

printed in these premises was one for the military authorities, as it bears the superscription "By His Majesty's Special Command." It is entitled, "Rules and Regulations for Field Exercise,"¹ and this is Mesplet's last book.

Evidently about this time the type and other appliances necessary for his press room began to be pretty well used up, as the owner of the presses declined to make any renewals. Mesplet had to order a fresh supply from Europe through a Montreal merchant named Jean Baptiste Durocher. In settlement for the cost of this type which amounted to \$632, he, along with his wife, gave a bond in which the latter hypothecated to Durocher all her goods and furniture, besides her interest in the estate of her late mother.² This amount was not paid at maturity, but in 1795 Madam Mesplet declared that the total amount coming to her from her mother's estate did not exceed \$326.50, which amount was to be paid by her father at the end of two years with interest at six per cent.³ This settlement, which was guaranteed by her father, J. B. Tison, was accepted by Durocher and afterwards transferred to P. Huguet-Latour,⁴ who acknowledges to have received the amount with interest from Tison on the 22nd of November, 1797.⁵

The signing of this bond appears to have been the last transaction of any importance which Mesplet did, for six months afterwards — on the 24th of January, 1794—he died, according to the parish register aged about 60 years.⁶ When he was married for the second time his age is given at 55, which would make him a year younger.

After the death of Mesplet his wife found his affairs so embarrassed financially that she appointed Charles Lusignan and Louis Hardy trustees, to take over the estate and settle it on behalf of the creditors.⁷ The inventory which they took valued his furniture and stock at \$783, and book debts at \$1,015, or a total of \$1,798, to cover liabilities ascertained amounting to \$3,546, besides a number of debts the amounts of which could not be determined. This inventory is a most precious document for, besides revealing Mesplet's financial condition, it gives us a view of the furnishings of his house and of his wearing apparel, both of which by the way were as sumptuous as that of a gentleman of means. From it we also get an idea of the utensils employed about a Canadian house one hundred years ago. It also

¹ See appendix A No. 37.

² *Ibid.* F No. 69.

³ *Ibid.* F No. 70.

⁴ *Ibid.* F No. 71.

⁵ *Ibid.* F No. 72.

⁶ *Ibid.* F No. 49.

⁷ *Ibid.* F No. 73.