

**PICTORIAL LIFE OF BENJAMIN
FRANKLIN; EMBRACING
ANECDOTES ILLUSTRATIVE OF
HIS CHARACTER**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649210381

Pictorial life of Benjamin Franklin; embracing anecdotes illustrative of his character by H. Hastings Weld & John Frost

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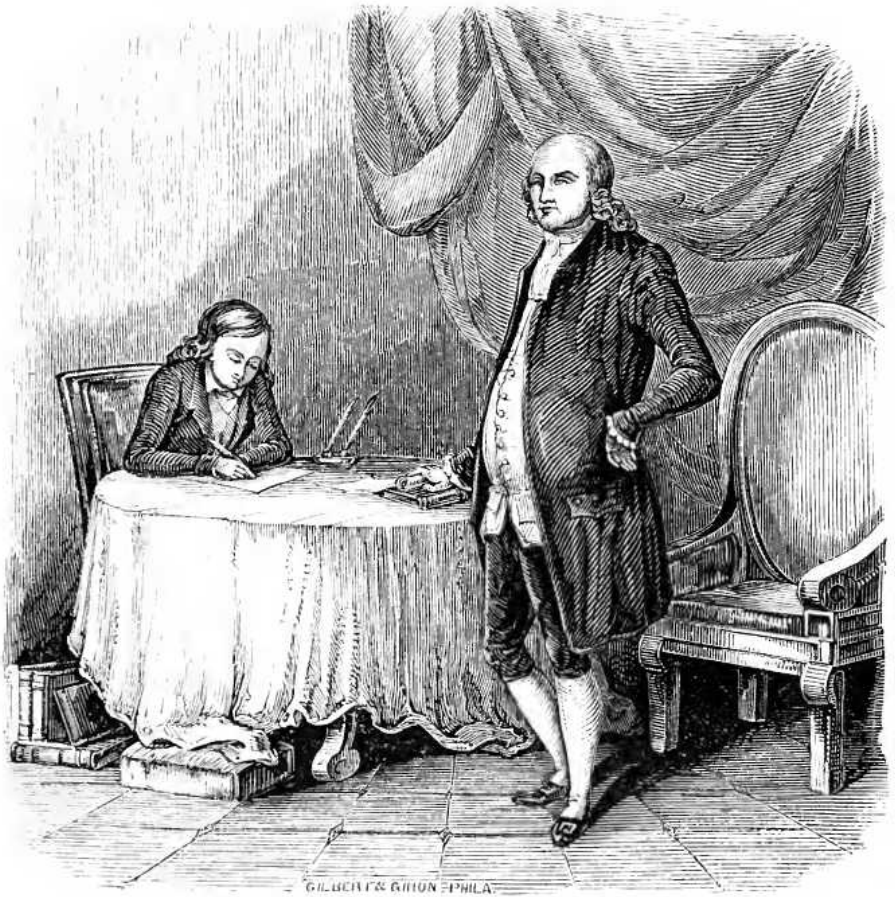
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H. HASTINGS WELD & JOHN FROST

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FRANKLIN THE STATESMAN.

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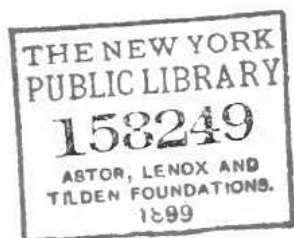
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PHILADELPHIA:
LINDSAY AND BLAKISTON,
FOURTH AND CHESNUT STREETS.

1847.

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NEW YORK
PUBLIC
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LINDSAY & BLAKISTON,
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STEREOTYPED BY J. FAGAN.

PRINTED BY T. K. AND P. G. COLLINS.

PREFACE.



THE definition of history — “philosophy teaching by example,” is much more correctly applied to the history of a life, or BIOGRAPHY, than to a general narrative, in which *events* are necessarily more the objects of description than character. And youth, who seem guided in their pursuit of reading by a sort of instinct, which directs them to that by which they receive the most distinct ideas and vivid impressions, universally prefer biography. They not only like to hear how the great and wise thought and acted, in connection with public events, but to understand something of the private life and personal history of those who fill a large place in the annals of the world.

The life of Franklin, here presented, has been written with three leading objects: to bring forward important passages in his life, not usually introduced in abridgements, to give the juvenile reader the benefit of his good example, and to connect, as cause and effect, the errors in his life, which Franklin himself ingenuously acknowledges, with the consequences of those errors. We have not presented him as a *perfect* model for imitation, for such a model is to be found in no human being.

Free use has been made of the autobiography left by himself, and of the continuation of his life by Sparks, Stuber, and others. It is believed, that while much that is interesting has been necessarily omitted for want of space, this little work contains the most essential facts in his life, and is the most complete abridged biography of Benjamin Franklin that has ever been published.

PHILADELPHIA, April, 1846.

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