

Chapter 1 : Benjamin Franklin Poor Richard's Almanack proverbs and aphorisms

Poor Richard's Almanack (sometimes Almanac) was a yearly almanac published by Benjamin Franklin, who adopted the pseudonym of "Poor Richard" or "Richard Saunders" for this purpose. The publication appeared continually from to

Nothing can be humbler than Ambition, when it is so disposed. Nothing Humber than Ambition, when it is about to climb. The Way to be safe, is never to be secure. They sold over 10, copies annually for many years, and the name, contents, and format were eagerly and shamelessly imitated and copied until well into the nineteenth century, in England as well as in America. Most large collections of Americana have several issues, but none has a complete run. The months came next, one to a page, each headed by some verse, each with astronomical symbols, weather predictions, and aphorisms intermingled. The almanac ended with a prediction of eclipses for the year, and the dates of courts, Quaker meetings, and fairs in Pennsylvania and neighboring colonies. A list of the kings of England at the front and one of reigning monarchs at the back, a table of distances, and some more verses composed the remainder of the pamphlet. A comparison of the illustrations of the complete almanac pp. 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. Titan Leeds, whose Interest I was extreemly 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. 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.

January hath xxxi days. More nice than wise. A house without woman and Firelight, is like a body without soul or sprite. Kings and Bears often worry their keepers. February hath xxviii days. Light purse, heavy heart. Love well, whip well. March hath xxxi days. Quoth she, since you are in this wrangling vein, Here take your Kisses, give me mine again. Let my respected friend J. Accept this humble verse of me. Hunger never saw bad bread. April hath xxx days. 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[ut] effect, effect without profit, and profit without vertue, are not worth a farto. May hath xxxi days. Then he that would please all, and himself too, Takes more in hand than he is like to do. 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. Beware of the young Doctor and the old Barber. The poor have little, beggars none, the rich too much, enough not one. June hath xxx days. By them thou shalt forsee the following day, Nor shall a starry night thy hopes betray. 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. July hath xxxi days. Oft have I seen a sudden storm arise From all the warring winds that sweep the skies: Many estates are spent in the getting, Since women for tea forsook spinning and knitting. He that lies down with Dogs, shall rise up with fleas. A fat kitchin, a lean Will. Distrust and caution are the parents of security. Tongue double, brings trouble. August hath xxxi days. Five girdles bind the skies, the torrid zone Glows with the passing and repassing sun. He that drinks fast, pays slow. Great famine when wolves eat wolves. A taught horse, and a woman to teach, and teachers practising what they preach. September hath xxx days. Death is a Fisherman, the world we see His Fish-pond is, and we the Fishes be: But Death is sure to kill all he can get, And all is Fish with him that comes to Net. The heart of a fool is in his mouth, but the mouth of a wise man is in his heart. Men and Melons

are hard to know. A fine genius in his own country, is like gold in the mine. There is no little enemy. October hath xxxi days. Time was my spouse and I could not agree, Striving about superiority: The text which saith that man and wife are one, Was the chief argument we stood upon: She held, they both one woman should become; I held they should be man, and both but one. Thus we contended daily, but the strife Could not be ended, till both were one Wife. The old Man has given all to his Son: Cheese and salt meat, should be sparingly eat. Doors and walls are fools paper. Keep your mouth wet, feet dry. November hath xxx days. 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. December hath xxxi days. She that will eat her breakfast in her bed, And spend the morn in dressing of her head, And sit at dinner like a maiden bride, And talk of nothing all day but of pride; God in his mercy may do much to save her, But what a case is he in that shall have her. God works wonders now and then; Behold! Innocence is its own Defence. The Benefit of going to Law. Dedicated to the Counties of Kâ€™t and H-nâ€™â€™rd-n.

Chapter 2 : Poor Richard's Almanack (TV Movie) - IMDb

35 quotes from Poor Richard's Almanack: 'Three may keep a secret, if two of them are dead.'

