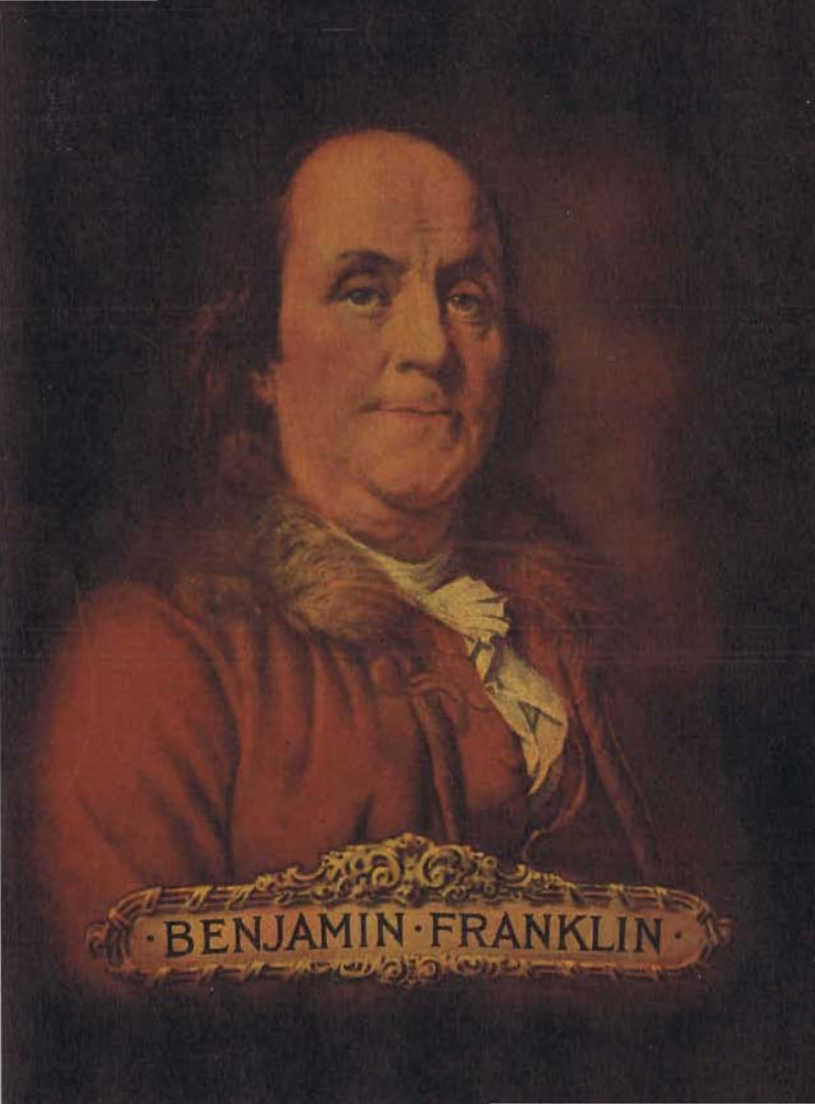
·BENJAMIN·FRANKLIN·

The Franklin statue at the University of Pennsylvania,
modelled by Dr. R. Tait McKenzie.
It represents Franklin at the age of 17,
entering Philadelphia.

The portrait of Benjamin Franklin on the cover
is from a painting by Joseph Sifrede Duplessis in the Boston Public Library.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
~ Apostle *of* Thrift ~
and Frugality

Poor Richard, 1733.

AN

Almanack

For the Year of Chriſt

1733,

Being the Firſt after LEAP YEAR.

And makes ſince the Creation	Years
By the Account of the Eaſtern Greeks	7241
By the Latin Church, when O ent. ♈	6932
By the Computation of *W.W.*	5742
By the *Roman* Chronology	5682
By the *Jewiſh* Rabbies	5494

Wherein is contained

The Lunations, Eclipſes, Judgment of the Weather, Spring Tides, Planets Motions & mutual Aſpects, Sun and Moon's Riſing and Setting, Length of Days, Time of High Water, Fairs, Courts, and obſerrable Days.

Fitted to the Latitude of Forty Degrees, and a Meridian of Five Hours Weſt from *London*, but may without ſenſible Error, ſerve all the adjacent Places, even from *Newfoundland* to *South-Carolina*.

