

Album of Saint Anne

THE DEVOTION TO SAINT ANNE IN CANADA

XII — The great Confraternity

DOCUMENTS recently brought to light, remove all doubts as to the existence, at Quebec, of a confraternity of St. Anne, as ancient as that of the joiners and entire'y distinct from the latter. It was enriched with indulgences by Pope Alexander VII, in the year 1660; its bull served as a model in 1664, for that of the Holy Family. It is true that the joiners' guild was always its most important, if not its most numerous section and that the officers of one were also almost always those of the other, but each of them had its own rules and special practices. Any person, without distinction of sex, provided he or she were qualified, could join the great confraternity, whereas in the joiners' only those belonging to the trade were regularly admitted.

But before entering upon the history of this mother confraternity, which opened up the treasury of papal indulgences in favor of Canada, we believe it right that we should give fuller information respecting its author and promoter, Rev. Father Poncet who is moreover deserving of this in every respect.

Before assuming charge of the cure of Quebec, Rev. Father

Joseph. Poncet Soc. Jesu

Signature of Father Poncet.

Poncet had for a long time found a vent for his zeal in the Huron missions. « Endowed with rare apostolic qualities (1), he did much good there when the Iroquois swept down upon that region like a destroying hurricane. Five of his companions: Fathers de Brebeuf, Daniel, Garnier, Chabanel and

(1) De Rochemonteix, *The Jesuits in N. W. France*, II, p. 217.