He wrote it under the pseudonym of "Poor Richard" or "Richard Saunders". The print runs reached upwards of 10, per year. There are no gains without pains. Industry pays debts while despair increases them. Diligence is the mother of good luck. God gives all things to industry. Plough deep while sluggards sleep and you shall have corn to sell and to keep. Work while it is called today for you know not how much you may be hindered tomorrow. One today is worth two tomorrows. Have you something to do tomorrow? If you were a servant would you not be ashamed that a good master should catch you idle? Then if you are your own master be ashamed to catch yourself idle. Trouble springs from idleness and grievous toil from needless ease. Industry gives comfort and plenty and respect. Keep thy shop and thy shop will keep thee. If you would have your business done, go; if not, send. Want of care does us more damage than want of knowledge. Not to oversee workmen is to leave them your purse open. If you would have a faithful servant and one that you like "serve yourself. If you would be wealthy think of saving as well as getting: The Indies have not made Spain rich because her outgoes are greater than her incomes. Women and wine, game and deceit make the wealth small and the wants great. Many estates are spent in the getting, Since women for tea forsook spinning and knitting, And men for punch forsook hewing and splitting. What maintains one vice would bring up two children. Fools make feasts and wise men eat them. Who dainties love shall beggars prove. Silks and satins, scarlet and velvets have put out the kitchen fire. A child and a fool imagine twenty shillings and twenty years can never be spent. To be humble to superiors is duty, to equals courtesy, to inferiors nobleness. After crosses and losses Men grow humbler and wiser. The proud hate pride "in others. Pride dines on Vanity, sups on Contempt. Pride breakfasted with Plenty Dined with poverty Supped with Infamy. Blame-all and Praise-all are two blockheads. Experience keeps a dear school, but fools will learn in no other, and scarce in that. It is ill-manners to silence a fool and cruelty to let him go on. The wise man draws more advantage from his enemies than the fool from his friends. A learned blockhead is a greater blockhead than an ignorant one. The learned fool writes his nonsense in better languages than the unlearned; but still it is nonsense. When befriended, remember it; When you befriend, forget it. He that lives upon hope will die fasting. He that has a trade has an estate. The noblest question in the world is What good may I do in it? Sell not virtue to purchase wealth nor liberty to purchase power. Nothing brings more pain than too much pleasure; nothing more bondage than too much liberty. Wink at small faults; remember thou hast great ones. Each year one vicious habit rooted out, In time might make the worst man good throughout. Hear no ill of a friend, nor speak any of an enemy. Many a man thinks he is buying pleasure when he is really selling himself a slave to it. Having been poor is no shame; but being ashamed of it is. Meanness is the parent of insolence. The busy man has few idle visitors; to the boiling pot the flies come not. If you would reap praise you must sow the seeds, Gentle words and useful deeds. Anger is never without a reason but seldom with a good one. He that does what he should not shall feel what he would not. The honest man takes pains and then enjoys pleasures; The knave takes pleasures and then suffers pains. What you would seem to be, be really. Necessity never made a good bargain. The heart of a fool is in his mouth, but the mouth of a wise man is in his heart. Tricks and treachery are the practice of fools that have not wit enough to be honest. Drink does not drown care, but waters it, and makes it grow fast. Three good meals a day is bad living. Here comes the orator! With his flood of words and his drop of reason. He that speaks much is much mistaken. Proclaim not all thou knoweth, all thou owest, all thou hast, nor all thou canst. A great talker may be no fool but he is one that relies on him. He that lies down with dogs shall rise up with fleas. All things are easy to industry, All things are difficult to sloth. Take this remark from Richard poor and lame, Whatever is begun in anger ends in shame. Be slow in choosing a friend, slower in changing. The sun never repents of the good he does, nor does he ever demand recompense. If what most men admire they would despise, It would look as if mankind were growing wise. He that would live in peace and ease Must not speak all he knows nor judge all he sees. Think of three things: Whence you came, Where you are going, And to whom you must account. Being ignorant is not so much a shame as being

