

the Quebec trade with neatness and despatch, and asked for the patronage of those interested in the dissemination of such literature.

In 1777 Mesplet printed his first *Almanach*,¹ the first Latin publication appearing in Canada,² the first book in the Iroquois language,³ and two religious books,⁴ besides a number of others, no examples of which are known to exist.

In 1778 he issued his second almanac, but with the name changed from "Almanach Encyclopédique," to "Almanach curieux et intéressant."⁵ Two more religious books—"Neuvaine de St. François Xavier,"⁶ and "La semaine sainte"⁷—and a reprint of a French book entitled "Abrégé des règles de la versification française."⁸ This latter publication shows that at that time there was sufficient aspiration after poetical composition in Canada to make it worth while to reprint a work giving poetical rules. The first work of a historical character, "Journal du Voyage de St-Luc" also bears date 1778.⁹

But the most interesting of Mesplet's publications in 1778 was "La Gazette du Commerce et Littéraire."¹⁰ An editor had been secured in the person of Valantin Jautard, an advocate, who came originally from France about the year 1768. He was a sympathizer with the Continental Army, for, in the Canadian archives,¹¹ mention is made that he was appointed a notary in January, 1776, by General Worcester. He does not appear to have practised the notarial profession after this army had evacuated Canada, as no repertoire of his papers are to be found in the Court House at Montreal. Before publishing his paper Mesplet issued a prospectus,¹² setting forth that it was to be a four paged quarto at \$2.50 a year. Merchants and professional men were asked for their support as it would be a medium for advertising, besides providing commercial news and good literature. At the same time, he engaged not to publish anything likely to prove offensive to the church or the state. He also wrote to the Governor-General asking for permission to publish the paper, with the same promise to refrain from discussing interdicted subjects.¹³

¹ Appendix A No. 11.

² Appendix A No. 14.

³ Appendix A No. 12.

⁴ Appendix A 13 and 15.

⁵ Appendix A No. 16.

⁶ Appendix A No. 13.

⁷ Appendix A No. 12.

⁸ Appendix A No. 20.

⁹ Appendix A No. 19.

¹⁰ Appendix A No. 21.

¹¹ Canadian Archives 1888, Haldimand papers, page 917.

¹² See appendix C No. 4.

¹³ See appendix C No. 3.