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**POORRICHARD'S
ALMANACK (1733 – 1758)**

《穷理查的历书》

北京师联教育科学研究所 编



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Poor Richard's Almanack

1733

Courteous Reader_,

I might in this place at tempt 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 kitchin, 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 asham'd 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 ashamed 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