

III.—*Fleury Mesplet, The First Printer at Montreal.*

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## PREFACE.

When I commenced this memoir of Montreal's first printer it was simply to give such a short sketch as I had deduced from a few documents that, I may state, almost accidentally came into my hands. But, after having started, fresh documents were unearthed; each of which shed some new light, not only on the subject in hand, but on the history of Canada. I have, therefore, thought well to reproduce the whole herewith as well as the titles in full of all books and other publications printed by Mesplet, as far as they can be authenticated by existing examples in inventories, in advertisements or elsewhere.

I would express my indebtedness and thanks to those who so kindly replied to my inquiries and otherwise helped in this memoir. To Judge L. W. Sicotte I am more especially indebted for access to his almost unique library of rare Canadiana and for transcriptions of the imprints in the library of the late Mr. Justice Baby. To Messrs. E. Z. Massicotte, and Charles Adélaré Gareau of Montreal for timely help in securing manuscripts otherwise unknown to me. To Abbé Camille Roy of Université Laval, Québec, for the titles of some twelve Mesplet imprints in the University library as well as most helpful comments in respect to these publications. To Mr. Cyrille Tessier a bibliophile of some importance for the titles of two unique factums. To Messrs. L. P. Sylvain of the Library of Parliament, and Benjamin Sulte of Ottawa, for kindly advice and pointers regarding books. To Dr. A. G. Doughty, Canadian Archivist, for transcriptions of documents, and to Messrs. Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress; Ruben G. Thwaites, Secretary of the Historical Society of Wisconsin, and more especially to J. W. Jordan, Librarian of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, for transcriptions and photographs of Mesplet's imprints not to be found elsewhere.

I trust that this work may prove helpful to collectors of Canadian books and students of Canadian history.