

Journal

Benjamin Franklin

5 June

1796

Calcutta 1796
Sunday 5 June —
— with Mr. Mackay — Mr.
Brown — Sanscrit character
seems the root of the Hebrew
Pagra — Bengalee and several
other Languages — It is said
that Sir W. Jones was the
only Gent. in India who
understood the Sanscrit Gram-
matically — That Mr. W. —
cannot read the Sanscrit — makes
out the meaning by the help
of two or three pundits —
+ Mr. Cox called — Methods used

in the ^{cast} stands to discover
impurities in Gold dust.

- Roast in in an iron vessel
if there is copper it turns black
- Magnet discovers iron. Nitric
acid dissolves silver and all
other metals with which Gold is
usually adulterated - Amalgam
of quicksilver - The Native
use the touch stone and needles
They can determine the good-
ness of Gold nearly by the eye.

Monday 6 June 1796
Ani now, waited on Mr. Bellie
to settle the plan of our private
teaching - Mondays, Wed.
and Saturdays, are to be
the mornings -

- A letter from Mr. Madia-
at the Hospital mentioning
the success of the Nitric acid
and requesting a further
supply

Extract from the above
letter "I have now six
patients under the experi-
ment, all of them, though
in ~~the~~ ^{various} stages of different

" Diseases in the most pro-
" mising way. Indeed if it
" answers half my expectations
" it will be one of the best ar-
" rows in the Service of the
" Phy. Socy

" I must therefore entreat
" you my good friend to pro-
" cure us a plentiful sup-
" ply. I have never been so
" much deceived in my life
" any thing, if the Robi and
" does not come into very general
" use and that thro'ly"

— Sent what acc^d / had

1796
Tuesday 7th June
Gave the first Lesson
in Geography at Dr.
Oakes —
Visit of Mr Sh — Sir J.
M^y would sit out for home
immediately but for the snow
of the year — Col: A. Murray
accompanied in him. The Me-
dical Gent: have sent a petition
and remonstrance to the Gov^l
General in Council respecting
their situation as not bettered
by the new regulations —
Signed in name of the rest by
Dr. Watson, M. Campbell, and Mr. Burt.

1st Letter to Mr. Cox -
Call from Murray
Mahum - To begin
to morrow -

Wednesday 8th June 96
This day received from Cap^{tn}
Gray a letter from Dr
R. Gillman of Date Miss
Doct, St Helena, 5th March ¹⁷⁹⁶
The Doctor informs me
that he expects to be in
Pekin 18 months in a
second Embassy - Sir Geo.
Staunton to be Amb^r. The
Dr. has been elected a
Fellow of the Royal Society
of London; Royal Col. of
Physicians; Physician to His
Majestys Army!!

Thursday 9th June 1798
+ yesterday ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ
the morning. app^l to Mr
Bell for not waiting on
him to commence our ma-
thematical studies -

- Dined with Mr. P. - Poem
anticipation - Children per
form each per part on the
Herpsichord - one in the style
of Spenser, the 2 in that
of Walter, the third in

that is the com-
position in the style of these
eminent poets -

- Extempory poetry -

+ Friday with Mr. F;
at Mr. D.'s publick night
in the evening -
- Convention in the Even^g

Calcutta —

Friday 10 June 1796
2 Geographical Letters
Mrs. G. — in add to our
little party — Explana-
tion of the Sanscrit about
terms — Great circles
Division of the Eclipse —
+ Accompanied W. Brown
and W. Mackay to the
mint — Nagare, and Sanscrit
character — All the letters
of the Sanscrit except two
or three at top three two
are "cho, and Cho" — The San-
scrit very differently written by
different persons —

— Sent a bottle of acid
to the General Hospital
+ purchased of An and
Brown 7 large sheets
with ground Stoppel at
11 An
2:8 P. also three doz?
different sized dolls for 40
piper the lot in whole —

¹⁷⁹
Saturday 11 June 1796

This morning commenced private lessons on Math^s with Mr. Belli - Definitions and three problems -
- wrote to Mr. Mbot in fav^r of Mr. Piracy, received a very polite chit in return promising to recommend him to the first writt that might occur.
- with D. Dick - Church yard Monument - said to be erected to the memory of those ^{who} perished at Robilla.

