

her mind was in inventing means to crucify her flesh. Sometimes she walked barefooted on the ice and snow, till she lost all feeling. Sometimes she strewed her couch with thorns. She rolled for three days in succession on branches of thorns, which pierced deeply into her flesh, causing inexplicable pain. Another time she burned her feet, as is done to prisoners, wishing thus to give herself the stamp and mark of a slave of Christ; but what attests far better the solidity of her virtue, is the unalterable gentleness, patience, joy even, manifested by her in the sufferings which she experienced toward the close of life.

It would seem that no sacrifice should be difficult to those who carry mortification as far as this holy virgin did. Yet this is rarely the case. Men are often astonished to behold those who practice the greatest austerities, more sensible than others to any annoying or humiliating event that happens, simply because there is nothing of their own choice in it. Self-will is always the last victim, and is often found missing from the holocaust. Catharine understood the superiority of the crosses presented by the hand of the Lord over those which are self-imposed, and sufferings in which her will had least share, were always dearest to her heart.¹

She was at last attacked by a malady, which was at once deemed mortal; and that at a time when the labors in the field so engaged all, that she could scarcely expect care from any one. She remained alone whole days with a platter of Indian corn, and a little water beside her bed. Delighted to behold herself thus forsaken of men, she communed constantly with her God, and found the days only too short. On Tuesday in Holy Week, 1678, she grew worse, and received Holy Viaticum. The missionary wished also to administer Extreme Unction at once, but she assured him that it could be deferred till next day. She spent all the ensuing night in a loving colloquy with her divine Saviour, and with His Holy Mother, whom she had always singularly honored, regarding herself as a spouse of Christ, attached to the retinue of the Queen of Virgins.

On Wednesday morning she received the sacred anointing, and about three o'clock in the afternoon she expired after a gentle agony of half an hour, retaining her complete consciousness and sound judgment till her last sigh.² Thus lived and thus in her twenty-fifth year died Catharine

¹ Charlevoix seems to allude to a false accusation under which Catharine labored for a time. Chauchetière, B'k II. ch. ix.

² Chauchetière details her last moments. B'k III., ch. 3. She died April 17, 1680. See, too Cholenek's letter, *Lettres Edifiantes*—Kip's *Jesuit Missions*, pp. 82, 113.

De la Potherie, *Histoire de l'Amérique Septentrionale*, p. 351, gives the same year, 1680. If it had occurred in 1678, the *Relation 1673-9* would not have been silent as to it; but there is no allusion to it in that volume, or in the matter for 1678 in the *Relations Inédites*.