

entrenched in it. » « Its site was so advantageous, » continues Father Lejeune » that with ten or twelve pieces of cannon all hostile vessels coming to attack it could be sunk. » (1) Such is the site that St. Anne had chosen for her first residence in New France. But let us not anticipate events.

The work on the fort was already drawing to an end when, to the great astonishment of all, Father de Vieuxpont suddenly made his appearance. He had just escaped a horrid shipwreck in which Father Noyrot and fourteen of the crew had lost their lives. Father Lallemant who was also one of the survivors, in writing on the subject, acknowledges that their safety was due solely to heavenly intervention. « It would be difficult, for me to tell you how Father de Vieuxpont and myself escaped from the wreck, and, I believe God alone knows it and he alone through the designs of his divine providence, preserved us. (2) »

They lost all with the exception of a few things cast up by the sea amid which, marvelous to relate, was found a *large picture* that the waves had respected.

Father Lallemant took advantage of a fishing vessel in the neighborhood to return to Europe, abandoning all that he had saved to his companion in misfortune with the exception, he says, of the *Large Picture* « of which the Basque sailor had taken possession but I intended to make him give it up to me on our return, had not another misfortune happened to us. »

In fact, Father Lallemant landed in Spain only after a second shipwreck in which he lost every thing and had great difficulty in saving himself.

But what, every one will rightly ask, was that *Large Picture* which priests and sailors were so anxious to have? The history does not tell it in so many words but the name given on the spot to important fortifications and to the chapel at Cape Breton clearly indicates that it must have been the picture of our great and powerful patroness (3). The two missionaries in

(1) *Jesuit Relations*, 1635, p. 42.

(2) *Champlain's works*, p. 1290.

(3) In writing these lines we are aware that another interpretation has been given to this passage of history; but ours is, we consider, very admissible.