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*The Extension of the Maryland Press*

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The press mentioned in the advertisement was probably that of M. Day and W. Hancock who began the *George-Town Weekly Ledger* on April 17, 1790, for an unnamed proprietor. It is possible, but there is no definite evidence, that the proprietor was Opie Lindsay who announced in a circular letter on November 6, 1790, that he had established a post to carry mail and newspapers from Fredericksburg through King George, Westmoreland, Northumberland, and Lancaster counties to Richmond and that he would receive subscriptions for the *George-Town Weekly Ledger* and the *Fredericksburg Herald*.

Maryland was not yet ready for a magazine and, like Goddard and Longworthy's proposed *American Spectator*, the Georgetown periodical failed to receive enough support to justify its publication. A year after their arrival Day and Hancock turned their newspaper over to Alexander Doyle and disappeared in that obscurity which surrounds so many of the pioneers of Maryland printing.

The number of printers in Maryland increased rapidly after 1790, and in 1799 there were at least thirteen individual printers in Baltimore, two in Frederick, two in Annapolis, two in Hagerstown, one in Easton and perhaps one in Chestertown. By the end of the first decade of the nineteenth century, the printing business of Maryland had expanded to considerable proportions and Baltimore had become one of the leading publishing centers of the country, a position it was to hold with distinction for many years, stimulated later by the courageous ventures and the skilful craftsmanship of Fielding Lucas, Jr., printer and publisher. The historian of the Maryland Press will find the task of recording the activities of the later Maryland printers increasingly difficult as he comes into the nineteenth century but his efforts will be rewarded by a clearer insight into the cultural development of the state.