

that will stand measurement with any print in the union".<sup>142</sup> Before the time was up, the prosperity of the American was such that Martin promised to issue a weekly literary paper, the Honey Comb,<sup>143</sup> until the apparatus for enlarging the daily paper should arrive. The Honey Comb was promised for August 19, 1799, but the editor's indisposition prevented its appearance until the following week;<sup>144</sup> it continued presumably until November of the same year, when the American appeared in an enlarged form. No copies of the Honey Comb have been located, but Scharf describes it as

a dainty little literary paper of eight pages, beautifully printed, and full of interesting matter.<sup>145</sup>

One of Martin's chief concerns was circulation, and in December of 1799 he hit upon a scheme to distribute the American to country subscribers in a tri-weekly edition designed to eliminate much of the cost of postage:

A Country Gazette. One of the greatest objections to a free circulation of the Baltimore newspapers, in the interior parts of the state, is their being published daily, and the consequent heavy amount of postage; to remedy this objection, to give the citizens of this state an opportunity of obtaining a candid history of events at a low price, at the suggestion of a number of influential characters in the interior

142 American. May 14, 1799.

143 Appendix A. Imprint bibliography, item 498.

144 American. August 9, 1799.

145 Scharf, J.T. Chronicles of Baltimore, p. 85.