
William and Mary Goddard, Printers and Public Servants

the fall of Moro Castle at Havana,¹ and a play-bill announcing a performance at the local theatre. A few sermons followed, and on August 31, 1762, he published the prospectus of the *Providence Gazette and Country Journal*, a newspaper which first appeared on October 20th of the same year. For two and a half years, in spite of the fact that it was a well-edited sheet, Goddard's paper struggled so unsuccessfully against the indifference of the community that on May 11, 1765, it was forced to discontinue for lack of support. Goddard attempted to resume its publication by an issue dated August 24, 1765, headed "Vox Populi, Vox Dei. A Providence Gazette Extraordinary . . . Printed by S. and W. Goddard," but failing to receive the eight hundred subscriptions upon which its resumption had been made contingent, he allowed it once more to lapse. It was not until after the repeal of the Stamp Act, when Goddard had been resident in New York for many months, that on August 9, 1766, his journal was resumed and conducted successfully for some time thereafter by "Sarah Goddard and Company."² After his appearance there, in August 1765, William Goddard never returned to Providence to take up his trade. It was probably during the years of his absence, and in her mother's service, that his sister, Mary Katherine Goddard, learned the practical side of typography and journalism, a knowledge which she put to distinguished use several years later in Baltimore.

It was during his period of discouragement in Providence³ that his friends, Messrs. Parker and Holt, urged Goddard to leave that unpromising field and to come to New York where his abilities would meet with greater appreciation and recompense.⁴ Urged by the restlessness which drove him ever

¹ For these and the other Rhode Island publications of Goddard, see *Rhode Island Imprints*, compiled by the John Carter Brown Library. Moro Castle fell on August 14, 1762. There could not have been a great many days intervening between the publication of Goddard's broadside announcement of the victory and that of his newspaper prospectus on August 31, 1762.

² Goddard's mother continued the printing and newspaper business actively in Providence until November 1768, when she sold the establishment and removed to Philadelphia, where she again invested in her son's business. (A list of her imprints during these years in Providence is to be found in *Rhode Island Imprints*, before mentioned). The purchaser of her Providence office was John Carter, whom Goddard had sent to her assistance from Philadelphia. He became a personage in Rhode Island. Among his descendants was John Carter Brown, the founder of the great library of that name in Providence. Mrs. Goddard died in Philadelphia on January 5, 1770. (Obituary in *Providence Gazette* for February 10, 1770). With her passing went the single restraining influence of his early life. Her exhortations to him (see *The Partnership*) to refrain from wasting his strength in petty controversies, her insistence that the ancient law of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth had been repealed by the higher mandate of "Love one another," fill one with admiration for her maternal solicitude, her Christian gentleness and her sound worldly sense.

³ For excellent accounts of William Goddard and his activities in Providence, see *Printers and Printing in Providence, 1762-1907*, [by Hugh F. Carroll]; article in *Providence Journal* for October 20, 1912; Arnold, S. G., *History of the State of Rhode Island*. 2 vol. Providence 1894; Kimball, G. S., *Providence in Colonial Times*. Boston, 1912. In the last named and in the *Collections of the Rhode Island Historical Society*, v. 12, no. 2, April 1919, are excellent portraits of Goddard, showing him in young manhood and old age, respectively.

⁴ *The Partnership: or the history of the Rise and Progress of the Pennsylvania Chronicle, &c. Wherein the Conduct of Joseph Galloway, Esq; Speaker of the Honourable House of Representatives of the Province of Pennsylvania, Mr.*