

occasioned. Accordingly, in 1676, M. Filion, then curé at Ste. Anne, began the construction of another building on a more advantageous site and imposing scale, which continued to be the resort of pilgrims for nearly two centuries, when it, too, fell a prey to the tooth of time and the relentless severity of Canadian winters. The walls began to show such ominous signs of cracking, and the roof of falling in, that a new church was deemed absolutely necessary. As one looks upon the present edifice, so uncompromisingly modern, and, in fact, garish in both its outward and inward appearance, one cannot help regretting that some means were not found of preserving the quaint old structure that had been hallowed with the prayers and praises of many generations of worshippers. Antiquities having a direct relation with ourselves are all too few on this Western Continent; and even two centuries suffice to impart a flavor of age which is very grateful to those who are wearied with the universal newness of things. By such, indeed, a slight *soupeçon* of comfort may be obtained at Ste. Anne from a tiny chapel standing a little to the left of the present church, and wearing a look of age in spite of its modern architecture, that is somewhat puzzling, until we are informed that it was built out of the ruins of the ancient sanctuary.

I have already shown that the fame of Ste. Anne de Beaupré, although it may be said to have obtained its full proportions only within recent days, was well established from the earliest period of its history. Not content with seeking to inspire in their own countrymen that devotion to the patron saint they felt to be her due, the missionaries of those proselytizing times were equally anxious that their dusky converts should possess like precious faith, and they spread abroad her praises with such good effect that year after year the Christianized Indians flocked in increasing numbers to worship at her shrine.