

as easy for the Lord to cure as not to cure, He listened to his little servant and, because of her, proffered a helpful hand to a large number of invalids and sick people. And He did this not only once a month, but also each week and many times a week in the Indian village as well as in the French habitations and their outskirts. Worthy of note is the fact that Kateri obtained signal favors for the country people and the poor before entering the cities and the homes of the well-to-do.

Before the Indians became Christians, on the graves of their departed, they often erected monuments portraying mythological animals and birds, called "masters of life." In 1673, the founder of the Mission, Francis Xavier Tonsahoten, in the capacity of first captain of the village, had ordered that this custom be stopped on the occasion of the death of his wife, Catherine Gandeaktenha. "It will be better to pray for the repose of her soul," he said, "and give alms to the needy." Not long afterwards the Indians noticed that the French erected small crosses on the tombs of their dead. In the wake of all the marvels obtained through Kateri's intercession, her people appealed to the missionaries. Would it not be possible to raise a small monument on Kateri's resting place? Hadn't she heaped countless blessings on them? With the approval of the Fathers, these men set up a modest memorial on her grave.

It was also in 1683 that a windblast overthrew the chapel from which three Fathers miraculously escaped, as Kateri had predicted to Fr. Chauchetière in the very year of her death. They were convinced that they owed their lives to her. The missionaries and the chiefs decided to rebuild at once. Fortunately an excellent architect—he had already erected five other well-built chapels—happened to be on the spot. He willingly consented to see to the construction of the new edifice. At the same time, the Great Mohawk, Joseph Togouroui, who had just finished building himself a fine longhouse two weeks before, moved out so that Our Lord could move in. His dwelling thus became a church, and what is most interesting, through Kateri's intercession, favors were obtained there. From the surrounding places, people flocked to the Mission to make novenas to Kateri. The comfortable plank chapel was no more; still, people prayed more fervently than ever despite the inconvenience of the building, the severity of the winter, the spring rains and the heat of summer which would normally have kept them away.

Fr. Cholenec, to whom we owe these details, says little enough about Kateri's intercession from 1682 to 1695. And quite understandably, for his superior transferred him from the Mission to Quebec and then to the Hurons of Lorette. After an absence of thirteen years, on coming back to the Iroquois



The Great Mohawk's Branched Candlestick