

OUR HEROINE

The Life of Kateri Tekakwitha

by

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CHAPTER X — HER FAVOURS AND APPARITIONS.



OTH the principal biographers of Kateri, Fathers Chauchetière and Cholenec, have given us a clear account of how the reputation for holiness sprang up immediately after her death and quickly spread beyond the limits of the mission.

Reports of her great holiness soon reached the French colonists living in Canada, and being so different from what they expected, they could hardly believe it. But when more precise and detailed accounts of Kateri's life and virtues had been distributed, and when, added to these, were reports of favors obtained through her intercession, the little Lily of the Mohawks became known far and wide and was revered by Indians and Canadian colonists alike.

The sixth day after her death, that is Easter Monday, Father Chauchetière was praying at four o'clock in the morning,

when Kateri appeared to him surrounded by glory, with majestic bearing and shining face lifted toward heaven as if in ecstasy. The vision lasted for two hours and was accompanied by several prophecies, and by many symbols which might be seen on both sides of Kateri in her ecstasy. For instance, on her right a church was seen turned over on its side, while on her left there was an Indian tied to a stake and badly burned. Some of the prophecies were soon fulfilled.

In the following year, 1681, on the first of September, and in 1682, on the 21st of April, this same priest had a similar vision, in which God made it known that He wished pictures to be painted of Kateri. When these pictures were printed they did a great deal to make Kateri known, for, being placed on the heads of the sick, they brought about marvelous cures.

Kateri also appeared to the good Anastasia shortly after the first apparition to her spiritual adviser. In this vision, Kateri appeared brilliant with light.

Half her body was engulfed in this brightness, and the upper part was as bright as the sun. She carried a cross in her hand which was more brilliant than everything else, and from it there shone forth much light. It seemed there could be nothing more beautiful upon earth. Anastasia clearly heard the following words: "Mother, look at this cross and see how beautiful it is. It was the source of all my happiness during my life, and I counsel you to make it yours also." After these few words she disappeared, leaving her foster mother overjoyed.¹

God spoke even more clearly of the sanctity and merit of Kateri by authentic proofs, by the many graces which He has already granted and continues

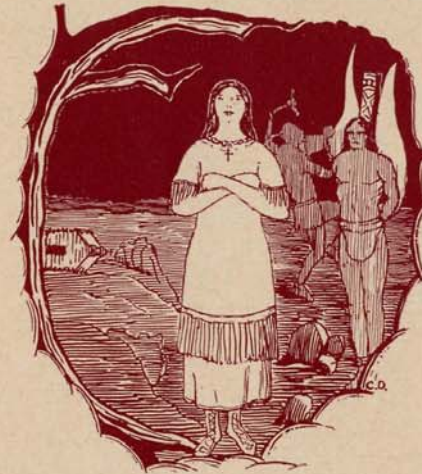
to grant to all kinds of people through her intercession.

The first bodily cure came a year after her death in 1681 to Claude Caron, of Prairie de la Madeleine, who was dying of lung trouble after a third relapse. Having been exhorted to have confidence in God and to pray to Kateri, and after having touched the crucifix which her hands had held when she was buried, the man fell into a deep sleep. Upon awakening he felt as if a great stone was removed from his chest. The attending physician from Montreal declared that he had never seen a man so sick who did not die of the disease.

Shortly after this cure, the wife of François Roaner, sixty years old, at the point of death, received the Last Sacraments and after praying to Kateri and touching her crucifix was instantly cured. Her husband was also later cured by earth from Kateri's grave.

If we, Kateri's friends in Canada and the United States, wish to offer her a suitable birthday present on her tricentennial, we must start praying now and storming heaven with our prayers, begging Our Lord and Our Lady to grant the desired Beatification to our little heroine.

The End.



(1) See "Kateri", Vol. I, No. 3, p. 8.