



A Thrilling Story

Star differeth from star in brilliance. Usually there is in every constellation one star that is more lustrous than the others. Tekakwitha is that star of the many others among her people who make the early history of New France resplendent with virtue to heroic degree. Last month's LILY OF THE MOHAWKS told what part the Indian converts of her day had in protecting her innocence. How they would inspire her to sacrifice everything for modesty may be gathered from the following. It is a thrilling story.

The Iroquois had cast an Algonquin captive in the closed part of their long house, intending, of course, to outrage and perhaps massacre her. While they slept in drunken stupor, she passed stealthily over their bodies. When at the exit of the cabin, in righteous indignation, she seized the tomahawk of one and brained him. His groan aroused the others and they started in pursuit. First she hid in a hollow stump. When her pursuers turned in one direction, she darted to the other, but at daybreak they discovered her tracks and followed her two whole days. She plunges into a beaver pond, coming to the surface only at intervals in order to breathe. They give up the chase and then she starts on her journey homeward, passing thirty-five days in the woods without robe or covering, except a small piece of bark with which "to hide herself from her own eyes," as the *Jesuit Relations* put it. Mosquitoes, gnats, flies and wasps were devour-

ing her. For food she had only roots or the bark of trees. To cross lakes and rivers she had to make rafts. How she could escape wild beasts, or Indian braves on the hunt or war-path, is a mystery. Nearing her settlement, she was heard approaching by some Hurons. Faint though she was with hunger, and sorely bitten all over, her only thought was her modesty. Concealing herself in bushes, she warned them not to approach, but to throw her a blanket to shield her nakedness.

That story is in Volume 30 of the Thwaites' edition of *The Jesuit Relations*, pages 267-269. It is only one of many such thrilling stories. Here is another from Volume 34, page 119: A fifteen-year-old girl was often, in her captivity, urged to do what she could not without losing her innocence; but never did she yield, preferring to die rather than commit sin.

Now we have the background for the story of Tekakwitha. In it move martyrs, holy missionaries, heroic Christian Indian men and women. Some day, let us hope, we shall have more accessible to all an edition of the *Relations* which record all this.

May happiness this year of our Lord be enhanced by good news of the advancement of the Cause of Tekakwitha toward a definite conclusion! The prospect is very promising. Read what Monsignor Breslin, until recently Roman Postulator of the Cause, reports, page 3.

THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS

Indian Christmas Hymn

How did Tekakwitha spend Christmas? as we sing "Adeste Fideles." It was in
We know she made her First Communion on Huron tongue, written by the martyr, St.
that day. Here is the hymn she would sing, John de Brebeuf:

JESUS ANATONHIA

'Twas in the moon of the winter time
When all the birds had fled,
That mighty Gitchi Manitou
Sent Angel Choirs instead.
Before their light the stars grew dim,
And wondering hunters heard the hymn:

Jesus, your King, is born.
Jesus is born;
In excelsis gloria.

In a lodge of broken bark
The tender Babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin
Enwrapped His beauty round.
And as the hunters brave drew nigh,
The Angel song rang loud and high:

Jesus, your King, is born.

Earliest moon of winter time
Is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on
The helpless Infant there,
While chiefs from far before Him knelt
With gifts of fox and beaver pelt.

Jesus, your King, is born.

Children of the forest free,
O sons of Manitou,
The holy Child of earth and heaven
Is born to-day for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant Boy,
Who brings you beauty, peace and joy:

Jesus, your King, is born.

From the *Auriesville Pilgrim*,

January, 1935.

The Court of Holiness (III)

Our December message listed the names of the Cardinals of the Congregation of Rites, and of other ecclesiastics who are specially designated to study and decide the historical causes for the beatification and canonization of Servants of God like Tekakwitha. They are the Supreme Court in such matters.

The process for beatification begins in a lower court, like our civil court of first instance. It is appointed by the bishop of the diocese in which the Servant of God died, or, if that be inconvenient, in the diocese in whose territory the Servant in question lived many years. For Tekakwitha this lower court was appointed by His Excellency, Edmund F. Gibbons, Bishop of Albany, where Tekakwitha lived five-sixths of her lifetime. It was composed of the following members: Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Delaney, Presiding Judge; Rt. Rev. Msgr.

Michael J. Looney, Associate Judge; Rev. Louis Lavigne, Associate Judge; Rev. Henry Miller, Associate Judge in the *Process de non cultu*; proving there has been no attempt at creating public veneration for Kateri; Rev. James Hilden, Notary; Rev. Edward J. Maginn, Associate Notary; Rev. Joseph P. Kelly, Marshal.

This court is appointed at the request of a Postulator, so-called because it is his duty to petition for it, to show that there is reason to believe in the holiness of the Servant of God in question, to designate the witnesses, to transport the record of its acts to the Congregation of Rites and to interest the faithful in its progress. In Rome there must be a Postulator to deal directly with the Congregation. For the diocese in which process is instituted, the one who acts is called Vice-Postulator.

THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS

Good Tidings

How fortunate it has been to issue this monthly message appears from the number of those who subscribe for it and their kindly appreciation of it.

A new interest in the life of Kateri has been developed by it, and also in the accounts of the proceedings for the canonization of a Servant of God. Each of the hundreds of copies already in circulation makes known to many persons things that hitherto were told only to one or other by letter. A distinguished pastor has ordered 100 copies to circulate among the pupils in his school.

As announced in the December number, Father Charles Miccinelli, S.J., has resumed the duties of Postulator in Rome for the cause of Tekakwitha. After six years of devoted attention to the cause, Monsignor Joseph A. Breslin has had to relinquish this important post in order to return to his archdiocese and become pastor of the Church of St. John, White Plains, New York.

