

he expresses himself as follows: "During the course of this important conversation, M. Masères expressed himself in a tone of vehemence and agitation, which surprised me in an Englishman. He had none of the coolness of the nation; there was vivacity; Gascon quickness; in a word, he was a hot-headed enthusiast. I am not surprised that the head of Du Calvet burns and his brain evolves anger and violence. He is at a good school, and will go far under the lessons of his master. When the English Parliament prepared the Act of Quebec in 1774, it heard the testimonies of a good number of persons, who were reputed to know the country and its wants. Among those who were interrogated were found Carleton, Chief Judge William Hey, Marriott, the Solicitor-General, M. de Lotbinière, a native of Canada, and belonging to the body of the nobility of this country—a well thinking man and proprietor of immense seigniories, next to Masères,—and finally Masères himself, who was known to have resided in Canada, and who should have acquired special knowledge on the question in point. He pretended there, among many other assertions, difficult to prove, that the Canadians would be very glad if England would not grant to the clergy the right to reclaim their tithes before tribunals, and he insisted that many Canadians had refused to pay their tithes since the conquest,—in building on the fact that Lord Amherst had refused to grant the right to deduct the reserving this question for the good pleasure of the King of England. He said also that he believed that if immediately after the conquest they had begun gradually to replace the Catholic priests, who died, by Protestant ministers, the Canadians would have been satisfied; but he did not dare say that it would be prudent to do it at that time. He alleged also that he believed that if the Protestant and Catholic religions were left on the same footing in this country, there would be more pleased than those who were displeased. If Masères occupied himself as much with the affairs of Canada after his return to England, it was that he acted as agent with the English Government on behalf of the Protestants that were in Canada, and this lasted a good many years. He had frequent communications with the chiefs of the English party, whose interests he watched; the latter kept him posted with what transpired in the country, as may be seen from the large correspondence which he makes known to us in his Quebec papers. Before him, the agent of the English party in Canada was one named Fowler Walker, a lawyer of reputation, practising in the Court of Chancery—one who did more than any other in having Murray recalled from the government of Quebec. This poor Murray had, nevertheless, but given fair play to the French Canadians during his administration. This was the same Walker who directed the movement to prevent Mgr. Briand from taking the title of Bishop of Quebec, which was at last granted to him. Masères says that he was the best informed person in the affairs of Quebec whom he had met. (Occasional essays, page 369)

The mother of Masères died on the 21st of September, 1793, aged 86, and his only brother, named John, died on the 12th of September, 1802, aged 68. His English biographers pretend that his scientific knowledge far surpassed that which he had of jurisprudence. He was considered especially strong in the mathematical sciences. I possess in my collection of autographs an interesting letter of four pages, written by Masères, dated May 4th, 1799, addressed to the Rev. John Hellins, vicar of Potter's Bury, near Stony Stratford, in Buckinghamshire. This John Hellins, to whom the letter is addressed, is well known for having made a translation of "Institution Analytique" of Donna Agensi, which he published in 1802—thanks to the pecuniary sacrifices which Masères made to induce him to undertake this work. Masères contributed considerably to the progress of the literature of his time, in furnishing means of publishing important works, which, but for him, would never have seen the day. He paid, it is said, the entire cost of certain publications which he liked, without hoping for any return. Masères died the 19th of May, 1824, at the advanced age of 93 years. In his epitaph, which can be seen in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, they praise especially his integrity and his great liberality which are graciously mentioned in an elegant Latin inscription of boundless length.

Several eccentricities have been attributed to him. Thus they say that he lodged, during entire years, in his offices of the Inner Temple; and although he dined every day at Waltham Place, his private residence, he very rarely

slept there. He was, it is said, greatly esteemed by the learned men of his time, who frequently honoured him with a visit. He wore, until his death, a three cornered hat, and the traditional pig-tail, which was used so long to render legal men imposing to the eyes of the public. Besides his writings on Canada, Masères has published not less than twenty other volumes on history, law, and mathematics. We shall only publish, in the list of his works, which we give hereafter, those which have reference to the history of Canada. We give them in the chronological order in which they have been published. Several things will be found in them which are but little known up to the present time.

1766. A sketch of an act of parliament for tolerating the Roman Catholic religion in the Province of Quebec; for encouraging and introducing the Protestant religion into the said province, and for settling the laws and augmenting the public revenue of the same. By Francis Masères, Esq., then lately appointed His Majesty's Attorney-General for the Province of Quebec, in North America. London, printed in April, 1766.

This work is the first that Masères wrote on our affairs. As may be seen by the date of his arrival in Canada, he wrote this small treatise before leaving London to come here. At the end of this pamphlet, which was re-printed in his "Occasional Essays" in 1809, he says that he prepared this plan of Act of Parliament at the request of Carleton and Chief Judge Hey, and a few copies only were printed for the information of the Marquis of Rockingham and of Mr. Dowdeswell, Secretary of State, of Charles Yorke, Attorney-General, of Mr. Grey, Solicitor General, and other persons in the employ of His Majesty who had the task of seeing about the government of Quebec. Not one copy of this act was given to the public. This work of Masères never came before the English parliament; of which Masères complained bitterly, pretending that they were afraid of clashing with the Catholics. Masères himself had no such scruples.

1767. Things necessary to be settled in the Province of Quebec, either by the King's Order in-Council, or by Act of Parliament. Without date, nor where printed, nor special title; ten pages in folio.

