

In disposition he was most sanguine, for he seems never to have faltered under a heavy load of debt and the chronic state of insolvency in which he always lived. And bearing up under this burden he was able to ward off his creditors by one means or another, while at the same time securing advances or fresh credit from new men. In only one instance was he sued and pushed to the wall. That was when sold out by Desautels. Each creditor in every financial transaction, save two, who were paid in full after his death by Madam Mesplet, lost part or whole of his debt, and these two, Charles Lusignan and Desautels, were paid out of Madam Mesplet's patrimony. Thus while able to ward off his many creditors, in ordinary ability and power to cope with and meet his financial engagements, he was altogether wanting, and yet through all he was a painstaking, honest and persevering workman.

Such then are the facts that have been gathered respecting our first Montreal printer. And, although this closer inspection has dispelled much of the glamour that has hitherto surrounded him, and shown him to have been ever very human and erring, yet, as a man labouring under great disabilities—desertion by his patrons, accused by the church, suspected by the people, imprisoned by the government, and borne down with debt—he rose above all and, persevering to the end, founded a free press, one that has uncovered the source of French literature in the new world, which, flowing in an ever widening, deepening stream, is clear and limpid when compared with the turbid flood inundating the old land.