

On March 23, 1795, the first number of the Baltimore Telegraphe made its appearance, published by Clayland, Dobbin and Company. Clayland and Dobbin were clearly the printers, but exactly who the "Company" was, and their relation to the editorial policy of the paper, are difficult to determine. According to the Telegraphe's address "To the Public",

it will ... be assisted, in its selection, by a number of literary gentlemen, from the united exertions of whose abilities, we may promise the public an accurate and judicious compilation, replete with every species of information, necessary for the citizen and man of business. In the prosecution of this work, the editors profess a constant adherence to republican principles, and the strictest impartiality towards those, whose political creed may be different.⁶⁰

According to an article of considerably later date, written by the vituperative pen of Matthew Brown of the Federal Gazette:

In 1795, Mr. Dobbin, with the foreign egg-shell on his head, was placed with paste and scissors over the Telegraphe, to marr and blurr the fair name of President Washington. He continued his foul work, as may be seen from its files, till the company which gave it existence became bankrupt. He then became proprietor, and as far as the importunate threats of his security in the bonds to the company would permit, took a neutral stand, and knowing his own bankruptcy would be the result of a contrary conduct, was considered for some time as tolerably impartial.⁶¹

But, in the opinion of the writer, there is little

60 Baltimore telegraphe. March 24, 1795.

61 Federal gazette. October 18, 1802.