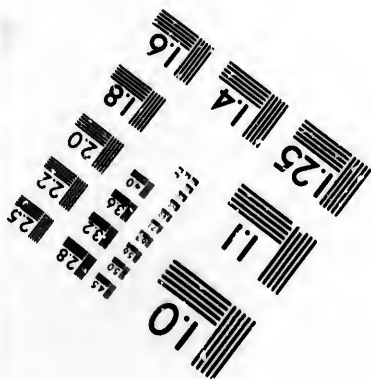
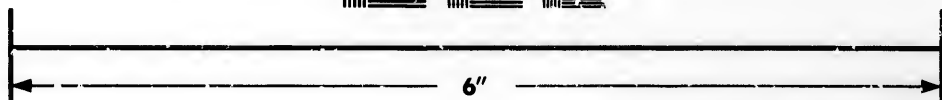
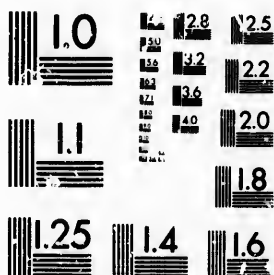


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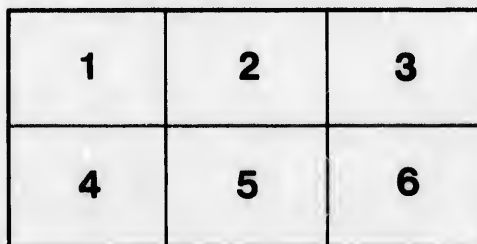
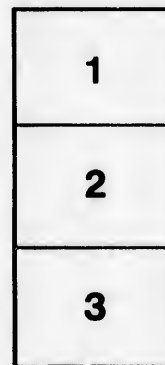
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# NEWSPAPERS

THEIR DEVELOPMENT IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

## A LECTURE

DELIVERED BY

# MR. THOMAS WHITE, M. P.

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE

## YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

OF MONTREAL.

ON THE 3th NOVEMBER, 1883.

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# NEWSPAPERS.

**Reminiscences of our English and French-Canadian press and its development--Montreal's first newspaper--An interesting review.**

The third of the course of ten lectures on Canadian Industries and Commerce under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association, was delivered in the Association Hall last evening, by Mr. Thomas White, M.P. The chair was occupied by Mr. George Hagne, who, in the course of a few introductory remarks, referred to the object of the Association in establishing this course of lectures, and said that they had sought to select gentlemen to deliver them who had a practical acquaintance with the subjects upon which they spoke. The lecture for the present occasion was "The Newspaper Interest; its Rise and Growth," and it would be delivered by a representative man not only of Montreal but of the Dominion, and one who was not a mere theorist, but had a thoroughly practical acquaintance with the subject.

Mr. THOMAS WHITE, M.P., after making a few opening remarks, proceeded to deliver the lecture, as follows :—

Until very recently it was generally supposed that the first newspaper published in Canada, was the *Quebec Gazette*, which made its appearance on the 21st June, 1764. But more recent researches have shown this to be an error. Mr. Alexander Dawson, the proprietor of the *Yarmouth Herald*, has made some investigations on this subject, resulting in the discovery, in the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society, of a bound volume of old Nova Scotia papers, the first in the collection being No. 1 of the *Halifax Gazette*,

dated 23rd March, 1752, "printed by John Bushnell, at the printing office on Grafton street." The paper is described as about 10x15 inches in size, printed on one leaf of two pages, two broad columns to the page. There is no evidence, however, that this paper had anything more than an ephemeral career, and it may fairly be said that the *Quebec Gazette* was the first Canadian paper that attained to anything like a permanent existence. Its first number was issued on the 21st June, 1764, Messrs. Brown and Gilmour being the printers. The first number, of which this a *fac simile* (here Mr. White showed a copy), contains the Printers' address to the public in English and French. It sets out with this statement :—

"As every kind of knowledge is not only interesting and instructive to individuals, but a benefit to the community, there is great reason to hope that a newspaper, properly conducted, and written with accuracy, freedom and impartiality, cannot fail of meeting with universal encouragement, especially as it is allowed by all that such a paper is at present much wanted in this colony." The principles of the paper are stated, as also the determination of its printers to publish "a view of foreign affairs and public transactions; to collect the transactions and occurrences of our Mother Country, and to introduce every remarkable event, uncommon debates, extraordinary performance, and interesting turn of affairs, that shall be thought to merit the notice of the reader as matter of entertainment, or that can be of service to the public as inhabitants of an English colony"; and to devote special attention "to the material occurrences of the American Colonies and West Indian Islands." We cannot but wonder, with our modern ideas of the claims upon newspaper space, at the promise to perform so much in a weekly publication of the size of this paper. But it is a striking evidence of the marvellous progress

which the last century has witnessed, when we find that, when the adventurous printers started the first newspaper in old Canada, even so many subjects as I have quoted were not sufficient for their wants. Here is a paragraph of this address to the public, which affords an interesting picture of the complete isolation of the country :—

“The rigour of winter preventing the arrival of ships from Europe, and in a great measure interrupting the ordinary intercourse with the southern provinces, during that season, it will be necessary, in a paper designed for general and public utility, to provide some things of general entertainment, independent of foreign intelligence; we shall, therefore, on such occasions, present our readers with such originals, both in prose and verse as will please the FANCY and instruct the JUDGMENT. And here we beg leave to observe, that we shall have nothing so much at heart, as the support of VIRTUE and MORALITY; and the noble cause of LIBERTY; The refined amusements of LITERATURE; and the pleasing scenes of well pointed WRITING; shall also be considered as necessary to the collection; interspersed with other chosen pieces and curious essays, extracted from the most celebrated authors; so that blending PHILOSOPHY with POLITICS, HISTORY, &c, the youth of both sexes will be improved and persons of all ranks agreeably and usefully entertained. Upon the whole we will labour to attain to all the exactness that so much variety will permit, and give as much variety as will consist with a reasonable exactness. And as this part of our project cannot be carried into execution without the correspondence of the INGENIOUS, we shall take all opportunities of acknowledging our obligation to those who shall take the trouble of furnishing any matter which shall tend to entertainment or instruction.”