unwilling to learn. Be civil to all, serviceable to many, familiar with few, friend to one, enemy to none. Love your enemies, for they tell you your faults. Be always ashamed to catch thyself idle. Fear to do evil and you need fear nothing else. Good sense and learning may esteem obtain, Humor and wit a laugh, if rightly taken; Fair virtue admiration may impart; But tis good-nature only wins the heart. It moulds the body to an easy grace, And brightens every feature of the face; It smooths the unpolished tongue with eloquence, And adds persuasion to the finest sense. He that can conquer his bad habits. He that rejoices in his portion. Wish not so much to live long as to live well. For age and want save while you may; No morning sun lasts a whole day. If you would not be forgotten As soon as you are dead and rotten, Either write things worth reading Or do things worth writing. Youth is pert and positive, Age modest and doubting; So ears of corn when young and bright, stand bold upright, But hang their heads when weighty, full and ripe. Kings have long arms, but Misfortune longer, Let none think themselves out of her reach. When a boy two precious jewels were given thee, Time and good advice, One thou has lost and the other thrown away. Lend money to an enemy and you will gain him, to a friend and you will lose him. Beware of little expenses, a small leak will sink a great ship. When prosperity was well mounted, she let go the bridle, and soon came tumbling out of the saddle. There are three faithful friends – An old wife, an old dog, and ready money. Bargaining has neither friends nor relations. He that is of the opinion money will do everything may well be suspected of doing everything for money. Wealth is not his that has it, but his that enjoys it. Many have quarreled about religion that never practiced it.

Chapter 3 : Wit and Wisdom from Poor Richard's Almanack by Benjamin Franklin | www.nxgvision.com

A edition of Poor Richard's Almanac The success of Poor Richard's Almanack is due in part to Franklin's ability to adapt bits and pieces of past calendars with his own skills and wit. Franklin wrote under the pseudonym of Richard Saunders.

He boasted in his autobiography that the almanac eventually reached ten thousand readers, a remarkable feat in a city with a population of approximately fifteen thousand people. As Franklin grew older and became involved in civic improvements in Philadelphia, the desire to offer useful advice began to overshadow the humor found in earlier issues of the almanac. Beginning with the issue and continuing to the issue of , one can identify a number of similarities. Each issue begins with a short essay of introduction, signed by Richard Saunders with one exception , followed by monthly poems and several maxims. The issues close with some additional material, most often a report on eclipses that Franklin sometimes uses for humorous purposes. For example, he makes use of a hoax concerning the death of a rival, Titan Leeds, even having Leeds return from the dead to write a ghostly letter replying to disbelievers. Problems in mathematics and mysteriously worded prophecies provide diversions for the reader as well. Many of these elements are presented in the form of what today might be called cliffhangers, with the promise of further revelations in subsequent issues. The format of the introductory essay, monthly poems and maxims, and a variety of closing material is used in issues published after . Although Franklin varies the presentations somewhat, the basic structure of the almanac remains the same. Many well-known quotations from Franklin come in the form of his maxims. They all share the characteristic of being short, and are often playfully worded. The maxims, which cover a variety of topics, consistently advocate, for example, moderation and temperance in the consumption of food and spirits with frequent warnings against drunkenness. His advice on money encourages the reader to work hard, save money, and live simply; however, he also frequently warns against seeking wealth for its own sake and against being miserly. His maxims on courtship and marriage elevate women to importance, but only in terms of married life, the keeping of a household, and obedience to husbands. By , the tone of the almanac begins to change. Franklin occasionally inserts brief essays of advice, and nearly every issue between and ends with a brief essay or poem attacking lawyers and the courts. In , he offers instruction on how to make wine, and in he instructs on how to pick out the planets from the stars. He even laments the death of a rival printer, Jacob Taylor, in . The death of Taylor, in fact, had prompted an important change in the almanac. Franklin announces in his introductory essay to the issue that he plans to improve the contents of future issues in honor of Taylor. Prior to , each issue had averaged about twenty-four pages, but the improved almanac, he says, will now feature thirty-six pages of material. While the humor of the earlier issues does not disappear, a tone of seriousness begins to dominate the post issues. Franklin includes essays on topics such as getting rich , the best use of time , the change in calendar ordered by the king , hymns to the creator , the movement of the earth , protecting a house from lightning , and the clergy . For a short time, Franklin even features information on everyday events, such as births and deaths, breaking the pattern of having only poems and maxims. He began this practice in but ended it by . The final issues of the almanac reflect this new seriousness most dramatically. The issue includes short essays covering topics such as curing heartburn and burns on the skin as well as good conversation, expenses, good health, honest labor, temperance, simple living, adjusting to hardship, honor, and industry. A similar list follows in , an issue that includes a lengthy opening essay on setting up a sundial and a closing essay on comets. These two issues are the lengthiest in the series. Franklin had constructed the issue as a culmination of his work: It begins with a lengthy essay relating a story concerning a sermon on self-improvement. In the essay, Franklin collects the variety of maxims on work and frugality that appear in earlier issues of the almanac and concludes that hard work, along with heavenly intervention, will lead to success.

