

gather wood in the neighbouring forest ; but, trammelled as we were by our fetters, we were unable to carry it through the deep snow. Moreover, our only stove was in such bad order, and so filled our apartment with smoke, that one of our Sisters, Martha Balinska, was suffocated.

The winter following (1844-1845) our sufferings increased with our infirmities. Seven of our Sisters were now completely disabled, besides the eight blind Sisters, whose eyes had been plucked out during the horrible scene at Polock. Towards the close of winter, there were amongst us but four Sisters able to assist the others, and yet we were threatend with transportation to Siberia ; we were even assured that orders to that effect had been already received from the Emperor.

It was then (1845) that God inspired us with the design to attempt our escape, and he soon offered us a favorable opportunity.

To celebrate in a becoming manner Shrypin's birthday, the popes, czernices and guards drank themselves blind during three successive days. The night following the third day, whilst our guards were fast asleep, we managed to work off our fetters, and made our escape in the following manner.

We raised up against the prison wall a long trunk of wood, by means of which we reached the top of the wall. I ascended first, and contemplated for a moment the appalling height of three stories, that separated me from the ground below. I again asked God if it were his holy will that we should escape, and having invoked the Blessed Trinity, and made the sign of the cross, I precipitated myself into the air. God protected me, and I fell upon the soft snow without receiving the slightest injury. Sister Eusebia Wawrzecka followed me in the same manner. Then came Sister Clotilda Konarska, who had lost an eye at Polock ; the fourth, Irena Pomarnacka, was some time before she appeared. We were beginning to fear something had happened, when at last we heard her in the air above pronouncing these words : " The Lord be praised ", and she fell upon the snow. She rose nimbly to her feet, wrapped in a mantle she had