

Pechin gave up newspaper work for a while after 1796 and devoted himself to book and pamphlet printing, except for occasional forays into journalism by way of political articles for Edwards' Maryland Journal.<sup>83</sup>

It was about this time that he formed a business attachment with one of the more colorful personalities of the Baltimore 1790's - David Porter, perhaps best known as the father of Captain David Porter and grandfather of Admiral David Dixon Porter. David Porter the elder, with his brother Samuel, was active as a privateersman during the Revolutionary War. In 1778 he commanded the sloop Delight, of six guns, fitted out in Maryland; in 1780 he commanded the Aurora, was captured by the British and confined in the prison ship Jersey. After the war, he resided in Boston, until he was appointed by Washington as sailing-master in the Navy, and was given charge of the signal-station on Federal Hill, Baltimore.<sup>84</sup> There, at his establishment which he called the Observatory, on Federal Hill, overlooking the harbor of Baltimore, he engaged in several activities beyond the routine duties of the officer in charge of the signal-station.

His publishing ventures consisted, as far as is known, of only two books. In 1796 a slender volume

<sup>83</sup> Ingle, Edward. op. cit. p. 15.

<sup>84</sup> Appleton's cyclopaedia of American biography, v. 5, p. 73.