

Ben Franklin
Selection of Proverbs from Poor Richard's Almanack
(1734-1747)

God helps those that help themselves.

Better slip with foot than tongue.

Sloth and silence are a fool's virtues.

God gives all things to industry.

One today is worth two tomorrows.

Three may keep a secret, if two of them are dead.

Poverty wants some things, luxury many things, avarice all things.

He that lies down with dogs shall rise up with fleas.

Love your neighbor; yet don't pull down your hedge.

A mob's a monster; heads enough but no brains.

Lost time is never found again.

Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.

Be slow in choosing a friend, slower in changing.

Well done is better than well said.

Don't count your chickens before they are hatched.

A friend in need is a friend indeed.

Fish and visitors smell in three days.

Don't throw stones at your neighbors', if your own windows are glass.

Eat to live and not live to eat.

Love your enemies, for they tell you your faults.

Never leave that until tomorrow, which you can do today.

He that goes a borrowing goes a sorrowing

Little strokes fell big oaks.

A rolling stone gathers no moss.

Honesty is the best policy.

A penny saved is a penny earned.

Beware of little expenses; a small leak will sink a big ship.

The greatest monarch on the proudest throne is oblig'd to sit upon his own arse.

Make hay while the sun shines.

Diligence is the mother of good-luck.

He that lives upon hope dies fasting.

The absent are never without fault, nor the present without excuse.

The rotten apple spoils his companion.

He that speaks much is much mistaken.

He that lives well is learned enough.

God heals, and the doctor takes the fees.

Hope of gain lessens pain.

He that cannot obey cannot command.

He does not possess wealth, it possesses him.

A learned blockhead is a greater blockhead than an ignorant one.