

by. The distance is but twenty-one miles either way, and three hours at most suffice for its accomplishment. Indeed, to the majority of pilgrims their visit to Ste. Anne falls within the compass of a single day. They leave Quebec by boat in the early morning, reach the village in time for breakfast, go first to confession, then to mass, and then to the communion, pay due reverence to the shrine and its sacred surroundings, and return in the afternoon, having first had dinner in one of the numerous inns, where an excellent meal can always be obtained at most reasonable charges.

It is estimated that no less than one hundred thousand pilgrims seek the gracious offices of Sainte Anne every year. From north, south, east, and west, from all parts of the United States, as well as from the Canadian Provinces, the halt, maimed, blind, and dumb, age and those whose troubles lie deeper than the mere miseries of the flesh, gather in pathetic crowds, at the sight of which one is strangely stirred, not only with natural sympathy for their sufferings, but because of the suggestion of those days when "they brought unto Him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases, and torments."

Throughout the long day the church is crowded with relays of worshipers, the most of whom are there in a spirit of unquestioning faith and trustful expectation, although the ubiquitous tourist who has come to see, if not to scoff, may often be observed gazing about him with a half puzzled, half-pitying air. For such there are many interesting objects in the church besides the devout congregation. Over the chief altar is a famous painting by Lebrun, representing two pilgrims, one of either sex, kneeling in supplication at Ste. Anne's feet. Above the side-doors hang much less artistic *ex voto* representations of marvelous escapes from "perils by waters;" at the side-altars are other paintings by the Franciscan monk Lefrançois, who laid down his brush so far back as 1685. But towering high above all the rest, and commanding