

The Saint John Monitor.

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tired feet. Produces comfort. Very
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25c., 50c., 75c.,

WOMEN and CHILDREN'S
LINEN HATS at 25c.

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17 Charlotte St.

ST. ANNE de BEAUPRE.

A St. John Visitor to That Famous Shrine.

One of St. John's well known young
men visited the shrine of St. Anne de
Beaupre with the English speaking pil-
grimage conducted by the Rev. J. J.
Ryan, of St. Mary's, N. B. In an in-
terview with a representative of The
Monitor, the gentleman in question
gave an interesting account of the pil-
grimage which we feel will be of in-
terest to our readers.

The trip to the shrine of Good St.
Anne was one of intense interest from
the fact that it was the first time we
had visited the Upper Provinces, and
then the great majority of the pil-
grims were personally known to one
another. Leaving St. John on the
afternoon of July 18th, we arrived at
St. Anne's on the evening of July 19th,
about 5 o'clock. The train drew
up directly in front of the gates of the
far famed church and in a short
time the bells rung out a joyous wel-
come. A venerable priest met us on
arrival and escorted the party to the
church. Several times on the trip the
thought was borne upon us that there
must be a vast difference between
present day pilgrimages as compared
with those of olden times. We remem-
ber in our school days reading of the
Holy Crusades when brave men and
women would journey to the Sacred
Spots in the Holy Land. How our en-
thusiasm would be aroused, as we read
of lords and ladies leaving their lux-
urious surroundings and travelling for
months, constantly exposed to unseen
dangers, suffering untold miseries, and
many of them leaving their bones to
bleach beneath foreign skies, far from
those they loved. We would love to
linger on the story of the South,
in which he described a lonely pil-
grim wending on his way, some way,
Slow his steps, for he was weary,
And sometimes he paused to rest;
Then he rose, and pressing onward,
Murmured lowly, "I must haste."

It is true the pilgrim of today is
also anxious to press on and reach
the end of his journey. Not because
the way is weary, or that he is hun-
gry or foot sore, but simply he is im-
patient to reach the spot now made
famous for the many singular mani-
festations of the love of God for his
sinful children.

The ordinary observer would un-
hesitatingly admit that the contingent
from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia
which made up the present party were
certainly not journeying to St. Anne's
for relief from any visible bodily or physical
infirmities. True there were
some cases that would cause one to
exclaim: "Nothing but deep rooted and
fervent faith would tempt a person
suffering so intensely to leave their
homes and undertake a journey of
such length."

It is likewise true there are many
apparently healthy people—people
whom a casual observer would class
as perfectly well—who are nevertheless
martyrs to some hidden complaint
which though well disguised is none
the less slowly, but surely undermin-
ing the foundation on which rest that
coveted boon, Health.

On the whole the great majority ap-
peared to be decidedly healthy and
whilst they no doubt were all filled
with pious intentions they certainly
did not look or act as though con-
demned to perpetual melancholy. All
day long and long into the night could
be heard the loud laughter of a goodly
number as some mirth provoking
story was told or a mighty hand clap-
ping would reward some fair young
maid who, in response to a general in-
vitation, would sing some well-known
hymn or sacred song.

The Rev. Father Ryan, who had
planned the excursion, was undoubtedly
the right man in the right place.
Cool, calm, and collected he was ever
ready to assist by word or act every
one who approached him, and there
were times when they did approach

him in bunches. At times his pa-
tience must have been taxed to its ut-
most, yet never once did he appear
even vexed.

The church of St. Anne de Beaupre
is beautiful beyond description, and
callous indeed must be the heart that
would not be touched with feelings of
devotion when within its sacred pre-
cincts.

The first Church of St. Anne de Beaupre
on the Place Publique is in front
of the present Basilica. The second
Church was built at the foot of the
hill, with its side in line with the
road; the column in front of the pre-
sent chapel shows nearly the place
where the northern extremity of the
second church stood. The third
Church, whose site is plainly shown by
the Memorial Church which stands in
the place once occupied by its transept,
was built of stone in 1676. It has
been twice restored, once in 1694 and
later on in 1787 and was used for pub-
lic worship until 1876.

The fourth Church is the present
basilica, the building of which was un-
dertaken in 1872 and which was blessed
in 1876. Owing to the ever in-
creasing number of pilgrims, this
church was enlarged in 1886. His Holiness
Pope Leo XIII raised it to the
rank of Basilica Minor in 1887. It con-
tains numerous altars which have all
their own merit, but it is particularly
the bas-reliefs of the communion rail,
and of the marble altars, which com-
mand the visitor's attention. Each of
these bas-reliefs expresses admirably
the chosen scenes from Holy Scrip-
ture.

The pedestal which supports the
large statue of St. Anne and Child is
most imposing; cut out of an onyx
block and highly polished; it is the
centre of admiration for all. Another
object of interest is the floor inlaid
with Champlain marble in which the
Pompeian Red, so scarce nowadays, is
found in large quantities. The organ
placed in position in 1877 ranks among
the finest in America. How refreshing
did it sound to us as we marched up
the aisle after our two days' journey!

