

hence forward to the no less accomplish'd (in all solid Learning and severer Studies) Dr. *Bentley*, his worthy successor.

"This for the *Books* and Manuscripts, among which there are still many Choice and Inestimable Volumes, besides the Famous and Venerable *Alexandrian Greek Bible*, of *St. Tecla*; but the *Medals* have been taken away and purloin'd by *Thousands*, and irrecoverable. Their late Majesties (Charles II. and James II.) had yet a very rich and ample *Collection*, which I well remember were put in Order, and Methodiz'd by Mr. *Ashmole*, soon after the Restauration of King *Charles* the Second, which I hope, and presume may be still in being and to be recovered."—(Pp. 246, 7, of J. Evelyn's "Numismata," fol., London, 1697.

However, very soon after the publication of Evelyn's book, the royal collection was irrecoverably lost in the great fire which consumed all that remained of the palace of Whitehall (except the Banqueting House) on Tuesday, 4th January, 1697-8.

The reader may thus trace the history of the ill-fated royal collection from its foundation by Prince Henry, its augmentation by Charles I., and its partial dispersion during the Commonwealth, to its final destruction in 1698.

## EARLY PRESS IN CANADA.

BY BENJAMIN SULTE.



It may be acceptable to furnish fresh information respecting Fleury Mesplet, the first French Printer established in Canada, (*Vide Antiquarian*, I. 58-61), and also of Jotard, who was the Editor of one of his Periodicals.

Before coming to Canada, Mesplet had been a Printer in Philadelphia, where (in 1774) he published *Lettre adressée aux habitants de la Province de Québec, de la part du Congrès Général de l'Amérique Septentrionale, tenu à Philadelphie*.