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A Unique Religious Festival.

BY ANNIE MARION MACLEAN, Ph. D.

Perhaps nowhere in America can one be made to realize in all its intensity the marvellous power of the church of Rome as well as in the commercial capital of the Dominion of Canada ; it is here that one sees the greatness of the organization and the firmness of its purpose best displayed. Montreal with its population of less than half a million is more than two-thirds French which means more than two-thirds Catholic. The volatile, impressionable and often times woefully ignorant French love the observances of the church. They delight in the spectacular side of Christianity. Their *pelerinages* are sources of joy ; they will set out by hundreds to visit the shrine of some saint, and return weary but satisfied.

But of all the festivals of the year Corpus Christi is the greatest ; it is the culmination of a year's effort, the most royal celebration of the faithful. Last year the seventh of June was Corpus Christi day ; but the procession which is usually held the following Sunday was postponed till the seventeenth. The Saturday night preceding, the whole French end and the down town region was gay with bunting and banners and flags, and the trees of the forest had been made to yield their choicest branches for the decoration. Before midnight, I walked down the chief French business street, and lo ! what a sight was there. Hundreds of people were out for a gala night, and it was difficult to make much headway in the throng. Mothers were there with babies in their arms and babies dragging at their skirts ; maidens and their lovers paced the street : and foul men were there reeking with rum. For was not the festival of the blessed Lord approaching.

Overhead and on all sides were banners bearing mottoes, and as I read I wondered. Some were in Latin ; others in French. There was a certain weirdness about it all, and to the not spiritually minded funny situations appeared. The entrance to the street was crowned with the words "Gloria in Excelsis," and on the right "Jesus, Marie, Joseph" while on the left over a little restaurant, dingy and dirty and