And all this was to be accomplished within the four corners of a four page weekly paper, each page measuring but 10 by 16 inches! The latest news in this first number from Europe was of the 11th April, two months and ten days before the appearance of the paper. Among the English news is a short account of the discussion in the British Parliament on the scheme of taxation of the American Colonies, which, subsequently enforced, resulted so disastrously to British power and prestige on this continent, causing the independence of the thirteen colonies; and an account of a procession of several thousand silk weavers from Spital-fields, which waited upon his Majesty the king with a petition representing the miserable condition themselves and families were reduced to by the clandestine importation of French silks. The *Quebec Gazette* continued to be published until a few years ago, when, on the death of my old personal friend, Mr. Robert Middleton, who, with Mr. Dawson, was its last publisher, it ceased to

appear. It played an important role, especially under the editorship of the Hon. John Neilson, in the politics of the Province of Quebec, and was one of certainly less than a dozen newspapers in the world that was in a position to issue a centennial number. When it made its first appearance there were but twenty newspapers in the British Provinces of America, and of these not one was in existence in 1852, when I commenced my career as a journalist as sub-editor, under the late Stewart Derbyshire, of the *Quebec Gazette*. For the first fifteen years of its existence it was without a competitor in Canada, and, according to Mr. Gerin, who is quoted by Mr. Sulte in his historical and literary miscellanies, during the first sixteen months of its existence “it did not contain “the shadow of a political opinion, and we “are happy when we find in it one or two “facts. The readers were regularly kept informed of the actions of the Indian tribes “of Rhode Island and of Delaware, which “were resisting the British rule, but they were “left ignorant of events which were taking “place in the capital of Canada.”

#### MONTREAL'S FIRST NEWSPAPER.

Montreal journalism dates from the year 1778, the first newspaper published in the town, the *MONTREAL GAZETTE*, having made its appearance on the 3rd of June of that year. I have here the first volume, or rather the first two volumes, bound in one. The circumstances which led to the publication of the *GAZETTE* are worth stating. At the time of the American revolution, things in Canada were apparently favorable to the cause of the revolutionists. Although the population, a little over 75,000, was almost exclusively French-Canadian, there were a sufficient number of English residents, claiming on that ground superior advantages, and treating the majority in nationality and religion with something approaching to contempt, to excite in them feelings the reverse of loyal. Under these circumstances an attempt was made to induce the Canadian colonists to join in the revolution. Colonel Hazen, who took command at Montreal on the 1st April, 1776, set about to obtain a new engine of war. He wrote to General Schuyler on the necessity of sending to Canada good generals, a strong army, a good round sum in silver and a printer. Neither army, generals nor money were sent, but the printer came. A commission composed of Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Chase and the Reverend Charles Carroll,



started from Philadelphia for Canada to induce the Canadians to join the Congressional cause and to found a newspaper. With this latter object they brought material for a printing office and a printer named Fleury Mesplet, who had been in the employ of Franklin at Philadelphia. On the 29th of April the commission and the printing material arrived in Montreal, but the commission discovered at once that their cause was a hopeless one in Canada, in spite of the appeals of Lafayette to the French people in the name of France. They returned in May, and the Congressional troops followed close upon them. Mesplet had in the meantime set up his newspaper in the old chateau, near Jacques Cartier Square, which still remains as one of the few monuments of old Montreal. He resolved to cast in his fortunes with the Canadians; and, after the publication of a couple of works, he, in 1778, started the GAZETTE. As you will see, it is all in French except

THE ADDRESS OF THE PRINTER

to the public, which I will venture to read in full:—

‘TO THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWN AND DISTRICT OF MONTREAL:—

“GENTLEMEN,—The establishment of a periodical paper appears to me, as to many others, a project of such nature as to deserve your attention in every respect, by which means trade and commerce will be carried on with greater facility; correspondence with a greater ease, and a noble emulation will naturally ensue, to the great advantage of the public; the citizen will, with more speed and in a consider manner, communicate his ideas; hence the progress of arts and sciences in general and the necessary introduction to concord and union among individuals, from which flows several advantages to society, which you are more sensible of than I can express and too long to be here enumerated. These advantages are not less with respect to private interest, the facility of giving notice to the public at any time of the sale of goods or merchandise, movables, houses, lands, besides the conveniency of advertising for lost effects, slaves deserted from their masters, the want of clerks or of servants and many other things that the opportunity of this paper will offer.

“I propose to fill a sheet with public advertisements and other affairs immediately concerning trade and commerce, to which will be added some diversified pieces of literature. I dare flatter myself, as I hope, Gentlemen, you will encourage this, my feeble beginning, that you will in a short time see with satisfaction not only a great variety of notices and advertisements, but also a collection of facts, both entertaining and instructive. I will endeavour to procure a choice collection of the newest pieces, and I don't doubt but this will stir up the genius of many who have remained in a state of inaction, or could not communicate

their productions without the help of the press.

“I will insert in the above paper or GAZETTE everything that one or more gentlemen will be pleased to communicate to me, provided, always no mention be made of religion, Government, or news concerning the present affairs, unless I was authorised from Government for so doing; my intention being only to confine myself in what concerns advertisements, commercial and literary affairs.

“If the title of “Board of Intelligence, or Commercial and Literary Gazette,” which I propose to give this periodical paper, be not found convenient, I will be glad to receive any gentleman's advice on the subject, as also any objections which might be made against the following conditions:—

“CONDITIONS.

“The subscription money will be two and a half Spanish dollars per annum.

“The subscribers will pay one Spanish dollar for every advertisement inserted in the said paper during three weeks successively.

“Those that are not subscribers will pay one and a half Spanish dollars for every advertisement printed thrice as above.

“Every one that is not a subscriber may have the paper at ten coppers.

“The said paper will be printed on a quarto sheet of paper, and will be delivered every Wednesday, to begin on June 3rd, 1778.

“All persons who choose to subscribe are desired to let me know their name and their place of abode.

“I have the honour to be, with a sincere desire to contribute as much as is in my power to the advantage and public satisfaction,

“Gentlemen,

“Your most obedient

“and humble servant,

“F. MESPLET, Printer.”

