



FRANKLIN'S OLD ELECTRICAL MACHINE.  
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He is also responsible for the old couplet:

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

\* After twenty years of hard work he found himself the possessor of a snug fortune, and able to give time and attention to other matters in which he had become interested.

Space will not permit more than the mere mention of the positions that he occupied, and the reforms he accomplished. For sixteen years he was Postmaster of Philadelphia, and then became Postmaster General of the colonies. He was appointed Commissioner for the settlement of Indian difficulties; entered the army, and forged to the front until he became General Franklin, and soon after was elected a member of the Assembly. Upon two occasions he was the representative of his country to England, upon a mission of great importance, and later on was appointed Minister to France.

As an inventor Franklin deserves to rank among the most distinguished men that America has ever produced. He was the Edison of his times. Early in his career he became interested in electricity, and made many curious experiments, the most familiar of which was flying the kite, by which he brought electricity from the clouds. He was the inventor of the lightning rod, for the protection of buildings.

The following is a brief summary of the achievements of Franklin, as supplied by Parton in his excellent biography:

1. He founded the American Philosophical Society, the first organization in America of the friends of science.
2. He created the Post Office system of America.
3. He founded the Philadelphia Library, parent of a thousand libraries.
4. He invented the Franklin stove, and suggested valuable improvements in ventilation, and the building of chimneys.
5. He first turned to account the art of advertising, an indispensable element in modern business.
6. He robbed thunder of its terrors, and lightning of some of its power to destroy.
7. He measured the temperature of the Gulf stream, and discovered that northeast storms may begin in the south-east.

8. He pointed out the advantage of building ships in water-tight compartments, and first urged the use of oil as a means of quieting dangerous seas.

The life of Benjamin Franklin refutes the old notion, that in order to be successful it is necessary to be a man of one idea, and concentrate the energies upon one pursuit. He was a many-sided man, and had a large number of irons in the fire constantly. His great ambition from his very youth seems to have been to be useful to the multitudes around him. The chief motive of his life was to promote the welfare of mankind. Every moment he could snatch was devoted to doing something that would bless and help his fellowmen. "It is incredible," he once wrote, "the quantity of good that may be done in a country like this by a single man who will make a busi-

ness of it," and not suffer himself to be diverted from that purpose by different avocations, studies or amusements."

Franklin died on April 17, 1790, greatly honored by the people he had served so well. The following epitaph was written by himself many years before his death:

THE BODY  
OF  
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, Printer,  
Like the cover of an old book, its contents worn out,  
and stripped of its lettering and gilding,  
Lies here food for worms.  
Yet the work itself shall not be lost, for it will  
(as he believed) appear once more in  
a new and beautiful edition.  
Corrected and amended  
by  
THE AUTHOR.

## HOW CLARA BARTON KEEPS YOUNG.

CLARA BARTON is one of the most interesting women in the world to-day. She is, at the very least, sixty-five years old. She is frail, nervous, delicate-looking, with a sensitive face and a spare, still little figure, says a woman in the *St. Louis Star*. She has seen more suffering and distress than any one woman living to-day. I asked her once how she did it.

"How do I stand all this wear and tear? Economy. That's it—Economy. I save my strength. When I'm not working at the business which is my very life, I either rest or play. I don't putter. That's what ages women—puttering. When I see a teacher breaking down or a trained nurse giving up with nervous prostration I wonder when women will learn to stop puttering."

"Sleep is a great thing for women. Half the women I know don't sleep enough. I've cultivated the accomplishment of napping. I shut my eyes and go to sleep whenever there's a lull in my work."

"It isn't work that wears women out. It's fretting and puttering. The way to keep young! Stop worrying and go to work. Throw yourself, heart and soul, brain and nerve into some one thing, make a fetch of it, throw every bit of energy you've got into it—housekeeping, taking care of children, teaching, writing, nursing, it doesn't make a bit of difference what you do, it's the way you do it that counts. Copy the first young-looking man you see, do the way he does, work when you are working, but when you are not working cultivate the art of being amused."

## "I CAN SMILE."

Every act, every occupation, is full of great possibilities; so also is every life, even the poorest. There was a little girl, an invalid, of whom I once heard. She wanted to knit wooden comforters for the poor factory folks who passed daily by the window near her couch, but the hand movement was too tiring for her; so the wooden pins were taken away—laid, as was their tiny mistress, "on the shelf." Just at first she fretted; then a thought came to her. "I can't work for the dear, poor people," she said, "but I can smile at them, and prais that will make them feel better when their backs ache."—*Mary Hamplen.*



FRANKLIN'S MUSIC STAND.  
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