

I doubt not it was read with as much avidity as is the news published now of events transpiring in all parts of the world up to the very time of the newspaper going to press. For instance, the Postmaster of Montreal gave notice on the 20th November, 1788, of the closing of a mail on the 11th December, at four o'clock in the afternoon, to be put on board His Majesty's packet-boat, which was to sail from New York for Falmouth, on Wednesday, the 7th January following. And it was especially enjoined that letters for any part of the continent of Europe must be sent under cover to a correspondent in London, otherwise they could not be forwarded. In the winter months the dispatch of a mail to Halifax was monthly; and the postage to Halifax on letters to Great Britain had to be prepaid in Montreal.

Another post office advertisement relating to internal postal communication announces the monthly departure of the carrier with letters for the offices at Cornwall, Matilda, Augusta and Kingston, and that "letters for Niagara and Detroit will be forwarded by this conveyance to the respective offices there."

#### DOMESTIC AND OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS.

There are some curious advertisements relating to domestic matters, which are too long to quote here. One is by John Gustus Diehl, in which in an advertisement extending to a third of a column, he recounts his difficulties with his wife, who owing to his poverty had left him and was living with her brother, and whom he implores 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 on account of his present inability of maintaining 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 shows the paternal care of the authorities of those days, and is as follows:—

#### CITY AND DISTRICT OF MONTREAL. }

MONTREAL, May 4, 1789.

At a meeting of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace this day, it is ordered that the price and assize of bread for the present month, be as follows, viz:—

The white loaf of 4 lbs. at 13d. or 26 sous.

The brown loaf of 6 lbs. at 15d. or 30 sous.

And that the several bakers of the city and

suburbs do conform thereto, and mark their bread with the initial letters of their names.

By order of the Justices,

J. READ, Clk. P.

On the 6th June, 1789, Mr. George Pownall, the Provincial Secretary, gave notice by command of His Excellency the Governor, that "the ports of this Province were open to the importation of flour, meal, rice, biscuit and Indian corn, until the first January following, from the United States or other countries by the gulf and river St. Lawrence, on ships or vessels built, owned and navigated according to law." And persons desirous of engaging in such importations were requested to apply at the secretary's office at Quebec, for further information. Robert Burns had just risen to fame, and several of his poems are printed in the GAZETTE of that date, among them his "Man was made to Mourn" "Winter" and others. At the end of one of these is the printer's foot note as follows:—

"POETA NASSITUR NON FIT" is an old maxim, the truth of which has never been doubted, and of which this poet is a striking instance; he was born and bred in one of the lowest stations in life in the south part of Scotland, and seems by several hints thrown out in his performances, to have been all his lifetime struggling hard with poverty. The book from which the above is extracted, and from which we intend to select pieces for the amusement of our readers in the dearth of news, is a large octavo volume printed by subscription at Edinburgh, 1787, with the names of nearly 2,000 subscribers prefixed thereto, among whom are the most distinguished ladies, noblemen and gentlemen, in and out of the kingdom."

#### THE QUEBEC "MERCURY," 1805.

The third paper which made its appearance in this province was the Quebec *Mercury*, the first number of which was printed on the 5th January, 1805, by Mr. Thomas Cary, publisher. The paper has remained in the same family ever since, being now printed by Mr. George T. Cary, the grandson of its original founder. From the first it was regarded as a society paper, its editor being a man of culture. In reply to some one who complained that he had used a capital instead of a small letter in his prospectus, he said "his mode of using these letters is not the result of caprice or accident, but of principle and system, arising from study, superior example and experience. Let it not be thought," said the editor in his own defence, "that he has passed all his days at a state or count-