Such were the words and promises with which the first paper printed in Montreal was launched upon the sea of public favour. The paper, as I have said, was printed in French, and in this respect differs from its namesake, the Quebec *Gazette*, from which it may be inferred that in those days the English-speaking population was relatively greater in Quebec than in Montreal. There is another distinction, however, in the “Addresses” which ushered the two papers respectively into existence, which may be said to have been a prophecy of the future. At that time, there is no question that Quebec was commercially the more important town, although in obedience to a law which seems universal, and which causes the ocean vessel to penetrate as far inland as the conditions of navigation will admit, ships struggled up to this port. Yet in the prospectus of the Quebec *Gazette* no prominence is given, no mention even is made of commercial interests; while in that of the Montreal *Gazette* this feature is made a distinctive one, the first object mentioned being that “trade and commerce will be carried on with a greater facility,” and in each

paragraph mention is made of it, even the name of the paper being the "Commercial and Literary Gazette." I am bound, however, in all candour, to say that trade and commerce are scarcely referred to in the volume before me. The printer seems to have felt this difficulty, for in his salutatory article, in the first number, he said :—

"I had proposed to fill the sheet with public advertisements and with matter which might be interesting to commerce. Both are wanting for the present. Few advertisements, seeing that the paper is not yet known; you know as well as me, gentlemen, the present position of our commerce; in consequence I believe I will have no complaints against me in respect of these two matters."

One of

#### THE EARLIEST ADVERTISEMENTS.

printed reminds us of a condition of things now happily passed away. It is of a runaway slave, and is in these words :—

#### "SIX DOLLARS REWARD.

"Ran away on the 14th instant, a slave belonging to the widow Dufy Desautler, aged about thirty-five years, dressed in striped calico of the ordinary cut, of tolerable stoutness. Whoever will bring her back will receive a reward of six dollars, and will be repaid any costs that may be proved to have been incurred in finding her."

It is evident that a very high value was not placed upon slaves in those days, when the reward for the recovery of one was less than is now paid for the recovery of a favorable poodle dog. Much of the paper was taken up with controversy between correspondents, in which the printer, signing himself as such, occasionally intervened, on the subject of an Academy of Science which existed at the time, and particularly in relations to the works of Voltaire, which then, as now, were the subject of lively discussion in Montreal as to their admissibility as works for students. Voltaire found some sturdy defenders, and some equally sturdy opponents, among the latter being the printer of the paper, Mons. Mesplet. Auctioneers, who in these days are only taxed by the Government, were in those days appointed by them as well, as appears by an advertisement of Mr. Joseph Howard, announcing that he had been named by His Excellency Governor Carleton, "Vendue-Master" for the town and district of Montreal, and inviting "all such as may have occasion to dispose of either houses, lands, tenements, household furniture, merchandise, or effects of any kind by public auction in the said district, to apply to Mrs. Howard, who will

"dispose of the same in the absence of her husband." Then, too, as now

#### GOVERNORS CAME AND WENT,

and addresses in those days were, if not in words, certainly in sentiment, identical with those which have recently been presented to Lord Lorne and Lord Lansdowne. In the GAZETTE of the 29th July, 1778, is the following address to Governor Carleton, on his departure from the colony :—

"To His Excellency, Sir Guy Carleton, Knight of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor of the Province, &c. :

"The happy days which we have enjoyed under the mildness of your Government have passed away; but the regrets which your departure cause to all honest and faithful Canadians will never be effaced from our hearts. That which alone consoles us is the thought that His Majesty will call you to fill a more distinguished position than that which our Province affords. We beg Your Excellency to accept our sincere acknowledgments, and to convey to His Majesty the assurance of our zeal and attachment. We will do our best to continue them to our new Governor. We have the honor to be with profound respect,

"Your Excellency's

"Most humble and most

"Obedient servants."

"9th September, 1778."

The merit of this address, as distinguishing it from those with which we are all familiar, is its brevity and directness. The reply was equally remarkable in these respects :—

"QUEBEC, 15th July, 1778.

"GENTLEMEN,—I have abundant thanks to offer you for your kind address of the 9th inst. I wish you all kinds of happiness and prosperity. It is to me a special satisfaction that I leave you under the care and protection of a General whose experience and virtues afford you the happiest anticipations of a wise and equitable government.

"Mr. Sevestre will have the goodness to communicate the above reply to the gentlemen of Montreal who, with him, signed the address of the 9th inst. I am with the greatest esteem,

"Your most humble

"And obedient servant,

"GUY CARLETON.

"Col. Sevestre,

"Commanding the Militia at Montreal."

The number of the 10th August, 1778, contained a copy of the address of welcome to General Haldimand, the in-coming Governor, with an account of the reception of His Excellency in Montreal. By this description it appears that "la Bourgeoisie Anglaise" occupied a first place, followed by the militia and the regular troops, and a feature of the reception was the presence of six hundred

Indians. The address is a model in its way, and I cannot do better than give it:—

"In congratulating your Excellency upon your happy arrival in this city, we have to applaud the choice, always enlightened, which our most august Sovereign has made for the government of this province. The kindness of heart, the matured wisdom, the military ardour which characterize your Excellency, can only assure us our well-being. It suffices us to repeat with joy the exclamation which our heart dictates: LONG LIVE THE KING! LONG LIVE HIS EXCELLENCY!"

(Signed), "NEVEU SEVESTRE."

TRoubles of an Editor in 1778.

The jealousies between the two cities of Quebec and Montreal had made their appearance in those early days, with this difference from the jealousies of to-day, that Quebec being the more important place, the jealousies were on the part of the people in Montreal; and the printer was compelled, in a communication in his own paper, to defend himself against the charge of having unduly favored a couple of Quebecers. "The preference given to two gentlemen of Quebec have been the subject of jealousy. But why, Montrealers, have you not conducted yourselves with equal propriety?" Printers in those days had their troubles because of the practical censorship under which they labored. In the GAZETTE of the 21st April, 1779, Mr. Mesplet was obliged to state his position very definitely, in consequence of a remark from the Bench by Judge Rouville, reflecting upon something which had appeared in his column; and here is his profession of conduct, addressed to the contributors to the paper:—

"There will not be printed in the paper a single paragraph tending to procure public instruction.

"Nor any reflection on the conduct of persons proposed by the Government for the administration of justice, their judgments, even though they should be known and proved to be against the laws, because this is none of our business, and you should submit and consider their judgments with the eye of faith.

"Nor any work which would tend to destroy, or even to cast the least doubt upon their infallibility.

"Nor any writing in which it appears that we seek to diminish the evil despotism which they attribute to themselves; you should respect it.

"Nothing, finally, which could oblige individuals to keep themselves within the limits of duty, of power and of honesty."

There is a vein of satire running through this profession of conduct, which, however, gives us an insight into the condition under which publishing a newspaper a hundred years ago in this good city of Montreal was carried on.

