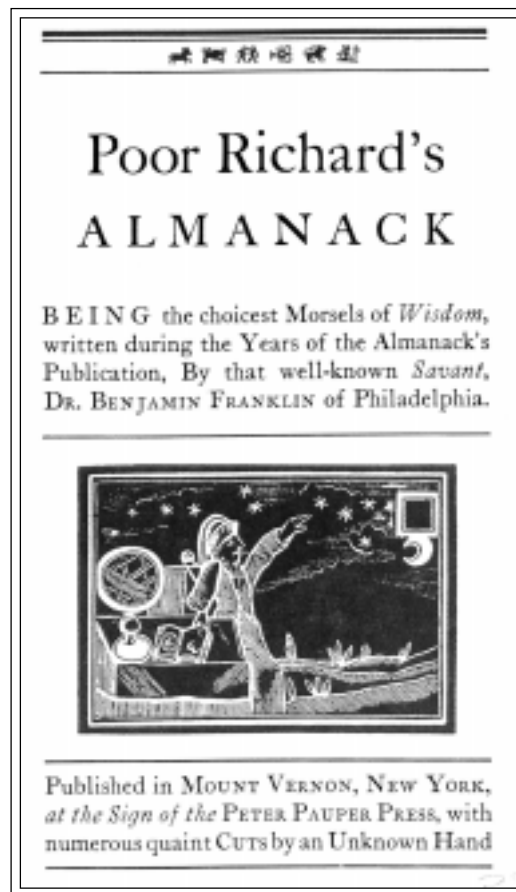


**EXCERPT FROM INTRODUCTION TO  
*POOR RICHARD'S ALMANACK*  
 (Primary Source)**

Courteous Reader,

I might in this place attempt to gain thy favour by declaring that I write Almanacks with no other view than that of the public good, but on this I should not be sincere; and men are now-a-days too wise to be deceiv'd by pretences. . . . The plain truth of the matter is, . . . my wife, good woman . . . cannot bear, she says, to sit spinning in her shift of tow [cheap material], while I do nothing but gaze at the stars; and has threatened more than once to burn all my books and rattling-traps, (as she calls my instruments,) if I do not make some profitable use of them for the good of my family.



Source: Benjamin Franklin, *Poor Richard's Almanack* with foreword by Phillips Russell (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, Doran & Co., Inc., 1928), pp. 1–8.

**SELECTIONS FROM THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE,  
ADOPTED BY CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776**  
(Primary Source)

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

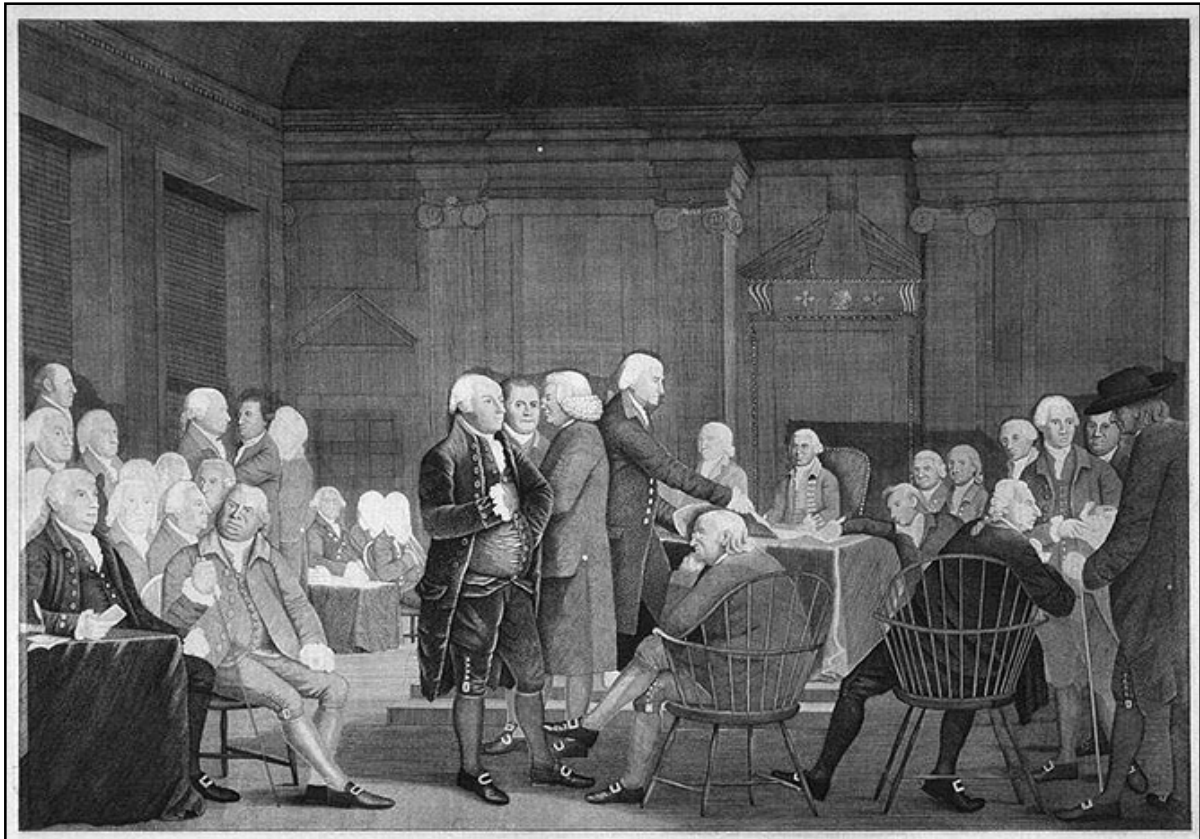
The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries. . . .

He has refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. . . .

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people unless those people would relinquish [give up] the right of representation in the legislature, . . .

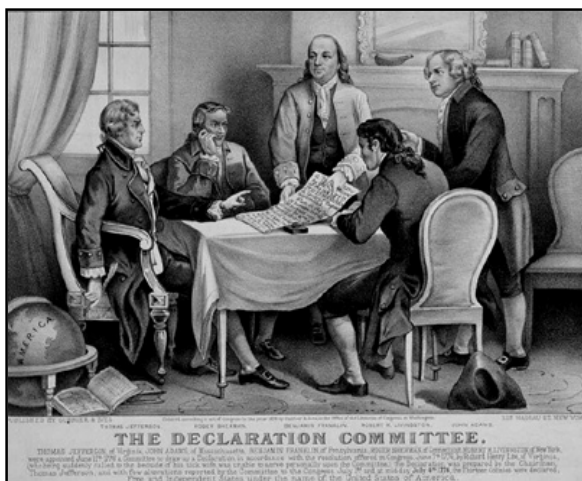
He has obstructed the administration of justice. . . .

He has made judges dependent on his will alone. . . .



Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

Engraving (unfinished). Congress Voting the Declaration of Independence. By Edward Savage after a painting by Robert Edge Pine, c.1776.



Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

Lithograph.  
The Declaration Committee.  
By Currier and Ives. New York, 1876.