

disease prevailing at Bay Saint Paul. A volume devoted to "La Sainte Famille" came out of the press of Mesplet in 1787.

A large book printed in London, 1784, but written by a Canadian, has a special history in the events of those days. The author, Pierre Ducalvet, was just out of the hands of Governor Haldimand when he issued his "Appel à la Justice," which is a criticism of the administration of the colony, rather personal, somewhat excessive also, but an invaluable record of certain facts connected with the state of Canada during the American Revolution.

In 1788 Mesplet launched *La Gazette Littéraire* at the request of a certain number of Montreal gentlemen. The same year, James Tanswell started *Le Courrier de Québec*, but only issued two numbers of that publication.

A public library was opened at Quebec in 1785, and was a far more serious undertaking, for it kept well for a long period of years. There was decidedly a movement towards three or four branches of studies since peace had been restored to the country. Dramatic associations existed in Montreal and Quebec. They played Molière and some light comedies of the time of Louis XV. The man who seems to have inspired principally these efforts was Joseph Quesnel, a poet, a musician, and a person of good society. His comedy, *Colas et Colinette*, became the great attraction of the day in Montreal (1790), whilst the people of Quebec boasted of a troop of amateurs who could not be surpassed in any colony, as they believed. His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, accompanied by lieutenant-governors Clarke and Simcoe attended the performance of *la comtesse d'Escarbagna* and *le Médecin malgré lui* in Quebec, on the 18th February, 1792. The Prince had arrived there during the previous summer and felt quite at home amongst the lively Quebecers. He was present at the banquet given on the 29th December, 1791, to celebrate the granting of a new political constitution to Canada, and, as a matter of course, he heard several songs composed for the occasion, including two specially prepared to welcome him, and which MM. Baby and Amiot rendered in a most happy manner.

There was a spirit of literature in the air. Canadian pamphlets could be seen in the hands of many who had never experienced that sort of pleasure before. *Papiers sur l'Angleterre* referred to the administration of the United Kingdom, and such reading was apropos of our new constitution. A long letter from Bishop Bailly upon the necessity of a university gave rise to discussion and meditation. *L'ancienne et la nouvelle constitution du Canada* is another commentary of a political importance, but indicating also that the Canadians were able to express their ideas before the world. *La nouvelle constitution de France* followed the above, and the whole province roused to listen to this display of opinions. To crown the whole came *Le Magasin de Québec*, a repertory of literature and science. The *Quebec Gazette* also modified its old dull