

PREFACE

In the Church of Canada, devotion to St. Anne has always been a source of grace and signal favors. The Annals of our country are a lasting proof of it. Scarcely had the Gospel shed its first rays of light upon New France when miracles wrought through the intercession of St. Anne, made of a humble Chapel, on the coast of Beaupré, a place of pilgrimage dear to the early inhabitants of the country.

Mgr. de Laval, first bishop of Quebec, himself a humble pilgrim at the shrine of St. Anne, attests to the devotion of his flock towards the Saint. "We confess" he writes in 1667 "that nothing has helped us so effectively to bear the grave responsibility of our charge, in this new diocese, than the special devotion of the faithful towards St. Anne, devotion that distinguishes them from all other nations."

About the same time, the Venerable Mary of the Incarnation wrote: "Seven leagues below Quebec, at Petit Cap, is a church dedicated to St. Anne in which our Blessed Lord works wonders in favor of the mother of His Mother. Here the paralytic is restored to vigor, the blind see, the lame walk, infirmities of every sort are made disappear."

Two centuries and a half have gone since these facts were written, but to-day as then Beaupré is the Mecca of all human misery and the chosen spot of most extraordinary divine intervention. The faithful crowd to this favored shrine with fervid eagerness to ever find the Holy Mother of heaven's