

were fired by both the Seigneur's family and the peasantry, to emphasize the important festivity, and all good feeling and joy prevailed.

But the grand national holiday of the French Canadians is St. Jean Baptiste's, the 24th of June. It is observed with imposing religious ceremonies, processions of trade, benevolent, religious, and other societies headed by bands of music, with flags and banners exhibiting national and religious emblems and patriotic mottoes, and allegorical cars of most fanciful designs. In the city of Quebec, for instance, one important feature of the procession is the Carillon flag, the old military banner which waved within the ramparts of Ticonderoga, when the English sought in vain to capture it in the time of Montcalm, by whom it was heroically defended, to the glory of himself and his French troops.

This historic emblem and patriotic relic is usually borne by the most respected man in the community, however unmartial his character or appearance. It is always an object of admiring attention, and the bearer also. In the procession there is a representation of St. Jean Baptiste, in the person of a handsome boy of ten or twelve, fancifully arrayed in a fur robe, with a profusion of long, curling hair falling over his shoulders. He reclines in an elegant carriage, decked with maple boughs, a lamb at his feet. The youthful Baptiste carries a shepherd's crook, the whole figure and surroundings making a most effective and beautiful representation of this holy messenger.

All who take part in the procession exhaust their ingenuity, if not their resources, to make a striking display in costumes and accessories, with ribbons, rosettes, flowers and maple leaves in lavish abundance. The whole city or village assumes a gala aspect, the streets being lined with young maples or evergreens, and often spanned with decorated arches, while flags float from roof and windows, and in all directions the booming of guns is heard. The evening is devoted to social festivities, with patriotic addresses and music, "The day, and all who honor it," being a toast received with wild enthusiasm. The memory of brilliant events and heroic episodes in Canadian history is cherished, the sacrifices of the pious and the patriotic being recalled with ardor. Indeed, they enter into this celebration with zeal and pride. It forms the most joyous festival during the summer months, its attractions being enhanced by the perfect days of June.

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