

endeavor, by something more than wishes, to support it and improve it.<sup>16</sup>

There was apparently insufficient encouragement to enable the printer to buy new types; but Cowan kept on, and published the paper regularly, although he sometimes had difficulty in obtaining paper, and therefore issued smaller sheets. He enlarged the scope of his activities by offering books for sale;<sup>17</sup> and by publishing a pamphlet himself: John Beale Bordley's Sketches on the Rotation of Crops<sup>18</sup> which, judging from the type, he had printed elsewhere, and which he sold for twenty-five cents;<sup>19</sup> and on February 15, 1792, secured an appointment as postmaster.<sup>20</sup>

Cowan undoubtedly enlarged the scope of his business by printing handbills and blank forms, as did the other printers of his day, but only two handbills have survived.<sup>21</sup> Many productions of his press must have been lost - they were probably of an ephemeral nature and were soon discarded - at least they were numerous enough to justify an advertisement in the Maryland Herald of May 27, 1792, to the effect that

16 Maryland herald. (Easton) May 17, 1791.

17 Ibid. May 15, December 4, 1792, etc.

18 Appendix A. Imprint bibliography, item 54.

19 Maryland herald. (Easton) September 8, 1792.

20 Information from Post-office department.

21 Appendix A. Imprint bibliography, items 13 and 63.