

Siemasko requested us to write under his fatal invitation these words : « *We have read it,* » which, to him, would have been equivalent to these : « *We have accepted it.* » After a first and a second refusal, he insisted strongly ; after a third one, he threatened us.

The first time he presented himself in person, after his apostacy, he asked me in an angry tone :

« Why did you not sign that paper I sent you ? »
—« Because I perceived it contained base falsehoods. »—« What do you mean ?—I mean that if you, a Basilian monk, have had the misfortune to apostatize, your defection is a proof that St. Basil, perceiving the tare amongst the wheat, has rejected it ; or that you, recognizing yourself unworthy to number amongst his children, have abandoned them by a double apostacy. »

At these words, he ground his teeth and burst out furiously :

“ Shut up, you infernal hydra ! ”—“ Don't call me an infernal hydra, but rather a hydra of truth. ”—“ Who gives you such audaciousness in my presence ? ”—“ God himself. ”—“ Who taught you such language ? ”—“ The Holy Ghost. ”—“ Do you know to whom you are speaking ? ”—“ To an apostate. ”—“ Don't you know that I have been your bishop, your pastor, and that I am now more than a bishop, more than a pastor ? ”—“ Yes, it is very true, you have been our pastor ; but now you are the wolf devouring your own flock. ”

Seeing that all our Sisters manifested the same courage, he said :

“ Come now, be like yourself again. I have always known you to be good and mild as an angel, and now you seem to have become a demon. ”—“ As long as you were an angel, I treated you as an angel ; but now that you are become a demon, I treat you as I should treat a demon. ”—“ I forgive you in the name of the Emperor, who is pleased to grant you three months for reflexion. If you open your eyes and embrace the truth, you shall enjoy your wealth and merit his Majesty's pardon ; but if you persist in your obstinate resistance, I announce to you unspeakable grief. ”—“ We accept the worst, and the more we shall have to suffer, the greater shall be our joy ; but never, never will we abandon our holy, roman, catholic and apostolic faith ! ”