

in course of construction in that city a noble building which is intended even to imitate many of the features of St. Peter's, and to surpass the finest cathedrals in America. Massive stone churches are to be seen in almost every village, even where the forest has hardly been subdued. Only a short time since the writer had occasion to visit a settlement a hundred miles to the north of the political capital of Canada, on the very confines of the wilderness which stretches to the solitary shores of Hudson's Bay. As he emerged from the forest, where many a blackened stump showed the ravages of fire, the first object that met his eye was a large stone church with a tower standing conspicuously on a hill that commands the surrounding country, crowning the tower, was an image of Notre Dame du Désert, the holy patroness of the parish. This building had been erected chiefly for the Indian population of that wild region, and is one of the many evidences that French Canada gives of the energy of the priests. Churches and convents, indeed, meet the eye wherever you travel in the province, and the poorest village attests the power and riches of the Church. The whole land is practically parcelled out among the Saints, as far as the nomenclature of the settlements and villages is concerned. The favourite Saint appears to be Ste. Anne, whose name appears constantly on the banks of the St. Lawrence. We have Ste. Anne de la Pérade, Ste. Anne de la Pocatière, and many others. We all remember the verse of Moore's boat song:—

' Faintly as tolls the evening chime,  
Our voices keep tune and our oars keep time,  
Soon as the woods on shore look dim,  
We'll sing at St. Anne's our parting hymn.'

This village, situated at the confluence of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers, is generally known as Ste. Anne de Bellevue, and still retains the characteristics of a French Canadian village, notwithstanding its close neighbourhood to the English-speaking settlements of Ontario.

[ From the earliest times in the history of Canada the 'Black Robe' has always been a prominent figure in politics as well as in religion. Jesuits, Franciscans, and Recollets have done