¹⁷⁹
Sunday 12 June 96

With Mr. Foxson on the other side of the River (Docks) Large beams dug up from a depth of more than 20 feet, a black stuff said to be instant^{ly} found along with the timber - iron nails - a black heavy mottle - specimens of all of which I have brought along with me -

Monday 13 June 96
2 Report to Mr. Belli -
as far as the 32 prob. of 1st
book -
with Mr. F. only Capt^m
B. and my self at table
- walk on the Esplanade

Monday 14 June 96
3 Report at Dr. Dubou
Numerarium -
+ Mr. Cox - Mr. Griffiths
- Capt^m Symes finished
some Regu books, a
fellow informed, a com-
mit was held to deter-
mine whether it was
proper that these books
should be permitted to
be sent out of the country
Determined in the affir-
mative -

When Capt. Syme
requested the Chief
of Pegu to pray for
the ^{British} ~~British~~ "I pray for
all mankind, but I
shall particularly
remember the English
Nation."

— Shall occur among
the Windows —
with D. Dick —

Wed^y 15th June 1796

Delivered to M. B. — to
the ^{M^r} ^{prop^r} of the 1st ^{St^h} ^{Co^h} —
Delivered a packet containing
a letter to Miss Ruthwell
Ditto to M. Hume, Chymist,
Long Acre, including one to
John Anderson, Dumfries —
and Ditto to Mr. Engel Capt
Engel's Lady — This packet
was given to Capt. Bernum
type com^o of the Calidonia
to be delivered to M. Baird
on board the Calidonia
to take charge of them —
and deliver them in London.

- call for Mr. Abot -
The Turkey red with Mad-
don - still a secret - An Ar-
minian received a medal
from the Society of Arts
and Manufacturers in the
Adelphi for communicating
a process which is said
not have answered -

- Whether the native cop-
pers be as good as the
European and how it is trans-
acted -

996
Thursday 16 June
A chit from Mr. Ab-
bot requesting to see
Mr. P. - Mr. P. went
on him when he found
that he had been re-
commended to Capt^m
Gray of the Post Office
as second officer -
- Received specimens of the
stick and seed rice - The
price of the seed rice thirty
rupes per maund -

with Mr. Franke -
walk on the Esplanade
foot passengers not per-
mitted to pass the sentry
box at the end of the terrace
The cause assigned is that
the officer has been hurt
by foot passengers!! - Grop
- but Major Kidd a phisic
of warm acid ^{at} his request
to Sean Smith -

Friday 17th June 1794
to Laper at Dr. Dubois
cause of seasons &c
- From Mr. Throff a curi-
ous Mangoe - This from
Mr. Herrington informing
me that Mr. Stuart and
he mean to attend for
Mammochis -
- with Mr. Abbott. - The
Turks get upon the tops
of their houses, beat drums &c
during an eclipse, it is cu-
rious to observe the same
custom prevailing in Turkey

as in China. The
Musk in Turkey are
allowed red Shippers, the
Jews black, the yellow
is permitted to none but
Turks, yellow Turban
yellow Shippers - Bam
De totti - Hogi bristles
no prints of hog bristles
in Turkey - Cyprus
a poor wretched place
worse appear at the
gate with some need
work to offer Mansel
M. English resi-
dence, his dress red ^{with}

Lalakee the nearest
port to Aleppo is the
ancient Laddieca -
The Ancient Joppa is
still a small sea port
known by the name of

The Greek islands
well worth visiting - safe
travelling among them -
Aleppo is sometimes
visited by the Plague. There
is a common saying that
if the Plague reach Damascus
Aleppo must inevitably be
attacked, but, otherwise the
nearest villages may have the
Plague while Aleppo ^{will} escape.

Saturday 18th June 96
4th Lesson to Mr. B-i
finished the 1st book and
commenced Algebra — Addi-
tion and Subtraction —
— with Mr. Fowler —
— rode round the cypress
made with Mr. Gilman

Sunday 19th June 96
At 2 called on Mr.
Borwell, when he Mr.
Fairlie, Mr. Baird, and
myself embarked for
the Botanic Gardens
arrived at 10 minutes
past three — walk in
the Garden — Le-ohi-
Monument to Coll. Kirk
— then to near the
river — old Fort — on —
crossments of the river
evening — I Scott's school
for introducing the Nitron

and supposed to be Dr
Roobingh - Ob. appears
of little weight -

Batavia Garden where
by depositing in plants, pro-
sides a bad soil, and too
near the sea - ground water
by on a level -

