
A History of Printing in Colonial Maryland

land Muse,¹ which Parks printed in his Annapolis establishment. In a note at the conclusion of this volume, described on its title-page as the third edition, the author thanked his friends and benefactors for the encouragement which they had given him and promised the publication of an annual collection under the same title. No traces remain, however, either of a second volume of the series, or of the two earlier editions of the first volume. A part of its contents was a poem entitled and described as "The History of Colonel Nathaniel Bacon's Rebellion in Virginia, Done into Hudibrastick Verse from an old Ms." One is fain to accept the pedigree for this poem which is provided in the pleasant, punning address indited by an unknown "H. J." to its author, E. Cooke, Gent. There are few who will not be amused by the lines which follow:

TO THE AUTHOR.²

Old Poet,
As you may remember,
You told me sometime in September,
Your pleasant Muse was idly sitting,
Longing for some new Subject fitting
For this Meridian, and her Inditing,
Worth Praise and Pence, for Pains in Writing.
I therefore (thinking it great Pity
A Muse should pine, that is so witty)
Have sent an old, authentick Book,
For Her in Doggrel Verse to Cook;
For since it never was in Print,
(Tho' wondrous Truths are written in't)
It may be worthy Clio's Rhimes,
To hand it down to future Times.
You know what never-fading Glory,
Old Salust got by Catlin's Story;
The Fame Hyde gain'd, I need not tell y'on,
By's Hist'ry of the Grand Rebellion:
You know how Butler's witty Lays
Procur'd for him immortal Praise:
I'll add no more—But if you please, Sir,
Attempt the same for Ebenezer,
Which you may gain, or I'm mistaken
If you can nicely Cook this Bacon.

H. J.

¹ See Maryland Historical Society Fund Publication, No. 36, for reprints of the "Sotweed Factor" (London Edition of 1708), the "Sotweed Redivivus" and another poem of this Ebenezer Cooke or "E. C." who sometimes signed himself "Laureat," but by whose appointment is not known. Tyler, M. C., *History of American Literature*. N. Y., 1881, 2: 255, discusses Cooke and his satires. Nothing is known of Cooke besides his writings. He may have been that Ebenezer Cooke who was resident in St. Mary's City in 1693.

² The lines which follow were copied for this work from the unique British Museum copy of *The Maryland Muse*.