

any of the papers of the country created so much stir as this pasquinade.²³

Jacob Gibson, one of the associate judges of the Talbot County Court, was one of the chief targets of the lampoon,²⁴ and it was this Jacob Gibson who caused Cowan some difficulty in his Easton career. Cowan's revenue was shrinking; when the Republicans came into power, the benefit which Cowan derived from the publication of laws and other governmental papers, both national and state, was withdrawn,²⁵ and his rival, Thomas Perrin Smith, publisher of the Republican Star, even succeeded Cowan as postmaster on October 27, 1801.²⁶ Cowan applied to the County Court for a license to sell liquor, but Judge Jacob Gibson denied it, requesting Cowan to produce a certificate of character. Cowan refused to comply on the grounds that he was already well known to the judge and others as a man of irreproachable conduct; and added that the judge was, in his opinion, governed by political prejudices rather than a regard for the welfare of the citizens; and proceeded to attack the judge in the columns of the Herald. The judge accordingly went to the office of the Herald and summarily knocked down

23 Tilghman. op. cit. v. 1, p. 247.

24 Ibid.

25 Easton star. September 8, 1874.

26 Information from the Post-office department.