

**THE WAY TO
WEALTH; OR, POOR
RICHARD IMPROVED**

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The way to wealth; or, Poor Richard improved by Benj. Franklin

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BENJ. FRANKLIN

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BY BENS. FRANKLIN.



PARIS,
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Apolline's street, n^o. 25.

M. DCC. XCV.

D^r. FRANKLIN for many years published the Pennsylvania almanack, called poor Richard Saunders, and furnished it with various sentences and proverbs, which had principal relation to the topics of industry, attention to one's own business, and frugality. The whole or chief of these sentences and proverbs, he at last collected and digested in the present small work, which his countrymen read

with much avidity and profit, and which will be, I hope, kindly received by mine in this small elegant volume, as much as it has never been printed in France into its original tongue.

THE
WAY TO WEALTH.

COURTEOUS READER,

I have heard, that nothing gives an author so great pleasure, as to find his works respectfully quoted by others. Judge, then, how much I must have been gratified by an incident I am going to relate to you. I stopped my horse lately, where a great number of people were collected, at an auction of merchants goods. The hour of the 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 ever be 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, as poor Richard says. They joined in desiring him to speak his mind, and gathering round him, he proceeded as follows:

Friends, says he, 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.

I. 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;