THE "GAZETTE" IN 1788.

But I have dwelt already too long upon this first venture in newspaper publishing in this city. The next volume of which I have seen a copy was ten years later, 1788, and the growth of the English-speaking population may be inferred from the fact that it is printed in English as well as French. Its first number is dated the 5th June and the latest news from Europe contained in it is of the 27th of the preceding February, and from Boston of the 28th April. This latter was an account of some riots in New York, the cause of which is stated in these words:

"On last Monday afternoon a most violent riot took place in this city, which was occasioned by a number of young students in phylsie, who have committed great excesses in taking up persons from the church-yard for dissection, some, as reported, of very respectable character. The populace were extremely enraged, and went in a body of near 5,000 to the hospital, where they found a great number of bones, and many subjects partly dissected, with preparations, &c. This raised a most violent ferment, and they were determined to sacrifice the physicians—four of whom the Mayor confined in jail to prevent their being massacred."

HALIFAX POSTAL ROUTE.

In view of more recent attempts to make Halifax the winter port for Canada, the early efforts to establish it as the postal outlet for these British Provinces are not without interest. The first attempt in that direction is thus announced in an official advertisement, printed in the *Gazette* of those days:—

"GENERAL POST OFFICE,

Quebec, 3rd April, 1788.

"His Majesty's Postmaster-General having thought fit to order packet-boats to Halifax for the months of March, April, May, June, July, August, September and October, with mails for this Province, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and to command me to establish a regular conveyance by post between Quebec and Halifax for the benefit of commerce, by facilitating correspondence, and for the convenience of all His Majesty's subjects.

"It is hereby notified, that from and after the 12th day of this month a mail for Halifax, to pass through Fredericton and the city of Saint John, in the Province of New Brunswick; through Digby, Annapolis, Horton and Windsor, in Nova Scotia, will be closed at this office every Saturday evening at 6 o'clock.

"The American post of letters directed for England, Scotland or Ireland, must be paid before they can be forwarded from any post office in this Province.

HUGH FINLAY.

*Deputy Postmaster-General for the Province."*

Mails were slow in those days. The latest news from Europe, in the GAZETTE of June 5th, was of date the previous January 4th, but

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 d

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 Pownal, 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-

"ing-house desk. No, he has kept whole  
 "and long night vigils, and those not a few,  
 "with scribblers, compilers and printers'  
 "devils." The first article in the paper, the  
 salutation to its readers, is in some respects a  
 quaint production. In the commencement of  
 the present century, it is tolerably evident,  
 the popular impression that everybody could  
 edit a paper much better than the man who  
 was trained to and charged with the perfor-  
 mance of that duty, was about as prevalent as  
 it is to-day. Thus Mr. Cary, expressing his  
 thanks for the encouragement he had received  
 and the suggestions which had been offered to  
 him, said:—

" Though by their coming from opposite and  
 various characters and interests, they are so  
 multifarious, and some of them so contra-  
 dictory, in their natures, that he is placed in a  
 far worse predicament than the old man, his  
 son and his ass in the fable. If ever an apo-  
 logue was realized, this most assuredly is in the  
 case of an editor of an open periodical paper,  
 in a small society, peculiarly constituted like  
 ours, and that in an aggravated degree. Strange  
 to tell! even lawyers and doctors administer  
 advice *gratis*. All are anxious to see them-  
 selves in print. The Parliament man, in his  
 debates; the lawyer in reports of his argu-  
 ments; the soldier in the list of promotions;  
 the merchant in details of his exports and im-  
 ports. The European wishes to be informed of  
 the marriages, births, deaths, and all that re-  
 lates to his friends at home. To him his re-  
 acquaintance is the whole world. One says 'let  
 your paper be a prop to the Government'; another  
 cries, 'We do not want a Government pa-  
 per; we must have a free paper.' Every man is  
 desirous of being gratified in his own way.  
 All which is very natural. Gentlemen, as far  
 as it is here practicable, to the best of the  
 editors abilities, your wills shall all be done. But  
 have candour, have mercy, have indulgence."

And with these convictions of his difficul-  
 ties, Mr. Cary sent his paper out to the pub-  
 lic. How news was to be obtained in a locality  
 where happenings were so few and far between  
 was of course a difficulty, but the editor met  
 the difficulty thus:—

"The want of a minister to bait; of a party  
 to support or asperse; of local revolutions, in-  
 surrections, frequent earthquakes, hurricanes,  
 inundations, hangings, drownings, horrid mu-  
 rders and such accidents is, to be sure, matter of  
 much lamentation and regret to an editor who  
 wishes to interest his readers. To fabricate  
 both them and political events might, perhaps,  
 be a very arduous task; but it is to be appre-  
 hended that in such case Quebec currency  
 might sink in value, even below New York cur-  
 rency. However, if we cannot have them on  
 the spot, nor fabricate them without hazarding  
 our reputation, we must be content with pur-  
 loining them wherever they are to be found."

The latest news from abroad in this num-  
 ber of the *Mercury* is of date 18th October, or  
 about eleven weeks old. There are extracts

from two manuscripts written by the Jesuits,  
 which had come into the hands of the editor,  
 giving the origin of the names Canada and  
 Quebec, the first having been given by the  
 Spaniards to the country which they "had  
 "already visited, if they are to be believed,  
 "and which they despised, saying that there  
 "was nothing to be done or to be got for  
 "them, in so sad a climate. Hence the word  
 "Canada, which in Spanish signifies nothing  
 "here;" and the other from the contraction  
 of the river at that point "from whence the  
 "inhabitants of the country called it Quebec,  
 "which means contraction or *retrecissement*."

The Speech from the Throne at the open-  
 ing of the Legislature on the 9th January,  
 1805, contains but one paragraph of directly  
 local interest, apart from the recommenda-  
 tion of measures in view of the disturbed con-  
 dition of affairs in Europe, and the possi-  
 bility of danger to the British provinces  
 in America. That paragraph was as follows:—

"I have received and shall order to be laid  
 before you, representations relating to the in-  
 sufficiency of the gaol at Montreal, which tend  
 to prove the immediate necessity of your tak-  
 ing this subject into your most serious con-  
 sideration; and which, I trust, will lead, with-  
 out further delay, to the completion of an ob-  
 ject, alike interesting to the feelings of huma-  
 nity, and important to the public security."

