

undertook nothing without her. preaching, prayer, catechism, everything was done in her name. By using her blessed name they summoned the savages to faith and civilization, they unceasingly recalled her life and virtues to them; they inculcated love for her as the motive of their faithfulness to duty. On their side, the savages were docile to this teaching, and conceived such an affection for St. Anne, that successive ages have not diminished it. To this very day it is so great that, according to M^r Painchaud, a former missionary among the Micmacs, in order to obtain from them the sacrifice of a passion or of a bad habit, one has but to say to them. « You grieve the heart of St. Anne, and prove to her that you do not love her. » These words generally suffice to obtain the most striking conversions.

In the minds and language of these artless children of the forest, the words « St. Anne » were synonymous of « Religion » or « Place of prayer. » When they wished to designate an island, a river or some other spot where the « Black Gowns » assembled them together to initiate them in the truths of the faith, they would say for short. « to go to Ste. Anne. » This has become a custom and to this day, after an interval of two centuries and a half, no one ever thinks in the Maritime Provinces of giving any other titular to the chapels of the Indian missions. The diocese of Chatham, for instance, possesses three of these chapels, and all three are called by St. Anne's name. The same may be said of other dioceses.

This burning fire of devotion to St. Anne had already, for twelve years, extended its salutary influence over the whole of the southern portion of New France, when a vaster field, promising a more abundant harvest, was opened to the zeal and devotedness of all the missionaries that the Society of Jesus had at its disposal in Canada. This was the fine and immense region of the great lakes inhabited by the Hurons.

Father Vimont who was so devoted to St. Anne and « who was considered a saint, » (1) had just been appointed Superior

(1) De Rochemonteix : *Les Jésuites de la Nouvelle-France au XVII^e siècle*, vol. 3., p. 186 — Father Vimont had won that reputation by his admirable conduct in attending the French who were attacked by scurvy, during his residence at Ste Anne du Cap Breton.