

On the 1st of September Marie Mirabeau, Mesplet's faithful wife, died at the age of 43;¹ no doubt worn out through privations and worry during her husband's long imprisonment, accelerated also by his financial embarrassment.

Mesplet did not continue long a widower, for on the 23rd of April, 1790, after an interval of little more than seven months, he married Marie Anne Tison, daughter of Jean Baptiste Tison,² a girl of 23 years, while he was himself over 55. She had been left a small competence by her deceased mother which attracted Mesplet, while she was glad to escape from the supervision of a stepmother, even by marrying a man who was an insolvent and more than twice her age. In any case, this inheritance soon served to tide the husband over a financial difficulty, for before the close of the year his wife had to become a party with him to a bond in favour of Charles Lusignan for \$174.³

This year he published, on his own account, a pamphlet of 32 pages, entitled "*La Bastille Septentrionale, ou trois sujets britanniques opprimés,*" which describes a difficulty or quarrel arising out of the annual drill of the militia at Three Rivers.⁴ Although the subject seems most trivial it was evidently considered of sufficient importance at that time to command a ready sale, as from the title page we note that it was offered for sale throughout the province. Another pamphlet dated this year was "*Memoire . . . de Jean Baptiste Lebrun,*"⁵ which describes a lawsuit. This year Mesplet appeared as godfather and his wife as godmother to his brother-in-law, Fleury Tison. As he was named after Mesplet, we may conclude that the two families were on good terms;⁶ two days afterwards he again stood as godfather to the daughter of a friend.

In 1791 his only publication was "*Memoire en cassation du testament de Simon Sanguinet,*"⁷ a pamphlet of 19 pages, evidently a will case. There is nothing dated 1792, which shows that Mesplet's business was dwindling away. Only three pamphlets, totalling 67 pages, appear among the works now extant as printed during the years 1790-2.

In May, 1793, Mesplet moved for the third time to a house, No. 46 Notre Dame Street, two doors east of the former stand, which was owned by the widow of Ignace Chenier, and was for a term of five years,⁸ although he did not live long to occupy it. The only book

¹ See appendix E No. 45.

² See appendix E No. 46 and F No. 64.

³ *Ibid.* F No. 65.

⁴ *Ibid.* A No. 34.

⁵ *Ibid.* No. 35.

⁶ *Ibid.* F No. 49.

⁷ *Ibid.* A No. 36.

⁸ *Ibid.* F No. 59.