The improvement of the city gaol accom-  
 modation as the chief feature in a vice-regal  
 utterance, is rather suggestive alike of the  
 paucity of practical questions and the early  
 development of a criminal class in the popu-  
 lation. There is

#### MUCH WIT AND HUMOR

in this first volume of the *Mercury*, but one  
 instance of which I have time to give. It is  
 a notice headed "Female Promotion," and it  
 is in the following terms:—

"The *Brevet* for old maids will appear in our  
 next. It is therefore requested that all ladies,  
 of the age of 30 and upwards, will send in their  
 names, post paid, to Mr. Thompson, hair-  
 dresser, in order to their promotion from the  
 disconsolate rank of *Miss* to that of *Mistress*.  
 "Note.—This is the last time of asking."

In subsequent numbers follow amusing  
 letters in response to this notice, signed  
 "Elvina," "Tabitha Bramble," "Jemima  
 Fondlechild," "Lucretia," "Sarah Sap-  
 less," and a number of other equally sugges-  
 tive names; the trick of the trade, which is  
 sometimes resorted to even yet, of provoking  
 correspondence upon some interesting or  
 amusing topic of local concern, being evi-  
 dently of very old date. Quack medicines  
 were in those days constructed apparently

much after the fashion of the present day. In the *Mercury* of February 16th, 1805, there is very clever satire "on the bombastic style of recommending quack medicine advertisements." It is of Dr. Simon Ramrod's discovery of the "Essential Tincture of Gridiron, otherwise called Nature's Grand Restorative," and it embodies a number of certificates of cures only a couple of which I have time to quote:—

"Not long since, riding on the highway, my horse stumbled and fell, and so lamed himself as to be unable to proceed. I heard of a phial of the *Tincture of Gridiron* in the neighbourhood, and suddenly found myself at the end of my journey without further trouble.

"JONA SPEEDWELL."

And here is a still stronger certificate:—

"Walking not long since near the machinery of a mill, I was caught and carried between two cog-wheels, and every bone in my body broken to pieces. A phial of Ramrod's Tincture of Gridiron, being thrown into the mill-pond, I found myself restored, and as whole and sound as a roach.

"DICK WHIRLIGIG."

But I have lingered long enough on this first volume of *Mercury*, which is full of interest and of curious information. I have seen the press upon which it is said that first number was worked, an old-fashioned wooden press, the ink being distributed by a pair of composition balls, instead of rollers.

There is not much of local interest to be found in these old newspapers outside of the advertisements which tell of the advancement of trade and commerce. A correspondent, however, urges, the Provincial Parliament being in session, that the occasion was a fitting one to introduce the subject of a bank. "The utility of such an institution," says the correspondent, who signs himself "An Englishman," "seems to be generally admitted, and, as we are all suffering for want of circulating capital, no period can be more proper in which a remedy should be attempted. I do not mean now to enter into an argument on the merits of the question, but rather to awaken public attention to induce merchants and private gentlemen to consider how the former can best extend their credit, and the latter place their moneys in a permanent fund, from which a reasonable interest may be derived." And he urges that "little local jealousies should cease, and that we should unite for our common benefit," a bit of advice which has always been applicable to communities, but unfortunately too seldom acted upon.

#### THE PRINTER'S COMPLAINTS

The printer in those days had to complain of the want of appreciation, or shall I say of common honesty, on the part of subscribers, and I find the following pathetic appeal in verse, which I have no doubt will make many a publisher of to-day exclaim that human nature has been the same in all ages. The appeal is entitled Toby's soliloquy:—

"'Tis strange! 'tis most prodigious strange,  
That our subscribers are so CARELESS grown  
About paying their arrears. They cannot think  
That we alone, who publish to the world  
News from all nations, and delight to spread  
Useful information through our spacious land,  
Can, meanwhile, *live on air*. 'Tis *Flesh and Blood*,

That works the Press, and turns the blackened sheet,

Well stored, and ready for their eager eyes.  
This flesh and blood must be recruited oft  
As well as their's, or soon the work must stop:  
This calls for CASH. And then how many  
*Reams*

*Of Paper* are struck off and scattered wide,  
For which no length of credit will be given,  
If given at all—besides the *types and ink*,  
And many things required by those who print,  
For which our money must be answerable.

Oh that the readers would consider this!  
And while they, laugling, look the paper o'er,  
And gather information from its page,  
Would pause, and this one simple question  
ask:

*Do I owe for one, two, three or more  
Years past, the printer who supplies me with  
This sheet?* 'Oh! that they will only add,  
*I'll go at once and pay him!!!* So should we  
Well pleased give, and with light hearts  
Pursue our useful toil, while conscience would  
applaud

Their conduct, and give relish to the treat.  
We may reprieve. Come then good friends, and  
*soon*,

The *Montreal Herald* made its appearance in 1811, and except as to a few official advertisements, was printed exclusively in English, the *GAZETTE* still continuing the use of the two languages. Among the advertisements began to appear some very familiar names, such as those of Messrs. Cuvillier & Co., M. Benaiah Gibb, and others. It is evident from an advertisement of the latter that the printers were not the only persons who had to complain of forgetfulness on the part of their debtors, as "urged by the precarious situation of the times," he gives notice to those whose accounts are long standing "and who have been repeatedly called upon to settle to no effect" that the claims will be given to an attorney for collection.

#### CANADIAN LOYALTY IN EARLY TIMES.

It is difficult to obtain a list of the early newspapers published in this city, and within the limits of a lecture it would be impossible

to say much about them. The *Canadian Courant and Montreal Advertiser* was started in 1806, at least so I infer from the fact that a copy which I have of it is number 42 of the fifth volume, and is of date February 17th, 1812, it being at the time a weekly paper. The American war of 1812 was then the subject of discussion, and the *Courant* bears evidence of the loyal spirit of the Canadians of that day. In poetry an "admonition to the Yankees" is given, extending to sixteen stanzas, of which the following is a fair sample:—

Friend Jonathan desperate that day'll be to thee  
American pride will then be laid low,  
Our wooden walls battery with terror you'll see,  
And in anguish regret all your blood that must  
flow.

