



Annals of Saint Anne de Beaupre

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Chronicle of the Shrine



Midnight Mass, 31st December. — When the Redeemer of the world will appear on the clouds of heaven, in all the brilliancy of His power and majesty, to judge the living and the dead, He will summon before his supreme tribunal, nations as well as individuals, long centuries as well as fleeting hours. *Let all know that dwell on earth*, says Ecclesiasticus, *that thou art the God the beholder of all ages. He will judge the nations*, chants Holy Church in the first psalm of Sunday's vespers. Thus, the nineteenth century will be summoned like the others to account for its works. If it be enriched with merits, it is also burdened with weighty responsibilities ; if it has glorified the Eternal, it has also outraged Him cruelly. Before disappearing from the scene of this world, should not its last cry be a song of gratitude, its last sigh a groan of repentance ?

Thus did our august head, Leo XIII, understand it, and in order to conform ourselves to his thoughts, we made the night of the 31st December, a night of prayer. At nine o'clock the Most Blessed Sacrament was exposed in the Basilica, hymns were sung and prayers were said with the people during over half an hour. The divine Host, really: