

bright rays of the sun dance in the fine white powderish snow thrown up by gusts of wind. But in Kateri's heart, burned a devouring fire.

It was during the Holy Sacrifice, offered at eight o'clock in the morning, after having received Holy Communion, that she abandoned herself totally to Jesus Christ. She renounced forever to all purely human love and promised Him perpetual virginity. She made a donation of her soul to Jesus in the Eucharist and of her body to Jesus crucified. In the blaze of her love, in the language of mystics, she conjured Him to be her only spouse and to accept her for His own. She then turned towards Our Lady, for whom she had a deep and tender devotion, and asked her to present her to her Divine Son; with the thought of offering a double sacrifice, she at once consecrated herself to Mary, imploring her to be her mother and to take her as her daughter. This day was without a doubt the most beautiful one of her life; she had at last realized her most ardent desire.

Purity was certainly Kateri's characteristic virtue. Purity as it is generally understood or exemption from the vice of impurity, and also in a larger sense, exemption from sin in general. She had a real horror for sin and took great care to preserve herself from it. Father Cholenec remarked: "I do not think that she ever offended God by a mortal sin; rather I would say she had such a real horror of sin and kept such vigilance to preserve herself from it that I do not know if in the two years and a half she lived at the Sault, she committed any, even the smallest, deliberately, for she took special care to avoid the slightest faults. That is what may be termed being really holy and possessing perfect charity. What concerns the second kind of purity, I say and shall always say, that it is a miracle of grace which cannot be understood, how Kateri passed more than twenty years in the midst of the corruption of her country and two years and a half at the Sault, virgin in body and soul, without ever, during all that time, having felt the least thing contrary to this virtue, either in body or soul. This, I say appears unbelievable, but is nevertheless true."

Father Cholenec and his two companions must have often taken for the subject of their sermons love of Jesus in the Tabernacle and on the Cross. On the same day, after having disposed herself by penances with exceptional fervor and after having received Holy Communion, an Onondaga named Marie, whom her spiritual director called "the penitent," because of her constant mortifications, also abandoned her soul to Jesus in the Eucharist and her body to Jesus crucified. She

