

Those not subscribers will pay 1½ Spanish dollars for every advertisement printed thrice as above.

Everyone that is not a subscriber may have the paper at 10 coppers. The said paper will be printed on a quarto-sheet of paper, and will be delivered every Wednesday, to begin on June 3rd, 1778.

All persons who choose to subscribe are desired to let me know their name and their place of abode.

I have the honor to be, with a sincere desire to contribute as much as is in my power to the advantage and public satisfaction, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient and humble servant,

F. MESPLET, Printer.

The publisher placed foremost among his aims the facilitation of trade and commerce, and the original title of the paper was "Gazette du Commerce et Littéraire pour la ville et district de Montréal." But the first number was taken up entirely with literary selections, moral and amusing anecdotes, etc. For the lack of commercial intelligence the publisher thus quaintly apologized:—"I had proposed to fill the sheet with public advertisements and with matter which might be interesting to Commerce. Both are wanting for the present. Few advertisements, seeing that the paper is not yet known; you know, as well as I, gentlemen, the present position of our commerce; in consequence I believe I will have no complaints against me in respect of these two matters."

Advertisements, however, soon began to come in, and some of them offer curious illustrations of the difference in the manner of life then and now. In the second number, Jean Bernard exhorts thrifty householders not to throw away their ashes, but to sell them to him at 10 coppers a bushel. Wood was then universally burned for fuel, and the ashes formed an important article of commerce. The fourth number draws attention to another by-gone institution, an advertisement for a runaway slave:—"Ran away on the 14th inst., a slave belonging to the widow Dufy Desaulnier, aged about 33 years, dressed in striped calico, of medium height, and tolerable stoutness. Whoever will bring her back, will receive a reward of six dollars, and will be repaid any costs that may be proved to have been incurred in finding her."

One M. Lequay advertises to counteract the venom spread against him by those who say that he has no right to exercise the office of a notary. Auctioneers, who in these days are only taxed by the Government, were, in those days, appointed by it as well, as appears by an advertisement of Mr. Joseph Howard announcing that he had been named by His Excellency, Governor Carleton, "vendue-master" for the town and district of Montreal, and inviting all such as may have occasion to dispose of either houses, lands, tenements, household furniture, merchandise, or effects of any kind, by public auction,

to apply to Mrs. Howard, who will dispose of the same in the absence of her husband.

The publisher in the early numbers kept very strictly his rule to give no news concerning the present affairs unless authorized by the Government. Except three lines announcing the execution of one Nicholas Thibault on Aug. 21st, 1778, for the murder of a slave on Lake Huron, there was very little general news in the first issues. The arrival and departure of the Governors, however, gave THE GAZETTE the opportunity of publishing some account of current events without giving offence to those in authority. The addresses may be commended to the present generation not only for their loyalty, but for their admirable brevity. When Sir Guy Carlton finished his term of office as Governor in July, 1778, the following addresses were exchanged:—

"To His Excellency, Sir Guy Carlton, Knight of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor of the Province, etc:—

"The happy days which we have enjoyed under the mildness of your Government have passed away; but the regrets which your departure causes to all honest and faithful Canadians will never be effaced from our hearts. That which alone consoles us is the thought that His Majesty will call you to fill a more distinguished position than that which our province affords. We beg your Excellency to accept our sincere acknowledgements, and to convey to His Majesty the assurance of our zeal and attachment. We will do our best to continue them to our new Governor. We have the honor to be with profound respect,

"Your Excellency's most humble and most obedient servants.

"9th July, 1778."

"Quebec, 15th July, 1778.

"Gentlemen, I have abundant thanks to offer you for your kind address of 9th inst. I wish you all kinds of happiness and prosperity. It is to me a special satisfaction that I leave you under the care and protection of a General whose experience and virtues afford you the happiest anticipations of a wise and equitable government.

"Your most humble and obedient servant,

"Guy Carlton.

"Col. Sevestre,

"Commanding the Militia at Montreal."

The arrival of General Haldimand seemed to the publisher an occasion for enlarging his liberties, and he gives the following account of the event in the issue of Aug. 12th, 1778:—"On the 8th inst, at 6 A.M., His Excellency General Haldimand made his entrance into the town amid discharges of artillery from the Citadel and the vessels in the harbour. The English merchants were in the front, followed by the Canadian Militia, and the regulars, the