By *RICHARD SAUNDERS*, Philom.

PHILADELPHIA:
Printed and ſold by *B. FRANKLIN*, at the New Printing Office near the Market

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MUTUAL

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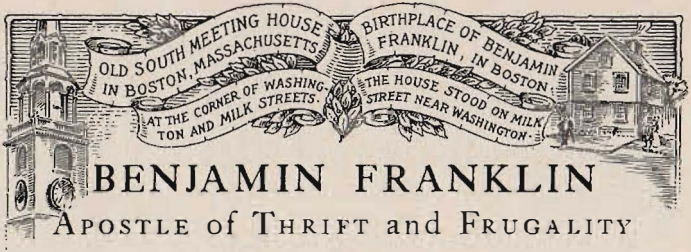
OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Daniel L Lord



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Apostle of Thrift and Frugality

His Autobiography

ONE of the most interesting autobiographies the world has ever known, a classic in American literature, read and loved alike in every land, was written by Benjamin Franklin. Here as nowhere else is revealed the personality of this great American—his industry and his ingenuity; his vision and his practicality; his shrewd understanding of human nature; his interest in all things, both great and small.

Franklin began writing his autobiography in 1771, when in England, in the form of a letter to his son. Urged by his friends to continue the story of his life for the sake of posterity, he added to it from time to time, writing the latter part in Philadelphia a year or two before he died. But the narrative, brought down to 1757, covers only fifty-one years of Franklin's long life. The remaining years of his life, the years of his statesmanship and diplomacy, when he labored in behalf of American independence and the foundation of American government, are not touched upon.

It may be that Franklin purposely omitted recounting the story of his great influence and accomplishment both at home and abroad. How he struggled and labored and rose to this position of honor was of more interest

to him. He was first and last a self-made American, and this he makes known in his Autobiography.

Boston

A good deal more than two centuries ago, on Sunday, January 17, 1706, a boy was born in a little frame house on Milk Street in Boston. The same afternoon he was taken to the Old South Meeting House, just across the street, where he was christened Benjamin Franklin. His parents, Josiah and Abiah Franklin, were scarcely aware that an illustrious name had been added to history, that their son would become America's first great scientist, philosopher, and statesman. They knew only that there was another child in an already numerous family to feed and clothe. Benjamin was the fifteenth of seventeen children, the tenth and youngest son of Josiah Franklin.

Thrift and frugality were watchwords of this New England household, and the child Benjamin soon experienced a lesson in wise spending which he was never to forget. Many years afterwards, when an old man, he recounted the story in a charming little essay called "The Whistle." He was seven years old and had been given a few pennies which he hastened to spend—all of them—on a whistle. When his parents saw how trifling was the whistle, they reproached the boy and laughed at him and told him he had paid four times its value. The lesson went very deep and Benjamin resolved never again to "give too much for the whistle."

Looked upon as a tithe, the tenth Franklin son was destined for the ministry and was sent to grammar

school at the age of eight, but the hard-working father soon became aware that he could not afford the cost of the necessary college education, and Benjamin was transferred to a school for writing and arithmetic. When ten years old, he left school entirely in order to help his father in his candle and soap shop. But he found it very irksome to cut wicks and dip molds and run errands, and threatened to run away to sea, as an older brother had done. He was an active youngster and could outdo all the other boys in swimming and rowing. Even as a child, he was an individualist; one of his swimming stunts was to fly a kite, fasten the string to his wrist, and let the kite pull him through the water, while he lay quietly on his back.

One thing this boy liked above all else was to read, and this bookish tendency persuaded his father to make a printer of him. At the age of twelve he was apprenticed to his half-brother James, who had a printing office in Boston. The story of these apprenticeship days is delightfully told in Franklin's Autobiography. He now had access to more books, as he could borrow them from apprentices of booksellers. Often he sat up most of the night so that he could return the book in the morning. Then his ingenuity devised a plan whereby he could buy a few books and also have more time for reading. He had recently decided to become a vegetarian. He proposed that his brother give him weekly half the money he paid for his board, and that he, Benjamin, would board himself. He found he spent only half this amount on his simple diet and with the rest he could buy books. Besides, he found he had extra time to read, while the others were away at their meals.

