

the principal merchants of Montreal and, on his advice, fixed the amount due Berger at \$4,800.¹ This award shows that not a single cent, principal or interest, of the debt, contracted away back in 1775 and 1776, had been paid. Berger accepted in settlement of this claim a notarial bond for \$1,200, payable in four equal annual instalments, and a note signed jointly by Mesplet and an individual named Marassé for \$460. Berger, in the goodness of his heart and in consideration for Mesplet's misfortune, wiped out the balance, \$3,140.² But from the post-mortem inventory we learn that Berger never received any payment on the bond. The joint note with Marassé for \$460, which appears on the inventory as a debt due that person, was the only money Berger had received on account of his advances to Mesplet.

Berger made out a power of attorney³ in favour of Louis Hardy and J. C. Herse to collect this debt, and in February, 1785, left for France. This was the only occasion on which he came to Canada, although he is represented on imprints jointly with Mesplet from June, 1775, to the first of September, 1778.

On the 26th of June, 1784, Mesplet again memorialized Congress regarding his claim for compensation for losses,⁴ but this petition, after having been looked into was tabled. He was thereupon advised by some friend in charge of his claim at Philadelphia that nothing more could be accomplished without an appeal in person. This Mesplet complained he could not do on account of lack of funds to pay the expenses of a journey to and a sojourn at that place. But at length, by the kindness of a friend who advanced the necessary funds Mesplet appeared before Congress with another petition. This was in March, 1785. A committee was appointed which, after asking for a bill of grievances and a statement, took the matter up. The bill and the statement⁵ give us many details of Mesplet's journey from Philadelphia to Montreal, which are most interesting. According to the latter the expenses of Mesplet's journey and his losses through imprisonment totalled up to \$9,450. This claim was backed up with a number of affidavits which attested to his sufferings and losses through devotion to the cause of the United States. In April he went to New York armed with a letter of introduction from Thomas Mefflin to the Hon. Mr. Hardy, a representative from Virginia, asking his assistance in pushing the claim.⁶ After all this effort, the committee reported on

¹ See appendix F No. 53.

² See appendix F No. 54.

³ See appendix F No. 55.

⁴ See appendix D No. 34.

⁵ See appendix D No. 42.

⁶ See appendix D No. 41.