

St. Joachim is the Petit Cap, a thickly wooded mound, rising about 150 feet above the green meadow.

In full view of the passing river steamers may be seen, through a gap in the woods, the Château Bellevue. The historian Parkman thus sums up his impressions after visiting this famous retreat :

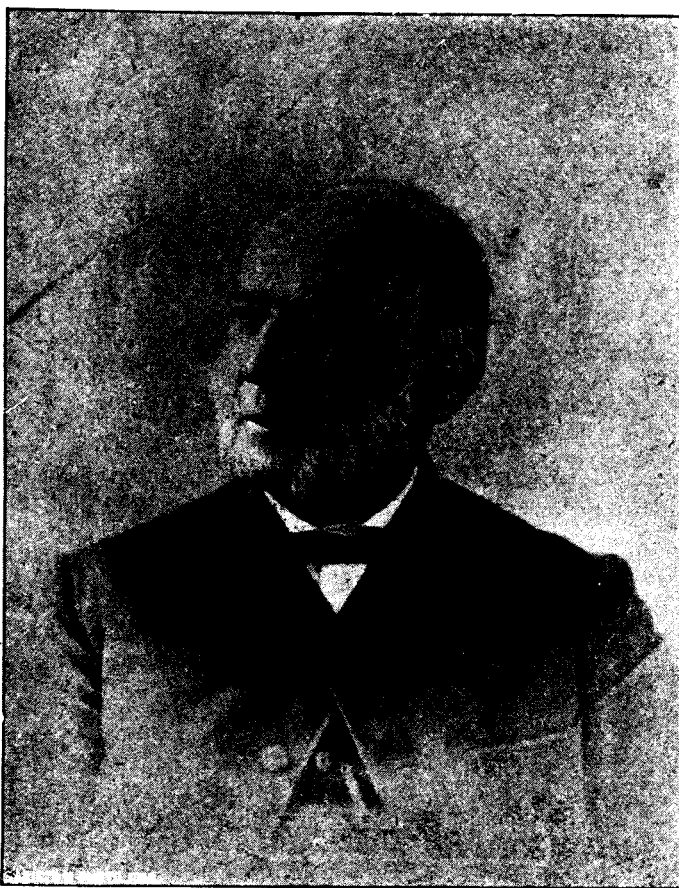
"The Château Bellevue is a long and massive building of limestone, situated near the foot of Cape Tourmente, and surrounded by noble old forests, in which are shrines of St. Joseph and the Virgin. The château is furnished with reading and billiard rooms, etc., and is occupied every summer by about forty priests and students from the Seminary of Quebec. The neat chapel of St. Louis de Gonzaga (the protector of youth) is south of the château.

"Near this point Jacques Cartier anchored in

1535, and was visited by the Indians, who brought him presents of melons and maize. In 1632 Champlain came hither from Quebec, and founded a settlement, whose traces are still seen. This post was destroyed by Sir David Kirke's men in 1628, and the settlers were driven away. St. Joachim was occupied in August, 1759, by 150 of the 78th Highlanders, who had just marched down the Isle of Orleans through St. Pierre and Ste. Famille. They were engaged in the streets by armed villagers, and had a sharp skirmish before the Canadians were driven into the forests, after which the Scotch soldiers fortified themselves in the priest's house, near the church.

"In 1670 Bishop Laval opened at St. Joachim a rural seminary in which the youth of the peasantry were instructed. . . . This was the first agricultural college in America."

J. M. LEMOINE.



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