

THE LILY OF

Fairest flower that ever



THE MOHAWKS

bloomed among true men

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PRECIOUS DOCUMENTS

Life and Legend was the title of a page in the October LILY OF THE MOHAWKS telling that what was written about Tekakwitha soon after her death was a story of the facts of her life, and not merely a collection of opinions or memories of those who had lived with her. This story might be amplified by recording how marvelous it was that her Life should have been written at all, and still more marvelous that the writings should have been preserved.

Even in our time the priests in charge of Indian Reservations live in conditions not too favorable for writing books and they have little incentive for such a task. One may imagine how difficult it was well nigh three hundred years ago, when the Indians were less civilized, housing accommodations less private, and raids by hostile tribes all too frequent.

Missionary life would seem to inspire its agents with extraordinary zeal and a capacity for doing things beyond their ordinary power. The Missioners of Tekakwitha's people were gifted and cultivated men. They fairly revelled in any sign of progress in Christian life on the part of their Indian charges. Witness how almost ecstatic they were in recording in the *Jesuit Relations* every evidence of response to their ministry by their still benighted charges.

This was their incentive, and when Tekakwitha exceeded even their fondest expectations they felt in duty bound to make known

what they considered the fruit of divine grace in the untutored Indian Maiden. De Lamberville was her discoverer as if by a sacred divination. Chauchetière, hesitant at first, and seemingly scrupulous, as if he could not believe it possible that a child of the forest should become such a child of grace, wrote like one who wanted to start a movement for her canonization. Then came the enthusiastic Cholenec. As one reads his several accounts of her, one feels that every line he wrote was an act of worship.

Visit Caughnawaga today and come away with the impression that it was the home of great and saintly men, of the founder of the Science of Ethnology, Lafitau, of the historian, Charlevoix, of the philologist Cuoq, the Indian linguist Forbes, who died as Archbishop of Ottawa. All were devoted to their Venerable Tekakwitha. They go back to 1712, but how account for the preservation of documents which were written two centuries and a half ago? There was the British taking over of Canada in 1763; then the suppression of the Society of Jesus and seizure of the possessions of the missionaries in Canada in 1765; and after that the Jesuits did not return to Canada until 1842.

By a special providence the documents were still extant, but scattered here and there until the historian, Father Martin, collected them and stored them among the precious archives of St. Mary's College, Montreal.

It was in this way the documents concern-

ing Tekakwitha were preserved and have come down to us so well authenticated and available for the Process of having her declared Venerable and, soon we hope, Blessed and Saint. When presented to the Congregation of Rites, just as the vacation was beginning in 1932, the Portitor, Monsignor

Pace, of the Catholic University, was told nothing could be done with the documents before October. In two days he was called back to say that they would be examined at once, and the *Osservatore Romano* announced that few Causes for canonization were ever better documented.

A WELL-FAVORED DIOCESE

"Again the Most Reverend Bishop M. and the diocese of . . . wish to express their gratitude for most extraordinary help which, through Catherine Tekakwitha's intercession, God has deigned to give us in the solution of the financial problem.

"During the months which have elapsed since we formally appealed for financial help from the little Indian Maid, one-third of the debt has been paid off, the credit of the diocese has been solidly restored, our worries have practically disappeared, and we can continue our work with tranquillity of mind.

"We feel, Reverend Father, that all these blessings have come to us through the intercession of Venerable Catherine, and with the hope and ardent desire of soon addressing her as 'Blessed Catherine,' the Most Reverend Bishop is sending an offering for expenses in the process." —(Signed) Vicar General.

"This with my thanks to Venerable Tekakwitha for financial aid. I must build a new church; I am placing the financial end of it in her Venerable hands."

—Nesquehoning, Pa.

'Little' is a word frequently used in reference to Tekakwitha. It is a term of endearment suggested by her innocence and simplicity, and reminding one of: 'Suffer little children.'

It is still difficult to get a new lot of medals, but we hope soon to overcome the difficulty. The war has created an unusual demand for this favorite image of Kateri.

HER LEAGUE FLOURISHES

"It has been quite some time since you last heard from me. I suppose you think we have forgotten all about our Tekakwitha; well, far from that, a little slow, but—the carload of pep that I had when I came back from New York after my personal visit with you (for which I am grateful) exploded at our Union Meeting and the result was twenty-six league members." —New Orleans, La.

KATERI AND OCTOGENARIANS

"My dear Father: Enclosed please find p. m. order for your Kateri Tekakwitha Fund. Some friends of mine were generous and each gave me a dollar to help the great Cause along. I wish it were much more. Consider the little gift a birthday present, as I step into my eightieth year one of these days, October 18. I hope we both see the day of Kateri's Beatification. May it come soon."

—Father N., Buffalo, N. Y.

DUST FROM HER TOMB

"Sister Michael-Angel, my sister, sent me recently a packet of earth from the tomb of 'The Lily of the Mohawks'; since carrying this relic in my wallet I have been practically free from an annoying pain in the left knee joint. This pain has been bothering me almost constantly for over two years. My own physician and an osteopath could do nothing to relieve the pain. I have taken occasion to tell of this favor to many of those with whom I come in contact, in order to further devotion to Kateri Tekakwitha."

—Brooklyn, N. Y.

