

there to tempt us."—The tumultuous shouts of the *czernices* brought the scene to a close, and Siemasko expelled us in fury. When he had left, we were compelled to purify with fire and water the spot whereon we had stood in his presence, defiled by what the *czernices* called our *accursed polish blood*.

To cool down that *polish blood* of ours, Siemasko ordered us to be plunged into the lake extending before Miadzioly. The decree having been read to us, we were, except those who were blind, vested with a sort of linen gown, something like a wheat-sack, but, with only one sleeve for both arms. In this state, with a rope around our neck, we were led through the town. A number of Jews followed us, weeping. A few small boats awaited us at the lake, each manned by two guards; two unfortunate apostate monks, Wasilewski and Komorowski, were among the number.

The protopope Skrypin first said: "If you don't embrace our religion, I will drown you like dogs."—"You may if you wish; but we will not abandon Jesus-Christ nor his Church." The boats were launched out, and we were dragged by the neck into the icy water: each man dragged a victim.

When the water was up to our waist, we were again invited to apostatize. On our refusal, we were led out into the deep water, where we were hauled and dragged about by the neck for nearly three hours. Finally, Skrypin, exasperated by our constancy, cried out in fury: "Drown them, drown them like dogs." We were led back to our prison amidst the wailings of the kind-hearted Jews, who sought in vain to offer us some relief and consolation. The dipping process was repeated six times within a fortnight, and was abandoned only through fear of the Jews. Four Sisters were drowned in this manner.

The Jews always showed themselves kind and charitable to us; may God enlighten and save them!

The following winter (1843-1844) was a cruel one for us: our sores were renewed by the contact of the cold water, and our infirmities considerably aggravated by cold and hardship. We were allowed to go out and