

sister thought she should marry and as she was well-liked by all, there would be young men galore to choose from. A good hunter would abundantly supply the long house with whatever was required, for Iroquois husbands always handed over the produce of their hunt to their wives.

The adopted sister suspected the young woman would oppose her plan, but she hoped to change her mind with more than a quiverful of fine arguments, which she had in store. She took her aside one day and spoke to her affectionately:

"It must be admitted, Kateri, my dear sister, that you have a great obligation to Our Lord for having brought you and me from our miserable country, and for leading you to the Sault where you can work for your salvation in peace of mind, without anything to trouble your devotion. If you are happy to be here, I am not less happy to see you here with us. You increase this happiness by your wise conduct, which draws on you the esteem and the approbation of the whole village. There is just one thing that you can do which will make me entirely pleased with you, and which will make you yourself perfectly happy—that is to think seriously of establishing yourself by a good, sound marriage.

"This is the course followed by all the girls here. You are of a marriageable age, and you need it, even as the others, to withdraw you from the occasions of sin and to supply you with the necessities of life. It is not because it is not a pleasure for your brother-in-law and myself to provide for you, as we have done heretofore, but you know that he is getting old and we have a large family, so that if anything should happen to us and we could not help you, where would you look for aid? Believe me, my dear sister, you should place yourself as soon as possible beyond the possibility of the pains of poverty for the good of both your soul and body, and think seriously of how to avoid them while you are able to do so easily, and win such advantage for yourself and for your whole family who desire it."

Silence dark and troubled enveloped the two women. Kateri was far from expecting such a proposition, but the love and respect she felt for her sister induced her to conceal her pain. She even thanked her for her good advice and, since the decision was of the greatest importance, she would examine it at leisure. And as soon as she could, she knocked at the door of Fr. Cholenec's room and complained to him of her sister's unwelcome interference.



*Catherine Tegahkoiïta Iroquoise
morte en Odeur de sainteté dans le Canada*

The oldest known picture of Kateri, no doubt inspired by one of Fr. Claude Chauchetière's drawings. It appeared in the 1717 issue of *Lettres édifiantes et curieuses*.