

INTRODUCTION

From one of the back numbers of the "Annals of St. Anne de Beaupré," we reproduce the following article, which will serve as an introduction to the reading of the following pages, and which can but dispose the reader to readily believe in St. Anne's powerful intercession and, as a consequence, the reality of miraculous cures wrought at the shrine of Beaupré.

"Pilgrimages to the shrine of the "Good St. Anne" at Beaupré are the order of the day. Never was the number so great; and it is daily increasing. Not only from Quebec and Ontario, but from New England and the Middle States, organized pilgrimages set forth, joined in by many from all parts of the North American continent. What is the attraction at the humble and obscure village of St. Anne? What is there in the church so unpicturesquely situated at the foot of the hill, lengthwise with the river? Why this yearly and daily increasing conflux of strangers, having amongst them so many crippled and maimed and bandaged—the blind, the pale and the weak—that it can be compared only to the crowds which of yore flocked to the shore of Genesareth, where stood One who cured every languor and whose fame went abroad into the whole country?

More than two hundred years ago, a small ship's crew from Brittany were ascending the mighty river, when suddenly a storm burst on them in the dark of night. Death yawned beneath when, remembering the good St. Anne of their native Auray, they vowed her a shrine where first they would set foot on land, if she saved them from their peril. At early morn their bark had drifted ashore, the clouds lifted, an azure sky