

out an Addition of 4, 6 or 8 shillings a Year, as every one thinks fit to give Quarterly, which will only help to pay for Press and Paper, giving his Labor nothing."

In 1719 Campbell was removed from the post-office, and his successor, Wm. Brooker, inaugurated a rival paper, the *Boston Gazette*, the second newspaper printed in America. The new paper was printed on a half sheet of "foolscap." It soon commenced a war with the *News-Letter*. The *Gazette* was printed by James Franklin, and lasted until 1741, when it was merged into the *New England Weekly Journal*.

The third newspaper of the United States, started in Philadelphia, December 23d, 1719, was named the *American Weekly Mercury*. The paper was printed and sold by Andrew Bradford at the Bible in the Second Street, and John Copson in the High Street. Bradford was the postmaster in Philadelphia, and a son of the same William Bradford, the first printer south of Boston, who was born in 1663, died in 1752, and was buried in Trinity Church Yard, New York, where the gravestone may yet be seen.

So it appears that America is indebted to three postmasters, two in Boston and one in Philadelphia, for its first three journals.

In the *Mercury*, Benjamin Franklin wrote a series of articles, over the signature of Busy Body, but it was on the 7th of August, 1821, that the Franklins came into the world of journalism to become famous. It was at that time, that James Franklin, having lost the printing of the *Gazette*, in Boston, came out with a new paper, the fourth American newspaper, which he named the *New Hampshire Courant*. The *Courant* commenced at once to be lively, by calling Campbell's paper—the *News-Letter*, and first of American papers—"a dull vehicle of intelligence." Then commenced a war, which greatly helped the Franklins by advertising and bringing them into notice. The *Courant* is scarce, even for an ancient journal, so we can judge but meagerly of its real animus. One of its claims to distinction will be its introduction of the elements of life vigor and boldness into the American press.

The *News-Letter* had a long career. In 1787 we find it still alive, with an increasing income on account of some accession to its advertising patronage. Its editor at this time, John Draper died in 1782, and was succeeded by his son, Richard Draper, who changed its title to *Weekly News-Letter and New England Chronicle*. The name was again changed to the *Massachusetts Gazette and Boston News-Letter*, going downwards, apparently, with each change, until the respectable old journal touched bottom by a mongrel union with the *Boston Post Boy*, which effectually dulled its influence. In 1789 the papers were separated, and John Draper taking it up again, published it until March, 1776, when, with the evacuation of Boston by the British troops, the *News-Letter*, after a life of seventy-two years, ceased to exist.

To return to the *Courant*, the second paper in Boston, and the fourth in America. Benjamin Franklin, who felt his strength with the public so fully in his connection with the *Courant*, as, no doubt, to encourage him to higher endeavors, was employed by his brother, James, the proprietor of the paper, as carrier, etc. His first contributions were anonymous. The following extract from his biography tells the circumstances as well as they can be told: "He (James Franklin) had some ingenious men among his friends, who amused themselves by writing little pieces for his paper, which gained it credit, and made it more in demand, and these gentlemen often visited us. Hearing their conversation, and their accounts of the approbation their papers were received with, I was excited to try my hand among them. But, being still a boy, and suspecting that my brother would object to printing anything of mine in his paper, if he knew it to be mine, I contrived to disguise my hand, and, writing an anonymous paper, I put it at night under the door of the printing-house. It was found in the morning, and communicated to his writing friends when they called in as usual. They read it, commented on it in my hearing, and I had the exquisite pleasure of finding it met with their approbation, and that, in their different guesses at the author, none were named but men of some character among us for learning and ingenuity. I suppose that I was rather lucky in my judges, and that they were not really so very good as I then believed them to be. Encouraged, however, by this attempt, I wrote and sent in the same way to the press several other pieces, that were equally approved; and I kept my secret until all my fund of sense for such performances was exhausted, and then disclosed it, when I began to be considered a little more by my brother's acquaintances. However, that did not quite please him, as he thought it tended to make me too vain. This might be one occasion of the differences we began to have about this time." The paper offended the politicians, and James was arrested. During his confinement, Benjamin took his place, and as he, himself, says, "gave the authorities some hard rubs in it." His brother was at last discharged, with the order that "James Franklin no longer print the newspaper called *The New England Courant*." The order was evaded by making Benjamin the printer instead of James, and the paper kept on for several months. It was on the 11th of February, 1722, that Benjamin Franklin, not yet twenty, assumed this responsibility. The staff of the *Courant* were bold and original, so much so, as to receive the name of the Hell-Fire Club, from the Mathers, who had much to do in ruling religious Boston at that time.

New York printed its first original newspaper in 1725. Governor Fletcher induced William Bradford to leave Philadelphia and establish the printing office in New York, which was to print its first newspaper, the *New York Gazette*. He was seventy years of age when the enterprise was undertaken. William Bradford was the fourth printer in America, being preceded by Stephen