

did not God make all the commandments? Answer: Because man is not strong enough to keep them. Question: Why are men not to read the New Testament? Answer: Because the mind of man is too limited and weak to understand what God has written. These questions and answers are *not to be found in the common catechisms* in use in Montreal, and other places where I have been, but all the children in the Congregational Nunnery were taught them, and many more not in these books."

Well might Maria say that she had never *read* these questions and answers, and that they are not to be found in the common catechism. The first question is an absurdity in itself, and the propriety of the second may be judged of by those who take the trouble to look into the Missal used by the Catholic laity, which they will find almost wholly composed of extracts from the New Testament.

We now begin to see a little of this lady's character. Her first acquaintance with the Black Nunnery arose from a service it conferred upon her.

"In the Black Nunnery is an hospital for sick people from the city, and sometimes some of our boarders, such as were indisposed, were sent there to be cured. I was once taken ill myself and sent there where I remained a few days. There were beds enough for a considerable number more. A physician attended it daily; and there is a number of the veiled nuns of that convent *who spend most of their time there*. These would also sometimes read lectures and repeat prayers to us" (p. 20).

Such are the practices—attending the sick, reading lectures to them, repeating prayers with them, spending most of their time with them—of the Black Nuns whom nevertheless we shall, by and by, find charged by this grateful patient with the perpetration of the most horrid crimes!

The only opportunity she appears ever to have had of becoming acquainted with the interior of the nunnery in question was that which she enjoyed on this occasion: and yet she has the audacity, as well as the ingratitude,