

be sufficient for his encouragement. No doubt the old English, as well as colonial, antipathy for the French remained and so stood in his way that he was unable to secure a remunerative run of customers. Therefore, early in 1775, perhaps in January, but in any case not later than February, he started hurriedly on a prospecting journey to Quebec, leaving his wife behind and his affairs in Philadelphia in a most unsatisfactory state. Through exposure to the cold during the tedious winter's journey he fell sick which, together with his embarrassed financial condition and the suspicion with which he, as a Frenchman, was looked upon by the British authorities, caused him much pain and uneasiness.

On the 29th of March Charles Berger wrote from Philadelphia a most friendly letter¹ expressing the greatest interest in his welfare, while at the same time upbraiding him for not at least saying good-by before leaving, and also for not having settled with his former partner. He had found it necessary to secure the type at Miller's by paying the amount due him, and to secrete it, together with his other effects; so that they should be safe from threatened seizure by the partner. Berger also paid a quarter's rent due by Mesplet which, with the amount paid to Miller and other debts, came to a total of \$350. In this letter he expressed a hope that Mesplet might be able to make arrangements with some one at Quebec to supply sufficient capital to set up a successful printing office there, promising in a most friendly spirit, to forward his printing plant as well as his wife to Quebec, or to honour his draft for funds necessary for his return trip. Further, he asked Mesplet to learn all he could regarding the sentiments of the Canadians towards the separation movement from Great Britain, for which, as the letter claims, his superior intelligence rendered him well fitted. It will thus be seen that Mesplet had deeper ends in view than setting up a press in Quebec.

It seems he was not successful in his efforts to find a capitalist ready to set him up, and no doubt found the people either ignorant of or indifferent to the benefits set forth in the republican propaganda to the south. In any case he did not remain long in Quebec, for he had again started printing in Philadelphia before the close of 1775,² as it would have been difficult for him to get through the lines after the breaking out of hostilities, we may conclude that he had reached Philadelphia not later than June or July.

¹ See appendix C No. 1.

² See appendix A Nos. 3-6.