

THERE KATERI BELONGED!

A yearly account of the foundation of the Mission of the
Sault up to 1685

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IMPURITY is not so pernicious because once drink has been taken away from the Iroquois, are taken away a thousand sins of impurity which they had no knowledge of before the establishment of drinking. They keep the different degrees of affinity between relations; they do no evil among themselves, or if it does take place, the delinquents are held in abomination. Girls have been known even to keep their virginity. At least, they were not married nor soiled with the vices of the flesh and one died without having ever wished to marry and it was believed that she had never done any evil. She died in this state without baptism.

Be that as it may, there is less vice among the Iroquois with regard to the brutalities of the flesh which reign among [others]. This monster [of impurity], however, strengthened by excess in drink, has ruined everything in the Iroquois country during recent times and has tried to ruin everything in this Mission by separating husbands and wives and by the infirmity of nature which is greater among the Indian youth than among other peoples. This monster did not succeed and was fought and vanquished by many.

Girls were known to have generously refused clothing, money, and other valuables which were offered them if they should consent to sin. A few, known to have been dragged into stores where they could be picked out, resisted and threatened to call out if [the attack] did not stop. Some are known to have resisted dishonest attentions for years. Some were seen punching the noses and covering with shame and blood the faces of these demons incarnate who came to tempt them. Some were seen who disfigured themselves by cutting their hair which is the principal ornament of Indian girls. Some were seen carrying back to the Missionary the presents which had been offered them for evil purposes, and it



FIREBRAND: Where are they going?
HOT ASHES: To Kateri with their offerings!

is among these contradictions that those who had sinned before their baptism, purified their souls, and that those who were born in the village had imbibed modesty with their Christian mothers' milk. Several, who have already carried their virginity to heaven, were but thirteen, fourteen, fifteen or twenty years old. Many are still living who having often refused a good marriage match, passed the age of consent, and gave their bodies and their souls to God in great poverty, and lived and dressed on charity.

This spirit drew together, this year, all these girls who are thirteen in number. They have as their aim the highest perfection. They gather together and one gives a little exhortation or else they tell their faults to one another. They act as the Ladies of Mercy in France and have for occupation works of charity towards their neighbor. Particularly, they take care of the poor and the sick to whom they carry wood secretly during the evening, and they run away immediately for fear of being seen. They watch over the sick and give them what they need out of charity. They practice mortification and despise the pleasures of the flesh which they hate as the devil's lures. In their [pious] excesses they say that the Fathers, who want to oblige them to abandon the iron girdle and the discipline, do so through kindness, but that they do not know how laden with sins they were before they had been taught to live well. So we always see them busy carrying wood, making belts, sowing, grinding corn, sewing, making bags, and other things.

(To be continued.)