A very interesting document written by Masères in 1767, while he was Attorney-General at Quebec, but printed under this form only at the close of the year 1772, as he says himself in a note at the end of this pamphlet.

1767. Plan of a General Assembly of the Freeholders of the Province of Quebec. Without date, nor where printed, nor special title, as the one which preceded it. The paging was continued from the precedent under the same size, and filled from the 11th to the 20th pages of this curious document, which was also prepared while Masères was Attorney-General at Quebec in the year 1767.

of the English minister, for this last document is composed of 12 pages instead of 4, as the preceding one had. The latter was re-printed in the "Quebec papers," vol. 1, page 50.

1772 (First.) Draught of an Act of Parliament for settling the laws of the Province of Quebec.

1773. (Second.) Draught, &c., like the preceding document, 1772. A collection of several commissions and other public instruments proceeding from His Majesty's royal authority, and other papers relating to the state of the Province of Quebec, in North America, since the conquest of it by the British arms in 1760. London, 1772, 311 pages in quarto.

1773. Account of the defence of a plan of Act of Parliament for the establishment of the laws of the Province of

These two works in our constitution were very probably printed by Masères so as to cause the English government to share his ideas on the kind of constitution which should be granted us. In fact one sees there a resumé of all that Masères preached at the time of the discussion of the bill of Quebec in 1774.

1772. Draught of an Act of Parliament for investing the Governor and Council of the Province of Quebec. Without an Assembly of the Freeholders of the same with a power of making laws and ordinances for the peace, welfare and good government of the said province during the space of fourteen years. 4 pages in folio, a document without date nor place of printing, but certainly printed in 1772, as is indicated by a manuscript note on a copy in my possession.

1772. Another plan of Act, bearing exactly the same title as the preceding one.

At the end of this document are found notes on the power of taxation in this province. The word second, written by the hand before the word draught, at the commencement of the title in the copy which I have in my possession, would indicate that Masères had had a second scheme printed, more complete than the first, for the information

Quebec, drawn up by Mr. Francis Masères, English lawyer, afterwards Attorney-General of His Majesty, the King of Great Britain, of the said province, against the objections of M. Francis Joseph Cugnet, Canadian gentleman, secretary of the Governor and counsel of the said province for the French language. At London. Printed at Edmund Allen's, Bolt Court, Fleet street. M.D.C.C.LX. XIII. 159 pages in folio.

As in all the other works, Masères says in this one that he could wish with all his heart that the Canadians would adopt the Protestant religion, would learn the English language and adopt the English laws, or, at least, forget those of France. He also makes known to us who those were whom Gen. Carleton had charged to prepare the extract known by the name of "The Abstract of Gentlemen," and which was published in London in 1772. He mentions "Frs. Jos. Cugnet, the learned M. Jacrean, of the Seminary of Quebec, and the very intelligent M. Pressard, of the same seminary, and M. Des Chensand, as well as other clever persons who worked there during three years at the request of General Carleton.

1774. Quebec commissions. London, 1774, folio. During the year 1774 he inundated also the English papers with his prose against the French Canadians. It was especially the *Public Advertiser* which had the honour of publishing the first,—the letters of Junius; and the *Norwich Mercury* which had the privilege of causing his writings to be circulated.

1775. An account of the proceedings of the British and other Protestants, inhabitants of the Province of Quebec, &c. London, 1766, 510 pages in 8.

This volume, notwithstanding all the falsehoods which it contains, is of considerable importance for the history of our country, from the conquest to 1775. This volume, with the preceding one, are what historians call the "Quebec papers" of Masères.

1776. The Canadian Freeholder, in two dialogues, between an Englishman and a Frenchman settled in Canada, showing the sentiments of the bulk of the freeholders of Canada concerning the late Quebec Act, with some remarks on the Boston Charter Act, and an attempt to show the great expediency of immediately repealing both those acts of parliament, and of making some other useful regulations and concessions to His Majesty's subjects, as a ground for a reconciliation with the united colonies in America. London, vol. I., 1776; vol. II. and III., 1779. This work is a malevolent attack upon all that is French and Catholic, and an apology for England.

1809. Occasional essays, chiefly political and historical. London, 1809. 607 pages, 8vo. In this volume are found many writings on Canada, among which we shall mention a history of the Canadian nobility in 1775. There are to be found also important details on the work done by the English Government, so as to permit Mgr. Briand to go and have himself consecrated bishop in France, to be able to fill the functions of the Episcopate in Canada. Masères especially accuses Edmund Burke, private secretary of the Marquis of Rockingham, one of the men in the English cabinet at that period, of making use of all the influence which he had with his master, to grant that permission to Mgr. Briand, and even lets it be understood—while contradicting this step—that Burke had received his education in a Jesuit College in Belgium, and would not later have embraced Protestantism, but to improve his condition in the political world. This volume contains also a collection of ignoble things against the Catholic Church. Masères never could digest the bill of Quebec, the adoption of which, by the English Parliament, proved to the Protestants, whose agent he was, that all their work, for a number of years, to crush the Canadian Catholics, had been a clear loss. I should be very glad to know any other document on Canada, published by Masères, which we have omitted in this list.

PHILÉAS GAGNON.

It is said that the British Museum has not a copy of Cocker's Arithmetic. The only edition ordinarily seen is the thirty-seventh A.D. 1720. "According to Cocker" has become such a world-wide truism that it would be interesting to know where a first edition can be found. The book was the model of the Tutor's Assistant during the first quarter of the present century. He was renowned as a penman, and published fourteen copy books. Are any of these books extant?—*Bookseller*.