

orders diligently attended to.<sup>38</sup>

From this date, approximately, the young editor seemed to have more and more difficulty conducting his paper. From his frequent reminders to merchants that the Maryland Journal was an excellent medium for advertising, one may judge that revenues from merchants had fallen off -- rival newspapers seemed to carry their full quota of advertisements, but seldom mentioned such matters in their columns. There seemed to be difficulty retaining a sufficient force of workmen to keep the wheels running smoothly. Hardly an issue was without its announcement that a journeyman compositor, a pressman, or a mercury (carrier) would be taken on at the office of the Maryland Journal; apprentices frequently absconded and were advertised for. There could be several reasons for this difficulty with labor. Perhaps competent journeymen, compositors, and pressmen were scarce; rival offices advertised for help, too, but not with the frequency that Edwards did; so this reason, if correct, is not the complete answer. Perhaps wages were low; Edwards sometimes advertised that he would pay the highest wage; if he did not keep his promise, printers' compensation could account for the difficulty. Perhaps working conditions were bad; as will

38 Maryland journal. September 5, 1795.