

Fierer was assisted by his partner, Christian Kramer, but their partnership lasted only a few months and ended with bitter feelings on both sides. Kramer advertised in the *Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser* on April 24, 1789, that his relations with Fierer were at an end and warned the public to beware of his former partner.

"To whom it may concern. Whereas the Subscriber commenced Partnership with a certain Charles Fierer, in a Printing-Office in George-Town, Patowmack River; and whereas the said Fierer, at sundry Times, violated the Articles of our Agreement, he thinks it necessary to forewarn the Public from paying or settling any Matter of Business whatsoever, with the said Fierer, or to trust the Concern with any Article or Sum of Money without a written Order from the Subscriber.

Christian Kramer

George-Town, April 12, 1789."

There is no record of what became of Kramer after his unfortunate partnership. Fierer continued the newspaper and on November 25, 1789, he advertised that *Poor Robin's Almanack, or the Maryland Ephemeris, for . . . 1790* was "Just Published, And to be sold at this Office, Wholesale and Retail." Since it was customary for printers in neighboring towns to act as sales agents for each other, it is likely that Fierer was advertising Bartgis's English almanac which had been issued at Frederick as early as 1787.<sup>6</sup> In the fall of 1789 he went into partnership with Thomas U. Fosdick. The relations between these men seem to have been cordial for when they left Georgetown in 1791 they started a newspaper together in Dumfries, Virginia, and published it for several years.

Even before it was known that the national capital would be located at Georgetown an effort was made to establish an outlet for local literary talent through a monthly magazine. Subscriptions had been taken some time before for a "History of America" to be written by John O'Connor and the proprietors probably thought that by publishing the history in magazine form they could carry out the terms of their agreement with the subscribers and at the same time start a magazine. They probably hoped to receive support from the other Maryland towns for they advertised in the Frederick and Baltimore newspapers in April, 1790.

"Frederick-Town, April 3. Extract of a letter from a gentleman in George-Town, to the Printer of this paper, dated the 29th of March 1790. "I congratulate you, and the rest of our friends, who paid their money for the "History of America," some time ago.—Mr. John O'Connor, the proposed author of this work, has put himself at the head of a company of respectable gentlemen, distinguished for their eminence in literature: Through their assistance, the History is on the stocks; and will be published in a monthly Magazine, as soon as the press, procured for that purpose, shall arrive in this place."<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> See Bibliography of Imprints, No. 512a.

<sup>7</sup> *Maryland Gazette, or the Baltimore Advertiser*, April 16, 1790.