



from eating water-hemlock. His instructor was affected to the extent that he was delirious for a whole night. Relics were trustingly applied to him—perhaps of Kateri!— and he recovered instantly.

The entire summer of 1684, rumors of war had the French colonists sitting on thorns. The Indians of Saint Francis Xavier were painfully aware of conditions. Hot Powder and the other chiefs recalled to their people that it were better to die than to forsake their faith: to protect it must they not remain allies of the French? So they sided with the French.

Taking into account that a cold war was better than a hot one, Hot Powder volunteered as an envoy to the pagan Iroquois when one was needed. He succeeded in postponing the evils of war until the unfortunate coup by the Marquis de Denonville in 1687. For his guide and protectress in this dangerous journey, he chose Kateri Tekakwitha. He went to the cemetery where she was buried and took a little earth from her lot, and filling a little pouch with it, tied it around his neck. He begged Tekakwitha to obtain for him the favor to return home in good health. And this she did.

Meanwhile, in Oneida, after the death of the head-chief, Hot Powder was proposed as his successor. Feelers went out to him: excellent conditions would be tendered. He could, if he accepted the chieftaincy, live in his homeland as a Christian, much as he was doing at the Mission of Saint Francis Xavier.

It was, one must admit, a tempting offer. As a praying Indian invested with the authority of a head-chief, would he not be able to bring about countless conversions? And perhaps it would have been so. Hot Powder, however, stated that he thought too much of his faith to quit the Sault. When the official delegation arrived from Oneida, he received them according to the rules of Iroquois protocol. But when they outlined their conditions, his answer proved unacceptable. If they wanted him for head war-chief, they must all become Christians; furthermore, after their baptism, they must move to the Mission of Saint Francis Xavier. No doubt about it: Hot Powder intended to live and die there!

When Governor de la Barre left for his infelicitous expedition against the Senecas in 1684, Hot Powder refused to budge. He was prepared to repulse an invasion, but not to be the first to attack. After the General's return to Quebec, Hot Powder went hunting