

Capital."¹ This street, wide enough at the time it was opened up, but now considered a narrow lane, parallel with and between St. Paul Street and the river front, extends from St. Sulpice (St. Joseph) to St. Francois Xavier Streets; crossing in its course the Market Place, now Place Royale. We may therefore conclude that this house stood on or near the site now occupied by the Sailors Institute. The place was fitted up, part as a book store, part as a dwelling, with the garret as the printing room. Here Mesplet remained, from all we can make out, until May, 1788, when he transferred the scene of his labours to 44 Notre Dame Street, near the Recollet monastery, which stood between St. Helen and St. Peter Streets.

But before he was ready for work his patron, Franklin, had departed, convinced of the failure of his mission. The other commissioners remained until the 29th of May to close up affairs; and by the 10th of June the Continental army had evacuated Montreal, leaving many unpaid debts behind, besides the worthless continental currency with which the country had been flooded. Mesplet having all his capital locked up in his type and presses and this same continental currency, found it impossible to get away, and probably feeling more at home and more hopeful of succeeding among a people speaking his own language, decided to remain and with his staff continue the business. But no sooner had the "loyalists" returned to Montreal than they began so to regard Mesplet with such suspicion that, on the 18th of June, he and the whole of his party were arrested, as sympathizers with the rebels, and detained in prison for twenty-six days. During this imprisonment he was subjected to all sorts of indignities.²

On the 14th of July, having been released, he was again ready for business, but the issue of a newspaper had to be postponed, for Mr. Pochard became so disgusted with the unceremonious treatment and imprisonment to which he had been subjected, determined to leave the country. He demanded compensation for his time since he had been engaged in Philadelphia and the cost of his passage to France, which items Mesplet had to meet to the extent of \$160.³ This proved an unfortunate occurrence for, while delaying the issue of the proposed paper for two whole years, it brought Mesplet under the questionable influence of the new editor, an influence that did not conduce to his political or moral advancement in the new atmosphere in which he found himself.

¹ See appendix E 56.

² See appendix D No. 33.

³ *Ibid* Nos. 33 and 42.