

erson, extracted from Thomas Jefferson's writings, "gratis to the patrons of the Republican Star."⁴⁰ In his first anniversary issue, he disclaimed any impartiality in the conduct of his journal,

Having from my infancy been reared with the principles which I still profess, I at once proclaimed them to the world, that the citizens who might tender me their patronage should not be deceived by a false and delusive idea of impartiality. In thus, at once, declaring my political sentiments, I did not, and hope I never shall, lose sight of the high esteem in which I hold men who are friends to their country tho' ever so much opposed to me in politics.⁴¹

Those political sentiments evoked a paragraph of approval by Alexander Martin in the American of September 3, 1799, which greeted the new paper:

A newspaper has been commenced at Easton, on the Eastern Shore of this state, by a gentleman of the name of T. P. Smith - it is entitled "The Republican Star," and from the talents and spirit of the editor, excites strong expectations of benefitting the good cause.

In spite of difficulties of obtaining workmen capable of executing the printers' duties creditably,⁴² the Republican Star prospered. At the end of its first year, it claimed four hundred on its subscription list.⁴³ T. P. Smith's younger brothers, George Wishart Smith and Charles Smith, and sister, Ann Smith, were soon residents of Talbot County.⁴⁴ An elder brother,

⁴⁰ Appendix A. Imprint bibliography, item 589.

⁴¹ Quoted in Easton star. March 20, 1877.

⁴² Easton star. March 20, 1877.

⁴³ Ibid. March 20, 1877.

⁴⁴ Harrison, S.A. Memoranda of the annals of Talbot county, Maryland. Biographical annals.