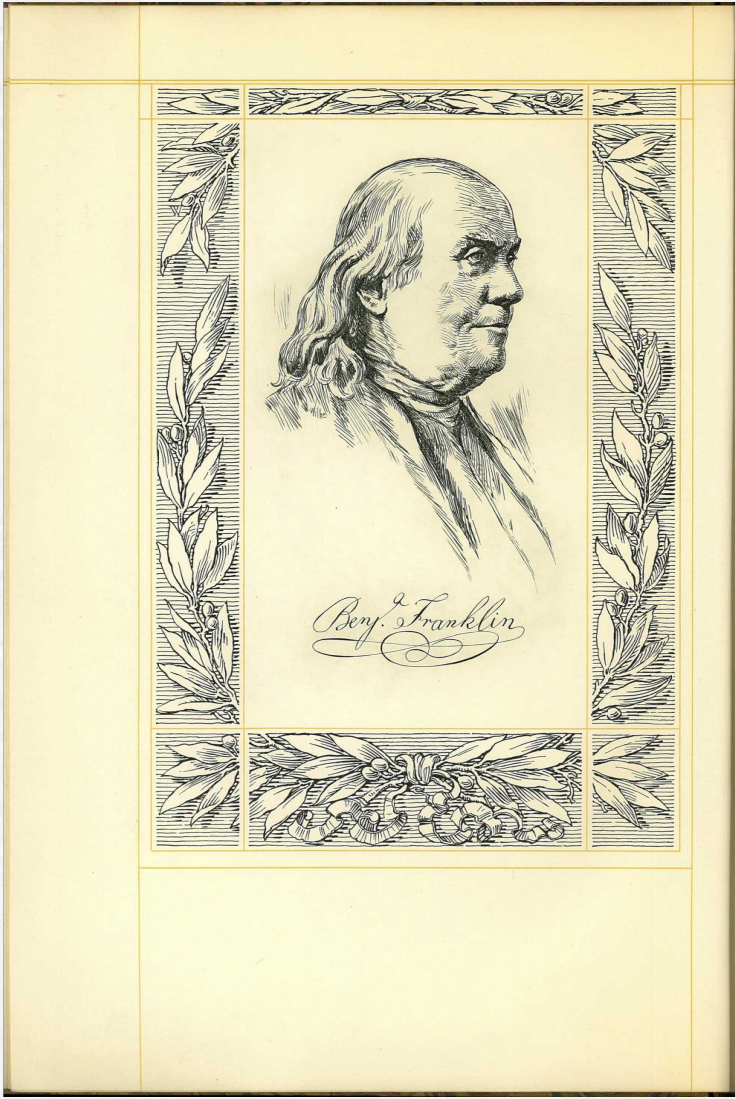


*Benjamin Franklin Documents  
in the Archives of Spain*



“An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.”



*Benj. Franklin*





Philadelphia, Dec. 12. 1775.

Illustrious Prince!

I have just received thro' the Hands of the Embassador of Spain, the much-esteemed Present your most serene Highness hath so kindly sent me, of your excellent Version of Salust. I am extremely sensible of this Honour done me, and beg you would accept my thankful Acknowledgements. I wish I could send from hence any American literary Production worthy your Perusal; but as yet the Muses have scarcely visited these remote Regions. — Perhaps, however, the late Proceedings of our American Congress, just published, may be a Subject of some Curiosity

This most serene Highness  
D<sup>n</sup> Gabriel of Bourbon &



A.G.P.

Historia C-34 Exp 102

Curiosity at your Court. I therefore take the Liberty of sending your Highness a Copy, with some other Papers which contain Accounts of the Successes wherewith Providence has lately favoured us. Therein your wise Politicians may contemplate the first Efforts of a rising State, which seems likely soon to act a Part of some Importance on the Stage of Human Affairs, and furnish Materials for a future Salust. — I am very old, and can scarcely hope to see the Event of this great Contest; but looking forward I think I see a powerful Dominion growing up here, whose Interest it will be to form a close and firm Alliance with Spain, their Territories bordering; and who being united will be able, not only to preserve their own People in Peace, but to repel the Forces of all the other Powers in Europe. It seems therefore prudent on both Sides to cultivate a good



R.S.A.

good Understanding that may hereafter be so  
useful to both; towards which a fair Founda-  
ation is already laid in our Minds by the  
well-founded popular Opinion entertain'd  
here of Spanish Integrity and Honour.  
I hope my Presumption in hinting this  
will be pardon'd. If in any thing on  
this Side the Globe I can render either  
Service or Pleasure to your Royal High-  
ness, your Commands will make me  
happy. - With the utmost Esteem and  
Veneration, I have the Honour to be,

Your serene Highness's

most obedient  
and most humble Servant

R. Juan 16.





A/

Franklin, y lo demas que contiene; avisé por recado en el dia siguiente Domingo à Franklin, que lo recibiria à las siete de la noche; y con efecto vino con sus dos compañeros Dean, y Lee, los que hice entrar en mi habitacion interior, sin que el resto de la Familia se perubiere.

Franklin habla muy poco frances, Dean mucho menos, y nada Lee; con lo que mediamos sus trabajos para entendernos, pero en fin lo conseguimos. Dijo me Franklin su ida à Versailles en el dia anterior, que habia presentado al Conde Devergenner una Memoria sobre buena correspondencia, y Comercio; que S. E. le habia manifestado la union de las Cortes de Madrid, y Paris, y que podia explicarse con migo con toda seguridad: que en esa inteligencia venia empezando



The Delegates of the of the United States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina & Georgia to all who shall see these presents send greeting.

Whereas a friendly and commercial connection between the subjects of his most Catholic Majesty the King of Spain and the people of these States will be beneficial to both nations, know ye therefore, that we confiding in the prudence and integrity of Benjamin Franklin one of the delegates in Congress from the state of Pennsylvania and a Commissioner from these United States to the Court of France have appointed and deputed and by these presents do appoint and depute him the said Benjamin Franklin our Commissioner, giving and granting to him the said Benjamin Franklin full power to communicate, treat and conclude with his most Catholic Majesty the King of Spain or with such person or persons as shall by him be for that purpose authorized of and upon a true and sincere friendship and a firm inviolable and unchangeable peace for the defence, protection and safety of the navigation and mutual Commerce of the subjects of his most Catholic Majesty and the people of the United States, and also to enter into and agree upon a Treaty with his most Catholic Majesty or such person or persons as shall be by him authorized for such purpose for assistance in carrying on the present war between Great Britain and these United States, and to do all other things, which may conduce to those desirable ends, and promising in good faith to ratify whatsoever our said Commissioner shall transact in the premises. Provided always that that the said Benjamin Franklin shall continue to be possessed of all the powers here before given him as Commissioner to the Court of France from these States so long as he shall remain and be present at the said Court. Done in Congress at Baltimore the first day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven. In testimony whereof the president by order of the said Congress hath hereunto subscribed his name and affixed his seal.

Attest Cha. Thomson Secy.

John Hancock



I left in your Excellency's Hands, to be  
communicated, if you please, to your Court, a Duplicate  
of the Commission from the Congress, appointing me to go  
to Spain as their Minister Plenipotentiary: But as I  
understand that the Receiving such a Minister is not  
at present thought convenient, and I am sure the Congress  
would have nothing done that might incommode in the  
least about they so much Respect, I shall therefore

Your Excellency's

most obedient

and most humble Servant

B Franklin





