

As the impending conflict between Russia and Turkey, towards which all eyes are turned, must have a powerful bearing on the interests of the propagation of the Faith, we devote this number of the Annals to a view of the Catholic Church in Russia. And in order to give a just idea of the sufferings of that martyr nation, Poland, under the cruel hand of Russian despotism, even to the present day, we cannot do better than offer our Associates an authentic relation of one of the thousands of faithful catholics, who were sent, and are still sent, to die for their faith the deserts of Siberia.

The following relation of the Abbess of the Basilian nuns of Minsk, was written from her own dictation in the year 1845, by three Roman Divines, who had been expressly appointed by the Holy Father to receive her deposition. We condense it into the present number, to the exclusion of all other matter, rather than interrupt the thrilling story.

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*Relation of Makrena Mieczyslawska, Abbess of the Basilian nuns of Minsk, or History of a seven years' persecution, suffered for the faith by herself and her nuns.*

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EXPULSION FROM MINSK : PRISON AND PERSECUTION IN  
WITEBSK (1838-1840.)

During the summer of 1838, Siemasko, (an apostate bishop) invited us three different times, by letter, to join the schism. In his impious assaults, he called St. Basil a schismatic : he said the rule of the Basilian order was a gross error, which he, with God's assistance, had finally abandoned, and that having discovered the so-called Orthodox (greek schismatic) church to be the only true religion, he, our pastor, exhorted us, the lambs of his flock, to renounce the Church of Rome, and to abandon the rule of St. Basil.