In addition to this there is copied from the *Quebec Gazette* a very ably written address to His Excellency E. Gerry, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, commenting upon a speech delivered by him to the Legislature of that State on the 10th January that year, a speech in relation to which the writer says "though so much extravagance in matter, and so much tap-room phraseology as it expresses, would have protected it from notice, it acquires some little importance from the station you occupy and the times we live in." After an elaborate and learned defence of British policy, the address concludes with this tribute to the loyalty of the Canadian people; a loyalty which has remained unimpaired to the present day. "You might too be disappointed in your hopes on Canada. You think meanly, and therefore wrongfully, of the people, because they do not pass their time in hurrying at elections and town meetings. They are attached by habit, gratitude and good faith to the government, and under able conduct will most cruelly undeceive you as to their disposition or ability to defend their king, their country and their altars." An opinion which the result of the war record pretty fully justified. The latest news in this number of the *Courant* covers a period from September 12th to December the 24th, the very latest being therefore about seven weeks after date. It contained particulars of British victories and of the surrender of Batavia and the whole of the Island of Java west of the Trenchon to His Majesty's arms. There is not a line relating to local affairs. In the *GAZETTE* of that year we have a notice of an application to Parliament by Mr. John Molson, for "a law

"giving him the exclusive right and privilege of constructing and navigating a steam-boat, or steamboats, or of causing a steam-boat or steamboats to be constructed or navigated within the limits of this Province." Mr. Francois Gagon, in another advertisement, "having invented a new method of working ferry-boats, gives public notice that he will apply to the Legislature at the next session for an exclusive privilege for working the same."

#### OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE, 1812.

On the 2nd March, 1812, the *GAZETTE* printed the speech with which Gov. Prevost opened the Legislature, and the addresses in reply to the same. The speech dealt with the triumphs of British arms in Europe, "the deliverance of Portugal and the rescue of Spain from the tyranny of the chief ruler in France;" called attention to the fact that while Great Britain "had her political existence involved in the fate of surrounding nations," Canadians had "hitherto undisturbed \* \* \* viewed without alarm the distant storm which now seems bending its course towards this peaceful and happy region;" and it called upon the Legislature to make provision for the contingency of war with which the province was threatened. The clause referring to the ordinary work of the Legislature was as follows:—

"I look to your public spirit, and your love of the general good, for the amelioration of the internal communications throughout the province for the increase of commerce and the encouragement of agriculture, so that the most distant inhabitant may become sensible of the sollecitude entertained for his comfort and welfare by the Government protecting him."

The reply to this speech by the two Houses of the Legislature was a thoroughly loyal one. One paragraph from that of the Legislative Council is worth quoting as embodying the sentiments of Canadians then, as happily it has embodied them at all times since the country passed under British rule:—

"The astonishing changes which mark the age in which we live have had no influence either upon the tranquillity or upon the gratitude or loyalty of His Majesty's Canadian subjects. We have witnessed the awful scenes which desolate Europe as distant spectators, but we have viewed them as scenes in which we were deeply concerned, and contemplated them as lessons of instruction. We have felt that the political existence of Great Britain has been threatened by the fate of surrounding nations. But having also felt that our own welfare depended upon hers, we have, at all times been ready to sustain that portion of the



evils which the great contest in which she is engaged, and the chance of war, may throw upon us, as becomes the character of British subjects and the obligations of a favoured people. We are aware of the important duties which the storm that now seems bending its course towards this hitherto peaceful and happy region, may require; and we are prepared to discharge them with no common energy, and with no ordinary exercise of that loyalty which we profess.

And the Legislative Assembly was not less emphatic. It said:—

Should the wise measures and magnanimous conduct of the Prince Regent, fail to operate a change in the unfriendly disposition and hostile character of the Government of the United States, sensible as we are that it will require no common energy to withstand these effects and perform the important duties which will devolve upon us, we confidently assure your Excellency, that in the loyalty, unanimity, and zeal of his Majesty's Canadian subjects, you will find resources, under the protection of Divine Providence, fully adequate to the crisis."

The Canadian people were, unhappily, soon after called upon to give effect to these professions of loyalty, and their conduct showed how sincere those professions were.

#### HUDSON'S BAY TO MONTREAL.

On the 9th March, 1812, there is a paragraph announcing the arrival in Montreal of Mr. McNab, late chief officer at Surrat, one of the Hudson Bay Company's factories, with three companions, after an arduous journey of seventy-six days. They had come from Moose Fort Factory, at the head of James Bay, "to inform the Hudson Bay Company "through the channel of the American ports, of the safety of their ship, "the Prince of Wales, which sailed from "Moose road on the 10th of October last for "England; and after proceeding on her voyage for several days was driven back by "contrary winds and dreadfully cold weather, attended with snow, which gave the "ship the appearance of a pyramid of ice, "and consequently made her nearly ungovernable. But, however, from the attention "and remarkable perseverance of Captain "Hanwell and his crew, she was providentially conducted into Stratton's Sound, "where Captain James wintered many years "ago." That seventy-six days' journey can now be made with great comfort in less than one-sixth of the time; and in a few years, when the Hudson's Bay Railway is completed, and regular lines of steamships are carrying from the ports of the bay the produce of the Great Northwest, the journey of Mr. McNab and his companions will be to us

what the journeys of the early voyagers up the St. Lawrence and through the Canadian lakes are to us to-day.

#### THE VINDICATOR, PILOT, &c.

Up to the time of the publication of the *Vindicator*, which was the first English paper published in the interest of the Liberal party, the English newspapers had all been representatives of what, in those days, was known as the British party. I have not obtained the exact date of the publication of the *Vindicator*; but it was certainly published in 1832, its editor, Mr. Tracy, playing an important part in the politics and political discussions of the day, and having in 1832 suffered imprisonment along with Mr. Duvernay, of *La Minerve*. The imprisonment created great feeling, and an account of a meeting in Quebec to which it gave rise, by Mr. Chauveau, is quoted by Mr. LeMoine in his "Picturesque Quebec":—

"One bright frosty evening of January, 1832, at the close of a numerously attended public meeting held at the Ottawa Hotel, to protest against the arrest of Messrs. Tracy, editor of the *Vindicator*, and Duvernay, editor of the *Minerve*, the good citizens of Quebec, usually so pacific, rushed in a noisy procession, led by a dozen students wearing tri-coloured ribbons in their buttonholes, and sang the *Marseillaise* and the *Parisienne*, under the windows of the Chief Justice, whose ear was little accustomed to such a concert.

