not
hear Reason, she'll surely rap your Knuckles._"

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. -- I found the good Man had
thoroughly studied my Almanacks, and digested all I had dropt on
those Topicks during the Course of Five-and-twenty Years. The
frequent Mention he made of me must have tired any one else, but my
Vanity was wonderfully delighted with it, though I was conscious that
not a tenth Part of the 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, _

July 7, 1757.

RICHARD SAUNDERS.

One _Nestor_ is worth two _Ajaxes._

When you're an Anvil, hold you still;

When you're a Hammer, strike your Fill.

When Knaves betray each other, one can scarce be blamed, or the

other pitied.

He that carries a small Crime easily, will carry it on when it comes to be an Ox.

Happy _Tom Crump_, ne'er sees his own Hump.

Fools need Advice most, but wise Men only are the better for it.

Silence is not always a Sign of Wisdom, but Babbling is ever a Mark of Folly.

Great Modesty often hides great Merit.

You may delay, but _Time_ will not.

Virtue may not always make a Face handsome, but _Vice_ will certainly make it ugly.

Prodigality of _Time_, produces Poverty of Mind as well as of Estate.

Content is the Philosopher's Stone, that turns all it touches
into Gold.

He that's content, hath enough; He that complains, has too
much.

Pride gets into the Coach, and _Shame_ mounts behind.

The first Mistake in publick Business, is the going into it.

Half the Truth is often a great Lie.

The Way to see by _Faith_, is to shut the Eye of _Reason_: The
Morning Daylight appears plainer when you put out your Candle.

A full Belly makes a dull Brain: The Muses starve in a Cook's
Shop.

Spare and have is better than _spend and crave_.

Good-Will, like the Wind, floweth where it listeth.

The Honey is sweet, but the Bee has a Sting.

In a corrupt Age, the putting the World in order would breed
Confusion; then e'en mind your own Business.

To serve the Publick faithfully, and at the same time please it
entirely, is impracticable.

Proud Modern Learning despises the antient: _School-men_ are
now laught at by _School-boys._

Men often _mistake_ themselves, seldom _forget_ themselves.

The idle Man is the Devil's Hireling; whose Livery is Rags,
whose Diet and Wages are Famine and Diseases.

Rob not God, nor the Poor, lest thou ruin thyself; the Eagle
snatcht a Coal from the Altar, but it fired her Nest.

With bounteous Cheer,

Conclude the Year.

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