

violation of the Constitution” and “directly contrary to the Declaration of Rights.”⁸ The Whig Club then issued a defense of its position⁹ and Goddard, unwilling to let the opportunity pass, published *The Prowess of the Whig Club*¹⁰ which so offended it that he was again sentenced to banishment. Again he went to Annapolis for protection against the arbitrary power of this group of patriotic zealots¹¹ and the Club was ordered by the Assembly to apologize to the Sovereign People at the bar of the House and the Governor was directed to give Goddard protection.¹²

His next offense against public opinion came during his partnership with Eleazer Oswald, when, on July 6, 1779, an article was published entitled “Some Queries, Political and Military, Humbly Offered to the Consideration of the Public.” This incident and the subsequent proceedings demonstrated that freedom of the press included the right to print opinions which were contrary to the public will.¹³ As a result of this article which had been published at the request of General Charles Lee, Goddard was visited by a mob which demanded the name of the author. To save himself from further abuse on the part of the enraged band of patriots, he wrote and printed a recantation. At the same time he appealed to the Governor for protection and on July 17, 1779, the Council of Safety ordered the Baltimore magistrates to appear at a hearing for not having given him the legal support to which he was entitled. The hearing seems to have been favorable to him, for on July 27 he published a retraction of his former recantation and thus vindicated the freedom of the press against the mob spirit of Baltimore.

THE PROPOSAL TO PRINT EUROPEAN CLASSICS

Perhaps the most interesting of Goddard’s several literary projects was that of printing a series of European classics to provide for the deficiency in reading matter resulting from the cutting off of the United States from Europe during the Revolution. In the *Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser* for April 10, 1781, Goddard and Oswald published the following prospectus:

“... Much we have suffered this Way, since the Commencement of this unhappy Contest; numberless new *European* Publications have not reached these Shores, besides the Want of the Impor-

⁸ Votes and Proceedings, Lower House, March 10, 1777. Quoted from Wroth, p. 137.

⁹ No copy of the original document has been located but it was reprinted in *The Prowess of the Whig Club*.

¹⁰ Bibliography of Imprints, No. 4.

¹¹ See Bibliography of Imprints, No. 3.

¹² See Bibliography of Imprints, No. 2.

¹³ For Oswald’s relations to this affair see pages 25-27. The reader is referred to L. C. Wroth, *A History of Printing in Colonial Maryland*, pp. 137-140, for the fullest and best documented account of the affair.