



1937, No. 3

DECEMBER

Penance and a Strange Aspiration

It was a sharp transition from the excitements and irregular habits of the hunt to the services of Holy Week and Easter. Good Friday was for her a day of sorrow and a fresh inspiration to a life of penance. Easter Day, with the memory of her baptism, brought her the singular honor of admission to the Confraternity of the Holy Family reserved for older and select members of the Mission. With her companion Anastasie, the more others regarded her as deserving, the more she appreciated the evil of sin, and sought to expiate her own crimes as she called them by chastising her frail body, after the examples she read in the stories of the saints and of the fathers of the desert. About this time when felling a tree, she was struck by the falling branches and knocked unconscious. She was picked up for dead but soon came to exclaiming: "O Jesus, I thank Thee for having succored me in danger." She believed that God had spared her life in order that she might do penance.

This Indian village of St. Francis Xavier, though Eden compared with Gandaouaghe, was not altogether without an occasional sinner and scandal. The missionaries had to fight the traders who were forever striving to introduce liquors into the cabins, for liquor would spoil in a day what had taken them months to accomplish. The savage though viciously inclined had some self-control when sober; when drunk he was more demon than man. Not all in the vil-

lage precincts were Christians. Some had come there with their Christian relatives; others were still awaiting baptism. Side by side therefore with marvelous examples of piety there were instances of depravity, as when on one occasion three young women determined to tempt some of the instructors of the Indians, and, failing in this, succeeded in misleading a young brave, until they were driven from the reservation.

A certain Mary Teresa Tegaiguentha had not lived up to the promise of her early life. She had come up from the Oneidas baptized but prone in intemperance. In the winter of 1675 she had gone hunting with a party of eleven, four men, her husband among them, three other women, and three children. Game failing, they were on the verge of starvation when her husband fell ill. Deserted by the others she stayed with him until he died and she buried him in the snow.

Soon after Mary overtook her former companions now unable to proceed from hunger, and all awaiting death. They were debating the proposal to kill and eat one of the party, but they wanted to know what she as a Christian would advise. She was afraid to answer. When she saw them kill and devour first one then another of the party, she was struck with remorse over her past conduct and she determined, if God would restore her to her people, to atone for her sins with due penance. With four of her friends she survived and reached the Mission. Straight-

THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS

way she threw herself at the feet of the missionary repentant, begging his help to carry out her good resolutions.

Soon after, this woman met Kateri near the new chapel in course of construction, and their chance acquaintance ripened into a fast friendship. They used to meet with another friend, Marie Skarichions, and deliberate how they might live holier lives. Their rendezvous was under the great cross overlooking where the river widens round Heron Island. The cross was replaced from time

to time until 1890, when the present monument was erected. After Kateri's death some ornaments which she left were buried beneath it. At the blessing of a new cross in 1844, her picture adorned it. There then these three studied how they might retire by themselves, build a cabin on the island, and serve God as did the Sisters whom Skarichions and Kateri had seen at Montreal and Quebec. They decided to submit their design to Father Frémin and be guided by his advice.

Messages for December

The desire of the Bishops, priests and people of the United States to see Catherine Tekakwitha, "The Lily of the Mohawks," honored with canonization is to be expressed to the Holy See, under the terms of a resolution adopted by the General Meeting of the Bishops in session here this week ending November 20. The text of this resolution will appear in our January number.

The new *Life of Tekakwitha* by Father Wynne is now ready. Though brief it has taken time and pains to produce it. Quite different from the original *Life*, the text has now 60 instead of 42 pages. The cover is new. The favors are not so numerous, nor reported at so much length. It is not necessary to do so, because THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS now reports them each month.

The plaque of Tekakwitha is popularizing devotion to her more than anything we have ever issued about her. Her image is remarkably life-like. A distinguished sculptor, who is actually now working on a statue of her, told the writer that at first sight he thought it was a wood carving. Keep it in mind when you are selecting gifts for Christmas, or renewing your subscription for

THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS. The proof of its merit is the call for more by those who order it.

The medal of Tekakwitha has been made over. Her image stands out more sharply, and the lily on the reverse is now the *fleur-de-lis*, the French lily, which is clearer than the lily traced by the former die. The medal is a favorite one, oval in shape and not too large. It has done very good service.

