described its initial number as follows: "It was about the size of a letter sheet, containing eight columns three and a half inches wide and twelve inches in length. For a frontispiece, it showed a ship leaving the harbor, a fortification in the rear, with a British flag flying, and a figure of Mercury flying through the air, holding in his hand a package, signifying that he was a news-carrier. Six columns were devoted to news. Charles Handy, Joseph Gardner, Sarah Osborne George Hazard, Job Almy, William Stephens, Benjamin Wilbur, Mary Tate, Christopher Ellery, and Gideon and John Wanton occupied the other columns with advertisements. These names are handed down as having the honor of being Rhode Island's first advertisers. James Franklin, himself, too, was among them, reserving two-thirds of a column in order to proclaim the contents of "Poor Richard's Almanac for 1759." He evidently understood something about his business. In one instance he made the announcement that he had received a new font of type from England, and that he hoped in the next four months to bring up the arrears of foreign news. This font of type was presented to him by his uncle, Benjamin Franklin, who thus made his brother James "ample amends for the service" he had "deprived him of by leaving him so early." Young Franklin left Newport sometime afterwards, and the paper was continued by his mother, Mrs. Ann Franklin, under her own name. It was subsequently sold to Solomon Southwick, who continued it until the Revolution. In Hudson's valuable publication—The History of Journalism in the United States—from which we have excerpted much interesting matter concerning our early newspapers, the following statement is made concerning the "original" printing-press used by the Franklins, in Boston: "The press on which the elder James Franklin and his brother Benjamin Franklin, so often worked in Boston remained in the *Mercury* office over one hundred years. In 1859 it was sold to John B. Murray, Esq., he agreeing to place it in the Patent Office at Washington or some equally public and safe place, the desire being to insure its preservation for future generations, as the first press on which Benjamin Franklin worked. Mr. Murray decided in 1864, to present it to the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics' Association on the one hundred and fifty-eighth anniversay of the birthday of Franklin. The press will be recognized as the original of the front panel of the Franklin statue in front of the City Hall, in School street, Boston. Another press on which Franklin worked in London, in 1725-6, was obtained by Mr. Murray, in 1841, and placed in the Patent Office at Washington." Besides these presses mentioned by Mr. Hudson, there is still another in the rooms of the New York Typographical Society, which has been preserved there for many years, and said to be the one on which Franklin worked for a considerable time while in Boston. The latter is a press of English construction, as it is probable were also the others. The title page of the Newport *Mercury*, it may be stated in conclusion, now bears the inscription: "Established by Franklin, A. D., 1758."

The Southern Press arose with the South Carolina *Chronicle*, published in Charleston, by Thos. Whitemarsh, on the 8th of January, 1731. Virginia then came forward with the Virginia *Gazette*, published at Williamsburg, in 1736, and then it suspended for a short time, but was afterwards revived and continued until the Revolution.

Carrier's addresses appeared in the Revolutionary period, and appear to have been the invention of William Bradford, then publishing the *Journal*, in Philadelphia. The first one was published in 1776, and bore the inscription:

THE NEW YEARS' VERSES
of
THE PRINTER'S LADS WHO CARRY THE PENNSYLVANIA JOURNAL
TO THE CUSTOMERS.

Philadelphia, January 1, 1776.

The Almanac, a much more useful article, has taken its place.

The newspaper publishers, after establishing journals in seven of the Colonies seem to have been quiet for a period of about ten years. Then appeared the New York *Evening Post*, published by Henry de Forest, in 1746—a paper which lived but about a year. Two German papers had meanwhile been issued in Pennsylvania—one in Germantown, in 1739, and the other in Philadelphia, in 1743.

Then came the Revolutionary Press, few in number, but strong in principle and vigorous in action. The *Independent Advertiser* of Samuel Adams, Boston, started in 1748, the New York *Mercury* in 1752. Then we hear of the Boston *Gazette and Weekly Advertiser*, started in 1753, and printed by Samuel Kneeland. It lived but two years. Then came the true organ of the revolutionary policy of 1775. This was the Boston *Gazette and Country Gentleman*, published by Edes & Gill (p.9,105.) The first number made its appearance on the 7th of April, 1755. The Boston *Gazette* was printed on two pages folio, on a crown half-sheet. An Indian with his bow and arrow, and a representation of Brittania liberating a bird, confined by a cord, to the arms of France, were the devices chosen for its frontispiece. The *Connecticut Gazette*, published in New Haven, appeared in the same year. Jonathan Mayhew, James Otis, John Adams, Joseph Warren, Thomas Cushing, Samuel Dexter, Oxenbridge Thatcher and Samuel Cooper wrote for the *Gazette*. They were the Sons of Liberty of Massachusetts. In 1760 the *Gazette* struck out its device "Brittania," and used Minerva holding the Spear and Liberty Cap—with her right hand she opens a cage, out of which flies a bird toward the Tree of Liberty. This was significant enough of the state of feeling ten years before the Boston massacre, and fifteen before the Battle of Concord.