- returned at 2 in the
evening in W. Boswells
coach -

+ It is remarkable that
the ancient Geometers
who supposed most of the
lands to be formed by mor-
tion should not have ^{his} on

modern fluxions - As
they formed a sphere by
the rotation of a segment
round the diam^r, a cone
by that of a right angled
triangle round one of
its sides, ~~it was~~ the transi-
tion was not difficult to
the formation of a cone by
the motion of a point &c.
+ The rains here this
year commenced at
Calcutta sooner than
up the country, where rain
is much wanted

Monday 20 June 94

5. Lesson to Mr. Belle

Subject Multiplication
in Algebra - Done

Mr. P. Everett W. Jones
Letter -

- Endow Mr. Hoar's light
(see Day book) to Mr. Davis

D - 7. More care to
submit to Mr. Berrey

- with Mr. Lambert -

The only embankment against
the water that will stand in
in this country is stone -
Planks or piles do not answer

The water soon washes the
light soil from behind them
& whereas stones cause a
stratification and of the water &
consequently a deposition of
the sediment - gives what
is the quantity of sediment
in the "Hooghly" at different seasons
of the year? -

All democracies have ended
in monarchies - If men of property
assemble with the mob they
will soon acquire by their
influence an ascendancy over
them, but if they are obliged
to meet by themselves, their
acts become distinguished and
public, and will be checked

by those of the people
From the necessity of two
The executive power should be
lodged in other hands than the
Legislature and the judiciary
in different hands from both
both - This constitutes the ex-
ecutive of the English constitution
= Two children dividing a
chocolate soon agree that
the one who divides shall
give the other the choice. -

- Disturbances in America.

- It was supposed that the Am-
ericans could not form a settle-
ment - American Gov^t approaches
near the British -

+ An offering to save the trouble
of taking off the head of a stick

Coming at Mr. F's
English words - Depopulate
populate Depopulate
signification sometimes
reversed
- In distillation of water
might not the end of the
steam tube be immersed
in a vessel of fresh water?
By the water would be
soon heated and consequently
would not condense the steam
also the resistance increased
Report that Mr. Dundas has
written in strong terms pri-
vately to Sir J. S. by no means
to leave Bengal till leave
from the Court of Directors -
- Lord M. will now be J. G.

L. G. from old Capt. Young,
and Dallas over the head of
some other Senior Officers -
The Gov. G. in Council reversed
the order, Lord^d begged them
not to publish this order as
it would super his authority
The reply was that it was
better that his Gov. should
super than the Supreme G.

Friday 21st June 96
5th Lesson at Dr. Dick's.
Moon - Eclipses - &c
- with Dr. Dick. Spent
the evening at Dr. Dick's

Wednesday 22nd June 1796
Lecture to Mr. Belli
Multiplication and
Division of Algebra -
- At 11 went to see the
Landing place
yard. Ship went off well
but stuck in the sand
water not being deep enough
soon got her lowered off -
- with Mr. Foreman -
- Prudersa meeting -
+ Wins for D. F. - Robie
and -

Thursday 23rd June 1796
- with Mr. Fairlie
Walk on the esplanade.
Continell still forbids
walking farther than
the 1st Derby box -
+ to write in print par-
ticular words in italics
is of an affront to
the judgement of the
reader -

Friday 24 June 96
to Ligon at Dr. Dick's
Eclipse &c —
— with Mr. Sherriff — Mr.
and Mr. Cummins in Mr.
Mackay — Mr. Templeton
Carysford's pigate arrived
at Madras, left London
in February — French have
taken the Islands of
Grenada and St. Vincent
— The Carysford brings pri-
vate dispatches for S. G. R.
Elphinstone and General Skene

Saturday 25 June 96
7th Ligon to Mr. Belli-
— Dinner and fraction
in Algebra —
— with Mr. Fairlie
— Evening walk on the
Esplanade — Panier
+ advice of the conquest
of all the Dutch spice
^{Islands}
is said to have arrived
this day —

Sunday 26th June 96
- with Mr. Mackay.
Mr. Brown & Mr. Burney
Character of a Clergyman
not incompatible with
a Gentleman - Pittspon's
Characteristics -

Monday 27th June 96
Waded in Mr. Webb's
his shirt - Silk worm
factory - to know what its
inferiority is owing to, whether
Mant, winding, climate, &c. -
Three kinds of silk - Chinese
great annual worms, Dace-
monthly and Chinese monthly
First is the best (degenerate).
It is probable silk worms were
introduced into India from
China, and that at no very
remote period, for in the Rom.
Emperor Nero's time silk
was sold for its weight in gold

In England the idea has
been for sometime past
to import as much as pos-
sible raw materials. This
may be carried too far.
It may undoubtedly
be refined in India & as
well and cheaper than
in England.