He had found arithmetic difficult for him at school; now he took an arithmetic and a geometry book and mastered them by himself. Likewise he studied English grammar and next undertook to improve his manner of writing. He happened upon a volume of the *Spectator* and was so delighted with the ease and charm of the style that he decided, if possible, to imitate it. After making note of several of the ideas expressed in the book, he set himself the task of discussing and enlarging upon them, using his own words, but after the manner of Addison and Steele. Upon completion he compared his work with the original, discovering and correcting his mistakes. Finding that he needed to increase his vocabulary, he turned several papers of the *Spectator* into verse; then back into prose. Through such self-training and self-mastery Benjamin Franklin grew into greatness.

About this time James Franklin began to publish a newspaper called *The New England Courant*. Soon articles full of sly humor and wise observations, signed by Mrs. Silence Dogood, were slipped at night under the door of the printing office. They were so good that they were published amid much speculation as to their authorship. But Benjamin kept his secret several months, inwardly elated that his writing should cause so much comment.

In 1722 James Franklin was forbidden by local authorities to publish his newspaper, which now appeared under the name of Benjamin Franklin. To accomplish this the apprenticeship agreement was publicly cancelled, but new apprentice papers were secretly made by James to hold his younger brother. Benjamin was far too intelligent to be bound in this way. His brother was

becoming more overbearing and jealous, and Benjamin announced that he would work for him no longer. Visiting the other printing-houses in Boston, he found that his brother had preceded him and persuaded the owners not to employ him. Accordingly Boston lost a printer and Philadelphia gained one.

"B. Franklin, Printer"

EVERYONE knows the story of Franklin's picturesque arrival in Philadelphia. He left home secretly and went by boat to New York where he was unable to find work. A storm-tossed voyage to Philadelphia, and the tired, hungry, runaway boy, on a bright Sunday morning in October, 1723, arrived in Philadelphia. He stopped at a bakery and bought three pennies' worth of bread, which in Boston would have been an ordinary amount, but here he was surprised to receive three great puffy rolls. With a roll under each arm and eating the third, he walked up Market Street, greatly to the amusement of a young girl standing in a doorway, Miss Deborah Reed, who seven years later was to become his wife.

In Philadelphia Franklin soon found work in a printing office, and was getting along well when his superior knowledge and ability attracted Sir William Keith, Governor of the Province, who advised the young man to set up business for himself. He went so far as to offer to finance him and suggested that he go to England for his printing equipment. Franklin set sail for London only to learn, when far out at sea, that Keith had deceived him and had not sent the letters of introduction and credit he had promised. Reaching London, he found himself a

second time in a strange city, with only a little money.

But Franklin made his way in London as he had in Philadelphia, securing work at his printing trade and gaining all kinds of experience. After eighteen months he returned to Philadelphia, an older and a wiser man, to become the clerk of Mr. Denham, a merchant. But this work lasted only six months; Mr. Denham died and Franklin returned to the printing business.

Franklin was twenty-two when he and Hugh Meredith set up a printing firm on Market Street; two years later the partnership was dissolved and the sign "B. Franklin, Printer" appeared over the door. The road was far from easy, as there were two other printing establishments in Philadelphia. Many said that Franklin would not be able to meet the competition, but a friend of his, Dr. Baird, predicted otherwise. "For the industry of that Franklin," said he, "is superior to anything I ever saw of the kind; I see him still at work when I go home from the Club, and he is at work again before his neighbors are out of bed." The Autobiography reveals a vivid picture of this quiet industry. "I drest plainly," wrote Franklin. "I was seen at no places of idle diversion. I never went out a fishing or shooting . . . and, to show that I was not above my business, I sometimes brought home the paper I purchased at the stores thro' the streets on a wheelbarrow."

Franklin's newspaper, "The Pennsylvania Gazette," was the best in the colonies. Besides the regular news and advertisements, it contained quaint anecdotes and amusing little essays which Franklin could write in a style so peculiarly his own. This was an art of his, that everything

he wrote was alive with good humor and wise comment. In fact, he is known as the first American humorist.

