

After a suspension of nearly a month, publication was resumed by Edwards, who

solicited by some of his friends, and influenced by other private considerations, is determined once more to attempt an establishment of this truly valuable paper.<sup>56</sup>

The appearance of the paper immediately showed the influence of a more practiced hand, for Freebairn's narrow, crowded columns were replaced by a wider, better-spaced layout.

Baltimore had become an incorporated city on December 31, 1796, and Edwards announced in this first issue of his revived newspaper that

the worthy mayor and other members of our corporation, have been pleased to appoint him [Edwards] their printer, which will enable him early to communicate to the public every law and regulation relative to the policies and government of this thriving commercial city. To obtain their approbation will be his highest ambition, and to serve them faithfully his greatest care.<sup>57</sup>

Edwards printed the laws and ordinances of the new incorporated city in his newspaper, and in May (or soon thereafter) issued the only book which he is known to have published in his official capacity of city printer, the first collection of the Ordinances of Baltimore.<sup>58</sup> A unique copy of this document is located in the library of the Maryland Historical Society.

56 Ibid. March 21, 1797.

57 Ibid. March 21, 1797.

58 Appendix A. Imprint bibliography, item 340.