



## INTRODUCTION

**I**T is only by infrequent contributions that there is being formed a body of writing on that phase of American literary history which has to do with the history of printing in the original colonies. For generations in England and in continental Europe the investigation of typographical origins has been a field of research in which scholars have taken a particular delight, but although Isaiah Thomas wrote his "History of Printing in America" more than a hundred years ago, and although in general American bibliography, Sabin and Charles Evans have compiled notable works which should have given impetus to this study in the United States, yet it remains true that intensive investigations of the printing history of the individual colonies, or of the issue of their presses, have been undertaken with noticeable reluctance. When there have been mentioned the works of Hildeburn for Pennsylvania and New York, of Roden and Littlefield for early Massachusetts, of Weeks for North Carolina, of Clayton-Torrence for Virginia, and of The John Carter Brown Library for Rhode Island, the tale has been completed.<sup>1</sup>

The typographical history of Maryland, the fourth of the English colonies in which the art was established, had never been made the subject of an especial study until the present work was undertaken. One whose interest lay in that subject had for authority only the general history of Isaiah Thomas, which, in its section devoted to Maryland, added inaccuracy of statement to an inevitable poverty of detail. Writing before the provincial

<sup>1</sup>Hildeburn, C. S. R., *A Century of Printing, The Issues of the Press in Pennsylvania, 1685-1784*. 2 v. Phila. 1885. *Sketches of Printers and Printing in Colonial New York*. N.Y. 1895.

Roden, R. F., *The Cambridge Printers, 1638-1692*. N.Y. 1905.

Littlefield, G. E., *The Early Massachusetts Press, 1638-1711*. 2 v. Boston, 1907.

Weeks, S. B., *The Press of North Carolina in the 18th Century*. Brooklyn, 1893.

Clayton-Torrence, William, *A Trial Bibliography of Colonial Virginia, 1607-1776*. (Published in two sections as parts of the "Report of the Librarian of the Virginia State Library," for 1908 and 1909.)

*Rhode Island Imprints, 1727-1800*. Compiled by [Miss Rebecca P. Steere] the John Carter Brown Library. Providence, 1915.