

another printer to take it off his hands or undertake the work, was obliged to fall back on a lease of the plant to Mesplet at the risk of never being paid or having to let the whole lie idle. From the details of this sale, which are most interesting, we learn that Mesplet, who is often represented on imprints as bookseller as well as printer, sold mainly his own publications, and such stationery as was then used; although from an earlier announcement he offered a few works by other printers he appeared to have none on hand at the time of this sale. His stock of publications, of which the major part was in sheets unbound, was very large, even when compared with the demand for such literature to-day. He had as many as 500, 750 and 1,000 copies of some lines.¹ Only six of the fifteen books mentioned in this sale are otherwise known to bibliophiles.

Among the purchasers at the sale was Jautard, who evidently had some means, as he stands third highest on the list. This is the last occasion we hear of him in connection with Mesplet. The latter seems to have broken away from his former editor after his release from prison. Jautard afterwards got in tow with a widow named "Madam Deganne," who appears to have had some means. He borrowed money from her, and then married her to cancel the debt. At that time he is represented as living at Côte St. Paul.

His only publication in 1785 was the *Montreal Gazette*,² the first number of which appeared on the 28th of August. It was a four-page folio, printed in French and English. All controversial matters were carefully avoided as it dealt mainly with general and local news. It was much less original than *La Gazette Littéraire*, so escaped falling under the ban of those in high places. It proved so successful that it still lives, while all its contemporaries—if we except the *Nova Scotia Gazette* which, being a government organ, is outside the strict classification of true newspapers, have ceased to appear.³ It has therefore outlived all of its contemporaries and many later Canadian publications. Although the price, \$3.00 per annum, appears high for a small four page weekly when compared with one of our sixteen page dailies which cost no more, it had a good subscription list extending all the way down the banks of the St. Lawrence to Quebec; while there was hardly a prominent citizen of Montreal, French as well as English, whose name was not among

¹ See appendix B Nos. 3-15.

² See appendix A No. 29.

³ The *Halifax Gazette* was first issued on the 23rd March, 1753. Afterwards the title was changed to the *Nova Scotia Royal Gazette* under which title it is still issued as the official organ of that province.