Friday 28 June 96
Lisbon
Delivered to Mr. Fairlie
to be conveyed to China
two packets one contg.
letters to Messrs. Manilla
Nanna, and Thibault, the
other two Nautical Al-
manacs addressed to Fr
Nanna Missionary, & Chin.
Both packets to the care
of Robt. Hamilton Esq.
Canton — By the Phoenix
Capt. Wilson to Amoy —
from Amoy ^{copy of} by Mr. Shanks
by the first vessel to Canton

+ with Mr. Webb.

his own family only
- what is the average loss
to Cent on State? is it
one 1/2 Cent of the weight?

- Had Mr. H. acted on
any principle of honour
he would have had nothing
to apprehend at Rome
- Do the Chinese use butter
in any state -

- The only difference between
the British and the Ameri-
can Gov. is that the Executive
power in the latter is ac-
countable for its conduct -
- nearly the same in France
- executive power should be

lodged in one person -
- Ancient republics bear
no resemblance to modern
ideas -

- Whether voyage be ad-
vantageous to a State -
+ vide with Mr. Faurie -
Mr. Hastings asked only to
borrow five Lacs of Rupees
of Choyt Sing, the C. S. pre-
tended poverty at a time
when it was well known that
his treasures were immense
He was then Rajah or
Gov. of Benares a province
formally ceded to the Company
for which he paid only 20
Lacs, the same province pays
now 40 Lacs and is in a

flourishing condition —
rather than against the Ben-
gat has against his enemies
as well as those he fled
with immense treasures and
lives a vagabond with some
native rajahs. If Mr. Hastings
did wrong, why not replace
Choyt Sing, who is still alive,
in his former Government?
— Evening with Mr. F. — The
use of this country is mixed
with oil what is the best
mode of separating the oil?
with Athale produce the effect?
— The pine trees a winning by
Government are said to be
inferior both in weight and
quality to the standard

— Cowries are said to be the
only unexceptionable small
coin in this country — Great
loss sustained by the copper
money — Natives will not take
it without value —
It is said that Gov. Poy
is little with a certain
proportion of copper —
+ The promotion a letter from
Mr. Maclellan wishing for
spirit of wine —
+ It is alleged that the Nitric
acid makes mouths sore —
+ Query. May not the propor-
tion of quantity of rain in
two diff countries be taken
as the proportion of moisture
as shown by the Hygrometer?

Sunday 29th June 96
Oth Letter to Mr B -

Equations -

- Henry the eight was
to rise for the dead and
ascend the throne of England
what is the first thing he
would do? Henry 7th - and
the D. of B.?

+ A poor man whose house
was lately burnt, had a cow
burned at the same time, for
this he is condemned by the
Brahmins to walk thro' the
streets for one year roaring
like a cow. - The profud whom
I was this morning, bellowing
like the animal for the death of
which (Dop to him) he suffers -

Recd the following letter
from Mr Edmondson Sec^y
to the Board of Trade.

Sir

In consequence of the
Factory at Malva having
been struck with lightning,
The resident having sug-
gested the issue of a
conductor to guard against
a like accident in future
I am directed by the
board to request that
you will describe in
what manner you
would recommend one

to be erected

I am &c

Sign W. A. Edmuntson

To which I returned the following answer

Sir

To prevent a possibility of mistake in putting up conductors on the Factory at Malwa, I beg the favor you will be so obliging as procure answers to the following queries

1^o What is the length & height of the building

2. Is the roof flat or pitched

3. Is any part of the building higher than the rest - steeple turret &c. -

4. Are there more buildings than one? if so about what distance are they from each other

On receiving answers to the above I will immediately make out such instructions as will enable the resident to erect conductors in the best manner

I am &c J. Edmunds.

