

that the Saint has heard her prayer. It is extraordinary how many remarkable cures are claimed for the shrine, and many French Canadians firmly believe in its efficacy. The relic through which all these wonderful cures are effected, consists of a part of the finger bone of Ste. Anne, which was sent in 1668 by the Chapter of Carcassonne to Monseigneur de Laval, who made for himself an imperishable name in the political and ecclesiastical annals of Canada. The Church also possesses several pictures of merit, one of them by Le Brun.

[The situation of many of the French Canadian villages is exceedingly picturesque, when they nestle in some quiet nook by the side of a river or bay, or overlook from some prominent hill a noble panorama of land and water. The spire of the stone church rises generally from the midst of the houses, and the priest's residence is always the most comfortable in size and appearance. The houses are for the most part built of wood, except where there is a plentiful supply of dark grey stone in the neighbourhood. The roofs are frequently curved, with projecting eaves, which afford a sort of verandah under which the family sit on summer evenings. Some of the most pretentious structures, especially the inns, have balconies running directly across the upper storey. Many of the barns and out-houses have thatched roofs, which are never seen in any other part of Canada. The interiors of the French Canadian homes are very plainly furnished, in many cases with chairs and tables of native manufacture. A high iron stove is the most important feature of every dwelling in a country where the cold of winter is so extreme. Whitewash is freely used inside and outside, and there is on the whole an air of cleanliness and comfort in the humblest cottage.

The loom is still kept busy in the villages, and a coarse warm homespun ^{or, rather} is made for every day use. The habitant also wears moccasins and a *toque bleue*, or woollen cap, in which he is always depicted by the painter of Canadian scenes. But with the growth of towns and the development of the railway system a steady change is occurring year by year in the dress of the inhabitants, and it is only in the very remote settlements that we can find the homely stuffs of old times. As a rule, however, the