

and we were told that the architect actually died of a broken heart from not being allowed to finish the interior according to his original plan ;—it may be true ; men have died in a less worthy cause. A number of priests in showy raiment were chanting before the altar in a very unmusical manner. Every thing around us afforded a striking contrast to the meeting we had just left, as great indeed as the difference between the views of the Christian religion presented in the two places of worship.

We were present the next day at a more imposing ceremony, at the cathedral, than the Sunday services exhibit. It was the day of St. John the Baptist, who is, we believe, the patron-saint of Montreal. The priests wore on this occasion very splendid robes, and chanted more unintelligibly than ever. There were about six thousand persons present, the church being able to contain ten thousand, and from every rank of life. In the centre of the broad aisle stood what appeared to be a very tall erection of cake decorated with sugar ornaments, rows of lighted candles, and ribbons, the whole thing being ten or twelve feet high, and mounted on wooden rollers. When the service was about half over, the crowd was dispersed to a proper distance, and the aisle cleared. Monsieur V., the president of the council, (near in rank to the governor,) a very gentlemanly looking Frenchman, with gray hair, and an order in his button-hole, came forward, leading Madame B., the lady of the mayor of Montreal, who held in her hand a lighted taper. Two gentlemen joined them, and holding the long ribbons attached to the gingerbread castle, it was rolled up by their attendants to the altar, where it was presented to the priest by the lady and gentlemen. The priests sprinkled the gift with holy water, and it was then rolled to the side of the altar, taken to pieces, and carried out of sight. This was called the presentation of the sacred bread, presented to the priests in honor of the saint, and afterwards, we believe, distributed among the people, but we did not see that part of the ceremony. The priests of the seminary, as they are called, who officiate at the cathedral, are immensely rich, being in

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