

paragraph mention is made of it, even the name of the paper being the "Commercial and Literary Gazette." I am bound, however, in all candour, to say that trade and commerce are scarcely referred to in the volume before me. The printer seems to have felt this difficulty, for in his salutatory article, in the first number, he said :—

"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 me, gentlemen, the present position of our commerce; in consequence I believe I will have no complaints against me in respect of these two matters."

One of

THE EARLIEST ADVERTISEMENTS.

printed reminds us of a condition of things now happily passed away. It is of a runaway slave, and is in these words :—

"SIX DOLLARS REWARD.

"Ran away on the 14th instant, a slave belonging to the widow Dufy Desautler, aged about thirty-five years, dressed in striped calico of the ordinary cut, of 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."

It is evident that a very high value was not placed upon slaves in those days, when the reward for the recovery of one was less than is now paid for the recovery of a favorable poodle dog. Much of the paper was taken up with controversy between correspondents, in which the printer, signing himself as such, occasionally intervened, on the subject of an Academy of Science which existed at the time, and particularly in relations to the works of Voltaire, which then, as now, were the subject of lively discussion in Montreal as to their admissibility as works for students. Voltaire found some sturdy defenders, and some equally sturdy opponents, among the latter being the printer of the paper, Mons. Mesplet. Auctioneers, who in these days are only taxed by the Government, were in those days appointed by them 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 in the said district, to apply to Mrs. Howard, who will

"dispose of the same in the absence of her husband." Then, too, as now

GOVERNORS CAME AND WENT,

and addresses in those days were, if not in words, certainly in sentiment, identical with those which have recently been presented to Lord Lorne and Lord Lansdowne. In the GAZETTE of the 29th July, 1778, is the following address to Governor Carleton, on his departure from the colony :—

"To His Excellency, Sir Guy Carleton, Knight of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor of the Province, &c. :

"The happy days which we have enjoyed under the mildness of your Government have passed away; but the regrets which your departure cause 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 acknowledgments, 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 September, 1778."

The merit of this address, as distinguishing it from those with which we are all familiar, is its brevity and directness. The reply was equally remarkable in these respects :—

"QUEBEC, 15th July, 1778.

"GENTLEMEN,—I have abundant thanks to offer you for your kind address of the 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.

"Mr. Sevestre will have the goodness to communicate the above reply to the gentlemen of Montreal who, with him, signed the address of the 9th inst. I am with the greatest esteem,

"Your most humble

"And obedient servant,

"GUY CARLETON.

"Col. Sevestre,

"Commanding the Militia at Montreal."

The number of the 10th August, 1778, contained a copy of the address of welcome to General Haldimand, the in-coming Governor, with an account of the reception of His Excellency in Montreal. By this description it appears that "la Bourgeoisie Anglaise" occupied a first place, followed by the militia and the regular troops, and a feature of the reception was the presence of six hundred