

In the spring of 1776, he followed Franklin to Montreal, for the purpose of being useful to him as a printer. Very little work was done, if any, because the "Congress people" had to retire not long after.

As soon as this was over Mesplet went to Quebec, and there, with the means of the material of the *Quebec Gazette*, probably, brought to light one of the first Books issued out of a Canadian Press. It was nothing else but a reproduction of a volume of sacred songs, known as *Le Cantique de Marseille*. This took place in the same year, 1776. Fleury Mesplet, and Charles Berger's names appear on the title page.

They both are seen in Montreal exercising their art conjointly. They had their office, in the Market Place, the present Custom House Square. The Partnership did not last long, for in 1778, Mesplet started (in the two languages) the *Montreal Gazette*, which is still in existence.

Under the reign of General Haldimand, much dissatisfaction seem to have occupied the public mind. The French Canadians especially, complained of his manner of dealing with "Colonists." They were trying to raise a popular obstacle in his way. Mesplet complied with this feeling, and about 1779 started a political ("libellical paper" says a contemporary) newspaper, the first of this class, ever published on this continent. He was styled, *Tant pis, tant mieux*.

The writer of this somewhat remarkable introduction, was one Jotard, a Lawyer from France, who had undertaken openly the task of fighting Haldimand to the bitter end. The result could not be long doubtful.

Jotard and Mesplet, soon found themselves incarcerated in the Quebec Jail, and had to abandon their hazardous attack. There they met with other French prisoners, one of whom was Pierre de Sales Laterrière, formerly Director of the St. Maurice Forges, in which capacity he was accused of having favored the entrance of the American Forces in 1775, and assisted in their maintenance while in the country.