

the 27th of May, favouring the granting of "\$426,45-90 to Mr. Fleury Mesplet on account of expenses attending the transporting of himself, family and printing utensils from Philadelphia to Montreal."¹ This appears to have been for the bare expenses of the journey to Montreal, without taking into account the loss by imprisonment or otherwise; and it was far from satisfying him, for in June he presented another memorial² setting forth the utter inadequacy of the sum voted to cover his losses. He claimed that it was insufficient to cover his outlay in securing it, which included expenditure for the services of an attorney, the cost of his trip to, and three months' sojourn in Philadelphia. This was his last appeal to the United States. He had wasted time and money without any practical result, and from henceforth became a good and loyal Canadian.

The same year Joseph Marie Desautels finding it impossible to collect his claim against Mesplet—he had secured it by notarial bond the previous year³—took out an action against him in the Court of Common Pleas, and on the 22nd of July was granted a judgment for \$1,481.⁴ This case was taken out against both Mesplet and Berger but the latter through his attorney, P. Mézière, proved that he was not liable for the debt, while Mesplet acknowledged the debt by confessing judgment. It may be worth while to note that the claimant was represented by Thomas Walker, celebrated in connection for his sympathy with the continental army, and for having entertained Franklin when he visited Montreal. Mesplet who, at that time, owed over \$5,000,⁵ tried to arrange a compromise. He only asked for an extension of time, offering his presses and other plant as security.⁶ But Desautels, noting that he was hopelessly insolvent, took out an execution and Mesplet's effects were disposed of by a bailiff's sale in October.⁷ The whole sale realized a little over \$600, not half the indebtedness to Desautels alone, who bought in the two presses and type for \$290, besides books and sundry other articles aggregating altogether to \$443, more than two-thirds of the whole. It would appear by the final inventory that Desautels bought the presses for Edward William Gray. From this time out Mesplet never owned his presses, although afterwards he, from time to time, bought fresh supplies of type. Gray, although, no doubt, he bought the plant at a bargain, could not find

¹ See appendix D No. 31.

² See appendix D No. 43.

³ See appendix F No. 56.

⁴ *Ibid* G No. 78.

⁵ *Ibid* F No. 60.

⁶ *Ibid* F No. 58.

⁷ See appendix F No. 61.