
A History of Printing in Colonial Maryland

"I had like to have been mobbed to death by a parcel of Poltroon Officers, Blackguard Continental Soldiers, & Negroes, Headed by Coll. Smith, and the damn'd rascally Magistrates of Baltimore would not give me any redress, and am now going to Annapolis to the Governor if he does not give me some redress I will seek it to the farthest end of the world, yes I will take up the Tomahawk and Scalping knife and will be worse than any Hessian or Waldecker . . ."

The issue of Goddard's appeal to the Governor is obscure. On July 17, 1779, the Council of Safety ordered the magistrates who had failed to give him protection to appear before them at a hearing on the twenty-sixth of the instant month, but the Council record for that day gives no indication that the hearing was held, nor did the *Maryland Journal* thereafter refer to this phase of the affair. It is evident, however, that whatever was its legal conclusion, Goddard considered himself to have been vindicated a second time, for on July 27th he published in his newspaper a retraction of the apology which he had printed under duress only a week earlier, nor does there seem to have been made by his enemies any protest against this emphatic disavowal of what Calhoun had termed his "recantation." Again the last word had been spoken by the publisher, and the "liberty of the press" once more had been upheld against an outraged populace.

GODDARD'S LATER YEARS

During the fourteen years that Goddard remained in Baltimore after his second defiance of public opinion in that town, he gave his enemies and competitors many moments of uneasiness, touched them with his rapier point or hammered them with his bludgeon many times, but on the whole it was a well-ordered and fairly prosperous middle age that he entered into, a life laborious and useful but entirely devoid of the unusual. The story of his early career with its zealous exertion, its varied accomplishment, has been related in some detail; a concise statement of his activities throughout his later years must suffice for these pages.

It is probable that Goddard and Oswald had employment for some years with Mary Katherine Goddard on the *Maryland Journal*, for there is little evidence that their own business was sufficient to maintain them. On April 10, 1781, the partners once more renounced all share in that good woman's business,¹ and asked encouragement from the public in their designs for issuing a series of the British classics, publications which, they emphasized, were to be printed on American paper of their own manufacture. No traces of these works exist, however, to indicate that they were published. For how much longer the partnership between Goddard and Oswald continued

¹ *Maryland Journal*.