

to a third of a column, recounts his difficulties with his wife, who owing to his poverty had left him and was living with her brother. He implores her to appear before a notary and obtain a legal separation, as "such an act would remove the suspicion of a mercenary disposition which the world will be apt to entertain of her, in seeing a wife leave her husband because of his present inability to maintain her in the former affluent manner he used to do, and to come upon him again when his friends and his own industry might raise him again in the world." An intention which, he intimates, was already attributed to her. Another advertisement sets forth the price of bread as fixed by His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the city and district of Montreal.

Although the publisher gave more prominence to general news, he did not neglect the literary features of THE GAZETTE. The Poet's Corner is a heading which regularly appeared, and was evidently regarded with considerable interest. Robert Burns had just risen to fame, and several of his poems were printed in THE GAZETTE of that date, among them were "Man was made to Mourn," "Winter," and others.

In the earlier numbers, the printer evidently avoided all reference to politics, but in 1789 the question of the establishment of a House of Assembly was a subject of very general interest, and THE GAZETTE opened its columns to a lively discussion. A correspondent, who sums up the discussion, thus lays down the arguments advanced for and against, with some excellent principles which have not yet lost their appropriateness:—"We are all Canadians and subjects of Great Britain. The distinction of old and new subjects ought to have been done away with long since. The prosperity of this country much depends on the unanimity that prevails among us. I am of opinion that much good may be derived by a House of Assembly. Yet I fear the consequent evils, one of which is that of taxing a country unable to support the dignity of a House. The peasantry would not easily digest what that House of Assembly might impose and few, if any, of their class would be able to share in the legislation. It will therefore be the policy of Government to procrastinate this event until the province is really and fully anglicized, when, perhaps, a House of Assembly may be better known and received with the united voice of approbation."

The Councillors to whom legislation was then entrusted were not popular. The fact that they were dependent on the Government for their positions made the Council a refuge for placemen and pensioners. The salary was too trifling to render a man independent. A correspondent of THE GAZETTE in 1789, gives the alleged diary of one of the Montreal Councillors. It is, no doubt, imaginary, but is interesting for the light it throws on the manners and customs of the time. The Councillor takes with him as provisions for his six days' journey to

Quebec, "a roast turkey, 15 onions, a loaf of bread, a bag of oats for my horse, and two bottles Spanish wine, somewhat sour." He lodges with the habitants on the way, not being fond of taverns; "the English always get drunk at these places." For the lodging of himself, horse, and servant at the first resting place, the man asked him 30 sous. "I offered him 20, told him he was an extortioner, and I was a Councillor. He grumbled and took the money. The habitants grow saucy; the English spoil them." At the next house he bargained for 15 sous for lodging and hay. On arrival at Quebec, the Councillor made up his account, and calculated that he would save £96 on his year's salary. He resolved not to oppose the strong party as he might lose his place. After returning thanks for his safe arrival, and writing to his wife the price of hay and apples, he went to bed resolving to "go and confess to-morrow."

Up to the end of 1789, THE GAZETTE was printed by its original publisher, P. Mesplet, 40 Notre Dame St. In 1795 it passed into the hands of Thomas A. Turner, and was issued from an office on the corner of Notre Dame and St. Jean Baptiste Streets, a single number bearing date Nov. 14th, 1796, and bearing this publisher's imprint, was shown at the Caxton exhibition, but the next volume preserved (1804) was printed by E. Edwards, 135 St. Paul Street, which was then one of the principal streets of the city. The following advertisement of the first theatre opened in Montreal appeared under date Nov. 10th, 1804:—"Mr. Ormsby from the Theatre Royal, Edinburg, respectfully informs the ladies and gentlemen of Montreal, that he intends, with their approbation, establishing a company of comedians in Canada, to perform in Montreal and Quebec alternately. The theatre in this city is fitted up in that large and commodious house next door to the Post Office, where will be presented on Monday evening, 19th inst., a comedy in five acts called "The Busy Body," to which will be added the much admired farce called "The Sultan."

"N.B. Particulars in advertisement for the evening. Boxes 5s; gallery 2s. 6d. Tickets to be had at Mr. Hamilton's Tavern, the Montreal Hotel, and at the Theatre where places for the boxes may be taken."

The advertisements were still full of curious side lights on the state of society. Take, for instance, the following:—"Ran away from the subscriber, Alexander Thompson, an indentured apprentice, about 22 years of age, 5 ft. 5 in. in height, red curly hair and bandy legs. All persons are hereby forbid hiring him under penalty of law. Any person who will bring him back shall receive three pence reward, no charges paid."

"7th June 1806. William Gilmer."

In spite of his red hair and bandy legs, Alexander Thompson was estimated at three times the