sight of the shrine containing the relics strikes the
soul of the pilgrim, deeply moves him, and makes him
feel something of the religious emotion he would
experience in the presence of the Saint herself. Let us
then often go to visit these sacred remains, let us
approach the shrine, and kiss the relics with great
faith, so as to receive therefrom some blessing."

The facts contained in the foregoing document are
rigorously exact; the church of Apt became, in fact,
from the eighth century, the centre of a devotion which
went on always increasing, and of which there are few
examples in ecclesiastical history. This affluence of
the faithful for centuries past might serve as a theme
for useful and interesting relations. What scenes, what
varied pictures the history of this ancient pilgrimage
would offer to the writer's pencil! Who might count
the illustrious personages who were seen kneeling
before the glorious remains of Saint Anne? They have
been venerated in turn by Sovereign Pontiffs, by
Patriarchs, Cardinals, Archbishops, and by all the
orders of the Catholic hierarchy; Monarchs, Queens,
illustrious warriors, statesmen, persons of all conditions
and of all times have come to kneel humbly in this
ever-blest sanctuary. Innumerable *ex-votos*, recalling
gratefulness for benefits received, have been suspended
to its walls by visitors coming from the most distant
countries. With what interest might we not follow
these holy travellers back to their native country!
Filled with deep gratitude, each according to the
means in his power, they proclaimed the praises and
the goodness of their motherly benefactress, and
efficaciously spread about her worship With the help
of like researches, following the footsteps of those
pious pilgrims, we might perhaps succeed in dispelling
obscurities, and in filling those gaps which we some-
times meet with in the history of the devotion to
St. Anne. That zeal and fervor were eclipsed, it is true,
or rather grew cold in the unhappy periods of our
annals, during the religious wars, and especially during