

priests is infinite, although they consider it to be very great. All the Roman Catholics of Canada think that miracles can be performed by the priests. Wherever you go, among the rich as well as among the poor, this is firmly believed. If you enter a Canadian house and begin to speak of the gospel to the people, or attempt to show the erroneous doctrines declared unto them by their pretended spiritual leaders, they will often, without trying to answer your argument, endeavour to astonish you, by relating instances of miracles and wonders done by their priests. If you enquire whether they were eye-witnesses of the miraculous cures, &c., they will generally answer, "No, but my grandmother saw it," or, "the priest said so last Sabbath, in his sermon."

As to the Pope, many Canadians hardly know what to think of him. He is to most of them a divine person, invested with almost supreme power, wisdom, knowledge and goodness. A Canadian woman asked a gentleman with whom I was acquainted, if the Pope had ever been a helpless infant. She could not conceive or bear the thought, that he had been a poor, helpless, little crying baby. A superstitious notion held by some of them is, that the Pope frequently finds under his pillow a letter sent from heaven, to declare unto him the will of the Most High. They farther imagine, that the heavenly knowledge communicated to the Catholic pontiff in this manner, is revealed by him to the cardinals and bishops; that from the bishops it goes to the priests, by whom, finally, it is given to the people.

Another superstitious belief entertained by all is, that there is a general resurrection of the dead on All Saints' Day. They would not be induced to work on that day for any thing. Some think that if they should plough, blood would gush out in the furrows.

In the evening of that sacred day, they shut themselves up in their houses for fear of being attacked by some ghost that has been left in purgatory on account of the parsimony of his friends, who have not paid for a sufficient number of masses. A Canadian would not walk through a burying-ground in the evening of that day for almost any sum of money. Another notion prevalent among some was related to me by a young man who had left the church of Rome. The people, where he was brought up, thought that Satan was fastened to a very great and strong chain, but that he so much desired to get loose, to prey upon the souls of men, that he constantly gnawed at one of the links to cut it asunder. They believed he could get loose in this manner, in about a year's time; but that every year, at Christmas, just at twelve o'clock at night, the link of the chain was renewed, and thus he was fastened as firmly as ever. "I have been," said the young man, "at midnight mass, and sometimes so affected by this thought, that I fancied I heard the rattling of the chain. I have seen the multitude waiting with the greatest anxiety for the midnight hour. As soon as the clock struck twelve, all was joy and gladness: the danger had passed, the chain was renewed, and the Devil was still bound." The Canadians offer their prayers to the Saints generally.—When they experience great remorse, they invoke every Saint they can think of, believing that among the great number they surely will find some one to plead and intercede for them.

One of the greatest impediments to the spread of the gospel among the Canadians, is their firm belief, that the Bible needs to be interpreted by the priest. Though they may read in the New Testament passages in direct contradiction to the doctrines which they hold, they are not in the least convinced of the absurdity of