

describes very fully Mesplet's stock in trade as a bookseller. Apart from some books placed on sale, and one or two dictionaries, he had no stock of books, save those of his own printing. But his stock of stationery, on the other hand, was much more complete.

After the inventory was taken, Madam Mesplet finding that the estate was hopelessly insolvent, renounced any claim she might have had in the community of property,¹ and ordered the whole of the effects to be sold by auction on behalf of the creditors.²

The second Madam Mesplet like the first had no children, thus, although left destitute by her husband, she had only herself to provide for. According to the marriage contract she had inherited from her mother \$503.70, from which she paid \$194 due on Lusignan's bond and the \$326.50 above mentioned to Durocher; the two together more than swallowed this sum. By her father's will she was left a further sum of \$25,³ but this was so small as to be hardly worth mentioning. She never married again, although left a widow at the age of twenty-six. She died in 1840, aged 74.⁴ Her nephew, Mr. Jean Baptiste Tison, remembers *ma tante Mesplet* as a very old woman, but cannot relate anything she may have said about her husband.

Now, regarding the books and other publications printed by Mesplet; in list A are given all that are known to exist with their titles in full, the number and size of the pages and where copies are to be seen. These number 39, but there are some 36 others mentioned in advertisements and in the two inventories, bringing up the total to 75; all of which arranged according to subjects are given in Appendix B. Of these nearly one-third are religious and three official, for military purposes, showing that Mesplet must have repented and been received as a true son of the church and as a good citizen. He did honest work on fairly good paper, much better than in many longer established printing offices on this continent. His description of the stock, brought from Philadelphia, which included gold leaf and gilt, marbled, coloured and India paper, besides 80 reams of fine white paper, gives an idea of the quality of work he intended to do. His binding was also of good material and well executed, which shows that he was a thorough master of his trade in all its branches. The proof reading seems to have been well done, and, as he printed in four languages, we might almost say five, as the English style of spelling Iroquois was altogether different from the French, we can form some idea of his

¹ See appendix E No. 74.

² See appendix E No. 75.

³ See appendix G No. 77.

⁴ See appendix E No. 50.