

At any rate, Tekakwitha's "good nature," writes Father Chauchetière, her spiritual guide, "and the care her mother took of her when she was four or five years old went far to make her grow in age and wisdom." In later years, when Tekakwitha became a "praying Indian", the pagans of her lodge let her practice her new faith; her devotions, it seems, were tolerated because they had been accustomed to her mother's Christian way of life.

All those who visited the dying woman were convinced Tekakwitha would soon follow her. The child rallied. But her beauty was a thing of the past and her eyesight was so poor that she hid her head from the glare of the sun with a blanket. She was taken in charge by a bitterly anti-Catholic uncle. Everything appeared banded against her. And thus there began to shine forth, according to a Blackrobe who knew her, "*a new star in the New World . . .*"

### PONDER AWHILE . . .

Few of us have begun life in worse circumstances than little Tekakwitha. But God's Providence drew much glory from her humble existence . . . Do I always manifest enough faith and confidence

in Him? . . . (Now turn to page sixteen and read the Prayer for Kateri's Beatification.)

