

it could have had was a badly written paper. The *Mercury* was delighted; it said the defunct looked like a parent of *Le Canadien*. In all that squabble, many young men handled the pen and acquired a practical understanding of the art of putting their thoughts in black and white. This was really the first school of that kind in Canada.

Some debating clubs existed in the meantime, where such personalities as Louis J. Papineau, Debartezh and Bourdages gained a fame before coming out openly as public men.

Dr. Labrie gave an impulsion towards the study of the history of Canada. So did George Hériot, in his works published during those years. The Montreal press helped a great deal in that direction by the writings of Viger, Bibaud, Mermet, Saint-George and O'Sullivan. The literature of Canada was born by this time. Lambert, who visited the country in 1806-8, does not say much about it, for he only saw the incipient state of things, and cannot be expected to have foreseen the future. Here are his observations: "The state of literature and the arts did not improve very rapidly after the conquest. The traders and settlers who took up their abode amongst the French were ill-qualified to diffuse a taste for the arts and sciences, unless, indeed, it was the science of barter and the art of gaining cent per cent upon their goods. For many years, no other work was printed in the colony than an almanac... Of late years, the Canadians have appeared desirous of establishing some claim to a literary character... The publishing of six newspapers weekly is a proof of the progressive improvement and prosperity of the country, though it may be but a fallacious symptom of literary improvement. Four of the newspapers are published in Quebec and two in Montreal. These, with an almanac, and the acts of the provincial parliament, are all the works that are printed in Lower Canada." It is obvious that Lambert was unaware of other publications, such as schoolbooks, songsters, treatises upon the seigniorial tenure, commentaries on laws, discussions of political and historical matters, and amateur theatricals, which, in a colony, are always a form of intellectual development worth mentioning. He continues: "Two of the newspapers have been established fifteen or sixteen years; one of them is the *Montreal Gazette*, and the other the *Quebec Gazette*." The *Quebec Gazette* was then 44 years old, and the *Montreal Gazette* 30 years. "They are published in French and English, and contain the governor's proclamation and edicts, the advertisements of the sheriff's sales, merchants' stores, public auctions, &c., together with a selection of the earliest intelligence extracted from the English and American papers... The *Gazettes* seldom interfere with the morals or manners of society; those objects are left for the other weekly papers, which are published on Saturdays and Mondays. These papers consist of the *Quebec Mercury*, published entirely in English, by Cary, on Monday afternoon, and has been established about eight years." Say three years. "The *Canadian Courant*,