

THE PRESS IN FREDERICK

Matthias Bartgis Continues German and English Printing in Frederick. - Matthias Echternach Bartgis was the first to engage in the printing business west of the tidewater in Maryland, having set up a press in Frederick approximately in the fall of 1776.¹ The events of his life and printing career, especially during the early years, have been chronicled by Joseph Towne Wheeler in Chapter Seven of his Maryland Press, 1777-1790.

Bartgis may have suspended his newspaper, the Maryland Gazette; or, The Frederick Advertiser (formerly the Maryland Chronicle) at the close of 1789, for no issue has been located after December 2, 1789; he entered the newspaper field again on May 22, 1791, when volume 1, number 1 of Bartgis's Maryland Gazette made its appearance.

This newspaper must have proved a profitable venture, for at the end of its first year, the editor informed the citizens of Frederick that he had concluded to publish a German newspaper, commencing January 5, 1793, at the price of seven shillings six-pence per annum. Apparently no issues of the German news-

1 Wheeler, J.T. The Maryland press, 1777-1790. p. 59.