

PERSECUTION IN RUSSIA.

The narrative of Makiena Mieczyslawka, Basilian Abbess of Minsk, or the History of a Seven Years' Persecution, suffered by her and her Nuns; written from her own words, and under the orders of our Most Holy Father the Pope, Gregory XVI., by the Rev. Father Maximilian Rylo, Rector of the Propaganda in Rome; the Abbe Alexander Jelowski, Rector of St. Claudius, in Rome; the Abbe Aloys Leitner, Theologian of the Propaganda, in Rome. Beginning on the 6th of November and ending on the 6th of December, 1845, at Rome.

I.

Expulsion from Minsk, Imprisonment and Persecution at Witebsk.
(1838—1840.)

Continued.

We were hardly out of the church, when our children awoke and ran after us in tears crying: 'They have taken our dear mothers! our dear mothers! These children were orphans, forty-seven in number, and our other pupils, amounting to about sixty. Their cries awoke the inhabitants of the city, amongst whom the most zealous and courageous joined the children.

All these good people overtook us at our first halt, near an inn called Wygodka, about three miles distant, where we stopped to be tied two by two together, with irons on our feet and hands.

Surrounded as we were by bayonets, we could but shed tears with our children and the good Catholics, who fell on their knees to ask our blessing, notwithstanding the blows which the soldiers showered upon them with the butt-end of their muskets.

When we were thus chained together, each of us received the value of five shillings, with the promise of a similar sum every month for our food; but from that time we never received either money or food; and the five shillings had been hardly distributed, when they were taken away by the commanding officer, who volunteered to become our steward, though he only bought us once a small quantity of bread, milk, and beer.

The most zealous amongst the inhabitants of Minsk followed us closely for several hours; but they were allowed to offer us neither help nor alms of any kind.

On the first day we were forced to walk about fifteen leagues (forty-five miles); we passed the night in a village where we were lodged in the huts of the peasants, of whom some insulted us, whilst others were compassionate enough to offer us a part of their supper; but each of us had by

our side two soldiers, who allowed nothing cooked to be offered us.

We arrived at Witebsk after a seven days' journey. The Cross of Jesus Christ was all along our strength and support. That dear crucifix I bore upon my shoulder both by day and by night, and my head rested continually on the feet of my Divine Master. Oh! how truly benign is that Master!.....

To be continued.

A VOLUNTEER.—M. Benedict Touffey, Professor of Rhetoric at the College of Pont de Beauvoisin, and a distinguished writer, has taken the courageous resolution of devoting himself to the foreign missions, and has addressed a farewell letter to numerous friends, saying that, 'Before the clearly manifested command of heaven, man can only kneel, rise, and depart.' He has already quitted his country.

PRESTON.—ROMAN CATHOLIC CIRCULATION OF THE SCRIPTURES.—A few days ago Mr. William Anderson, of York, presented 300 copies of the New Testament to the children and others belonging to the York Roman Catholic Sunday Schools. The Rev. T. Billington, Roman Catholic Priest, delivered an appropriate discourse on the occasion, in which he referred to the advantages attendant on the frequent reading of the sacred writings.

BIRTHS RECORDED.

AT ST. MARY'S.

- MARCH 9—Mrs. Elizabeth Gerratty, of a Daughter.
 " Mrs Alice Kelly, of a Son.
 " Mrs Mary Lemont, of a Son.
 " Mrs Jane Cooke, of a Son.
 " Mrs Mary Murphy, of a Daughter.
 " Mrs Johanna Collins, of a Daughter.
 " Mrs Catherine Maloney, of a Daughter.
 " Mrs Catherine Dorgan, of a Daughter.
 11—Mrs Catherine Duffield, of a Son.
 13—Mrs Catherine McEllis, of a Daughter.
 " Mrs Margaret Healy, of a Son.

INTERMENTS.

AT THE CEMETERY OF THE HOLY CROSS.

- MARCH 9—Margaret Ann, daughter of William and Margaret Finton, aged 3 years and 6 months.
 10—James, son of John and Mary Doran, aged 9 months.
 11—Thomas, son of Patrick and Johanna Garvey, aged 3 months.
 13—Ellen, wife of Richard Power, native of Kilkenny, aged 42 years.