

One day a communication appeared in the *Boston Gazette*, which was traced to Benj. Anstin, Jr. He was discovered, and his active and able assistance was secured for the cause of Liberty.

No American can read without emotion the simple, stern facts of the Boston massacre, as described in the *Gazette* of March 5th, 1770, while the account of the destroying of the tea in Boston Harbor, given with the terse and solid expressions of men who mean what they say, though what they say is treason to tyranny for the cause of freedom, and is punishable with death, strike the hearts of those who live in these softer days of rhetoric, with an emotion that is sweet and strong and healthy, but which cannot be described. So, as we separate one by one in the crumbings, these little blackened, stained evidences of patriotism, vouchers for noble deeds, we feel that every word is golden, and are glad once more to have this great art of printing that it may record these noble words and noble deeds of our early heroes.

In the year 1775, John Adams wrote a series of articles for the *Gazette*, over the signature of "Novanglus." The paper continued its course, though with varying ability and success, but its influence on American journalism was certainly marked at that time, while its bold, revolutionary spirit is felt to this day. The office of the *Gazette* was the headquarters of the leading Revolutionary spirits of the time. It was there they met in council, marked out their policy and arranged the measures to be announced in the bold columns of their immortal little journal. Another place of rendezvous for these fearless writers in the cause of liberty was a small building in Milk street, near the Old South Church. A part of the building was occupied by Samuel Shed, as a grocery. His parlor was the place of meeting. Benjamin Edes and John Gill the publishers of the *Boston Gazette*, were both courageous and inflexible men. They knew no fear and could not be turned from their purpose. The Stamp Act, the Boston Massacre, the Tea-tax, the Letters of Governor Hutchinson, the closing of the Port of Boston and the conduct of the British soldiers were themes that furnished strong points for the sharp pens of the writers who made up the editorial staff of the *Gazette*. But no words were said that were too strong for its publishers to print.

Meanwhile, as journalism took its early and steady growth in Massachusetts, it was gradually making its way into other States. The Connecticut *Gazette*, published in New Haven, was, in fact, started in the same year as the *Boston Gazette*, 1755. Its proprietors were James Parker, of New York, and John Holt, of Virginia. In Delaware, the *Courant* was already started at Wilmington, and was published by James Adams. This was in 1761. Then appeared the third paper in Rhode Island, in 1762, which was named the *Providence Gazette and Country Journal*. It was in this paper in 1822, that the ancient song of "Old Grimes" was first printed. Next we hear of the Georgia *Gazette*, published in Savannah, in 1763—the only paper in the State of Georgia prior to the Revolution.

In 1764, Thomas Green published the Connecticut *Courant* in Hartford, a paper which still lives in well-earned prosperity. During the war of the Revolution its enterprising managers constructed a paper-mill for making their own material. There was, at that time but one paper-mill and "bell-man" in New England. The Connecticut *Courant* was published "at the Heart and Crown, near the North Meeting House," in Hartford. It has continued its regular issues without interruption or change of name, from Nov. 18th, 1764, to the present time, making this paper nearly one hundred and ten years old. It is curious that in its prospectus, in which it speaks at length of the value of the press in making people acquainted with distant countries and with each other, as also in conveying "the History of the Present Times to every Part of the World"—that it should also distinctly refer to two points which modern journalists seem to consider the body and soul of a paper—advertising and the news. The publisher says: "The CONNECTICUT COURANT (a specimen of which the Publick are now presented with) will, on due Encouragement be continued every Monday, beginning on Monday the 9th of November next: which Encouragement we hope to deserve by a constant endeavour to render this Paper useful, and entertaining, not only as a Channel for News, but assisting to all Those who may have Occasion to make use of it as an Advertiser." The second paper in New Hampshire was published in 1765, in Portsmouth, and called the Portsmouth *Mercury and Weekly Advertiser*. In 1767, the *Boston Chronicle* was published under the auspices of the British authorities. It created quite a sensation by its literary character, and its typographical arrangement was such as to give our printers a lesson in their art. It was printed on a whole sheet in quarto—an important feature in those days, when all kinds of printing material paid heavy taxes to the home government—and sold at six shillings and eight pence a year.

One of the oldest papers printed at the present time, the Salem *Gazette* or the Essex *Gazette*, was first published in 1768—at least it is so stated, though its early history is a little mixed. The Essex *Gazette* seems to have been issued in 1768, by Samuel Hall, to be followed in 1774 by the Salem *Gazette*, by a man named Russell, which paper was in turn followed by the American *Gazette* in 1776, which was supplemented with another Salem *Gazette* in 1781. As the latter was afterwards merged with Hall's paper of 1768, there is a probability that Hall's was the most prosperous of all, and was the father of the present Salem *Gazette*. In 1888 the Salem *Gazette*, then a "Centennarian" gave a history of its birth, of its rather unstable early years and of the circumstances of its life of a hundred years, commencing with the birth of the Revolution and passing through all this time when we have been growing from sparse colonies of three millions we broadened in the powerful Republic of forty millions of people, looking forward to our future