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

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Bucks, Galloway succeeded in being re-elected in the years 1770 and 1772, but Goddard's attacks seem so far to have shaken him that he contemplated retiring from public life. From this step he was dissuaded by Franklin, who retained esteem for his old friend of the Junta until the very eve of the Revolution.<sup>1</sup>

Even the small triumph which Goddard attained in harassing his enemy cost him more than it came to, for with the financial support of Galloway and Wharton withdrawn, and with constant dissension existing between Goddard and Towne, the affairs of *The Pennsylvania Chronicle* fell to such a depth that eventually creditors descended upon the property and took possession of it. In a letter from William Strahan,<sup>2</sup> a London printer and publisher, is to be read the beginning of the catastrophe. Writing to Franklin on August 21, 1772, Strahan says:

"As you will probably write to Philadelphia by some of the Vessels now about to sail thither, may I request the favour of you to remind Mr. Galloway of the Money due to me for Types and Newspapers sent to Mr. Goddard by his order above four Years ago, and which, as stated in my Letter to him of the 6th Decr. 1770. amounted to £172: 15: 2. I wrote him the 7th of August last Year to which I have had no Answer.—It is surely high time this Money was repaid, which I beg your Interposition to procure me without farther Delay. It is hard I should suffer by the Madness and Ingratitude of Goddard whom I never had the least Concern with. It was Mr. Galloway's Order that I obeyed; and to him I look for my Reimbursement."<sup>3</sup>

By just what steps the final ruin of the business was consummated, it is not clear, but it is certain that within two months after the date of Strahan's letter, the "mad" and "ungrateful" Goddard had begun to plan a retreat from his difficult position. Drawn always southward by his changing fortunes, he now made proposals for the establishment of a printing house in Baltimore, and in that city, less than a year later, he established himself in business, as he has recorded, on the capital of "a single solitary guinea."<sup>4</sup> The last issue of *The Pennsylvania Chronicle* bore the date of February 8, 1774, and when it expired with its three hundred and sixty-eighth number, the *Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser* could boast already six months of vigorous life.

<sup>1</sup> Joseph Galloway, the Loyalist Politician, before cited. In a letter to Abel James, December 2, 1772 (Smyth, A. H., *The Writings of Benjamin Franklin*, 5: 461), Franklin says that he does not understand why James and Fox were slighted in the election, "while Goddard was voted for by so great a number." This is the only intimation which the author has seen that Goddard offered himself as a candidate for the Assembly or other office.

<sup>2</sup> William Strahan, printer and member of Parliament, b. 1715, d. 1785. He was the friend of Franklin and of Dr. Samuel Johnson and the London agent of many Pennsylvania printers. It was to him that Franklin wrote his celebrated letter at the outbreak of the Revolution, concluding with the words: "You are now my enemy, and I am, Yours, B. Franklin."

<sup>3</sup> Franklin Papers in American Philosophical Society, III: 117.

<sup>4</sup> *Maryland Journal*, August 14, 1792.