KATERI KNEW HURRICANES

"Little Katherine has granted me many favors—the last one being during that hurricane. Our house at the seashore stood this fine, but it was a terrible thing to go through. We had a run and a stairs down from it and a 15 x 25 timber float and then a 36-foot boat hit this and pushed it away and when we could see by daylight we had both on our porch. Quite exciting you know at the 'Raunt' where the house is situated. The houses are built on spiles and it was terrible to see what happened to boardwalks, etc. We are now at home and the house is still unsold. Some tell me to take the sign down—I'm just confused—upstairs and down are not so good for me, but I am going to leave it all to God."—Queens Village, L. I., N. Y.

COURT AND CAMP HONOR HER

"Since our Court, St. Joan of Arc, 1334, Catholic Daughters, is a member of Tekakwitha League, we are very anxious to learn all we can about her, and also to spread devotion to her. Hoping that by knowing Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha and making her known she will intercede for us in Heaven, I am."

—LaPlace, La.

"I represent the Camp Fire Girls of St. Mary's School of Olean, N. Y. The custom is to give the group an Indian name and we chose Tekakwitha and we hope to make the people of Olean better acquainted with our Indian, the Venerable Kateri. Our pastor is very pleased with our choice. We would like to take a little part in promoting her Cause by sending you this check, which has been taken out of our treasury, and we hope to be able to send more in the future. Our group receives Communion in a body once a month; could the girls receive a medal as a reward for a perfect attendance at the end of the year? Camp Fire Girls receive beads for honors earned. Could we buy twenty-five medals to award them for their religious

honors, and are there any prayers the girls could say to Tekakwitha? Would you please send me the right pronunciation of Tekakwitha, there seems to be a dispute about the second k?"

—Olean, N. Y.

KATERI AND VOCATIONS

"We wish to thank her for sending a Postulant to our Sister Magdalen's Community."

—Cincinnati.

"I am enclosing a check towards the Cause of Canonization of our friend, Tekakwitha, in thanksgiving for the eight postulants who entered our novitiate in July. With every best wish for the success of your work and asking your blessing, I remain."

—Sister M., Provincial Superior,
Seattle, Wash.

MASSES IN HER MEMORY

"Enclosed is my offering to say thank you to Venerable Tekakwitha, part for Masses in her memory and part for speeding her Cause. I made a novena to have some papers signed and in two days the party signed so the Government can start working on a zinc mine, and if it is successful I will give more to her Cause."

—Greenville, Tenn.

"Enclosed please find offering for Holy Masses to be said in memory of Katherine Tekakwitha in thanksgiving for a favorable settlement of an estate, which had been pending for some time. I promised Kateri to have Masses said in her honor if she would help in this matter and it has turned out very satisfactorily."

"Enclosed find money sent by my sister for Masses. One to be offered for her intention and one for the beatification and canonization of our Kateri, Lily of the Mohawks. In God's own good time it will come to pass."

—Xavier, Kan.

This issue of THE LILY goes to every member of the League.

"Am still very sick, but the silk applied to relics has helped me so much."

—San Antonio, Tex.

"Enclosed is offering for Little Tekakwitha's Cause. I have great faith in her intercession."

—Bangor, Me.

"I wish to report that Kateri has helped me and friends in securing favors."

—Marcellus, N. Y.

"Please accept this in return for a favor granted through Kateri Tekakwitha and also for a special intention at this time."

—Scranton, Pa.

"I am sending this donation in thanksgiving for favor granted through her intercession, my son's successful examinations and his admittance to medical school."

—New Orleans.

"Enclosed find offering for the Cause of Catherine Tekakwitha. This is in thanksgiving for temporal favors received through her intercession."

—Columbus, O.

"Enclosed is offering in thanks for a favor received through the intercession of Kateri, and to solicit her continued help."

—East Liverpool, O.

"An offering and petition for a contract with the shipyard so that my husband can keep his experienced workmen intact as a group, here close to their home."

—Coral Gables, Fla.

"I have just had an operation which might have been serious. Fortunately it was not and I am sure the prayers I said to Kateri Tekakwitha had much to do with the successful outcome."

—New York.

"Some time ago I promised to send you \$1.00 for prayer leaflets to Kateri Tekakwitha, but have been a little slow in doing so. I will give them away to people that haven't the prayer. Please remember our two sons, both overseas."

—Denver, Col.

"Enclosed find an offering toward the Cause of Tekakwitha in thanksgiving for a favor granted. I have been praying to our little patron for a long time and have received other favors, but this one was for money my husband had loaned out for a long time. So last month we received check to our surprise."

—Cincinnati.

"Having received a favor from Catherine Tekakwitha I had promised to write and tell you about it. To me it was a wonderful favor. My daughter and son-in-law were transferred back home. I promised to receive Holy Communion for five days in thanksgiving."

—New Orleans.

"Some time ago I made a promise to Kateri Tekakwitha that if I got well from T.B. I'd make a donation to you and make known how much she has done for me through her intercession. Seven years ago she helped me, also. I'll always be thankful to Venerable Kateri."

—Farmington, Mich.

TO MAKE TEKAKWITHA KNOWN AND LOVED

LEAFLETS

- I—Medallion, prayer, sketch, favors.
II—Novena, with daily reflexion.
5c. for 2; 25c. a dozen

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By Wynne, 32 pages, illustrated, 12c.

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" Color, silk applied to relics 20c.
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