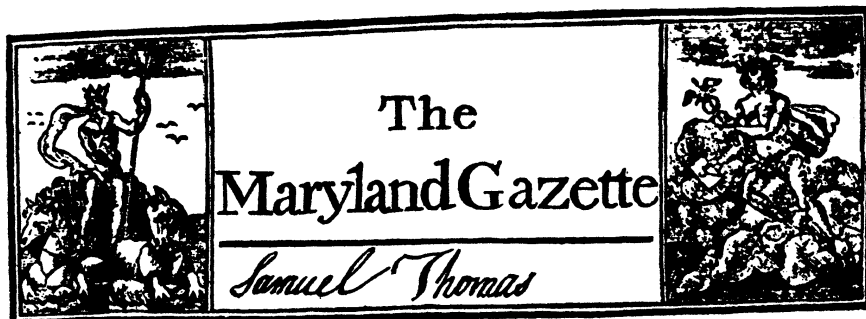

William Parks, Public Printer of Maryland and Virginia

One would like to know more of this "Old Poet" and his friends. Indeed the little group of essayists, versifiers and political writers who gathered around William Parks, the Annapolis publisher, has an interest for the student of American literary beginnings which on the personal side, at least, has never been satisfied.



From Tuesday December 24, to Tuesday December 31, 1728. (Numb. LXVIII)

*He tibi evant Artes ; pacifque imponere morant.
Pacore Subjctis, Et debellare superbos.*

S I R,



As the Powers of Europe are solemnly assembled to settle the Peace, and adjust the Rights of all the contending Princes, it may not be thought unreasonable to offer some modest Conjectures on this Affair : Possible it may influence a better Enquiry ; and the least Attention in this Case will afford us a Prospect sufficiently delightful, and far, very far from Precarious.

Virg.

Foes to his Ports in the *Adriatick* Sea, and other Proceeding of the like Kind. Shall we then, after all this, be taught to fear the *Congress* will hurt us in this Point, and establish a Commerce thus abandon'd by its best and most sanguine Friends ?

If *Gibraltar* be out of this Question (and it would be most extravagant to think it a Point in *Liberty*) the Losses of our Merchants and the *S. S. Company*, will be the only Affair, to determine. Affairs that are not of such Importance as to embroil us, or keep us long in Suspence, 'tis just that we should first refer these to an amicable Mediation, and if that should fail us, we may then recur to Arms : But the Crown of *Spain* is not in any Condition to withstand us when we come to Blows, and will hardly ever hazard such a dangerous Issue : it will cost them in much Blood and

PLATE Va. See page xiii.

PARKS'S *Maryland Gazette*, THE FIRST NEWSPAPER SOUTH
OF PENNSYLVANIA

Principally, however, was the Province indebted to Parks for his establishment of its first newspaper. In the month of September 1727, appeared the inaugural issue of the *Maryland Gazette*, the first newspaper to be published south of Pennsylvania, and the seventh to attain regular publication in English America. It was issued continuously until March 1730/31, when it seems to have been discontinued to resume publication again nearly two years later, in December 1732. At this time its proprietor formed a part-