

The cause for this editorial could, very possibly, be traced to one of Brown's verbal entanglements with William Pechin, a gentleman of strong Jeffersonian persuasion, who had begun publication of the Baltimore Intelligencer on March 7, 1798.

Brown may have been sincere when he said he was "no party man". But only a few months later, he admitted that "It is true, this is the only paper in this city that has any pretensions to federalism."⁴⁶ In a day when militia companies were often linked with political societies⁴⁷, Brown, personally, in 1798, became captain of the Baltimore Federal Blues⁴⁸. As editor, he filled his columns with extracts from Porcupine's Gazette, and the Columbian Centinel, well-known Federalist newspapers of Philadelphia and Boston; and the columns devoted to local debate in the Federal Gazette were given over to Federalist arguments. Luther Martin, one of Maryland's leading Federalists was a noteworthy contributor.⁴⁹

When the severe epidemic of yellow fever broke out in Baltimore, late in the summer of 1800, the news-

46 Federal gazette. November 17, 1798.

47 cf. Link, E.P. Democratic-Republican societies, 1790-1800. p. 181.

48 Telegraphe. July 24, 1798.

49 Ingle, Edward. William Pechin (1773-1849) his ancestry and descendants (1591-1914) p. 15.