

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF
Benjamin Franklin

SECOND EDITION

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WITH A NEW FOREWORD
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Yale Nota Bene

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We have an English Proverb that says,

He that would thrive
Must ask his Wife;

it was lucky for me that I had one as much dispos'd to Industry and Frugality as my self. She assisted me cheerfully in my Business, folding and stitching Pamphlets, tending Shop, purchasing old Linen Rags for the Paper-makers, &c., &c. We kept no idle Servants, our Table was plain and simple, our Furniture of the cheapest. For instance, my Breakfast was a long time Bread and Milk (no Tea), and I ate it out of a twopenny earthen Porringer, with a Pewter Spoon. But mark how Luxury will enter Families, and make a Progress, in Spite of Principle. Being call'd one Morning to Breakfast, I found it in a China Bowl, with a Spoon of Silver. They had been bought for me without my Knowledge by my Wife, and had cost her the enormous Sum of three and twenty Shillings, for which she had no other Excuse or Apology to make, but that she thought *her* Husband deserv'd a Silver Spoon and China Bowl as well as any of his Neighbours. This was the first Appearance of Plate and China in our House, which afterward, in a Course of Years, as our Wealth increas'd, augmented gradually to several Hundred Pounds in Value.