"Among the fiery youthful leaders, the fondest in their patriotic outbursts, there was one who would then have been much surprised had any one predicted that, after being President of the Legislative Council, Prime Minister of the Canadas, and Knighted by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in person, he would one day as Lieutenant-Governor, enter in state this same former residence of Chief-Justice Sewell, while the cannon of Britain would roar a welcome the flag of England stream over his head, and a British regiment present arms to him."

This reference was to Sir Narcisse Fortinatus Belleau, but the incident recalls a fact worthy of remembrance, that the Crown of England has had no more loyal subjects than those who in those early days even went the length of taking up arms in the cause of Responsible Government and constitutional liberty, a fact which affords a remarkable vindication of the wisdom of the later colonial policy of the Empire. The *Vindicator* succumbed to the troublesome times preceding the rebellion, and, until after the Union, no further attempt was made to revive an English newspaper in Montreal in the same interest. The *Pilot*, established by Mr. Hincks in 1844, had for its first printer Mr. Michael Reynolds, afterwards Mr. Donoghue,



ane then in 1848 passed into the hands of Mr. Rollo Campbell. It was the first Reform paper in this city after the Union, and it had for its editor Mr. Hincks, now Sir Francis Hincks, who, although representing in Parliament an Upper Canada constituency, Oxford, took up his residence in Montreal to fight the battle of his party. Mr. William Bristow and Mr. Matthew Ryan were both editorial contributors to the *Pilot*, and the party controversies between it, and the *Herald*, under the editorship of Mr. David Kinnear, and the *GAZETTE* under the editorship of Mr. Abraham, and afterwards of Mr. James Moir Ferres, were very severe. The *Courier*, under the editorship of John Turner, was in those days a vigorously conducted paper of the extreme Tory stripe, and the *Commercial Advertiser*, under the editorship of that incisive writer, the late Mr. Parsons, was in its time a newspaper of great influence.

#### MR. JOHN LOVELL'S NEWSPAPER VENTURES.

The oldest living printer in Canada to-day, still actively engaged in the business, is Mr. John Lovell, and from him I have obtained the following particulars of the *Transcript*, which, in its day, was very popular as a family newspaper:—

The Montreal *Transcript* was started in 1835, by a young man of the name of Wilson, as a tri-weekly, demy 4 to. It was sold for one penny a copy and was printed by Mr. John Lovell. At the end of three weeks it proved a failure, and on Mr. Lovell accepting the title in payment of the debt due him, Mr. Wilson left the city for New York. Mr. Lovell succeeded in getting the late Robert Johnson, Esq., of the Ordnance office, to edit the *Transcript*. The paper proved a commercial success. In 1836, the late Mr. Donald McDonald became the owner, and continued its publication with a satisfactory compensation, as a daily, tri-weekly and weekly until July 1865, when he sold to Messrs. Gibson & McGrath. They continued publication at a very heavy loss until December, 1866. Mr. John Lovell being the printer was compelled to assume the liabilities, and was induced by *fine promises* to continue the *Daily Transcript* under the title of *Daily News*. He also continued the *Weekly Transcript*. He risked a large sum of money in publishing both papers.

The fine promises were not kept, consequently in September, 1872, both publications were discontinued with a loss of over \$60,000.

Mr. Lovell's experience has not been an altogether singular one. Too many papers in Canada have proved unsuccessful as business investments; although we may fairly look forward, with the growth of the country, to a better condition of things in the future. The *Witness*, started in 1846 by Mr. John Dougall, as a temperance and religious paper, and the

*Star* started in 1869, by Mr. Graham, are both so familiar to the public that special reference to them is unnecessary. That they have been successful ventures is a matter for general congratulation.

#### THE FRENCH-CANADIAN PRESS.

A notice of the growth of the newspaper press in this Province and city would be very incomplete without some reference to the French-Canadian press and the important part it has played in the intellectual and political development of the country. The first newspaper published in the interest of the French-Canadians was *Le Canadien*, of Quebec, a newspaper which still retains its position as the leading French newspaper of its district. Its first number appeared on the 22nd November, 1806, its first editor, announced as such, being Mr. Antoine Bouthillier; although as in the case of many of the French newspapers, it was really the organ of a committee, the leaders of the French party of that time, Bedard, Blanchet, Borgia, Bourdages, Plante, Tschereau and others controlling its opinions. It may be said to have been the first party political newspaper in Lower Canada, as we understand that term to-day, being strongly opposed to the governing party, its editor having been imprisoned for a number of months and the publication of the paper stopped by order of the late Chief Justice Sewell. Its recognized publisher was Mr. Jacques Viger, subsequently known as Commander Viger, having been decorated by Pope Gregory XVI. *Le Canadien* was suspended for some years, and on its reappearance in 1827 had as its editor the late Mr. Etienne Parent, a journalist of wonderful vigor, who was subsequently and for many years Under-Secretary of State. *La Minerve* was the first French paper—that is, the first paper published as the organ of the French-Canadians—in Montreal. It was started in 1827, by Messrs. A. N. Morin and Duvernay, Mr. Morin subsequently playing an important role in public affairs, as speaker of the Legislative Assembly during the Baldwin-Lafontaine regime; as joint leader of the Government with Mr. Hincks, now Sir Francis Hincks, and afterwards as Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench. *La Minerve*, on the failure of the rebellion, and the exile of its publishers, ceased publication between 1837 and 1842. At the time of its stoppage Mr. John Phelan was its editor, and on its resumption he as-

sumed the same position, which he retained until 1844, when he was replaced by Gerin Lajoie, he in 1847 giving place to Mr. Belmare, the present chief officer in the Inland Revenue Department in this city. Mr. Belmare, who was an able and vigorous writer, continued until 1855, when he accepted a position under the government. Meanwhile, another paper had been started. Mr. Benjamin Viger quarrelled with Mr. Lafontaine in relation to the action of Lord Metcalfe, in the crisis of 1843, Mr. Viger sustaining the Government. In order to promote his views he started a newspaper, *L'Aurore des Canada*, in 1844, Mr. Barthe, who is now one of the very few survivors among those who sat in the first Parliament of United Canada, taking the editorship.

