

tries in the United States, and thus it was increasingly easy to obtain the materials for printing.

On the whole it was a peaceful and prosperous period, favorable for the growth and expansion of culture and the arts. The Washington Spy of Elizabeth-Town (Hagerstown), Maryland, quoted from "the Centinel" (the Columbian Centinel of Boston?) on June 6, 1791:

Question - What are the individual states about?
 Answer - ... Maryland. Happy in the improvement of the products of her soil, enjoys the calm repose of increasing prosperity, and rising importance ... Of the union at large. This truism has lately been declared by an elegant writer, that "Time and prosperity travel together", as they respect her; and let the scrutinizing eye pervade any direction, and it will find a verification of the assertion.

As for the character of the publications, as the appended bibliography will show, it was as divergent as the growing population which the publications served. Wroth's History of Printing in Colonial Maryland shows that the first presses existed mainly for the recording and distribution of the laws, and the early bibliography of the Maryland press reveals legal documents and forms to be the principal (at times the only) output. During the colonial period, the use of the press expanded constantly, and the types of books and other material issued locally became increasingly varied. During the Constitutional Period, covered in Maryland by Joseph Towne Wheeler's Maryland Press, 1776-1790,