

health is something so very useless that I should not have dared to ask for it, if I had not felt myself obliged to do so by the deference which I ought to have for the servants of the Lord, it is impossible reasonably to withhold the belief that God in according to me this grace, had no other view to make known the merit which this excellent maiden had with Him. For myself, I should fear that I was unjustly withholding the truth, and refusing the Missions of Canada the glory which is due to them, if I did not testify as I have now done, that I am a debtor for my cure to this Iroquois virgin. It is for this reason that I have given the present attestation with every sentiment of gratitude of which I am capable, to increase, as far as is in my power, the confidence which is felt in my benefactress, but still more to excite the desire to imitate her virtues.—Given at Villemarie Montreal, the 14th of September, 1696. J. de la Colombière, P. J., Canon of the Cathedral of Québec.”

On your next visit to Quebec, after attending mass at the Basilica, ask the sexton to take you through the new crypt. In it you will see a beautiful modern altar dedicated to the Jesuit Martyrs, and the tombs of practically all the Bishops of Quebec. To your right, as you leave it, you will notice a marble ossuary in which, along with the remains of many laymen, Capuchins and Jesuits, rests the Right Reverend Canon J. de la Colombière, Kateri's client of old.

Kateri and You



Her Life

In 1656, the Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha was born of a Christian Algonquin mother and of a pagan Iroquois father in the little village of Ossernenon (Auriesville, N. Y.), on the south bank of the Mohawk River where St. Isaac Jogues and his companions had shed their blood for the faith: "The blood of Martyrs is a seed of Christians!"

In 1660, suffering swooped down on Tekakwitha: smallpox left her an orphan. A pagan uncle adopted her.

She was baptized only in 1676 at the age of 20. The following year she ran away to the Mission of St. Francis Xavier of Sault St. Louis (Lachine Rapids, Quebec).

There she achieved holiness:
there she made her first communion on Christmas Day, 1677;
there she pronounced her vow of virginity on Lady Day, 1679;
there she died on April 17, 1680 with, on her lips, the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. She was 24 years old.