#### L'AVENIR AND THE ROUGE PARTY.

In 1848 *L'Avenir* was issued, and perhaps no paper ever issued in Canada was more remarkable for the intensity of its opinions, and for the excitement those opinions created. Mr. Papineau had just returned from exile; he came back a supporter of Mr. Lafontaine, issuing a very strong manifesto in his support, and in support of the Baldwin-Lafontaine Government. But within a few months he changed his opinion, and issued a manifesto as strongly against them, taking decided ground in favor of republican institutions. It was in connection with this that *L'Avenir* was started, and the Rouge party formed, or rather consolidated. The chief editorship of the paper was in the hands of the late Mr. John Baptiste Eric Dorion, who was better known by the soubriquet *L'Enfant Terrible*, and who afterwards, in a newspaper which he published in Arthabaska, proudly called himself "*Redacteur, cultivateur et representant du peuple.*" But the columns of the paper were controlled by a committee of young men, many of whom entered Parliament in 1854. There were among them, Papin, Daoust, Laberge, Blanchet, the three Dorions, Doutre, Laflamme, and others, men full of conviction and of enthusiasm, but as impracticable as they were honest and enthusiastic. The tone of the paper proved compromising to its party. Its advocacy of annexation drove from it the sympathy of the British population, while its advanced views on the subject of the Church, its advocacy of a policy of secularism, brought down upon it the determined hostility of the Roman Catholic Bishops and Clergy. Mr. De Montigny

started *Le Moniteur*, which also was a rouge paper, but somewhat more moderate in its tone. Neither of these papers lived very long, and *Le Pays* was started in 1851, as the organ of the Rouge party. It was edited by Mr. Daoust and Mr. Dessaules, and afterwards by Mr. Labreche Viger, and its aim was to relieve its party from the odium which the extravagances of *L'Avenir* had brought upon it, a task which I trust I may be permitted to say without the imputation of introducing politics into this lecture, has been the life labour of the leaders of the party ever since.

#### OTHER FRENCH NEWSPAPERS.

About the same time, Mr. Alfred Rambeau started *La Patrie* in the interests of the Conservatives, or rather of the section of the French party which followed Mr. Lafontaine, and which, on the coalition of 1854, became, and has since continued to be, the Conservative party of this Province. On the death of Rambeau, the editorship was assumed by Ferdinand de la Ponterie, a gentleman who had recently come from France. In 1855 *La Patrie* suspended publication and de la Ponterie assumed the editorship of *La Minerve*, vacant by the retirement of Mr. Belmare. There were some other papers, such as *Le Colonisateur*, which had for editors Mr. Mousseau, Mr. Adolphe Ouimet and Mr. L. O. David; *Le Revue Canadien*, established by Octave Letourneaux in 1848; *L'Opinion National*, started by the once famous Mederic Lanctot, which aspired to be a workingman's organ, and was bitterly opposed to Confederation. In enterprise the French papers have progressed quite as rapidly as their English contemporaries; and considering the disadvantages under which they labour, the news coming to them in English, and requiring to be translated, no one who knows anything about the work of a daily newspaper office, can do otherwise than wonder at the success they have achieved as newspapers.

#### NEWSPAPER DEVELOPMENT.

The marked development of newspaper enterprise dates back to about half a century. Fifty years ago, when the City of New York had a population of about a quarter of a million the aggregate circulation of the eleven newspapers published at the time was only 26,500, the largest circulation being that of the *Morning Courier and New York Enquirer*, 4,500. A very much larger circulation was in fact, in those days on this continent, an almost physical impossibility. Down to 1822

the best press was the Washington, upon one of which I have worked many a day. Then came the power press of Daniel Treadwell, of Boston, the first use of which was in New York by the American Bible Society and the American Tract Society. Then, in 1830, came the Adams press, which, with improvements, is still a favorite for book work in some printing offices. In England there had been an earlier invention of the fast printing machine, the *Times* having been printed as early as 1814 upon a cylinder press invented by Freiderich Ronig, a German machinist. The first really fast printing machine was used on the London *Times* in 1848, having eight impression cylinders and turning off from 8,000 to 12,000 impressions an hour. But fast printing machines were too expensive luxuries, for Canadian papers in those days. Indeed, it is only within the last thirty-five years that a cylinder press has been found in a Canadian newspaper office. The improvements in printing machinery, the application of steam to its working, the invention of the telegraph, the multiplication of railways and the consequent rapidity of inter-communication, these have been the factors in the marvellous development of newspaper enterprise. It may be that that enterprise has, so far as Canadian newspapers are concerned, somewhat outrun the field. No man has made a fortune out of newspaper enterprise in this country, while a great deal of money has been sunk in the attempt to maintain it. But the wants of the public have to be met. The passion for news, like jealousy, grows by what it feeds on, and this passion has developed a form of newspaper enterprise in these days which I confess I am conservative and old-fashioned enough not to admire. I mean

#### THE PASSION FOR SENSATIONALISM.

This passion is so intense that in the effort is minister to it nothing is sacred. The interviewing system, an excellent form sometimes of communicating valuable information to the public, has been so abused that it is almost a dangerous thing for a man, especially if he has any public position, to

venture an opinion in presence of a newspaper reporter. Even the sanctity of home is invaded, and the family skeletons dragged from their cupboards, and dished up in spiciest form to minister to the prurient tastes of the public. There is a tendency to make everything give way to the one idea of selling the paper. I venture to think that this is an unfortunate tendency on the part of the press, which to-day, in its influence upon the opinions of men and the tone of society, occupies a position far in advance of the pulpit. The tendency is American in its origin; it is finding its development in the so-called society newspapers in England, and it has made its appearance in some quarters in Canada, although not to so general an extent as on the other side of the line. There is another phase of development in enterprise which is, however, more pleasant, and to the public more valuable, namely the wonderful extent to which the telegraph is used in the supply of daily news. I believe, taking into account the field upon which they have to depend, that the Canadian newspapers stand in the very front rank in this kind of enterprise. Every day news from all parts of the world, up to the very hour of going to press in the morning, is served up to the reader at his breakfast table. During the sessions of Parliament several columns are printed every morning of the proceedings of the night before. On one occasion, a budget night, one Montreal morning paper contained nineteen columns of matter, every line of which was written in Ottawa after five o'clock of the previous evening, telegraphed to Montreal, re-written in the telegraph office here, set up in type, the proofs read and corrected, the paper printed, the early mails served, and the delivery to subscribers in the city accomplished, so that the matter could be read at the early breakfast table. When we compare this with the early beginnings in newspaper enterprise, I think I may fairly say that in this form of development the citizens of Montreal have no good ground for complaint.

At the close, on motion of Dr. F. W. Kelley, a hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. White for his interesting and valuable lecture.