Poor Richard

MOST printers of that time issued an almanac as a matter of course, but when Franklin published his *Poor Richard's Almanac*, he created a character that is just as alive today as in 1733 when Poor Richard was first introduced. Poor Richard's scraps of wit and wisdom, scattered throughout the Almanac, preaching the gospel of thrift and frugality, of work-and-save, seized the popular fancy. Not all the sayings of Poor Richard were original with Franklin; he himself stated they were "the wisdom of many ages and nations." But it was he who made them the power of influence in our everyday living.

For twenty-five years Franklin published his Almanac, his influence and reputation growing with the ever-increasing popularity of Poor Richard. In the last issue edited by him—that of the year 1758—Franklin summarized all the best sayings of Poor Richard in a remarkable preface, which is said to be the best sermon ever preached on industry and frugality. Popularly known as "The Way to Wealth," it has been translated into almost every language and has been printed and reprinted again and again.

Franklin practised all he preached as to industry and thrift, and at the age of forty-two he was able to retire from active business. The latter half of his life he devoted to public service and the advancement of his country. But he continued always to think of himself as a printer. As Poor Richard says, "He that hath a trade, hath an estate."

The Scientist and the Inventor

WHEN Franklin first returned to Philadelphia from London, he organized among his friends a social and study circle called the Junto Club, which met once a week to discuss questions of morals, politics, and natural philosophy. Many of the subjects presented to the club by Franklin had a scientific bearing: "How may the phenomena of vapors be explained?" and "Why does the flame of a candle tend upwards in a spire?"

Only to theorize, without any practical results, was not Franklin's way. In 1742, busy though he was with his printing business, he invented the "Pennsylvania Fireplace," an open stove, which gave more heat and was less wasteful of fuel than a fireplace. It was used successfully for more than a century, and in modified form it is still used and called the Franklin stove.

The story of Franklin's experiments with electricity is one of the most thrilling and amazing in scientific investigation. Here was a retired printer of Philadelphia, who, casting aside the complicated formulas and elaborate theories of other scientists, proved the identity of lightning and electricity, first by observation and simple theory, then by actual test with his kite. Next, practical as always, he at once put his discovery to use and invented the lightning rod, which is to this day the best protection we have against lightning.

It was in 1745 that Franklin first became interested in electrical experiments. He maintained that electricity was "really an element diffused among and attracted by other matter, particularly by water and metals." He gave to the world a simple terminology of the two states of elec-

tricity, the positive and negative, or plus and minus. He suggested to French scientists a method by which lightning could be drawn from clouds by means of an elevated metal rod, but before he received word that this had been accomplished in France, he had flown his famous kite. It was because there was no elevation in Philadelphia high enough for his experiment that Franklin conceived the idea of using a kite.

On a June day in 1752, a man and a boy—Benjamin Franklin and his son—set forth into a storm, carrying a kite. They walked to the outskirts of Philadelphia where, under the protection of an old shed, they sent up their kite into the stormy sky. As a black thundercloud swept across the kite, a key attached to the end of the string Franklin was holding became charged with electricity, and from the key he found he could charge his Leyden jar, or what today we would call a storage battery. Thus did Franklin actually prove that lightning and electricity are identical.

Franklin's fame as a philosopher and a man of science was soon recognized both at home and abroad. He received the degree of Master of Arts from both Harvard and Yale; in 1759 he received an LL.D. from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, and later another degree from Oxford. At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, Dr. Franklin was the best known and most renowned American abroad, largely through his scientific achievements.

Throughout his life he was always observing and investigating, collecting facts and writing his conclusions. It would be impossible here to recount all the contributions in original thinking he made to this world of ours; a few of them will show the activity of his mind and the versatility of his interest.

Franklin was the first to discover that northeast storms come out of the southwest, proving that storms travel in an opposite direction from that of the wind. He demonstrated that oil on the water will quiet the waves. Hewas the first to propose daylight-saving time. He demonstrated the production of cold by evaporation. He wrote many articles on food and diet, emphasizing always a "sparing and simple diet." By making tests with various colored cloths on snow, on a sunny day, he demonstrated that white does not attract the heat as much as black and dark colors, and recommended white clothes for the tropics. He was far ahead of his time in his theory of ventilation, believing that the air of a room is poisoned by repeated respiration. Franklin threw open his bedroom windows when everyone else slept with theirs tightly closed.

