



The Collected works of Silence Dogood

Benjamin Franklin

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- This e-book publication is a publisher's own compilation of essays by Benjamin Franklin published under false persona name of Silence Dogood..

- A new table of contents with working links has been included by a publisher.

- This edition has been proof-read and corrected for spelling and grammatical errors.

From review published in 1900.:

"THE DOGOOD PAPERS"

Franklin has told in his Autobiography how he wrote an anonymous paper when he was but sixteen years of age and put it in at night under the door of his brother's printing house. The following morning it was commented on in his hearing, and he had "the exquisite pleasure" of finding that it met with the approbation of the contributors to Couranto, as the New England Courant was then called. In all probability this article was the first of the "Dogood Papers," and March, 1722 is therefore the time of Franklin's first adventure in literature. Editorial encouragement was promptly given to the unknown author. In the same issue of the newspaper that contained his communication appeared the notice, "As the Favour of Mrs. Dogood's Correspondence is acknowledged by the Publisher of this Paper, lest any of her Letters should miscarry, he desires they may be deliver'd at his Printing-House, or at the Blue Ball in Union street, and no questions shall be ask'd of the Bearer." Thus encouraged Franklin continued to write the letters of Mrs. Silence Dogood, at fortnightly intervals, until the series ended with the fourteenth paper, published October 8, 1722.

They were first accredited to Franklin by J. T. Buckingham in 1850 ("Specimens of Newspaper Literature," I, 62), and further ascribed to him by James Parton in his "Life and Times of Franklin" (1864, Vol. I, p. 84). In the first sketch, or draft scheme, of his Autobiography Franklin claims "Mrs. Dogood's letters" as his own. They have never appeared in any collection of his writings. They are now reprinted from the file of the New England Courant in the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

The character of the young Franklin is interestingly revealed in these papers; and it will be seen that his sedulous attention to the language of the Spectator had already formed his literary style, and stamped it with those qualities that have given him a high and enduring place among American writers.



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