Chapter 4 : Poor Richard's Almanack - Wikiquote

On this day in , Benjamin Franklin of Philadelphia first published Poor Richard's www.nxgvision.com book, filled with proverbs preaching industry and prudence, was published continuously for

On December 19, Franklin published his first almanac under the pseudonym of Richard Saunders. The almanac was published for the year of and was published once a year for the next 25 years. It contained all sorts of interesting information such as the calendar, weather predictions, sayings, poems and demographics. It also included recipes, trivia, advice, aphorisms, and proverbs about industry and frugality. Franklin considered it a vehicle of instruction for common people who could not afford books, a literature for the masses. Almanacs were the most read secular books in the colonies. Almanacs were produced in Britain long before they made their way to North America. The most important were published in New England by Nathaniel Ames of Dedham, Massachusetts, its publication lasted from to According to the Library Company of Philadelphia only three copies of the original issue exist. The third copy was found in in the library of the Berwick Historical Society in Pennsylvania. Here in Berwick, an old industrial town, Franklin printed thousands of copies of his calendar from to Franklin wrote under the pseudonym of Richard Saunders. Richard Saunders was an English physician and astrologist who wrote under the pen name of Cardanus Rider which in rearranged letters is Richard Saunders. The name Poor Richard was adapted from another British almanac, Poor Robin which was first published in Its success brought wealth to Benjamin Franklin. The death of Titan Leeds In his first edition Franklin predicted the death of Titan Leeds, a competitor publisher of another calendar. He advised his readers to buy the next issue of his calendar to see if his prediction held. When the date of his predicted death arrived and Leeds had not died, Franklin nevertheless published his obituary. When confronted by Leeds Franklin proclaimed that someone had appropriated his name and was being impersonated by an inferior printer. For the next years he continued to affirm that Leeds had died until when he actually passed on. Franklin congratulated the person who had usurped Leeds name for finally ending his pretense.

Chapter 5 : Full text of "Poor Richard's almanack"

The Poor Richard's Almanack was written by Benjamin Franklin from He wrote it under the pseudonym of "Poor Richard" or "Richard Saunders". The print runs reached upwards of 10, per year.

