

THE POOREST [SIC] ALMANACK

TO ALL a Courteous [SIC] Reader, LITTLE I might in this place attempt to gain thy publick's [SIC] Favour, by declaring that I write Almanacks with none other [SIC] View than that of the publick's Good strokes; but in this I should not be sincere; and Poor Men are now a-days too wise to be deceiv'd by Pretences how specious soever. The plain Truth of the Matter is fell, I am excessive Poor, and my Friends [SIC], good dear Friends [SIC], are [SIC], I tell you [SIC], excessive proud; I cannot bear they say, to sit spinning in their [SIC] Shift of Tow, while I do nothing but gaze at the great Crowds [SIC]; which [SIC] has threatned more than once to burn all my Books and Rattling-Traps (as they call [SIC] my Instruments) if I do not make some profitable Use of them for the good of my American Country's Art [SIC]. The Oaks Press [SIC] has offer'd me some considerable share of the Profits, and I have thus begun to comply with my Poor publick's [SIC] desire. THUS THE OLD GUARD [SIC] ended their [SIC] harangue. The people heard it, and approved the doctrine, and immediately practiced the contrary, just as if it had been a common cause [SIC]; for the venue opened, and they began to buy standard & Poor art extravagantly [SIC], notwithstanding all the [SIC] cautions, and their own fear of taxes. I found the good Poor people [SIC] had thoroughly studied my almanacks, and digested all the names [SIC] I had dropped on those topics during the course of two [SIC] long & Poor [SIC] years. The frequent mention they [SIC] made of us [SIC] 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 Poor wisdom was my own which they [SIC] ascribed to me, but rather the gleanings I had made of the sense of all art [SIC] and nations. However, I resolved to be the better for the echo of it; and though I had at first determin'd to buy stuff for a new museum [SIC], I went away resolv'd to save an old [SIC] one a little longer. WE CONCLUDE [SIC] at length, that the people's people are not [SIC] the best judges of our [SIC] Poor merit; for they perhaps will buy our [SIC] works; and besides, in the rambles [SIC], where I am [SIC] personally known, I have frequently heard one or other of my adages repeated: 'Tis easier to surpress the first desire than to satisfy all that follow it [SIC]. AS POOR RICHARD SAYS, at the end of the day [SIC], this gave me some satisfaction, as it showed not only that my instructions were regarded, but discovered likewise some respect for my authorship [SIC]; and we [SIC] own, that to encourage the practice of remembering and repeating those wise sentences, I have sometimes quoted myself with great gravity. Sloth, like rust, consumes faster than labour wears; while the used key [SIC] is always bright. POOR READER, if thou wilt do the same, thy profit will be as great as mine. I am, as ever, thine to serve thee. To oblige thee the more, I have omitted all the bad Weather, being Thy Friend [SIC] and occasional author.

After Benjamin Franklin,
'Poor Richard's Almanack' (1732-58)

MARCH 2008

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APRIL 2008

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MAY 2008

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JUNE 2008

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- New moon
- Full moon
- ◐ Waxing moon
- ◑ Waning moon

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