

Contents.

Preface xi

PART I The Man I

- 1 The Young Man and the Old Man 5
Journal of a Voyage, 1726 To George Whately, 1785
- 2 Friendship and Flirtation 25
Rules for Making Oneself a Disagreeable Companion, 1750 To Catharine Ray, 1755 To Mary Stevenson, 1767 To Anna Mordaunt Shipley, 1771 To Madame Brillon, 1778 Abigail Adams on Madame Helvétius, 1784 To Emma Thompson, 1777
- 3 The Uses of Laughter 45
The Speech of Miss Polly Baker, 1747 Leaping Whales, 1765 Remarks Concerning the Savages of North-America, ca. 1783
- 4 Religion 58
To Josiah and Abiah Franklin, 1738 To Joseph Huey, 1753 To Jane Mecom, 1758

PART II Nature Observed 67

- 5 Sickness and Health 71
On the Benefits of Moist Fresh Air, 1773 On Fresh Air, 1785 The Open Window: From the Autobiography of John Adams, 1776 To Benjamin Vaughan, 1786 Mesmerism, 1784

[VIII] CONTENTS

- 6 Wind, Weather, and Air 79
To Jared Eliot, 1750 To Peter Collinson, 1755 To Edward Nairne, 1780–83 To James Bowdoin, 1758 To Sir Joseph Banks, 1783
- 7 Ships and the Sea 96
On the Motion of Vessels, 1784–85 The Gulf Stream, 1784–85 Advice for Travelers, 1784–85
- 8 Electric Fire 112
Note on the Similarities Between Electricity and Lightning, 1749 Experiment to Determine Whether the Clouds That Contain Lightning Are Electrified, 1750 Joseph Priestley's Account of Franklin's Kite Experiment, 1752 How to Secure Houses, &c. from Lightning, 1753 Of Lightning, and the Method . . . of Securing Buildings and Persons from Its Mischievous Effects, 1767 To Peter Collinson, 1753
- 9 Geology and Cosmology 132
To the Abbé Soulavie, 1782 Loose Thoughts on a Universal Fluid, &c., 1784–88
- PART III A Continental Vision 141
- 10 The Colonies and the Empire 143
On Transported Felons, 1751 Felons and Rattlesnakes, 1751 Thoughts on Immigrants, 1751 Observations Concerning the Increase of Mankind, 1751
- 11 Ethnic Pride and Prejudice 158
Indians and Germans, 1753 To Joshua Babcock, 1772 To John Waring, 1763 The Speech of Sidi Mehemet Ibrahim, 1790
- 12 Join or Die 170
To James Parker, 1751 The Albany Plan of Union, 1754 The Interest of Great Britain Considered [Canada Pamphlet], 1760

- 13 The Vision Challenged 185
To Peter Collinson, 1764 To William Franklin, 1765 Peace Is Sought by War, 1766 Franklin's Examination Before the Committee of the House of Commons, 1766
- 14 The Empire at Risk 199
To David Hall, 1766 To William Shirley, 1754 On the Disputes with America, 1767 New Fables, 1770 To Samuel Cooper, 1770 An Edict by the King of Prussia, 1773 To Joseph Galloway, 1775 To David Hartley, 1775
- PART IV War, Peace, and Humanity 219
- 15 Independence 221
To Jonathan Shipley, 1775 To Joseph Priestley, 1775 To Admiral Lord Howe, 1776 Sketch of Propositions for a Peace, 1776
- 16 Poor Richard's Diplomacy 232
Comparison of Great Britain and America as to Credit, 1777 John Adams's Diplomatic Blunders, 1780
- 17 A Huckstered Peace 242
To James Hutton, 1778 Notes for a Conversation with Richard Oswald, 1782 Proposals for Diminishing the Occasions and Mischiefs of War, 1782 Thoughts on Privateering, 1782 Thoughts Concerning the Sugar Colonies, 1782 To William Strahan, 1784 The Costs of War, 1787
- 18 The Pretensions of Wealth 254
Thoughts on the House of Lords, 1775 Convention Speech on Salaries, 1787 Property Rights and Human Rights, 1785 The Moral Obligation of Taxes, 1783 Queries and Remarks on "Hints for the Members of the Pennsylvania Convention," 1789
- 19 America 271
Arthur Lee's Conversation with Franklin About the Miracle of the Revolution, 1777 To Sarah Bache, 1784 Information to Those

[x] CONTENTS

Who Would Remove to America, 1784 *Speech in the Convention on
the Constitution, 1787*

Chronology 289

Credits 291

Index 297