Hunger never saw bad bread. Great Talkers, little Doers. The poor have little, beggars none, the rich too much, enough not one. Eat to live, and not live to eat. Il faut manger pour vivre, et non pas vivre pour manger. One must eat to live, and not live to eat. After three days men grow weary, of a wench, a guest, and weather rainy. He that lies down with Dogs, shall rise up with fleas. Nothing more like a Fool, than a drunken Man. Innocence is its own Defence. You cannot pluck roses without fear of thorns, Nor enjoy fair wife without danger of horns. Without justice, courage is weak. Would you live with ease, Do what you ought, not what you please. Blame-all and Praise-all are two blockheads. What one relishes, nourishes. 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. See Thomas Fuller , Gnomologia , Better slip with foot than tongue. Hope of gain, Wedlock, as old Men note, hath likened been, Unto a publick Crowd or common Rout; Where those that are without would fain get in, And those that are within would fain get out. Be neither silly, nor cunning, but wise. Neither a Fortress nor a Maidenhead will hold out long after they begin to parly. Who pleasure gives, All things are cheap to the saving, dear to the wasteful. Would you persuade, speak of Interest, not of Reason. 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. As Charms are nonsense, Nonsense is a Charm. He that cannot obey, cannot command. An innocent Plowman is more worthy than a vicious Prince. He that is rich need not live sparingly, and he that can live sparingly need not be rich. A wicked Hero will turn his back to an innocent coward. An Egg to day is better than a Hen to-morrow. See Thomas Fuller physician , Gnomologia , He does not possess Wealth, it possesses him. Necessity has no Law; I know some Attorneys of the name. Strange, that he who lives by Shifts, can seldom shift himself. As sore places meet most rubs, proud folks meet most affronts. 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. Reader, farewell, all Happiness attend thee: May each New Year better and richer find thee. Bad Commentators spoil the best of books, So God sends meat they say the devil Cooks. Compare this quote to: Is this the great poet whose works so content us? Heaven sends us good meat, but the Devil sends 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. The poor man must walk to get meat for his stomach, the rich man to get a stomach to his meat. Eyes and Priests The Family of Fools is ancient. Necessity never made a good bargain. If Pride leads the Van, Beggary brings up the Rear. Weighty Questions ask for deliberate Answers. Be slow in chusing a Friend, slower in changing. Be slow in choosing a Friend, slower in changing. Pain wastes the Body, Pleasures the Understanding. The cunning man steals a horse, the wise man lets him alone. 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, the Truth on 2. A man is never so ridiculous by those Qualities that are his own as by those that he affects to have. 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. Here comes the Orator! The Sun never repents of the good he does, nor does he ever demand a recompence. An old young man, will be a young old man. Some are weatherwise, some are otherwise. Are you angry that others disappoint you? One Mend-fault is worth two Findfaults, but one Findfault is better than two Makefaults. 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. Diligence is the mother of Good-Luck. He that lives upon Hope, dies fasting. Do not do what 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. Let thy maidservant be faithful, strong, and homely. Keep flax from fire, and youth from gaming. Bargaining has neither friends nor relations. Admiration is the Daughter of Ignorance. She that paints her face,

thinks of her Tail. He that takes a wife, takes care. He that can have Patience, can have what he will. God helps them that help themselves. None preaches better than the ant, and she says nothing. The absent are never without fault, nor the present without excuse. The rotten Apple spoils his Companion. 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. He that sells upon trust, loses many friends, and always wants money. Lovers, Travellers, and Poets, will give money to be heard. He that speaks much, is much mistaken. Creditors have better memories than debtors.

Poor Richard's Almanack is one of Benjamin Franklin's most charming creations. He delighted in cloaking his writing behind a variety of literary personas, and Richard Saunders remains one of his most beloved, although some critics have complained that Poor Richard reveals the shallow materialism at.

