

she had obtained after many solicitations from the Bishop of Apt. Ever moved by the same piety she further had a mass celebrated every day in the church of Apt, wherein the body of the Saint reposes, to obtain from heaven through her intercession, « the happiness of giving a son to France » (1). Her prayers were granted and on the 5th September 1638 she gave birth to him who was to occupy the throne of France so gloriously under the name of Louis XIV.

On the other hand, in Brittany, ever since the discovery of her statue in the field of Bocenno, in 1624, Ste Anne excited all the population by her apparitions, her miracles and her revelations. People flocked there from all sides. « From a distance of three leagues in every direction, » says the chronicle, « all roads leading to the poor leafy cabin of Bocenno were crowded with processions of pilgrims of every age and of every rank who came to venerate the miraculous image of the holy Mother of the Immaculate Mary (2). » At the laying and blessing of the corner stone of the shrine of Auray on the 26th July 1625 there were not less than thirty thousand pilgrims.

Fathers Vimont, Lallemant and de Vieuxpont, the future missionaries of Canada, were still in France and witnesses of that religious enthusiasm. Champlain was there also and it was only amid the dim of that festival, which resounded to such an extent throughout the kingdom, that he could attend to the weighty interests of his nascent colony. Thus it was with minds full of the recital of St. Anne's marvels that the missionaries and the founder set sail for Canada, the former in 1625 and Champlain in the following year (3). Taught in the same school of events and penetrated with the same sentiments, they were thereafter prepared to fulfil their providential mission.

But in what a sad condition was their field of action ! The tares of heresy grew there in all freedom. Quebec in truth had been founded for nearly twenty years but its progress was barely perceptible owing to the heedlessness of the commercial

(1) *The pilgrimage of Ste Anne d'Apt*, p. 42.

(2) *Guide du pèlerin de St. Anne*, p. 39.

(3) *Champlain's works*, pp 1076 and 1108.