

business because of the long delay in getting the equipment from Europe. Oswald informed Lamb of his business prospects and future plans, in a letter written from Poughkeepsie on December 11, 1780.

"[I]. . . am much obliged to you for your kind Inquiry respecting my Welfare and Success in Business, which has not as yet been so ample as I expected, owing to an unavoidable Delay in Europe, of the sending out our printing Materials. I have still the strongest Assurances, and the most flattering Hopes of their speedy Arrival. In my other Plans of Business preparatory to our original and extensive one, I have succeeded to my Wishes, which I know you are already persuaded are not immoderate. A decent and honorable Competence is all I aim at—to accomplish it in the peaceful, tho' not retired, Walk of private Life, is the ultimate End of my Pursuits;—'My *Ambition*, as a Soldier,' to adopt Burgoyne's Sentiment, 'is dead.'<sup>23</sup>

The "original and extensive" plan to which he referred may have been that of printing an edition of the Bible, which was announced in the *Maryland Journal* on June 8, 1779, but was abandoned soon after.

#### THE PUBLICATION OF GENERAL CHARLES LEE'S "QUERIES"

Shortly after the partnership was formed, Lee wrote Goddard on July 17, 1799, expressing his intention of helping his friends to the fullest extent of his abilities:

"I understand my friend Col. Oswald is entered into Partnership with you. Without this consideration I should have done your press all the service in my power, as I have a very particular regard for yourself personally, but I have now a double motive. I have many papers which will be of service to you, and you may be assured, that to you alone, they shall be consigned.—I hope you will not think it improper to insert the Queries I enclosed. You have and ought to have the first reputation for impartiality as a Printer, on the Continent."<sup>24</sup>

The "Queries" which he enclosed in an earlier letter of June 9 were printed in the *Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser* on July 6, 1779, under the heading "Some Queries, Political and Military, Humbly Offered to the Consideration of the Public." This vitriolic attack on Washington was written by General Lee and sent to Goddard and Oswald for publication with the purpose of vindicating his reputation by tainting the name of the Commander-in-Chief. Among the "Queries" were the following which are typical examples:

"9th. Whether it is salutary or dangerous, consistent with, or abhorrent from the principles and spirit of liberty and republicanism, to inculcate and encourage in the people, an idea, that their welfare, safety, and glory, depend on one man? Whether they really do depend on one man?"

<sup>23</sup> Lamb Papers, Box III, No. 258. Oswald to Lamb, Poughkeepsie, 11 Dec. 1780.

<sup>24</sup> *The Lee Papers*, Vol. III p. 340. In *Collections of the New York Historical Society*, 1873.