



Album of Saint Anne

THE DEVOTION TO SAINT ANNE IN CANADA

VIII. The Joiners' Confraternity of Madame Sainte Anne

**M**EN fail, change and die ; even monuments wear out, become old and fall ; but institutions remain ; they are the surest and most solid guardians of all things. This principle, ever true, finds its application above all in works of piety and these are all the more durable when founded on more profound convictions and strengthened by a more perfect organization.

Convinced of this truth, the first inhabitants of Quebec soon erected the great devotion to St. Anne, which was already general among all the families, into a confraternity. This was easily done as every one wished to place his person and his undertakings under the patronage of that great Saint. However, to the workmen's class, to the joiners especially, is due the honor or rather the merit of having taken the first steps to attain that end.

Jean Levasseur, a former master of the Ancient Confraternity of Joiners in Paris, was, in truth, the very person to successfully carry out the undertaking. His relations with his former associates and the influence he had gained over his new ones made him the connecting link between Paris and Quebec. He resolutely placed himself at the head of the movement without fear of any difficulties or obstacles and his efforts never ceased until the Confraternity was civilly and religiously erected in Quebec. It must also be stated that his brother, Pierre Levasseur, as well as Pierre Biron, Raymond Pagé alias Quercy, Pierre Miville, Guillaumé Loyer alias Latour, François Gariépy, all joiners, stood always by his side ready to second him in everything tending to that object. This was because, in spite of the difference of their origin, they were all united by the same bond, that of charity or, in other terms, by