

of the United States. "The only paper in the province is printed at Newark, and the government covers the three-quarters of its expenses for want of subscription from the public. It is a weekly paper containing very short extracts from the New York and Albany publications, and all in the views of Governor Simcoe. In brief, its usefulness is that of an official gazette."

La Rochefoucauld adds that the *Upper Canada Gazette* had no subscriber in Kingston, but that the *Quebec Gazette* had two there!

The first serious agitation in favour of liberty of the press in England only dates from 1795, when the following toast was drunk at a Whig dinner: "To the liberty of the press, without which we could not breathe."

From 1764 to 1795 no less than thirty works were printed in the province, and about ten others in London, but written by Canadians. For a moment these figures may be considered meagre; we wonder if it is any better in our own days, comparing the increase of the population. Sciences proper were much neglected, and continued to be so for fifty years afterwards.

William Smith, who lived at Quebec in 1785, says that a public library was established there in that year, and that the books came from London. La Rochefoucauld (1795) observes that the only library of that kind in Lower Canada was at Quebec. "It is a small gathering of books and nearly all French, sustained by subscription. We are rather puzzled at the choice of some of them, knowing, as we do, the political dispositions of the directors of the institution, for it contains the printed papers of the National Assembly of France." As late as 1824, Vassal de Monviel speaks of the interesting searches made by him in the Quebec library, which is supposed to be either that of 1785 or the one belonging to the legislature. By that time, 1824, schools had been opened in several localities, and the Nicolet college was in a first-class state of activity, as well as the Quebec and Montreal colleges. Reverend Dr. Jacob Mountain wrote some remarkable letters (1798-1801) in which he proposed a plan of public education for all classes.

The agitation which followed the discovery of the Genest scheme to drag the United States into a war against Great Britain was marked by various publications, it seems, but two only are known to us: "Extract from Minutes of Council containing His Majesty's late Regulations, &c., Quebec, 1798;" "Avis au Canada à l'occasion de la crise importante actuelle, Québec, 1798."

Joseph François Perreault was the champion of elementary schools at the end of the last century. In 1803 he published a treaty of parliamentary practice; in 1803 a dictionary of the same nature; in 1813 a hand-book for the bailiffs; in 1822 a course of elementary education; in 1824 extracts from the judgments of the prevotal court from 1727 to 1759; in