

"10th. Whether, amongst the late warm, or rather loyal addressers, in this city, to his Excellency General Washington, there was a single mortal, one gentleman excepted, who could possibly be acquainted with his merits?"²⁵

Lee's friends received an emphatic answer to the "Queries" for the next day Goddard's home was attacked by a mob and he was forced to sign and to print a recantation in the *Maryland Journal*. However, he was not sincere in doing so for at the same time he sent a memorial to Governor Johnson requesting protection for himself and his press. When the mob spirit died down and he was assured of protection from the Governor he printed a retraction of his former recantation.²⁶ Colonel Samuel Smith, son-in-law of William Spear, one of the Baltimore magistrates, was the leader of the mob. On July 11, Oswald challenged him to a duel for having slandered his reputation and having forced Goddard to surrender their private correspondence with General Lee.²⁷ Smith, however, had scruples about dueling and no doubt the prospect of fighting a man of Oswald's abilities caused him to decline with the statement that "I should be sorry to think I had insulted you intentionally."²⁸ Oswald was not satisfied with this reply and declared his intention of exposing the whole matter in the paper. Smith asked for a few days to think it over and at the end of that time Oswald, not having received the satisfaction to which he felt himself entitled, had the correspondence printed.

On December 24, 1779 he wrote to Lee to tell him of the misfortunes which he and Goddard had suffered from publishing the "Queries." In speaking of his partner he said:

"He has been proceeded against with the most unmanly resentment by an execrable Junto who infest the Town of Baltimore, because he has dared to act with the Freedom and Spirit of an honest man. The persecution and Insults which were administered to him by scoundrels in power (both legal and usurped) in his different applications for Justice, and in support of the Blessings of a free-press, are unparalleled in a free country . . ."²⁹

He also speaks of their intention to make another attempt at

" . . . restoring the People of this Continent to their Reason, thro' the channel of a free Press, which Mr. Goddard and myself are determined to support at every risque, as soon as our Materials shall arrive (and which we hourly expect from Holland)."³⁰

²⁵ *The Lee Papers*, Vol. IV, p. 342.

²⁶ See Wroth, *A History of Printing in Colonial Maryland*, pp. 137-140 for a more detailed discussion of this affair. The original papers are in the Maryland Archives. Red Book, Vol. III, 38-41.

²⁷ J. T. Scharf, *The Chronicles of Baltimore*, pp. 180-181 gives the letter in full. Also see *Maryland Gazette &c.* extraordinary, No. 17.

²⁸ Scharf, *op. cit.*, p. 182.

²⁹ *Lee Papers*, Vol. III, pp. 402-404.

³⁰ *Lee Papers*, Vol. III, pp. 402-404.