

cause,"¹ implying thereby that he was in open sympathy with the cause of the thirteen colonies with which the country was then at war.

It was at this time that the title of the paper was changed to *La Gazette Littéraire*, and the name of Berger dropped, from the imprint.² Hereafter that of Fleury Mesplet appears alone. It would also appear that there was some attempt on his part to propitiate the religious authorities, for in October he advertises a number of religious works which, no doubt, the Seminary authorities had obtained leave to import from France, and which were placed in his hands for sale, as the only bookseller in Montreal. The purpose of the Seminary in thus putting them before the people was to combat the materialistic tendencies of the paper as the titles of the works would seem to indicate. They are:

1. "Dictionnaire Anti-Philosophique," 2 vols., Paris, 1775.
2. "Dialogue tiré du Dictionnaire Anti-Philosophique."
3. "Lettres de quelques Juifs."
4. "L'Autorité des livres du Nouveau Testament."
5. "Réponse critique à plusieurs difficultés."
6. "Dictionnaire de la Religion."

Possibly one or two of these may have been printed by Mesplet, as a number of copies of "Dialogues" are mentioned in the inventory.

What caused the religious authorities most concern at that time was a discussion, carried on in the *Gazette*, on the merits and demerits of Voltaire, whose death had just been chronicled. This led to a strong protest on the part of M. Montgolfier, superior of the Seminary of St. Sulpice, who, on the 2nd of January, 1779, wrote to Haldimand to the effect that the reflections of the *Gazette* against religious things should be interdicted. In his capacity as superior he acted as supervisor of the religious affairs of the district.

Haldimand, in his reply,³ states that he had already warned Mesplet to moderate the tone of his "sheet," and that should he continue to pursue the same course, steps would be taken to stop its further issue. He further suggested to the superior to keep a look-out on its pages and advise as to any further indiscretions.

The issue from Mesplet's press in 1779, apart from the numbers of the *Gazette*, was his third almanac,⁴ with several new features. Be-

¹ See appendix C No. 11.

² It had never filled the role of catering for the commercial interests of the community or become a medium for merchants to advertise their goods. It was purely literary written mainly by the editor Jautard.

³ See appendix C No. 13.

⁴ See appendix A No. 22.