

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Primary Source Document Collection

MISSION 1: "For Crown or Colony?"

Selections from *Poor Richard's Almanack*

Benjamin Franklin's Poor Richard's Almanack was perhaps the most popular advice book published in colonial America. Although many of Franklin's proverbs are now clichés, at the time they reflected the strong belief of farmers and skilled artisans in the dignity and importance of their labor in New England colonial society.

There are no gains without pains.

Well done is better than well said.

Keep thy shop, and thy shop will keep thee.

Work while it is called today for you know not how much you may be hindered tomorrow.

Diligence is the mother of good luck.

God gives all things to industry.

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

Plough deep while sluggards sleep and you shall have corn to sell and to keep.

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

Industry gives comfort and plenty and respect.

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.

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

Source: Richard Saunders, ed., *Poor Richard: The Almanacks for the Years 1753-1758* (1964).