He made for his own use the first pair of bifocal glasses. He is believed to have made the first mangle for ironing clothes, which, in 1787, he demonstrated for General Washington according to the diary of the latter. He invented a musical instrument called the harmonica. He used a simple but effective method to teach the

Pennsylvania farmers to use mineral fertilizers. "This has been plastered," he wrote in letters of plaster on an open field, and these letters soon rose high above the surrounding vegetation. While in France he followed closely the balloon experiments. "Of what use is a balloon?" some one asked in Dr. Franklin's presence. "Of what use," he answered, "is a new-born babe?"

He had vision to see the vast progress ahead for his country and for civilization. He wrote in a letter: "I have sometimes almost wished it had been my destiny to be born two or three centuries hence. For invention and improvement are prolific, and beget more of their kind. The present progress is rapid. Many of great importance, now unthought of, will before that period be produced; and then I might not only enjoy their advantages but have my curiosity gratified in knowing what they are to be." How keenly Dr. Franklin would relish this world of radio and aeroplane.

The Public Citizen

TO do good to his fellow man was one of the first principles of Benjamin Franklin. In his home city of Philadelphia, his undertakings were progressive as well as public-spirited. Here he originated and established the first circulating library, the forerunner of the countless libraries of today. Here he organized the first city fire department. He caused the streets to be paved and lighted and policed, and organized the first street-cleaning department. He established the first academy in Phila-

delphia, now the University of Pennsylvania. He helped to found the first hospital, and organized the first Pennsylvania militia.

The Diplomat and the Statesman

LIVING at Number 7 Craven Street, London, Franklin spent fifteen years in England as agent for the Colony of Pennsylvania, and it was during his second mission in this capacity that his ability as a diplomat was first revealed, when at the time of the agitation over the Stamp Tax, he was called before Parliament and questioned. Throughout his long examination, Dr. Franklin was at his best; calm, dignified, astute in his answers, he was an important factor in the repeal of the Stamp Act.

At the time when most men retire from public life, Dr. Franklin, in 1775, began a second great career of usefulness to his country. He was in his seventieth year when he became a member of the Continental Congress and threw all the weight of his vigorous personality into the cause of independence. He was active on ten committees and worked tirelessly day and night. Thomas Jefferson submitted the original draft of the Declaration of Independence to Franklin who, making a few minor changes, heartily supported it. "We must all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately" was Franklin's wise comment as the members of the Congress affixed their signatures.

The signature of Benjamin Franklin appears on all four of the great state papers by which our independence

was achieved—the Declaration of Independence, the Treaty of Alliance with France, the Treaty of Peace with England, and the Constitution of the United States. No other patriot has this distinction.

His diplomatic negotiations with France were his greatest contribution to American independence, and resulted in the French alliance, without which our independence could not have been established at that time. No one except Franklin, so respected and esteemed both at home and abroad, could have accomplished this. His ability as a diplomat has been unequalled in our history. Franklin arrived in Paris late in December, 1776; a little over a year later the Treaty of Alliance was signed, and the French fleet was hurried to the aid of America. Even before this, Franklin had secured extensive loans with which to carry on the war; still more were badly needed. In 1780 General Washington wrote to him, "We must have one of two things—peace, or money from France." And Franklin responded with money; in all, he secured twenty-six million francs.

Almost overnight the aged philosopher became the idol of the French nation; he was received with special honors in court circles; he was fêted and dined and acclaimed. The ladies adored him; his portrait appeared on snuffboxes, lockets, and every variety of souvenir; in a word, he became the fashion of Paris. Here was the originator of Poor Richard whose maxims of thrift and industry were so appealing to the French; here was the

great scientist whose experiments with electricity had made him world-famous; and to the French he seemed also to typify all that America was fighting for—liberty and freedom and democracy. Yet with it all he was so delightfully human and unaffected, original in everything he did, wearing his brown fur cap amid the powdered heads and wigs, always ready with a charming witticism or an anecdote sparkling with good humor.

