
William and Mary Goddard, Printers and Public Servants

"It was entitled *The Constitutional Courant, Containing Matters interesting to Liberty—but no wise repugnant to Loyalty*. Imprint, Printed by Andrew Marvel, at the Sign of the Bribe refused, on Constitution-Hill, North America. In the center of the title was a device of a snake, cut into parts, to represent the colonies. Motto—*Join or die*. After the title followed an address to the public from the fictitious publisher Andrew Marvel. This paper was without date but was printed in September 1765.¹ . . . A large edition was printed, . . . It excited some commotion in New York, and was taken notice of by government. A council was called, . . . but as no discovery was made of the author or printer, nothing was done. . . . Only one number of the Constitutional Courant was published; a continuance of it was never intended. It was printed by William Goddard."²

In his first edition Mr. Thomas asserted that the *Constitutional Courant*, or the *Constitutional Gazette*, as he incorrectly called it, had been printed by Goddard, with the connivance of Parker, in Parker's shop in Burlington, New Jersey. The editors of his second edition changed the word Burlington to Woodbridge, and later bibliographers have accepted the correction.

It does not seem as if, in these years of journalistic apprenticeship, William Goddard were training for Toryism.

GODDARD GOES TO PHILADELPHIA

Goddard has related that he was moved to leave New York by hearing of the dissolution of the old partnership of Franklin and Hall, of Philadelphia. He persuaded himself that from this occurrence there should arise in that city an opportunity for a young printer of journalistic ambitions.³ Accordingly he went to the Pennsylvania city in June 1766, bearing a letter, which he had obtained on the way, from William Franklin, then Governor of New Jersey, to Joseph Galloway, Esq., a Maryland Quaker who had been for many years resident in Philadelphia and active in its politics. In his turn, Galloway introduced him to Mr. Thomas Wharton, a prominent Quaker politician and merchant. If it were possible to accept unreservedly Goddard's account in *The Partnership* of the agreement which these three now entered into, one would be convinced that here had been reenacted the old nursery rhyme, wherein the Spider invited the Fly into her parlor with a

¹ This is a mistake; the paper is dated September 21, 1765. See title as given by Evans, note No. 2, below.

² Thomas, 2d ed., 2: 130. Evans, No. 9941, gives the full title as follows: *The Constitutional Courant. Containing Matters Interesting to Liberty—But No Wise Repugnant to Loyalty*. Numb. 1, Saturday, September 21, 1765. [Woodbridge, New-Jersey:] Printed by Andrew Marvel [William Goddard] at the Sign of the bribe refused, on Constitution-Hill, North America. [1765.] pp. (2). fol.

Buckingham, J. T., *Specimens of Newspaper Literature, etc.*, 2 v., Boston 1850, 1: 246, describes the publication, and in 1: 236, in speaking of an issue of the *Massachusetts Spy*, which also bore a cut of the disjointed snake, states that the first use in the colonies of this celebrated symbol had been in the heading of *The Constitutional Courant*. Franklin, however, had used this emblem and motto on the *Pennsylvania Gazette* of May 9, 1754. See Hildeburn, No. 1378.

³ *The Partnership*.