

lection now existing is probably that of the distinguished bibliophile, Abbé Dubois, Principal of the Jacques Cartier Normal School, of Montreal, who secured it from the Neilson family; its value is estimated at at least \$5,000.

Brown and Gilmore, who settled in the Province of Quebec as its first printers, came from Philadelphia. It required a great deal of courage to travel on horseback over the wilderness at that time to establish printing in a new country, at a great expense, and with a prospect of only 110 subscribers to their newspaper, after having anticipated 300.

It is a question, however, whether *The Quebec Gazette* was the first print born in this country, and Mr. Philias Gagnon, who has written a very able book on Canadian bibliography, claims that two *Mandements* were printed by Bishop Pontbriand, one in Quebec, in the month of April, and the other in Montreal, in the month of October, 1759.

As to books, it has been held until recently, that the first one printed in this country was the *Catéchisme du Diocèse de Sens*, printed by Brown and Gilmore at Quebec in 1765, and of which five copies are known to exist at this time, but Mr. Hubert Neilson, one of the descendants of the pioneer Quebec printers, asserts that the first book printed by Brown and Gilmore was a "Presentment of the Grand Juries," dated October 22nd, 1764, and printed a few months later, as established by the account books of Brown and Gilmore, which have been preserved in the Neilson family.

Although that book was stated to be in Mr. Neilson's possession for some time, it seems to have disappeared for a number of years; but I have seen a copy of the French edition thereof, owned by Laval University (Quebec), and printed at the same time, or shortly after the English copy. The title reads as follows: *A La première Cour de Séance de*

Quartier de la Paix Tenue à Québec en Octobre, 1764. La charge d'instruction donnée par le respectable Président aux grands Jurés. This pamphlet has nineteen pages and bears at the end the inscription: *A Québec le 22 de Octobre, 1764*, which was probably the date of the presentment made in court; there is probably no other copy extant.

Still, in this connection, Halifax claims the glory of the first printed pamphlet; the Bushell press in 1753 issued: *Treaty on Articles of Peace and Friendship renewed between His Excellency Peregrine Thomas Hopson, Esq., Canadian General and Governor-in-Chief, in and over His Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia or Acadie, etc., and Major Jean-Baptiste Cope, Chief Sachem, of a tribe of Mickmack Indians, etc.* The Mickmack Indians took great interest in the settlers of Nova Scotia at that time, and were very fond of making collections of their scalps, if we can judge of the fact by a proclamation printed by Bushell in 1756, offering in retaliation £25 for every Mickmack scalp.

The Indians were not to be considered in those olden days as a neglected portion of the community, and we find that in 1767 a prayer book was printed by Brown and Gilmore at Quebec, in the Montagnais language, entitled "*Nehiro-Iriniui Aiamihe Massinahigan*"; it was written by Father Labrosse, a missionary amongst those Indians, and consisted of ninety-six pages. Brown and Gilmore's books of account show the fact that 2,000 copies thereof were printed, for which they charged forty-five pounds; a single copy fetches nowadays half the price of the total edition, as some ten copies only are known to exist. Judge L. W. Sicotte, of Montreal, who takes pride in the possession of many rarities, has a beautifully preserved copy of it.

After 1767 there followed a few volumes of ordinances and Acts of