

## IX

### Cure of a mother of family just arrived from Ireland.

(Towards 1820.)

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The following story is related by Rev. Alph. Leclerc, the founder and first editor of the "Annals of St. Anne"

"About the year 1820, an Irish Catholic family, consisting of three persons, sailed from England for America. Some distance from the Gulf of St. Lawrence, a furious storm arose, dismasted their ship, wrecked it and nearly all the passengers were swallowed up. The head of this family was one of the victims, but the mother and daughter, who wore images of Ste Anne, were saved. However, each was ignorant of the fact that the other had been saved, for they were separated in the storm; both escaped on fragments of the wreck. After having been tossed about by the waves, they were picked up by two different vessels sailing to Quebec where they arrived at two days' interval. The mother arrived first and, finding herself quite alone, she abandoned herself to the deepest melancholy at the thought of her double loss, for she had no doubt that her daughter had also perished in the shipwreck. As the days went by, her sorrow grew deeper, her solitude more dreadful and unbearable. She felt her heart breaking and her soul could not bear up under the weight that pressed upon it. She seemed alone even in the midst of crowds, and to think that all mankind has perished with her husband and daughter. In her despair she sought out the darkest places as if she wished to hide herself in a tomb. Soon her mind wandered and she lost her reason. Then death seemed the best thing for her and she tried to kill herself. Imagine a woman with disordered hair, torn garments, haggard