

It was soon evident that Edwards was in dire need of money. On May 6, 1797, he offered for sale "a valuable lot of ground, fronting on Bridge Street⁵⁹; and on May 31 advertised

To printers. I have several founts of half worn letter for sale -- cheap for cash! - viz. English small pica, long primer and burgeois - Also several founts of large types.⁶⁰

The Maryland Journal had been sinking for a long time; and now it had failed completely. On June 29, Edwards announced that, "such are the difficulties of my present situation, that I find it necessary for me to decline the publication of my paper altogether." He asked his friends and customers to settle with him as soon as possible, for "CASH is a valuable article, and extremely acceptable, especially at the close of an unfortunate and losing campaign"; and he announced that he would "continue to execute any kind of printing, in the neatest manner, at no. 1, Light-Street".⁶¹

He did not long continue in the printing business after the demise of his newspaper. On January 15, 1797, the General Assembly of Maryland passed a law releasing Edwards from the payment of his debts. A separate act of the Assembly was necessary in this

59 Maryland journal. May 8, 1797.

60 Ibid. May 31, 1797.

61 Maryland journal. June 29, 1797.