

[37] CHAPTER IV.

TRIAL OF THE CONSTANCY AND COURAGE OF THIS
CHURCH AMID THE OPPOSITION OF
THE INFIDELS.

ONE of the first Christians of this country, speaking some time ago to a new Catechumen who was asking of him some advice before receiving Baptism, answered him: "My brother, I have only two things to say to thee. The first is, that thou wilt never be a good Christian if thou dost not suffer many insults and calumnies for thy faith: when thou shalt see thyself hated by the infidels, even by those who now have most love for thee, then rejoice, and think that truly thou art beginning to be a Christian. The second, that thou take care not to be indignant at those who shall make thee suffer; pray to God for them, and tell him in thy heart that he shall show mercy to them, and enable them to understand the wretched condition in which they live."

Indeed, this good Christian was right; [38] for it is true that the surest mark that we have, in these countries, of the faith of a Christian, is to see him straightway greeted with calumny. And if the faith of some seems doubtful to us, if some become apostates after receiving Holy Baptism,—they are precisely those who were living most in repose, and as it were, sheltered from the storm.

Ignace Oiiakonchiaronk,—one of the richest and