

was the Prince Edward Island *Register* of 1837. The two Prince Edward Island newspapers both with wide circulations to-day, *viz.*, the *Patriot* and *Guardian*, date back to 1857 and 1891, respectively.

The early Maritime press was notable for its stand in connection with the struggle for the freedom of the press and responsible government, and the outstanding figure in these struggles was Joseph Howe, certainly one of the greatest publicists Canada has had.

Lower Canada.—Journalism in the old Province of Canada began soon after the transfer of Canada to Great Britain. Prior to the cession there had been no regular journals in the Province. The first newspaper to be published here and the second in what is now Canada was the *Quebec Gazette*, founded in 1764, at which time the *Halifax Gazette* had already been in existence for twelve years. The senior proprietor, Wm. Brown, was Scottish-born but came from Philadelphia, and, through his sponsor, Dunlop, had an indirect connection with the great Benjamin Franklin. The paper itself was printed in alternate columns of English and French with the stated purpose of affording "a weekly lesson of improvement to any inhabitant willing to attain to a thorough knowledge in the language of the place different to that of his mother tongue—whether English or French". Three hundred subscriptions at \$3 each were obtained before operations were commenced and the paper lived for more than a century under different publishers.

The second paper in the Province of Canada was published in Montreal in 1778. This was also a *Gazette* and attempted to enlist the sympathy of French-Canadians for the American Revolution. Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Chase, and Rev. Charles Carroll were the missionaries deputed to proceed to Montreal for this purpose, but a Frenchman, Joseph Fleury de Mesplet, an editor and printer who had been in the employ of Franklin at Philadelphia and who, incidentally, published the first book to be printed in Montreal, *viz.*, *L'Adoration Perpetuelle* in 1776, was chosen to edit the paper for them. The original plans quickly went awry and Mesplet was left with the equipment. He brought out the *Gazette du Commerce et Littéraire* from the celebrated Château de Ramezay as a paper of four eight-column quarto pages, printed in French. The first number was taken up entirely with literary selections, moral and amusing anecdotes, etc., owing to the dearth of commercial intelligence. Indeed there was very little general news in the first issues, and the editor apparently had difficulty in publishing accounts of current events without giving offence to those in authority, who in the end proved too strong for him.

In 1779 Mesplet was arrested and the publication of his paper was suspended but it appears to have been resumed in 1785. By 1788 the *Gazette* had made much progress; the page was now enlarged from quarto to foolscap and printed in double columns in both languages. It was at this time that the paper took on the character of a true newspaper, though literary features were not entirely neglected. Mesplet published the *Gazette* until 1789. About 1794, Lewis Roy, who had established the *Upper Canada Gazette* in 1793, appears to have been associated with the Montreal paper, and in 1795 it passed into the hands of Thomas A. Turner. In 1816-17 James Brown, the pioneer in paper-making in Canada (see p. 752), was its publisher and printer, and the format was again changed. Under the proprietorship of Robert Abraham, who took the paper over in 1844, it became a daily in summer and a tri-weekly in winter and began to take on its modern form. It has since grown to be one of the most prominent and respected papers in the country.