

the Post Office. He chose the latter, but after a year's service⁶ decided to enter a more important field and requested Congress to give him a commission as a Lieutenant Colonel in the army. General Washington wrote that the induction of Goddard "into the Army as Lieut. Col. would be attended with endless confusion" because of the difficulty of adjusting the relative rank of the other officers without arousing jealousy.⁷

GODDARD'S INTERPRETATION OF "THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS"

After ending his association with the Post Office, he returned to Baltimore and helped his sister with the printing of the *Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser*. Financial troubles resulting from the expenses of founding the postal system may have contributed to his obscurity from the time of his retirement from the position of Surveyor of the Post Office until 1784, when he again took over the paper. During these years he came forth from this obscurity on two notable occasions, both arising from his militant support of the liberty of the press.

On February 25, 1777, he published two short contributions in the *Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser* which brought down upon himself the wrath of the citizens of Baltimore, particularly the Whig Club, an organization, self constituted, for the protection of the citizens from Tory influences. That what was obviously intended to be irony should be taken as disloyalty shows the patriotic fervor under which the people were laboring at that time. The first of the articles was signed "Tom Tell Truth" and advised the acceptance of the terms of peace which the British Government had recently offered. The other article, signed "Caveto," warned the colonists to distrust the British offers and to fight with renewed zeal. The Whig Club ignored the second article and sent a delegation to Mr. Goddard to discover the author of the offensive piece signed "Tom-Tell Truth." After refusing to reveal the identity of the author and to obey a summons to attend a meeting of the Club, he was forcibly brought before it and ordered to leave town in twenty-four hours and the country in three days. Instead of complying with this arbitrary order, he went to Annapolis on March 7, 1777, and submitted a memorial to the Council of Safety.

Three days later the Whig Club was condemned as being "a manifest

⁶ The position of Surveyor to the Post Office seems to have been that of a general manager of the routes, stations and personnel. Goddard's service in this office was not entirely satisfactory. Bache wrote that "whilst in office he did business in a very careless and slovenly manner." Quoted from Rich, page 51.

⁷ *The Writings of George Washington*, ed. by J. C. Fitzpatrick. Washington, 1932. Vol. 5, p. 350. Washington to Board of War, July 29, 1776.