For More Information From a childhood of poverty, Benjamin Franklin rose to become a successful businessman and a founding father of the United States. Born in as the son of a candlemaker, Franklin earned a position of wealth and respect in the Philadelphia community through hard work and thrift. Events in History at the Time of the Almanacs Franklin as an early example of the American dream America has always been considered a land of freedom and economic opportunity. Immigrants who possessed nothing in Europe dreamed of coming to the American colonies to make their fortunes. A living example that this dream could come true, Franklin spread the belief that anyone willing to work hard could succeed. Franklin was the fifteenth child in his family. He attended school for two years, after which he stayed home to help his father make candles and soap. His father observed that young Benjamin liked to read, and so he apprenticed the boy to his brother as a printer in Boston, Massachusetts. Franklin developed writing skills during his apprenticeship, and he showed great promise. The two brothers did not get along, though, and Franklin ran away after five years. Nearly broke, Franklin arrived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He hungrily entered a bakery and paid the baker three pennies to give him anything he could for such a paltry sum. Instead, he carried one under each arm and ate the third. Franklin often referred back to this point in his life to show the poor beginnings that he had overcome through hard work. Staying in Philadelphia, Franklin began a period of determined labor. He borrowed money and used his printing skills to rise out of obscurity, developing habits that enabled him to do well. Franklin did not want his creditors to think him frivolous, so he dressed plainly and continually sought to appear industrious and frugal. Entering into a number of successful business ventures, Franklin owned a printing press at the age of twenty-four. He continued to expand his printing business and served as a public official in the colony. Some of the positions Franklin held included the job of clerk to the Pennsylvania Assembly and the job of Postmaster of Philadelphia. Both of these positions enhanced his printing business.

Poor Richard's almanack: Being the choicest morsels of wit and wisdom written, during the years of the Almanack's publication by Benjamin Franklin. Hardcover.

Published by THE U. Benjamin was the fifteenth child of Josiah Franklin, whose occupation was that of tallow-chandler or candle-maker. Business was not prosperous, and the Franklin family was reared in very humble circumstances. As a child, Benjamin hungered for books and knowledge. During the two years that his father was able to send him to school, he showed remarkable aptitude and industry, and rapidly outdistanced his fellow pupils. By trading and borrowing, he managed to secure other volumes. His passion for reading was so intense that he attracted the attention of a kind-hearted Boston merchant, who gave the boy access to his well-stocked library. Franklin read only books which could add to his education, and read them with a thoroughness that extracted every bit of useful knowledge. His wage was very small and he had to live most frugally. James started a newspaper, and Benjamin set type and distributed the sheets. One day, he anonymously contributed some verses and apothegms and was overjoyed to find them accepted and published. When his brother discovered that he was the contributor, an altercation broke out between the two, due principally to the ill temper of James. In Philadelphia, Franklin obtained work with Keimer, a printer. His lodgings were found at the house of Mr. Read, with whose pretty daughter, Deborah, he promptly fell in love. Read, however, counselled the two to postpone the marriage until Franklin should earn sufficient to maintain his own household. He was but eighteen years old at this time. Sir William Keith, governor of the province of Pennsylvania, became acquainted with Franklin and offered to set him up in the printing business. Franklin, of course, accepted. Arrived there, he found that Keith was without credit. It took him several years to work his way back to America. When he returned, the first news to greet Franklin was the marriage of Deborah Read to another man. At 22 years of age, Franklin had not made much progress toward the goal of his ambition. But nothing daunted, he applied himself with greater industry, greater self-sacrifice and greater perseverance. He kept plugging away at his trade of printer, and entered into business ventures with other men, all of which proved rapid failures. Finally, he struck out for himself. The young couple had to live on close margin for a few years. When Franklin was 27 years of age, he evolved the idea which opened the road to fame and fortune. The first number had a tremendous sale. His homely, trite, common-sense sayings achieved wide popularity and each succeeding issue found more subscribers than its predecessor. This sphere of activity was greatly to his liking. He held important offices and introduced many splendid reforms into the municipal government. When he was 37 years old, his plans materialized into the founding of an academy from which has grown the great University of Pennsylvania. The scientists of Europe were at this time becoming aware of a mysterious force which they named electricity. Muschenbroeck, a German, came forth with the discovery of the Leyden jar. Franklin immediately devoted himself to a study of electricity. The subject proved to be interesting, so full of possibilities that he sold out his printing business in order to devote his entire effort to the new field. When Franklin declared his belief that electricity and lightning were identical, the whole world laughed. He then made his famous kite test, and proved his theory. This demonstration gained world recognition for him as a scientist and won him many honors. Franklin was a foremost figure in public life, and became the commissioner of the colonies to England. The first cause for provocation on the part of the colonies was the Stamp Act, which imposed an enormous tax on deeds, college degrees and printed matter. England sought to meet the expenses of the French-Indian war by this tax. However, one year later, Parliament enacted a more obnoxious bill, placing a heavy duty on tea, glass and other commodities. Then it was that certain indignant citizens of Boston held their Boston Tea Party and brought upon the heads of the community the ill-considered, hateful Boston Port Bill. The city was virtually put in a state of seizure by the British under General Gage. This final action precipitated the crisis, and the Revolutionary War was on. Gage made his disastrous march to Concord and Lexington, and Bunker Hill ended in a triumph for American pluck. Although in favor of settling the dispute by arbitration, Franklin was as zealous a patriot as any. Later he went to Paris as special envoy to France for the colonies. He was

