

NOW OR NEVER!

RIGHT in the pathway of the St. Lawrence Seaway Project lie side by side the villages of Ste. Catherine and Caughnawaga.

Just within the confines of Caughnawaga, flows a small stream called La Suzanne. Near its mouth, was the fourth site of the Mission of St. Francis Xavier, known as Kanatakwenke (whence - the - village - has - been - moved). Close by are the unmarked graves of two of the most famous of the early Jesuit missionaries — Fathers Jacques de Lamberville and Jacques Bruyas, who died there, but whose bodies were not moved when the Iroquois made their last migration in 1719 and settled at Caughnawaga.

Both these men played important parts in the life of Kateri. As a child of eleven she listened to Father Bruyas telling the wonderful story of Christ to the canton Indians on the banks of the Mohawks river. Then,

when she was eighteen, Father de Lamberville settled in her native village and, at her earnest request, began to instruct her in the Christian faith. It was from his hands that she received baptism on Easter Sunday in 1675.

● *Jacques Bruyas*

Father Bruyas came to Canada in 1666 to devote his great talents to the people of the Longhouse.

Any student of history knows how often this great-hearted man's name appears. He attained great influence over the Indians — spoke their language as one of them and was able to talk them into keeping the peace on many occasions when they had threatened to take the warpath. He served as an ambassador for France over and over again and when the mission Indians were persuaded to join the French forces on expedi-

by

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tions, he accompanied them as their chaplain.

A man of parts, Father Bruyas — among all his labours he found time to write a grammar of the Iroquois language. He was instrumental in having a wharf built so that the canoes could come to land more easily from the rapids which are so soon to be smoothed away in the name of progress. It was he too who had the Jesuit mill built when the French minister, Colbert, issued orders for all seigneurs in New France to provide milling facilities for their tenants.

● *Jacques de Lamberville*

Father de Lamberville died at what is now Ste. Catherine's in 1711 after thirty-seven years of missionary life and, the next year, he was followed to the grave by Father Bruyas, after serving the Iroquois for forty-six years.



● *Now or never*

Now or never is the time to find the mortal remains of these two men.

What a pity if, for want of interest or through ignorance of the situation, their bones are shovelled up and tossed aside by bulldozers.

Kateri's remains are reverently preserved, waiting her canonization to take their place at the altar. Surely it would be most fitting that these two men, who gave their long lives to her people, should find a resting place near her.

Friends of Kateri — what can be done about it?

But, whatever is done, must be now — or never!
