

barefaced falsehood ? Nobody knows better than you do, that we are ready to suffer even death for our faith : how could we therefore ask you to bring us your accomplice, him, whom you recognize as your worthy archbishop, but who, to us, is nothing but an apostate like yourself." Then addressing myself to Siemasko : " This cross that you bring me in the name of the Emperor, you may suspend to your own breast, already so richly decorated. Formerly thieves were attached to the cross : but now I see the cross attached to a thief. Begone ! you shall not prevail against the servants of God. "

Siemasko appeared surprised, but he did not change his tone of voice ; he hoped to win us by his mildness. When he was gone, we shed tears of joy ; we thanked Our Lord for this new assistance of his grace, and my Sisters pressed around me in an effusion of love so long constrained by the presence of the apostate bishop.

That day, Siemasko appointed a russian pope, named Andrianow, to investigate the mystery of the petition signed by Michalewicz. He saw our constancy and threatened us with the most horrible tortures, and even with death ; but nothing could shake our courage ; God visibly sustained us, and Andrianow withdrew furious. The next day, Siemasko ordered us to be flogged under his own window, and in return for his visit, he got our blood. He then went away, after abusing Michalewicz, who revenged himself on us by increasing in cruelty.

After a few months (1839) Siemasko returned again, to consecrate, in his own way, our former church, destined henceforward to the use of the schismatics. They wanted to make us work at its reparation, but we preferred death rather than lay a hand to it.—Siemasko came himself to invite us to assist at the ceremony ; he even spoke about confession and communion. We answered him : " God will instruct us himself, and he will have mercy on us without your absolution ; you, unfortunate apostate, you have ceased to be our pastor ; therefore do not trouble yourself about our souls, but think rather, if you wish, of our bodies ; give us something to eat, for we are starving." Siemasko withdrew in anger ; he stationed himself at the church door, and ordered us to be brought in by force. We were immediately surrounded by a set of savages, who assaulted