Readers will remember the tribute in verse to Tekakwitha by Father Crowe which appeared in our July number. Well, besides writing, and carving, and painting "Good Catherine," many want to sing in her favor. So at our invitation five of her clients have set Father Crowe's words to music, and we are going to publish one of their compositions each month in the order in which we received them. They will take well in the schools.

If we omit "In the Court of Holiness" from this number, it is to make room for the music. Besides, we wish to have before us the Acts of the Apostolic See which will tell of the virtues of Mother Cabrini which have just been pronounced heroic.

THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS

The Lily of the Mohawks

Words by Rev. J. B. Crowe
Music by Sister Mary M. Hayes,
of the Visitation

In well marked "Procession" time

VOICE

ORGAN

f *p*

The — Lil-y of the

Mo-hawks, The — For-est Flow'r we sing; KA -

p

(Like a call)

TE-RI TE-KAK-WITH-A, Who loved Our Lord and King. —

THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS

THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF TEKAKWITHA

"Some time ago my sister was visiting a cousin who works in a Catholic rectory. Passing through one of the halls, she noticed a picture on the wall and said, 'who is that.' My cousin said, 'Oh, I want to tell you about her—The Lily of the Mohawks,' and so she told the story of the little Indian girl, as my sister calls her. Returning home, my sister made me at once send for the leaflets. I did, and received them. I have been passing them out since. At that said time sister was out of work for a long time. The dollar she gave me to send was near her last. It was only a short time when sister got a position and is doing very well now. She will never forget the little Indian girl.

—West Philadelphia, Pa.

"The dear Indian girl has helped us in a special way. We are building an Infirmary for Infirm, Convalescent and also Aged Women. The old home sponsored by the Third Order was to be closed and we Sisters were to build the new home and take entire charge of it. The proceeds of the sale of the old building the Archbishop decided were to go to the Sisters. Our Community is a new foundation and consists only of nine Sisters. We needed the money in order to be able to start the building. But where would we find a buyer? All who knew about it made some such discouraging remark: "It may take years before you will sell the place." Just then (July 9) your letter about good Kateri arrived. I immediately ordered a novena in her honor and we all

prayed fervently to her to ask our dear Lord to send us a buyer. On the last day of the novena a gentleman came to talk over some business matter and during the course of the conversation I learned that he is a real estate man and builder. Like a flash I realized that this man was sent by Kateri. I told him about the property and well in a week the deal was closed and a week ago the cash paid. I made a promise to dear Kateri I am now fulfilling it."

—Milwaukee, Wis.

"Last April my mother was taken ill with a severe attack of influenza, which resulted in heart trouble. From twelve to fifteen heart attacks followed within about four weeks. During this time gall trouble prevented her from taking practically any nourishment. Rheumatism then made its appearance. All this weakened her to such an extent that death was expected at any moment. When word came to me from California that Extreme Unction had been administered, I asked my pupils to make a novena with me, in honor of the Blessed Virgin, for the canonization of Tekakwitha. Toward the close of the novena, word came that my dear mother was improving. In June and July she was doing her own housework."

—New Munich, Minn.

PETITIONS REQUESTED THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF CATHERINE TEKAKWITHA

Cures	116	Not Specified	182
Financial Aid	61	Examinations	22
Positions	27	Sell Property	4
Conversions	3	Relief in Distress	23
Spiritual	5		

Make Tekakwitha Known

The Lily of the Mohawks Monthly Message... Subscribe at 60c. a year; 2 copies, \$1.00

Leaflets—I, cures—II; money aid, employment, etc.—III, Novena . . 5c. each; 25c. a doz.

" —IV, special for priests and communities. " "

Life, by Wynne, new edition, 64 pages, 3 illustrations. 25c. a copy; 5 for \$1.00

Pictures, colored 5 x 3 in., each 5c.; 10 x 13 1/2 in., each 40c.

Plaque of Kateri, with oak growing at her birthplace when she was born, 5 3/4 x 3 in., 40c.

Medals, from new dies Oxidized silver, 15c.; \$1.50 a doz.; aluminum, 50c. a doz.

(Prices include postage)

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