

taken from a russian guard dead drunk, whilst we were awaiting her in anxiety.

All this took place about midnight from the 31 march to the 1 of April of this present year 1845.

God willed it so. He will take care of our blind and infirm Sisters, whom we abandoned without apprising them of our departure ; for if they had asked us to remain with them, we never would have been able to abandon them, and yet it was necessary to escape ; God willed it so.

I have since learned that two of our infirm Sisters died a few days afterwards, and that the others were placed in an hospital, after a long opposition from Siemasko, who persisted in refusing his permission, unless they consented to receive communion at least once from the hand of a schismatic pope. The Sisters having constantly refused, he finally gave his consent, but forbid the guardians of the hospital to ever allow them to see a catholic priest.

After shaking off the snow that covered us, we proceeded to the ruins of a neighbouring chapel, on which we knelt and recited together our midnight prayers ; we invoked the assistance of the Most Holy Trinity and the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary ; we recommended ourselves to our guardian angels and patron saints ; we embraced each other in tears, and then we separated, each one taking a different direction, to more easily elude the pursuit of the police, and in order that one of us at least might be happy enough to reach the feet of the Vicar of Jesus-Christ, and tell him the trials and sorrows of a nation suffering martyrdom for its faith, of a people loudly calling for their priests, dying in prison or freezing to death on the icy deserts of Siberia for their fidelity to the holy Roman Church, of a people loudly demanding the restoration of their ruined or profaned Sanctuaries. After wandering for nearly three months through the forests of Lithuania, without food or clothing, spied and tracted, and yet preserved from all dangers by divine Providence, I travelled across Prussia and France, and am now happily arrived in Rome, where, by command of the Holy Father, I have related what I remember of the