

Now, did Mesplet print a book when at Quebec in 1775, as is claimed by Gagnon.¹ This seems altogether impossible, for the very good reason that Mesplet's stay in Quebec was not sufficiently prolonged to undertake any extensive work, and then he had no type or press with him. The incorrect attribution by Gagnon of the book, "*Cantiques de Marseille*," dated 1776 at Quebec² to the year 1775—of which more later on—will account for the error.

As Mesplet had to pass through Montreal on his way to and from Quebec he had an opportunity of seeing and learning something of the place that was to be the arena of his future labours as a printer. There most likely he secured an order from the Seminary of Montreal for the first edition of "*Règlement de la Confrérie de l'adoration perpétuelle*,"³ which order he executed on his return to Philadelphia; but, fearing complications, suppressed his imprint. The "*Nouvelle édition, revue, corrigée et augmentée*,"⁴ has long been classed as the first book printed in Montreal, although some collectors are inclined to pass back the honour to the first edition; but it seems hardly possible that two editions of a book of this kind could have been printed within the short space of six months. Then they seem to have been set up from different fonts of type, for the first edition contains a number of varieties of ornamental dividing lines, all differing from the single variety that occurs in the second edition. The only other alternative is that this first edition was printed at Quebec, or France as is claimed by Dionne.⁵ But neither of these alternatives seems probable; the first because there would be no reason for suppressing the imprint, and in the second, because the importation of books from France was prohibited.

Shortly after he had resumed operations in Philadelphia he entered into partnership with his friend, C. Berger. One publication bears his own imprint alone,⁶ two are without imprints;⁷ one of these having been printed by an "*Imprimeur Ambulant*," while the "*Règlement Militaire*,"⁸ for which, by resolution of Congress, dated 23rd of February, 1776, he was paid \$44,⁹ was in his first work in partnership with Berger. This partnership continued until September, 1778, when the name C. Berger disappears from the imprints.

¹ *Essai de Bibliographie Canadienne*, P. Gagnon, Quebec, 1895, page 102.

² See appendix A 10.

³ *Ibid* No. 6.

⁴ See appendix A No. 8, also *Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada*, Second Series Vol. X. part 2, page 13.

⁵ *Ibid*.

⁶ See appendix A No. 4.

⁷ See appendix A Nos. 3 and 5.

⁸ See appendix A No. 6.

⁹ See appendix D No. 19.