

Weems, a Protestant Episcopal clergyman with a bent for travel, went directly from his charge over the Westminster Parish in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, into the book selling business about September 1792. He had attended the convention of the Diocese of Maryland in June of that year, and at that time obtained many subscriptions to a tract which he had lately published.¹² It is likely that the tract in question was Russel's Sermons, which certainly at that time was "lately published." At the conference, he also vended a pamphlet with the title Onania;¹³ and was obtaining subscriptions to other books, doubtless including Hugh Blair's Sermons, printed by Samuel and John Adams in 1792 and 1793.¹⁴

It is interesting to notice the connection of some of Weems' most important publications with Maryland printing. The books which he caused to be published were printed for the most part in Philadelphia, but some were issued by the presses of Wilmington, Georgetown, Richmond, and other cities. His first undertaking, Russel's Sermons, was issued by the Adams' Baltimore press, the first edition of his Life of Washington was published on February 22, 1800, by George Keatinge of Baltimore;¹⁵

12 Wroth, L.C. Parson Weems. p. 36.

13 Weems, M.L. Mason Locke Weems, his works and ways. v. 1, p. 259.

14 Appendix A. Imprint bibliography, items 53 and 110.

15 Appendix A. Imprint bibliography, item 634.