

Sainte Anne has been abundantly honored; as, witness the names: Sto Anne de Restigouche, de Portneuf, des Monts, du Saguenay, de la Pocatière, de la Pêrade, de Yamachiche, de Saint-Hyacinthe, des Plaines, names that, through their delicious blending of the mellifluous Indian and sharp, clear French tongues, obtain a romantic beauty that makes our ordinary English appellations seem insufferably prosaic.

At many of these places there are shrines or sanctuaries to which pilgrims resort in search of divine assistance; and besides them, there are four others that have long been recognized as enjoying an especial share of saintly favor. These are the shrines of Ste-Anne du Bout-de-l'Isle, du Détroit, de la Pauce, and de Varennes. The first named owed its origin, no doubt, to the hardy voyageurs who every year adventured far toward the West in quest of fur, and who were wont, before attempting the ascent of the dangerous rapids near Montreal, to kneel upon the river-bank and commit themselves to the protection of their patron saint. Then, on their safe return, they would naturally kneel at the same spot, and render thanks to her whose gracious hand, they believed, had brought them safe through the countless dangers of flood and forest.

But, however deeply these shrines may be venerated, and however successful may be the prayers properly presented at them, they pale their ineffectual fires before that of Sto Anne de Beaupré, that oldest and most renowned of them all, known *par excellence* as *la Grande Sainte Anne*, because of the surpassing number and brilliance of the miracles that have been wrought thereat, or as *la bonne Sainte Anne*, in token of the high place it holds in the affections of the people.

(To be continued.)

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