

THE
Pleasing Instructor:
OR,
ENTERTAINING MORALIST.

CONSISTING OF
Select Essays, Relations,
VISIONS, and ALLEGORIES,

COLLECTED FROM
The most eminent ENGLISH AUTHORS.

To which are prefixed,

New Thoughts on Education.

Designed for the Use of SCHOOLS, as well as the CLOSET;
with a View to form the rising Minds of the YOUTH
of both Sexes to Virtue, and destroy in the Bud, those
Vices and Fraughts, which Mankind, and Youth in particu-
lar, are addicted to.

The SIXTH EDITION,

ENLARGED and IMPROVED.

—*Virginibus, Puerisque.*—

*From Flow'r to Flow'r, from Tree to Tree,
Culling of Sweets—thus roves the Bee;
And in one fragrant Heap we find,
The Quintessence of all that's good.*—R.

LONDON:

Printed for G. ROBINSON and J. ROBERTS, in Paternoster-Row; and T. BLACK, in Newcastle.

ship and Assistance *Amanda's* Father was quickly in a Condition of retrieving his perplexed Affairs. To conclude, he married *Amanda*, and enjoyed the double Satisfaction of having restored a worthy Family to their former Prosperity, and of making himself happy by an Alliance to their Virtues.

Preliminary Address prefixed to the Pennsylvania Almanac for 1758: On Oeconomy and Frugality.

*Spare not nor spend too much, be this thy Care;
Spare but to spend, and only spend to spare.*

RANDOLPH.

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 Almanacs) 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 of it; this gave me some Satisfaction, as it shewed 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

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 Merchants Goods. The Hour of Sale not being come, they were conversing on the Badness of the Times, and one of the Company called to a plain clean old Man, with white Locks, "Pray Father *Abraham*, what think you of the Times? Will not 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 replied, "If you would have my Advice, I will give it you in short, for a Word to the Wise is enough, and many Words will not fill a Bushel, *as poor Richard says*." They joined 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 Almanac for 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,

Life, than do not squander Time, for this is 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 easy, as poor Richard says; and he that riseth late, must wait all Day, and shall scarce overtake his Business at Night. While Laziness travels so slowly, that Poverty soon overtakes 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, make a Man healthy, wealthy, and wise."

So that what signifies wishing and hoping for better Times? We may make these Times better if we bestir ourselves. Industry need not wait, 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 himself serves, "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. ~~And 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 Debtor or the Constable enter, for "Industry pays Debts, while Despair increaseth them," says poor Richard. What though you have found no Treasure, nor has any rich Relation left you a Legacy, "Diligence is the Mo-

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 a good Master should catch you idle? Are you then your own Master, "and not 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 eat into the Cable; and little Strokes fell great Oaks," as *poor Richard* says in his Almanac, 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 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."

H

Stock. Whereas Industry gives Comfort and Plenty and Respect: "Fly Pleasures, and they will follow you." The diligent Spinner has a larger Shift; and how 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; As, as poor Richard says,

"I never saw an oft removed Tree,
Nor yet an oft removed Family,
That thrive 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 Almanac 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 as the proverb is, "Learning is to the Studious, and Riches to the Careful, as well as Power to the Bold, and Heaven to the Virtuous." And further, "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 Mischiefs, 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

and 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 his Money, keep his Nose all his Life to the Grindstone, and die not worth a Groat at the last, nor 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 *Wimant*, think of saving as well as 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, does not little more costly, Cloaths a little finer, and a little Entertainment now and then, can be no great Matters; but remember what *poor Richard says*, "A little makes a mickle;" and farther, "Beware of little. He spends it, 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 Fancies 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

88 **The PLEASING INSTRUCTOR.**
 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 "A Penny is a great Pennyworth while it lasts." He means that perhaps the Cheapness is apparently only, and not real; for the Bargain, by threatening the *poor* in my Business, may do more Harm than Good. For in another Place he says, "Many have been ruined by buying good Pennyworths." Again, *poor Richard* says, "It is foolish to lay out Money in a Purchase of Repentance;" and yet this folly is practiced every Day at Vendues, for Want of minding the Almanac. "Wise Men," as *poor Dick* says, learn by others' Harms, Fools scarcely by their own; but *felix quem facit pericula equum.* "Many a one for the Sake of Pinesty on the Back, have gone with a hungry Belly, and half-starved their Families; "Silks and Satins, Scarlets and Velvets, as *poor Richard* says, put out the Kitchen Fire." These are not the Necessaries of Life; they can scarcely be called the Conveniences, 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, "it is 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, will waste Twenty Shillings and twenty Years can never be spent, but, always taking out of the Meal Tub, and

