

FRANKLIN'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

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Franklin's autobiography by Benjamin Franklin & Frank Woodworth Pine

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BENJAMIN FRANKLIN & FRANK WOODWORTH PINE

FRANKLIN'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

8+9+10

English Readings for Schools

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(Franklin)

Franklin

GR 2 1912



Benjamin Franklin
After a portrait by J. A. Duplessis

not used
7/15/38
K. A.

FRANKLIN'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

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INTRODUCTION

I

FRANKLIN'S CAREER

THE life of Benjamin Franklin is of importance to every American primarily because of the part he played in securing the independence of the United States and in establishing it as a nation. Franklin shares with Washington the honors of the Revolution, and of the events leading to the birth of the new nation. While Washington was the animating spirit of the struggle in the colonies, Franklin was its ablest champion abroad. To Franklin's cogent reasoning and keen satire, we owe the clear and forcible presentation of the American case in England and France; while to his personality and diplomacy as well as to his facile pen, we are indebted for the foreign alliance and the funds without which Washington's work must have failed. His patience, fortitude, and practical wisdom, coupled with self-sacrificing devotion to the cause of his country, are hardly less noticeable than similar qualities displayed by Washington. In fact, Franklin as a public man was much like Washington, especially in the entire disinterestedness of his public service.

Franklin is also interesting to us because by his life and teachings he has done more than any other American to advance the material prosperity of his countrymen. It is said that his widely and faithfully read maxims made Philadelphia and Pennsylvania wealthy, while Poor