

i.e. a royal house, the palace of our beloved Patroness, whence St. Anne was pleased to dispense her royal bounty. But there was still wanting the holy unction which would bestow on the building a still more sacred character, and the consecration which would devote it for ever to the worship of the one true God, the King of kings, and Lord of lords.

His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Quebec, a devoted and zealous promoter of devotion to St. Anne, responded to the earnest desires of all Canadian Catholics, at home and abroad, by consenting to perform the august function of consecrating the Basilica. This beautiful temple had been erected to the glory of their loved mother by the generous love of the faithful, and it was fitting that it should be rendered still holier, still more august and venerable. It was fitting that solemn possession should be taken of it in the name of the three divine Persons, in that of the Immaculate Queen of Heaven, in that of good St. Anne. It was fitting that the faithful should have a certitude that their dear mother would never have to leave it, that it should always be her home, and that for ever it would be "the house of God and the gate of Heaven."

Everything was prepared for the great solemnity. The Archbishops and Bishops of the Province of Quebec, assembled in the Capital for the Council of Public Instruction, proceeded to St. Anne's in order to render homage to that great Saint, and to take part in the august ceremony. The seven Pontiffs who were to consecrate the Basilica and the altars fasted on the eve and morning of the ceremony. The parishioners of St. Anne's likewise fasted as appointed by the Ritual, in order to draw down the blessings of Heaven on the church and on their families.

On the previous evening, the Bishops and many members of the clergy had come to St. Anne's in the steamboat, having a delightful passage. The weather was like summer, and the lovely scenery of the Beaupré