

Let us hear how this precious nun introduces her 'awful disclosures.'

"It is hoped that the reader of the ensuing narrative will not suppose that it is a *fiction* or that the scenes and persons that I have delineated had not a real existence. It is also desired that the author of this volume may be regarded not as a *voluntary participator* in the very guilty transactions which are described; but receive sympathy for the trials which she has endured and the peculiar situation in which her past experience and escape from the power of the Superioress of the Hôtel Dieu Nunnery at Montreal, and the snares of the Roman priests in Canada, have left her. My feelings are frequently distressed and agitated by the recollections of what I have passed through; and by night and by day I have little peace of mind, and few periods of calm or serious reflection. . . . I have given the world the truth so far as I have gone, on subjects of which I am told they are generally ignorant; and I feel perfect confidence that any facts which may yet be discovered will confirm my words, whenever they can be obtained. Whoever shall explore the Hôtel Dieu Nunnery at Montréal, will find unquestionable evidence that the descriptions of the interior of that edifice given in this book were furnished by one familiar with them; for whatever alterations may be attempted, there are changes which no mason or carpenter can make and effectually conceal, and therefore there must be plentiful evidence in that institution of the truth of my description. There are living witnesses also who ought to be made to speak, without fear of penances, tortures, and death; and possibly their testimony at some future time may be added to confirm my statements. . . . It would distress the reader should I repeat the dreams with which I am often terrified at night; for I sometimes fancy myself pursued by my worst enemies; frequently I seem as if shut up again in the convent; often I imagine myself present at the repetition of the worst scenes that I have hinted at or described. Sometimes I stand by the secret place of