

" which, we confidently assert, distinguished them from all other nations. (25th June 1680.)

After the example of the founder of the episcopacy in this country, we also can testify to you, O. D. B. B., that the present devotion of the Canadian people towards Saint Anne still distinguishes them from all others. The ever increasing number of churches, chapels and altars dedicated in her honor, the multitude of pilgrims who flock thither from all parts and even from the neighboring provinces and the United States, the frequency of the vows and promises addressed to this great Saint, and, let us say it openly, the wonderful operations of the divine mercy obtained through her intercession, all evidently proves that this confidence in, and devotion to, the holy mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary are to-day as lively as ever in our midst.

Among all the sanctuaries dedicated to Saint Ann in Canada, the most ancient and the most venerable is indisputably the church of Sainte Anne de Beaupré in the diocese of Quebec. By an admirable and affecting disposition of Providence, its origin is connected with another sanctuary celebrated in old France, and it has given birth in Canada to all the other sanctuaries dedicated to this great Saint.

" Having accomplished their pilgrimage in the splendid sanctuary of Sainte Anne d'Auray, writes an author, our ancestors embarked and sailed with confidence on the ocean ; each day her name was on their lips, together with that of her august daughter, during their long and dangerous journey ; when landing on the shores of New France, they knelt down to return thanks to her for having preserved them from so many dangers ; and their first care, when raising in the forest their rustic huts, was to hang on the wall the image of Saint Anne next to the crucifix and the statue of Mary. "

In 1665, seven years are scarcely elapsed since the foundation of the first church of Sainte Anne de Beaupré had been laid, when already numerous miracles had been performed. This is the testimony given by the venerable mother Mary of the Incarnation, foundress and first superior of the Ursulines of Quebec, that *Teresa of the New World*, as she was called by an illustrious bishop of France. This religious, whose beatification and canonisation are pursued at this moment in the Court of Rome, wrote as follows : " Twenty one miles from Quebec, she says, there is a village called the *Little Cape*, where a church of Saint Ann is built, in which our Lord works great wonders in favor of this holy mother of the Blessed Virgin. There the paralytics are seen to walk, the blind to recover sight, and the sick, health, whatever their disease. "

History tells us that, from these first times, the Indians themselves came thither in large numbers from all parts of Canada. " Such