

by this loving Mother dates from the very dawn of Christianity, and seems to go as far back as the conversion of those nations to the true faith. We are free to conclude this from revelations made to Nicolazic: (1) "Yves Nicolazic, fear not, I am Anne, the Mother of Mary. Go and tell your pastor that, in the centre of a field known by the name of Bocenno, there was formerly, even before the existence of this village, a famous chapel, the first erected in Brittany in my honor. Nine hundred and twenty-four years and six months to-day, it was destroyed, and I desire it to be rebuilt by thy care: it is God's will that my name be still venerated there."

It was in 1624 that the treasure buried in the Bocenno was revealed to the client of St. Anne. The chapel spoken of, the ruins of which were found at the spot indicated, had been, therefore, demolished about the year 699. But during how many years, perhaps centuries before the existence of Keranna (2), had St. Anne been invoked in this sanctuary, already famous in 699, probably the first place of pilgrimage dedicated to St. Anne in all the western World? Does not a place of pilgrimage ordinarily suppose, in a country, the existence of a well accredited and solidly founded devotion? From the time of its devastation, that is from the seventh to the seventeenth century, the inhabitants of Armorica were generally faithful to the worship practised by their forefathers; the devotion, therefore, survived the disaster, and was perpetuated in other churches, or transmitted as a family inheritance. The contemporaries of Yves Nicolazic even pretexted the existence of a sanctuary where St. Anne was still honored to oppose for the time being the plan of restoring that of the Bocenno.

(1) Yves Nicolazic was the chief instrument of the Saint, rather of God Himself, in the restoration of the pilgrimage of Auray.

(2) Village of Anne.