

There, surrounded with bayonets, we could offer nothing but our tears to our dear children and to these good people, who went on their knees to ask our blessing, despite the threats and blows of the soldiery.

The people were at last driven away, and we had to continue our forced march, although many of us were already bleeding from our mouth and nose, through exhaustion. Those who fell were compelled to rise by repeated blows.

When they had fettered us, they gave each of us five francs, and promised that we should receive the same amount every month for our support; but they never afterwards gave us either money or food; and the five francs had scarcely been given to us, when they were taken away again by the commanding officer, who had assumed to be our purveyor, and who, only once, bought us a little bread and milk, and some beer.

The most zealous amongst the inhabitants of Minsk followed us closely for several hours; but they were not allowed to offer us either alms or relief.

The first day, we had to walk no less than forty miles. We passed the night in a village and were lodged in the huts of the peasants, some of whom insulted us, whilst others took pity on our state, and even offered us their supper; but each of us was in the custody of two soldiers, who allowed us to receive no cooked victuals.

After a seven days' march of this kind, we reached Witebsk. The cross of Jesus Christ was our strength and our only consolation. The dear crucifix was upon my shoulder day and night, and on the feet of my divine Master my aching head rested incessantly. Oh! how sweet is his embrace!...

At Witebsk, we were placed under the command of a protopope, superior of a sort of convent of schismatic nuns, called *Czernices*, to whom the Basilian convent of Witebsk had been delivered over six months previous to our arrival. This convent, like all the Basilian convents in Lithuania, was under the invocation of the Most Holy Trinity. The *Czernices*, who already crowded the convent, had been transported thither from the government of *Jaroslaff*: they were half-civilized women, for the most part the widows of Russian soldiers; we