



THE DEVOTION TO SAINT ANNE IN CANADA

VII. St. Anne's chapels in Quebec

PUBLIC devotion to St. Anne existed uninterruptedly from its establishment in New France in 1629. Notwithstanding all vicissitudes of fortune, our great Saint always had her chapel. If one was destroyed by accident, or abandoned through stress of circumstances, another at once arose in its place and St. Anne transferred her treasure of graces to it. Is her presence more needed at Quebec than at Cap Breton? She temporarily abandons that first post to fly to the succor of the second because danger is more pressing there.

The story of this removal deserves to be related here. It shows how great the maternal solicitude of St. Anne for her beloved children has ever been.

The illustrious queen of France, Anne of Austria, so well known for her deep devotion to St. Anne and the great interest that she took in Canada, on being informed of Madame de la Peltrie's generous design of founding an Ursuline monastery there, would not let her depart without seeing her and sent for her to come to the Louvre. Madame de la Peltrie presented herself there accompanied by the venerable Mary of the Incarnation. They were most kindly welcomed. « Her Majesty, says a memorial of the time, (1) approved their design, praised their courage and piety, promised to second with her liberality the ardor that they manifested, and expressed the wish that the church that they were to erect in the New World should be consecrated to St. Anne, her patroness.» And as a new proof of her kindness to the two foundresses, she wished them to pay their respects, before withdrawing, to Mon-

(1) *Le Mercure français*, XXIII, p. 334.