

concerning the Chinese missions, they were more interesting and more effective on the minds of the readers. I had threatened those to whom I then wrote, never more to write to them if they did not keep quiet. Finally the secret was out. I have also been accused, here in Canada, of being too lazy in preparing these accounts. Later on, obedience obliged me to see to it.

All this carried my consentment, though I was at first determined to say naught outside of what I had seen or heard; secondly, having written something, I resolved to do so no longer, to live where God had placed me in this world and to profit personally from the examples of virtue I see each day in our new Christians. At last, the fear of being truly stubborn, as somebody has accused me, forced me to give some form to a sort of yearly account I had written and to other remarks which had been made only for my particular consolation in the expectation of what was to come.

I am restricting myself to the Iroquois missions only, to which God has sent me, and especially to the mission of the Sault which is mine.

Thus, the reader will here see the birth and progress of the New Church. The attachment I have for this mission is as old as the mission itself, for, as the Iroquois missions began nineteen years ago this winter, nineteen years ago, did God also make known to me His Will, attract me to the foreign missions and prepare me in a particular manner to draw me to Himself by His abundant mercy, which He showed me on a Christmas Night, the same Night and with the same inspiration he attracted the Indians. It was the year 1667.

Five years after, God disposed me more in particular, while I was still in France, around the Feast of St. Francis Xavier and interested me in the Iroquois missions. He gave me a great liking for the Huron language which is the one used by the Iroquois to pray. Rev. Fr. Mercier, whom I saw in France at the end of December, taught me the principles of this language which I then learned, as well as the recitation of the beads in Huron. I preferred to recite them in this language rather than in Latin because of the spiritual consolation this manner of praying to God, aroused in me. As soon as I arrived in Canada, I was in fact applied to the Huron mission for a year, and the following year, I was sent to the Sault, where I have lived up to the present time. In 1680, God confirmed in me, by the prayers of Catherine, who is well enough known, all that had happened in the preceding years. (*To be continued.*)

OUR HEROINE

The Life of Kateri Tekakwitha

by

LORRAINE FITZGERALD

CHAPTER IX — HER DEATH.

Kateri's life had been one of continual illness from her earliest years. Thus she did not consider as a discomfort the eye-trouble which she had endured since the age of four; nor almost constant headaches; nor even a stomach ailment during the last year of her life, which was accompanied by nausea and finally by a slow fever.

It was Holy Week of the year 1680, when hope of her return to health was lost. She then asked that she be allowed to perform some penance in memory of the Passion of Our Lord, such as to pass a day without food. She was told that this must be refused her, that she must think of something else, and, finally, that she did not have long to live.

It was unprecedented in the village to see the Blessed Sacrament carried to a cabin, for the sick were always brought on a plank of wood to the church. When it was necessary to give the Viaticum to Kateri, it was found that she was too weak to be moved. Since no one wanted to let her die without receiving this Sacrament, it was brought

as a favour to her. She gathered all her strength to make well this last Holy Communion. Being extremely poor, she did not have proper clothing to wear for this great occasion, so one of her friends lent her a gown.

Wednesday morning Kateri began to sink rapidly and her friend, thinking she was about to die, refused to leave her. But Kateri assured her she could go to work in the field, and promised to send for her when the time came. It happened as she promised. Kateri asked for her friend about ten o'clock in the morning. Marie Therese



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