received with great acclamation and was accorded many honors. Helped by the money of France and by the valor of such men as Lafayette, the Revolution triumphed. After an absence from America of nine years, Franklin returned. He was given a royal reception. Although 77 years old now, he still gave his country the best that was in him, until his death on April 17, 1790. At his burial 20,000 persons gathered to do him respect and honor. And the explanation is found in the rule that guided him throughout his career: To go straight forward in doing what appears to be right, leaving the consequences to Providence. A child thinks 20 shillings and 20 years can scarce ever be spent. A cold April, the barn will fill. A countryman between two lawyers, is like a fish between two cats. A cypher and humility make the other figures and virtues of tenfold value. A false friend and a shadow attend only while the sun shines. A fat kitchen, a lean will. A fine genius in his own country, is like gold in the mine. A flatterer never seems absurd: After crosses and losses men grow humbler and wiser. A full belly is the mother of all evil. A full belly makes a dull brain. A good example is the best sermon. A good lawyer, a bad neighbor. A good man is seldom uneasy, an ill one never easy. A house without woman and firelight, is like a body without soul or sprite. A lean award is better than a fat judgment. A learned blockhead is a greater blockhead than an ignorant one. A life of leisure, and a life of laziness, are two things. A light purse is a heavy curse. All blood is alike ancient. All mankind are beholden to him that is kind to the good. All would live long, but none would be old. A long life may not be good enough, but a good life is long enough. A man in a passion rides a mad horse. A man without a wife, is but a half a man. A man without ceremony has need of great merit in its place. Ambition often spends foolishly what avarice had wickedly collected. An egg today is better than a hen tomorrow. An empty bag cannot stand upright. Anger and folly walk cheek by jole; repentance treads on both their heels. Anger is never without a reason, but seldom with a good one. Anger warms the invention, but overheats the oven. An honest man will receive neither money nor praise, that is not his due. An ill wound, but not an ill name, may be healed. An innocent plowman is more worthy than a vicious prince. An old man in a house is a good sign. An old young man will be a young old man. An ounce of wit that is bought, is worth a pound that is taught. An undutiful daughter, will prove an unmanageable wife. A pair of good ears will drain dry an hundred tongues. A plowman on his legs is higher than a gentleman on his knees.

Chapter 8 : Poor Richard's Almanack (TV series) - Wikipedia

Poor Richard's Almanack (sometimes Almanac) was published by Benjamin Franklin, who adopted the pseudonym of "Poor Richard" or "Richard Saunders" for this purpose.. Franklin began publishing Poor Richard's Almanack on December 19, 1732; annual versions were published for each year from

Chapter 9 : Poor richard's almanack | Define Poor richard's almanack at www.nxgvision.com

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