The PLEA. That had escaped the Powder, which never putting in, for the greatest Part of his Coat: *poor Dick says,* why no small Sum, was after for the Worth of Water The Bar his Shoulders, that it known before, if they to the end since the Year 1733 you would know the Freedom, concealed, was daily sorrow some for his trifling and Chino to the lowest sorrowing; and indeed you may his Finger (which People when he goes to get that you can find how it ther advises and says

Pond Pride and Dress is sure a very Curse;
is it. But if 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,* "It is easier to suppress the first Desire, than to satisfy all that follow it." And that it is as truly Folly for the Poor to ape the Rich, as the Frog to swell, in order to equal the Ox.

Great Estates may venture more;
but Barlith's Boats should keep near Shore."

It is however a Folly soon punished; for Pride that dines on Vanity, sups on Contempt," as *poor Richard says.* And in another Place, "Pride break-fasted 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 dress;
The gaudy Fop's his Picture just.

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

you have no Occasion for them, *you have no Occasion*
you! Remember what *poor Rick*, and *Hope* now *the*
thou hast no need of, and *erik* what you do *which*
thy Necessaries! And again "another Power over
worth paule a while *as* *He* may at the Time, you
Cheapness *as* apparently only, *diron*; you will be in
Bargain, *by* *stealing* *the* *cash* *you* *will* *make* *poor* *pid*
that more Harm than Good by Degrees come to loose
he says, "Many have broke down right Lying
Pennyworths" Ays, "The second Vice is Lying
the first is running in Debt." And again to the same
Purpose, "Lying rides upon Debt's Back." Where-
as 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! It
is hard for an empty Bag to stand upright, *as* *poor*
Richard truly says. What would you think of that
Prince or that Government, who would issue an Edict
forbidding you to dress like a Gentleman, or a Gentle-
woman, 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 Jail for Life, or
by selling 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,"
as *poor Dick* tells us, "have better Memories
than Debtors;" and in another Place says "Credi-
tors are a superstitious Sect; great Observers of
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 extremely short. Time will
seem to have added Wings to his Heels as well as
Should-

Theophilus that had escaped the Powder, which
Shoulders go off. Those the greatest Part of his Coat:
Richard who owe Money no small Sum, was after so
fine, as he says. The Bar his Shoulders, that it
Lender, and the Debtor to the end since the Year 1723
Gain, preserve your Freedom, concealed, was daub
Independence: Be industrious and Chin to the lowest
small. At present, perhaps, you may sit Finger (which
driving Circumstances, and that you can find how it
Extravagance without Injury; but,

*For Age and Want, save while you may;
No Morning Sun lasts a whole Day.*

poor Richard says—Gain may be temporary and un-
certain, but ever while you live, Expence is constant
and certain; and 'tis easier to build two Chimneys
than to keep one in Fuel, as *poor Richard says*. So
rather go to Bed supperless than rise in Debt.

*God what you can, and what's got, fairly hold;
The Stone that will turn all your Lead into Gold.*

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 Wis-
dom; 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 with-
out 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 Obedience, as *poor Richard says*: How
can I remember this? They that will not be coun-
selled, cannot be helped, as *poor Richard says*: And
further, That if you will not hear Reason, she will
surely rap your Knuckles.

Thus

88 *The PLEASING INSTRUMENT*
 you have no Occasion for them, *you have no Occasion for them,*
 you! Remember what poor R. ended his Harangue,
 thou hadst no need of, and approved the Doctrine;
 thy Necessaries! And the contrary, just as if it had
 worth while a while, for the Vendor opened
 Cheapness as appears, and extravagantly, notwithstanding
 Bargains by women, and their own fear of Taxes. *by*
 the more I have, I have had thoroughly studied my Art
 he says. I suggested all I had learnt on these Topics
 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 Glennings 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 de-
 termined to buy Stuff for a new Coat, I went away
 resolving 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,

July 7, 1757.

Thine to serve thee,

RICHARD SANDERS

ON CLEANLINESS

'Tis Beauty points, but Neatness guides the Darts.

I Had Occasion to go a few Miles out of Town,
 some Days since, in a Stage-Coach, where I had
 for my Fellow Travellers, a dirty Beau, and a pretty
 young Quaker Woman. Having no Inclination to
 talk much at that Time, I placed myself backward,
 with a Design to survey them, and to pick a Specula-
 tion out of my two Companions. Their different
 Figures were sufficient of themselves to draw my At-
 tention. The Gentleman was dressed in a Suit, the
 Ground whereof had been black, as I perceived from
 some