

was situated on what is now known as Custom House Square, then designated the "Market Place," and from this office was sent forth the *first book printed in Montreal*, entitled "Règlement de la Conférence de l'Adoration perpétuelle." The partnership was afterwards dissolved, Mesplets continuing the business; and shortly after he commenced the publication of a newspaper "*La Gazette de Montreal*," the *first newspaper* published in the city, and the second in Canada, thus securing for himself the honor of being the pioneer in book and newspaper publishing in Montreal.

Having thus traced the circumstances which led to the introduction of the Art of Printing into Montreal, the following brief history of the ancient building in which the Commissioners held their councils, and from which were issued their official proclamations, may prove interesting.

The building now familiarly known as the "Old Government House," but formerly as "Le Vieux Château," was erected by Claude de Ramezay, Governor of Montreal, and father of De Ramezay who signed the capitulation of Quebec. The building was erected about the year 1702. In 1721 it was visited by Charlevoix, and its situation is indicated on a plan dated 1723, now in the Seminary at Montreal. After the death of De Ramezay in 1724, the Chateau remained in the possession of his heirs until 1745, when it was purchased by the "Compagnie des Indes," who converted it into their principal entrepôt of fur traffic with the Indians. Shortly after the capitulation of Montreal, it was purchased by Baron Grant, who in time disposed of it to the Government (prior to 27th April, 1762,) when it was chosen as the official residence of the Governor, and was thus restored to its original use.

In 1775 Brigadier General Wooster made it his head quarters, as did also his successor Benedict Arnold, and within its walls were held several Councils of War. About the year 1784 it was purchased by Baron St. Léger, who made