

The choice of Jautard as editor was most unfortunate, for, soon forgetting, or ignoring the publisher's promise to steer clear of things religious and political, he started a tirade against both, which he kept up with short intermissions to the end; for, while the first number of the *Gazette* appeared on the 3rd of June, a month had not elapsed ere Mesplet and his editor, Jautard, were ordered by Guy Carleton to leave the province before the 15th of September. Mesplet continued the issue of the paper regularly until the 19th of August, when it appeared as a single page consisting of a letter from the "printer" "to the public," which complained that: "Since a few days I have had a fresh grievance which constrains me to cease publishing my *Gazette*. This new one has almost decided me; I have too many enemies. The slightest move on my part, however innocent, increases the number; and I owe it to myself to be saved from further persecution.

"Nevertheless, I will continue, if authorized by the government and encouraged by an increase in the number of subscribers. I prefer to sacrifice my own interests to exposing myself to further disgrace; and, if I may presume to say so, I flatter myself that those who lauded my enterprise in establishing a periodical will be pained at its being discontinued." The appeal had the desired effect. It stirred up his friends to action; for a numerous signed petition¹ was presented to the governor, setting forth the benefits the paper had been to the community, the need of a printer in the city, and Mesplet's good character and asking that the order for him to leave the province be not enforced. In compliance with this petition General Haldimand, who had just replaced Carleton as governor, issued, on the 24th of August, a notice signed by his secretary, Edward Foy,² suspending, for the time being, the order for the banishment of Mesplet and his associate, on condition that they take the oath of allegiance within two days and submit all their articles to an inspector, to be appointed by the governor before publication.

The first censor appointed for this duty was a Mr. Gordon, but, as he left for England shortly afterwards, the office was allowed to fall into abeyance, and the paper being left to itself returned to its old course and again came under the displeasure of the authorities; for, on the 28th of September, in a letter to Cramahé, Haldimand writes: "I have observed several improper things published in our *Gazette*."³ and later Cramahé replies: "Our printer has a *penchant* to the popular

¹ See appendix C No. 7.

² *Ibid* No. 8.

³ *Ibid* No. 10.