
A History of Printing in Colonial Maryland

flatly that Goddard had taken him into the firm because he owed him journeyman's wages which he could not hope to pay otherwise than by giving him a share in the business. Whatever may have been the true reason for the new partnership, it turned out to be the unhappiest arrangement which any two men ever formed for the conduct of a business enterprise. Goddard hated Towne of all men second only to Galloway, and in the intervals between his attacks on the latter, he assailed his new partner in a manner the coarsest and most vindictive possible.¹ His great purpose in life after the separation from his earlier partners, however, left him relatively little time to devote to Towne's discomfiture, for his campaign to prevent Galloway's re-election to the Pennsylvania Assembly took precedence of all lesser contests. One of its first offensives, if the military figure may be carried out, was the publication in 1770 of *The Partnership*, a pamphlet in which he left unsaid nothing that could blacken the character of his former associates, except probably a few unimportant things which he forgot to record. In the seventy-two closely printed and frequently tedious pages of this pamphlet is to be found a mixture of mockery, "appeals of injured innocence," and downright blackguardism, the whole composed in a voluble, exaggerated style which at times is as shrill as a fish-wife's curse. How greatly he was in the wrong or how greatly he had been wronged becomes a matter of little importance in the face of the evidence which his defense presents of his lack of mental balance, a quality, which, had he possessed it, would have combined with his energy and talents to raise him to a high place in the life of the nation then in gestation. Of this or of a later literary assault on Galloway by the author of *The Partnership*, Franklin wrote to his son, "I cast my eye over Goddard's Piece against our friend Mr. Galloway, and then lit my fire with it. I think such feeble, malicious Attacks cannot hurt him."² By leaving Philadelphia and standing for the Assembly from the county of

¹Of the quarrel between Goddard and Towne, little need be said. It can be read in *The Partnership*; in the sheet issued by Towne on July 31, 1770, entitled "To the Public, and particularly the kind customers of the Pennsylvania Chronicle," in which Towne gives a sober account of his relations with one whom he considers to have been mentally unbalanced; and in a broadside "Advertisement" of August 1, 1770, in which Goddard replied to Towne's dignified paper of the day before. These broadsides are in the Franklin Collection of the University of Pennsylvania, XII: 41 and X: 8, respectively. Goddard's language in the "Advertisement" was particularly rude. He seems to have been suffering under delusions of persecution at this time. Towne was a capable man whose politics changed during the Revolution in accordance with the distance of the British troops from Philadelphia. Isaiah Thomas gives an excellent sketch of him. The partnership lasted from May 19, 1769, until soon after the death of Goddard's mother on January 5, 1770, when Towne brought suit for its dissolution. In the meantime Goddard continued the *Chronicle* with his sister as silent partner. On the verso of the title-page of volume 3 of the paper (photostat copy in New York Public Library), he announced under date of February 12, 1770, the continuance and improvement of his journal, and asserted that he had purchased "an elegant Mahogany Press, made by an ingenious watchmaker, at New Haven," and that he was expecting by every ship tons of "a beautiful new Elzvirir Type, made by an inimitable Founder in England."

²Franklin to William Franklin, January 30, 1772. In Smyth, A. H., *The Writings of Benjamin Franklin*, 5: 378.