

such attacks. This capped the climax, for Haldimand, who had up to this time considered himself long suffering, took vigorous action and issued a warrant¹ to Major Nairn, in command at Montreal, to arrest both Jautard and Mesplet. He also gave orders to the commander of the armed schooner Mercury to proceed to Montreal,² so that the prisoners could have a safe conveyance to Quebec. They were arrested on the 4th of June and, without being allowed to communicate with each other or with any of their friends, were at once sent down to Quebec. The last number of the *Gazette* appeared on the 2nd of June, just one year after its commencement. Thus was the first French literary periodical in America snuffed out.

On their arrival at Quebec they were conducted to the military prison and confined in a large room already occupied by another state prisoner named Laterrière, who afterwards wrote a memoir describing "Ses traverses." In this memoir he states that Jautard and Mesplet were imprisoned, the one as editor and the other as printer of a libelous periodical known as *Tant pis, tant mieux*, which "attacked the wise politics of the English government and contended against the administration of the Swiss Haldimand."³

May we not pause for a moment to find out something about the publication that Laterrière thus describes. Was it a true satirical paper as is claimed by Sulte.⁴ Had it a real existence as is ascribed to it by Miss Jane N. McIlwraith in her story of "Sir Frederick Haldimand," which states that: "Mr. Mesplet and his editor, M. Jotard did not succeed in adhering to these admirable resolutions, but sent forth a scurrilous sheet called *Tant pis, tant mieux*—the first French journal published in America—defaming all the King's officers and trying to throw the colony into confusion?"⁵ Or are we to conclude with Abbé Camille Roy, that it was simply a broadside struck off and distributed freely?⁶ Now the facts of the matter are: Laterrière is the only contemporary that mentions such a periodical; no copy of it is to be found anywhere, and it is altogether unlikely that two periodicals of a like nature would be issued by the same publisher at the same time, especially as there was barely enough subscribers to sustain one.

¹ See appendix C No. 16.

² *Ibid* No. 19.

³ Pierre de Salle Laterrière et ses traverses, Quebec, 1873, page 217. See also appendix G No. 80.

⁴ Histoire des Canadiens Français, Vol. VIII., page 136.

⁵ The Makers of Canada, Sir Frederick Haldimand, Toronto, 1904, page 277.

⁶ Etude sur l'histoire de la littérature Canadienne, by Abbé Camille Roy, in Bulletin du parler Français au Canada, Québec, 1905, Vol. III., page 239, note 2.