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## *William and Mary Goddard, Printers and Public Servants*

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*The Pennsylvania Chronicle* began its life as the chosen organ of the Junta, that anti-Proprietary organization which Franklin had brought into being years before, and in which Galloway and Wharton were among his prominent associates. These gentlemen and their friends of the opposition were its principal contributors; Franklin himself sent from England for its columns many of those essays which served to mould the political thought of the time. Some of the friends of the *Chronicle*, while sincere enough in their abhorrence of the Proprietary, yet were only lukewarm on the larger question of opposition to the measures of the Crown in its administration of the colonies. Among these, unfortunately for Goddard, who was a patriot of another stripe, were his partners, Messrs. Galloway and Wharton, the first of whom already had begun to lose standing with the more zealous by his perfunctory opposition to the Stamp Act in 1765. He resented Goddard's action in beginning in the *Chronicle*, on December 3, 1767, the publication of John Dickinson's "Letters from a Farmer,"<sup>1</sup> a series of political essays wherein the broader question of American rights was discussed in a manner which influenced the increasing anti-British sentiment of the colonies. On his part Goddard resented no less bitterly the necessity which he was under of assailing on every occasion the Proprietary government of Pennsylvania, a policy for the prosecution of which his newspaper had been established, but of which he had wearied early in the campaign. It has been said, to put the result of the disagreement briefly, that "The obstinate Goddard refused to conduct the paper according to the wishes of the dictatorial Galloway, and the *Chronicle*, instead of supporting the Assembly party, became a bitter opponent of its former patron."<sup>2</sup> It is probable that this desertion of the cause of the Pennsylvania Assembly by Goddard provided the basis for the accusation of Toryism brought against him in later years, but it should be observed again that at the outbreak of the Revolution it was Galloway and Wharton who joined the British while Goddard remained in the American camp, and that it was this so-called "Tory," who after having labored with all of his strength in the service of the colonies in a civilian capacity, strove to secure an appointment from the Congress as a field officer in its army.

In the year 1769 Galloway and Wharton withdrew from partnership with the unmanageable Goddard, who affirmed afterwards that before the dissolution they had compelled him to take as a partner their "spy," Benjamin Towne, a journeyman printer of the establishment. Towne asserted

<sup>1</sup> This was the initial publication of Dickinson's "Letters." Newspapers throughout the colonies immediately began to reprint them as they appeared in Goddard's journal.

<sup>2</sup> See *Joseph Galloway, the Loyalist Politician*, by Ernest H. Baldwin, in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History*, 26: 161-191, 289-321, 417-442.