The Monsignor gives a very favorable account of the progress of the cause and of the interest of all concerned in it. The documentary evidence is perfect. It has been thoroughly sifted and translated. It is now in the printer's hands and it will make a large sized quarto volume. The Congregation of Rites is awaiting it in order to have the cause formally introduced.

Monsignor Breslin also reports that the interest in the cause is gradually becoming universal. Not only are people in this country and Canada eager for its happy conclusion, but in all parts of Europe also are there devotees of Kateri. No one questions the holiness of the Lily of the Mohawks. All who hear of her are fascinated by the story. It is for all a new thing in the annals of saintliness. It is plain to see what a glorious

influence it will have on old and young when she will be declared saint.

About to leave Rome, the last act of Monsignor Breslin was to meet His Holiness in a farewell audience and, among other things, to present him with a de luxe copy of *The Saint of the Wilderness*, inscribed by the author, Dr. John J. Birch, devout Protestant devotee of the Saint in whose honor it was written, Father Isaac Jogues, bound in vellum, title and coat of arms of the Pope in gold. His Holiness was delighted with the beauty of the book, but what interested him most was the fact that it had been written by a Protestant, and so highly commended. Such devotion gratified the Holy Father. The book is the most popular Life of our Saint.

It is most fitting that devotees of Tekakwitha should pray at all times, but now more especially for the Holy Father in his illness. He has long been interested in the process for the canonization of this holy Indian maiden and to him is owing its very rapid progress. Beginning life as a sturdy climber of the hills, he is no doubt looking forward with the desire of the eternal hills. The prayer for him at Mass is:

Look favorably, we beseech Thee, O Lord, upon the gifts here offered; and guide with unceasing protection Thy servant, Pius XI, whom Thou hast vouchsafed to place as Pastor over Thy Church. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God world without end. Amen.

His Holiness is no doubt ill, but he is brave. He deserves and receives world-wide sympathy. The news reports grow every day more alarming to our deep regret.

THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS

THANKSGIVINGS AND PETITIONS

"I promised the enclosed for the cause of Tekakwitha if work was obtained for my brother."

"I asked Little Catherine to sell my house and thank God she did."

"Enclosed please find offering in thanksgiving for a favor received through the intercession of Catherine, Lily of the Mohawks."

"I have been completely free from my cough (asthma); it has practically ceased (and I coughed 60 times an hour for days on end); then, as you suggested, I went to Fr. K yesterday and he applied the relic."
—Brooklyn, N. Y.

"... due to Kateri's intercession, we won one of our most difficult hockey games of the year. The team we played has always defeated us by an enormous score for the past ten years. ..."
—Torresdale, Pa.

For several days after birth a child could not retain any nourishment, to the anxiety of doctors, parents and nurse. Placed under the protection of Catherine, the child took food and continues to do so.
—Pendleton, Oregon.

Two weeks ago a client of Kateri requested to have a Mass celebrated that her three sons-in-law might obtain work. Now she requests a Mass of thanksgiving because two have obtained it, and she hopes the third will soon be employed. —New York.

"A Sister of Charity broke her hip in April. The fracture was extremely serious as she is advanced in years. I told her the little Lily of the Mohawks would mend it. She is able to walk almost as well as ever."
—Waterbury, Conn.

After twice resting in hospital in hope of standing an operation, doctors advised me that it would be too dangerous. After discovering Kateri and praying to her, I became fit for the operation, but even after it doctors gave up hope. Now, however, I am home, fully recovered. —Collingswood, N. J.

My brother has been suffering from a lung disease. On Friday he was subject to a hemorrhage. On Saturday he was anointed. Yesterday the doctor examined him and stated his lung had collapsed by nature, one case in a thousand found that way. When he was in the hemorrhage I started the novena to Catherine.
—Scranton.

Last summer our pastor made known to us this little wonder-worker, Catherine Tekakwitha. About that time we were suffering from a severe dry spell and after making a novena to "Catherine" we received some very lovely rains in our locality. On our farm we have the best crops we have had since we moved here which was about four years ago. I am sure we owe it to Catherine. —Hebron, Indiana.

When a cure that seems extraordinary is reported, the person so favored is requested to obtain, if possible, the attestation of the attending physician as to the seriousness of the ailment. It is not his place to agree with the person cured that there was anything miraculous in the case, and he should not be requested to do so. All he can do is to give his diagnosis and express his opinion about the seriousness of the ailment. Whether a cure be miraculous or not rests with others to decide.

Besides letters written in thanksgiving for favors received, many come requesting prayers for favors needed. There is always a note of confidence in these, but there is also a note of anguish. On the favor needed depends everything for the happiness of those concerned, money aid, saving of a home, relief from crushing debt, employment, reconciliations, breaking of bad habits, restoration from ailments that seem incurable, to be able to walk again, cure of mother, etc. All such petitions are earnestly recommended to the prayers of the reader. They are remembered at Mass daily by the V. Postulator for the cause.

MAKE TEKAKWITHA KNOWN

The Lily of the Mohawks Monthly Message Subscribe at 60c. a year; 2 copies, \$1.00
Leaflets—I, remarkable cures—II, money aid, employment, etc.—III, The Tekakwitha Novena 5c. each; 25c. a doz.
Life, by Wynne, 64 pages, 3 illustrations 25c. a copy; 5 for \$1.00; discount on quantities
Pictures, colored 5 x 3 in., each 5c.; 10 x 13½ in., each 40c.; discount on quantities
Medals Oxidized silver, 15c.; \$1.50 per doz.; aluminum, 50c. a doz.

(Prices include postage)

REV. JOHN J. WYNNE, S.J., 226 E. FORDHAM ROAD, NEW YORK