

Cowan apprised his public that two Annapolis publications, "a copy of Bacon's laws,⁸ and a copy of Vallette's Deputy commissary's guide,⁹ may be had of the printer hereof."¹⁰ (Whether for sale or for the general convenience of Easton lawyers, and others, is not clear.)

The first issue of James Cowan's paper was published on Tuesday, May 11, 1790, "after a variety of unlooked-for difficulties."¹¹ In his opening address to his patrons, the editor stated:

That public prints have by no means had a general circulation on the Eastern Shore, must be universally admitted. A great deal of important political intelligence has never reached the great body of the people at all; and when sometimes by accident they obtain it, it comes either with so many additions, or such mutilation, that they would be better off without it altogether. The few subscribers to remote prints may not, indeed, derive much information from the establishment of a press at Easton. But the editor conceives that he will render an acceptable service to them, as well as to their less opulent or enlightened countrymen, if, by the successful prosecution of his plan, he shall afford those advantages which are enjoyed by our citizens in almost every corner of the United States.¹²

He announced his intention of informing them of every important transaction in local government, of everything that concerned them in the general government, and of every remarkable occurrence which he could

8 Wroth, L.C. A history of printing in colonial Maryland. Maryland imprints, item 254.

9 Ibid. Maryland imprints, item 338.

10 Maryland herald. (Easton) July 12, 1791.

11 Ibid. May 11, 1790.

12 Ibid. May 11, 1790.