More than a year after the treaty of peace with England was signed, Dr. Franklin asked for his recall from France, and was succeeded by Thomas Jefferson. "You replace Dr. Franklin, I hear," said the French Minister of Foreign Affairs. "I succeed him; no one can replace him," replied that eminent gentleman. "When he left Passy," said Jefferson, "it seemed as if the village had lost its patriarch." He landed in Philadelphia in September, 1785, amid great rejoicing. Not yet was he permitted to retire to private life, but was elected President of the Pennsylvania Executive Council, to which office he was three times re-elected.

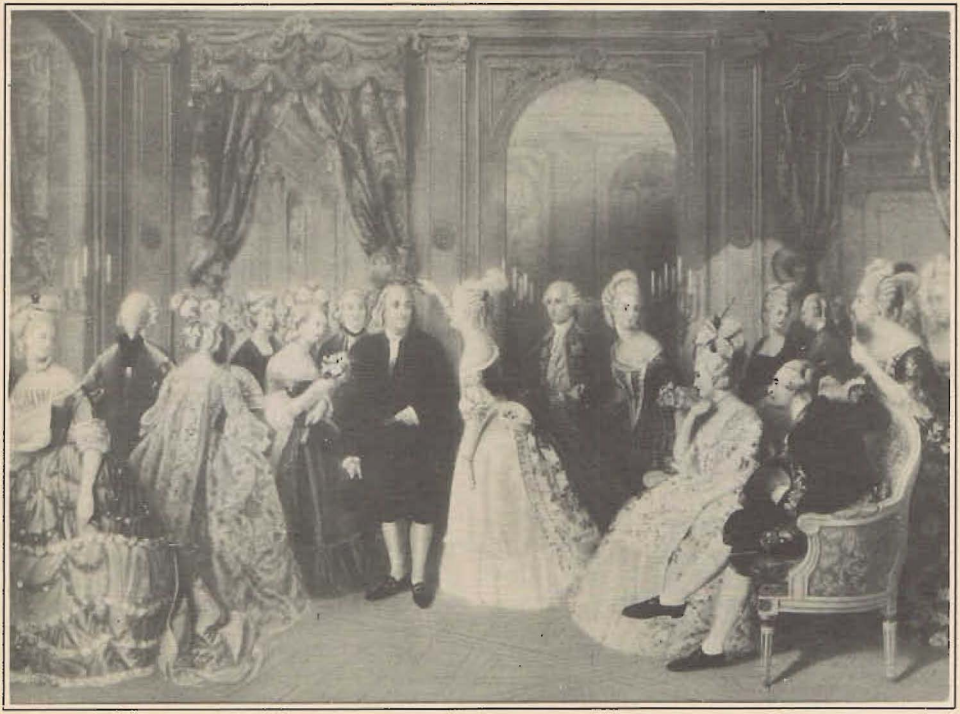
In 1787, at the age of eighty-one, he took his seat in the convention called in Philadelphia to frame the Constitution of the United States. At the suggestion of Washington, the delegates greeted him standing. During the four long months of that strenuous session, the venerable diplomat was a steadying influence. Many times when the discussion reached a critical period and dissension seemed imminent, a humorous story told by Franklin

would save the day and conciliate the factions. At one time the question of how the states should be represented produced a deadlock, but Franklin was ready with a compromise and suggested a Senate to represent the states equally, and a House of Representatives to represent the states according to their population.

Finally the great document was ready to be signed by the members of the convention. Calling their attention to a painting of a half disk of the sun on the back of Washington's chair, Franklin said: "I have often and often in the course of the session and the vicissitudes of my hopes and fears as to its issue, looked at that behind the President without being able to tell whether it was rising or setting; but now at length I have the happiness to know that it is a rising, and not a setting sun."

Benjamin Franklin lived to see the completion of the first year of the United States under the Constitution he had helped to formulate. Death came on April 17, 1790. Into every home Poor Richard still brings his gospel of thrift and frugality, and the name of Benjamin Franklin will ever be respected and renowned among all nations. As Poor Richard says, "A good example is the best sermon."

NOTE: The quotations which form the headings in this book are taken from the sayings of Poor Richard.



Dr. Franklin at the Court of France, 1778, from the painting by Andre E. Jolly.

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