

### THE JESUITS' OATH.

Hard things have been said by the ignorant and unthinking against the different European countries that expelled the Jesuits from their coasts; but on reading the following, we think they will be convinced that they forfeit all right, not merely to protection, but to toleration from powers which they bind themselves by oath to destroy. They are an exceedingly unsafe element in any country whose creed is Protestant.

When Pope Clement XIV., issued a bull in 1773, abolishing the Order of Jesuits, annulling its statutes and releasing the members from their vows, its constitution was made public and embraced the following oath:—

I, A. B., now in the presence of Almighty God, the blessed Virgin Mary, the blessed Michael the Archangel, the blessed St. John Baptist, the holy apostles St. Peter and St. Paul, and the saints and sacred host of heaven, and to you my ghostly father, do declare from my heart, without mental reservation, that Pope Gregory is Christ's Vicar-General, and is the true and only Head of the universal church throughout the earth; and that by virtue of the keys of binding and loosing, given to his holiness by Jesus Christ, *he hath power to depose heretical kings, princes, states, commonwealths, and governments, all being illegal without his sacred confirmation, and that they may safely be destroyed;* therefore, to the utmost of my power, I will defend this doctrine and his Holiness' rights and customs against all usurpers of the heretical or Protestant authority whatsoever, especially against the now pretended authority and Church in England, and all adherents, in regard that they be usurped and heretical, opposing the sacred mother Church of Rome.

I do renounce and disown any allegiance as due to any heretical king, prince or State named Protestant, or to any of their inferior magistrates or officers. I do further declare the doctrine of the Church of England, or of the Calvinists, Huguenots, and other Protestants to be damnable, and those to be damned who will not forsake the same. I do further declare that I will help, assist, and advise all or any of his Holiness' agents in any place wherever I shall be, and do my utmost to extirpate the heretical Protestant doctrine, and to destroy all their pretended power, legal or otherwise. I do further promise and declare, notwithstanding that I am dispensed with to assume any religion heretical for the propagation of the Mother Church's interests, to keep secret and private all her agents' counsels, as they entrust me, and not to divulge, directly or indirectly, by word, writing or circumstance whatsoever, but to execute all which shall be proposed, given in charge, or discovered unto me, by you, my ghostly father, or by any of this convent.

All of which I, A. B., do swear by the Blessed Trinity, and Blessed Sacrament, which I am now to receive, to perform and on my part to keep inviolably; and do call all the heavenly and glorious hosts of heaven to witness my real intentions to keep this my oath. In testimony hereof, I take this most holy and blessed sacrament of the eucharist, and witness the same further with my hand and seal, in the face of this holy convent.

I remember an anecdote of a certain preacher who thus apostrophised Virtue in his sermon:—"O Virtue! would'st thou but appear on the earth in all thy beauty and loveliness, surely all men would love thee." To this an Orthodox minister replied:—"Virtue did once appear bodily on the earth, in all its beauty and loveliness, and its possessor was condemned and crucified." Can you tell me who these preachers were?— P.