With Mr. Fairlie -
Copper coin - Cop-
natives know that it is
both too light and too
much alloyed -

Thursday 30th June 1796
- Visit from Mr. S. - Mr.
Madon & Mr. G. - accom-
panied the latter to Mr. C. -
- Mr. G. is made of cutting
diamonds. Two diamonds are
fixed ^{each} on the end of a stick
with cement.
The other end of each stick
rests on the table. The diamond
are cut down by rubbing on
each other, the powder is received
in a wooden box below, and
afterwards employed in polishing
the diamonds in the wheel -
- ^{quartz} is not a diamond some-
times ^{cut} out with a wire on
which d. powder is laid with
oil or water? -

The present copper coinage
is 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cent too light
the copper is also much
alloyed seemingly with
lead - Nations object to
this coinage on both accounts
They also object to the
inscription being too much
crowded by the addition of
the Nagri. The uppermost
is Bengalee, the next portion
the lowest Nagri - The
den was diminished $\frac{1}{4}$ in weight
and the same breadth was con-
tinued, by this means it became
too thin for ~~the~~ receiving a
proper impress in stamping
- By conjecture in the
week informed of the following

The copper was found to
contain 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cent alloy -
The Hindus estimate Diamond
by the same rule as the Euro-
peans, i.e. by the square of the
carat - They have also a
kind of brass which they heat
red hot. It ^{is said to} contain a
~~greater~~ ^{greater} proportion of zinc
than common copper -
- M. M. inform me that
a Mr. Minnerly at Madras
has published a work on
India -
- M. G. - when sick happened
to meet an alligator, it got
away, his servant told him
that his sickness had been
occasioned by a form attempt

of the same kind, he added
that the allegation is a
god and is very well turned
into a horse, and consequently
that Mr. G. should rather
worship than attempt to
kill it -

- with Mr. F. - Mr. Fry: x

The bal. between the differ-
ent coins might possibly
be ~~for~~ maintained by
Gov. ordering pay^{ts} to be
received sometimes in gold some-
times in silver - The company
have issued orders for the Revenue
to be paid in gold - This will
put the matter into the hands
of the collector -

Even^g with Mr. D. -
+ This day received a letter
from Mr. Baird in board the
Caledonia dated 23 June
informing me that he had
received my letters for England
and that the pilot was about
leaving them -

Friday 1st July 1796
D. Lapon at D. Dick's
problems on the globe -
- employed in arranging
the apparatus in the East
room -
- sent Mr. Griffiths a phial
of Marine acid -
- Copper from Mr. Spalding
with Mr. Fairlie -
American coin - Copper
coin of Bengal -
Impress^{on} of the American
coin to work -
- health to Mr. F. - ill -

Saturday 2 July
9th Lapon to Mr. Bette
simple equations -
- Copper coin issued from the
mint agreeable to the price
of copper weight for weight
- thro' a more way scheme
that has a tendency to the
good of the poor. They live
by imposition on the pub-
lick by battle, &c. -
- The latter price was raised at
100 Rupees of milled silver
into the mint at ^{about} 40. here
a loss of about one hundred
of cent - They Nation say
give us coinage to the weight
of the copper and we have no
objections to any new coinage

Govt then ordered a copper
coinage of price half and
quarter price, of the weight
of 16 annas, or one piece per
pie of price. After a quantity
of this species had been issued
from the treasury, the Mint M^r
represented to the Council that
the Company incurred a heavy
expense from the copper coinage,
to defray which he was of opinion
that the weight ought to be
diminished, it was accordingly
reduced 25% or to 12 annas
the pie. The second die was
employed consequently the re-
duction of weight applied only to
the thickness of the coin was by
this means reduced so thin that
it does not admit of a proper inspec-

tion. An order has within these few
days been sent to the mint to
reduce the breadth and even the
surface in proportion, hence
new Dies become necessary
so that there are now, at least
will be soon, three different
sized copper coins.

The copper of which the new
coinage is made seems to be
alloyed with lead. May be de-
termined with by the mould or the
dry way - or Hydrostatically -
Distilled some very pure Nitro
acid - no precipitate with Nitrate
of silver. Specimens of leather
tanned here - thick and soft
both kinds seem good - I
received the top of the 2^d
conductor from Mr. Spalding -
+ Among the Hindos contains

crimes are punished by
the culprits being obliged to
incise by his body from
the lower mouth / mouth of the
to the sacred pagoda, down
the Hoagly - spare how many
years will be employed in
performing this penance?

- There is perhaps no country
in the world where penances
are more numerous and
more extraordinary than in
Bengal - List of penances -

Many of the vulgar preju-
dices here are the same as in
Britain - e.g. A Die puts
a crooked piece of iron between
the feet to make the sick child
recover, and as a charm against
evil eyes, as a horn shoe at home