

with the size of the buildings and the number of the inmates." This is the institution which Maria Monk and her confederates have thought fit to libel. It is called the 'Black Nunnery' from the colour of the dress worn by the inmates.

"From all that appears to the public eye, the nuns of these convents are devoted to the charitable objects appropriate to each, the labour of making different articles known to be manufactured by them, and the religious observances which occupy a large portion of their time. They are regarded with *much respect* by the people at large; and now and then, when a novice takes the veil, she is supposed to retire from the temptations and troubles of this world into a state of holy seclusion, where, by prayer, self-mortification, and good deeds, she prepares herself for heaven" (p. 14).

Now here it is admitted that these establishments, which have existed at Montreal for upwards of half a century, are regarded with much respect by the people of that place, although we shall presently learn from the evidence of Maria Monk, that one of them at least is the perpetual scene of every crime that can degrade religion, and disgrace human nature. But let us proceed. While Maria was at the school of the Sisters of Charity, priests regularly attended to instruct the pupils in the Catechism. With a view to forward them in the essential part of Catholic education, a small catechism in common use amongst us was put into their hands.\* But, says Maria:

"The priests soon began to teach us a new set of answers which were not to be found in our books, from some of which I received new ideas, and got, as I thought, important light on religious subjects, which confirmed me more and more in my belief in the Roman Catholic doctrines. These questions and answers I can still recall with tolerable accuracy, and some of them I will add here. I never have *read them*, as we were taught them only by word of mouth. Question: Why

\* [The English *Catechism of Christian Doctrine*, can be obtained from 21 Westminster Bridge Road, S.E., price 1d., by post 1½.]