At 7 p. m. the pilgrims gathered in
the church, and after the recitation of
some prayers a sermon in English was
preached by one of the Fathers, at-
tached to the community. A process-
ion then took place in the park in
front of the church, participated in by
the entire assemblage headed by the
resident and visiting clergy, each car-
rying a lighted taper and singing
hymns. Returning to the church solem-
n Benediction of the Blessed Sacra-
ment was given by the Rev. J. J.
Ryan. The entire party then ap-
proached the Sacrament of Penance
and at 10 o'clock the little village
was hushed in quiet. Next morning at
a very early hour the visitors were
abroad, and making for the church
where, from 5 o'clock, masses were
said every half hour.

At 10 o'clock a Solemn High Mass
was sung for the intentions of the pil-
grims, and a sermon in French deliv-
ered by one of the Redemptorist Fa-
thers. It was a little difficult for
some of us to understand why we
should have been treated to this seem-
ingly unnecessary innovation, but later
it was explained that with our
party came a large number of French-
speaking people from the Northern
parts of New Brunswick, and the good
Fathers, ever anxious that all should
participate in the advantages of the
pilgrimage, had this sermon preached
for their benefit. The balance of the
morning was spent in having articles
of devotion such as crosses, beads,
scapulars, etc., blessed and touched
with the relic of St. Anne.

The Fathers never tired of laboring
for the benefit of the people. They
were always approachable, and ever
ready to do all that it was possible
for them to do either in aiding an
afflicted one or explaining some diffi-
culty to either young or old. A whole

day could profitably be spent in ex-
amining the many points of interest
in and around this grand Temple.

In the Sacristy were exhibited an
almost priceless collection of offerings
from devoted clients of Good St.
Anne. It included crowns, gems,
swords, vestments, diamonds and jew-
elry, etc., which if converted into
cold cash would yield a fabulous sum.
At the foot of the church are two
pyramids reaching from the floor to
the ceiling composed of crutches, arti-
ficial limbs, surgical appliances, etc.
They are silent but convincing evi-
dences of many a grateful heart, who,
coming to the shrine maimed and
crippled, through the intercession of
Good St. Anne were enabled to throw
aside their artificial supports and go-
ing forth cured, demonstrated to an
unbelieving world that notwithstanding
the sophistries of materialistic
teachers and scoffers at divine revela-
tion, the age of miracles is not yet
passed. How forcibly is brought home
to us that beautiful gospel story of
how John who was in prison hearing
of the marvelous works of the Master
sent two of his disciples to ask him
"Who he was? Was he really the Mes-
siah?" and Christ making answer said:
"Go and tell John what you have seen
and heard. The blind see, the lame
walk, the deaf hear, the lepers are
cleansed and the dead arise again."
Mark well, the Master did not say: I
am the Messiah; but go and tell John
what you yourselves have seen and
heard. So also with St. Anne de
Beaupre. Silently, invisibly, but none
the less truly, are marvelous things
done there day by day. The lame
walk. See that mighty monument of
crutches! The blind see. What an ar-
ray of glasses and bandages are in
that pile! The lepers are cleansed.
Only the Judgment day will make
manifest the number who scarred and
marked with leprosy of sin have
through the good offices of Bonne St.
Anne been made clean and restored to
the friendship of their Maker!

"Did you see any cures effected?"
No, nor did I hear of any of our
party receiving any special benefit, but
I was much impressed with the story
attached to the latest pair of crutches
left at the shrine. The Fathers say
that two weeks before, a girl of four-
teen who had met with an accident
when she was nearly six years old,
which so injured her spine that even
with the aid of the crutches, it was
not possible for her to walk any dis-
tance, was brought to the church and
on her third visit, suddenly arose and
placing her tiny crutches at the foot
of the statue walked unaided from the
church apparently as well as any of
those who had accompanied her. There
are the crutches! I examined them
carefully and a pretty pair they are.
The child's father was a wood worker
and he had made them himself for his
afflicted darling. The Fathers say
that last year about 225,000 pilgrims
visited the shrine. A mighty throng.
No doubt, but I am convinced that be-
fore many years as the fame of St.
Anne's spreads abroad the number of
pilgrims will grow to such proportions
as to tax the carrying capacity of the
railroads.

"Did you have an opportunity of
speaking with any person who had
been benefited by their visit?"

No. On the contrary, I had a con-
versation with a young lady who was
a frightful sufferer from an inward
ailment. She was utterly unable to
walk and she informed me that this
was her third visit to the shrine. She
is perfectly confident that some day
her petition will find favor and that
she will be cured.

What faith, what patience, what
confidence! Surely the poet priest
had such a one in mind when he sang:
Oh! Love that is deep and deathless;
Oh! Faith that is strong and grand;
Oh! Hope that will shine forever,
O'er the wastes of a weary land.

Mr. Thomas Heffernon, of the Cus-
toms, has been promoted to Mr. J. J.
Mullin's place as tide waiter, with an
increase of \$50 in his salary, and Mr.
Arthur McHugh has been appointed
messenger in his place.

Red Rose Tea is good tea