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SUPERSTITIONS OF THE FRENCH CANADIANS.

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THE Canadians are not deficient in intellect, but in general they are extremely superstitious. This is no doubt the consequence of the very injudicious manner in which they are brought up. The Canadian, from his birth, is placed, as it were, in the lap of superstition. As soon as he can understand his native tongue, the tales of his credulous mother plant in his youthful mind the superstitious notions which form the basis of his future credulity. When he weeps, she silences him with some narrative about the miracles of a priest, or by a thrilling account of apparitions of ghosts or devils. If he shows any inclination to doubt the veracity of some uncommonly unnatural statement, he either has the forcible testimony of his grandmother to prove the truth of what he dares to doubt, or the express command to believe what he cannot understand. Thus he is taught to hearken patiently to all his superstitious mother's stories, and to receive them as first truths. In this manner he grows up, with a mind open to receive every statement which is invested with mystery. — Thus, superstition becomes so universal among the Canadians, that

it is displayed in almost all their affairs.

Some of the most comic indications of their superstitious character were exhibited at the time of the establishment of the Swiss Mission at the Grande Ligne. The general belief they entertained concerning the two first missionaries was, that they were witches. Madame Feller was, in their estimation, the greater one, for she had taught a young girl to read fluently in two weeks, while in other schools this was not accomplished in less than two years! This opinion was for a while so firmly established among the Canadians, that some did not even dare to touch her garments, much less to allow her to come into their houses. A short time after, when the Mission-house was almost finished, the priests thought it expedient to invent some new tale, in respect to the missionaries, that would keep their parishioners from being led astray by the Protestants. From the pulpit resounded declarations, which struck the people with terror. It was stated by the priests that Satan had made a sort of bargain with M. Roussy to this effect:—"This heretic," to use their expression, was en-