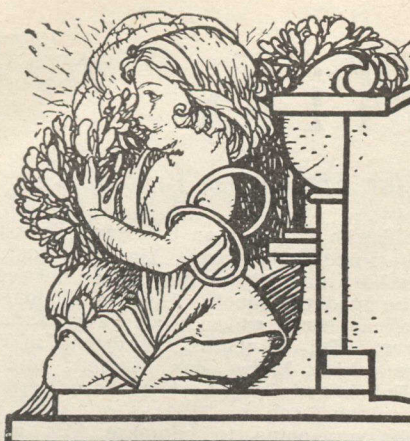




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CORPUS CHRISTI CELEBRATION, MONTREAL



The 65th Regiment, carrying obsolete Lee-Metfords, arriving at Notre Dame before the Corpus Christi procession.

ROMAN CATHOLICS in Montreal lay great stress upon the celebration of Corpus Christi or La Fete Dieu. Corpus Christi is one of the principal feasts in the Church; it was founded by Pope Urban IV. in 1264 in honour of the Blessed Sacrament. In Europe the festival is kept on the first Thursday after Trinity Sunday, but for convenience in this country it is celebrated on the first Sunday after Trinity Sunday.

The day was ideal for the Montreal celebration and the procession was the largest ever held in that city with the exception of that of the Eucharistic Congress of 1910. Processions were held in every parish in the city, but the central procession represented the parishes of Notre Dame, St. Patrick's, St. Helene, St. James and the Cathedral. Bishop Gauthier carried the Monstrance, containing the Sacred Host under the embroidered canopy that was made for the procession of the Eucharistic Congress. The 65th Regiment, carrying arms, was lined on both sides of the canopy as a guard of honour. The canopy was preceded by the Notre Dame Choir, incense bearers, acolytes, and a dozen small boys in page attire who strewed flowers along the roadway.

FOLLOWING the canopy came His Worship Mayor Martin, wearing his chain of office. Then came the professors of Laval University in their academic robes, members of the judiciary and representatives of the bar, in their robes of office. The ladies of the Living Rosary sodality, with their banners of the fifteen mysteries, surpassed previous efforts, and the Holy Name Society again carried off the honour of being the largest unit in the procession. St. Patrick's Society came last, with the president, Dr. Walter Kennedy, having on each side ex-Mayor J. J. Guerin and Hon. Charles Doherty



Pageant of the Sacred Host in the Corpus Christi procession.



In the second row, from the left, Mayor Mederic Martin and Controller MacDonald.

On left, Sir Rodolphe Forget, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, and the Chaplain of the 65th, talking to the Vicar of Notre Dame.

Minister of Justice.

The Altar of Repose was at Laval University, and the scene during the singing of the "Tantum Ergo" was most imposing. The semi-circular steps formed an open air sanctuary. The repository was placed at the head of the steps, carpets covering the pavement to the top of the stairway. Seated on the steps were scores of little girls scattering flowers, the fragrance of which blended with the incense, as Bishop Gauthier raised the Host for benediction. At the conclusion of the "Tantum Ergo" the Auxiliary Bishop blessed the throng.

CONSIDERABLE interest was aroused throughout the country owing to the dispute which took place as to whether or not the 65th Regiment would be allowed to parade with arms. The Minister of Militia recently issued an order stating that no regiment should attend a religious festival with arms. In spite of this order the regiment did parade with arms, as the pictures show. Whether these were government rifles or not is mere evasion, and entirely beside the question. They did not enter the church, but that is a custom which has been followed for many years. Whether they defied the Militia Department or whether they were told to go ahead with their procession as usual, on the understanding that nothing would be said, is an open question. As the regiment is composed entirely of Roman Catholics, and as the custom is of long standing, it would seem that no great harm could arise if the ancient usage is maintained. In all cities it is customary for the militia to go to church, and if the 65th chose to go there on Corpus Christi Sunday that is their business. However, if the militia orders are against the carrying of arms on a religious parade, those orders should be observed in Montreal as well as elsewhere.