

of the Act resulting therefrom is, however, pointed out in another place to which we refer the reader.

Then comes the settlement of the amount of compensation, which is interesting only as showing the playful fence with which the Procurator, first estimating the value of the property at two millions of dollars, and modestly saying that he will be satisfied with half that amount, finally accepts the four hundred thousand which is offered as compensation for a property which belonged, not to the Jesuits, but to the Province of Quebec. It is hard not to believe that all this was arranged beforehand so as to display the care taken by M. Mercier to protect the interests of the Province, and the extreme moderation of the Jesuits in accepting a fifth of what, according to their contention, was really their right. The remaining documents given in the preamble are purely formal, and inserted in the bill merely to show that His Holiness and the Society of Jesus had really given their assent to the agreement.

The historical facts relating to this matter are briefly as follows: For more than a century prior to the conquest of New France the Society of the Jesuits had been established there, and had undertaken two great works—the conversion of the Indians, and the education of the people. To enable them to carry on these undertakings they had become endowed with certain lands derived from three sources: Grants from the Crown; gifts from private individuals; and purchases made from various funds at their disposal. All these grants and gifts were expressly made in trust for the objects already mentioned; besides which it must be remembered that, according to their vow of poverty, the Jesuits, neither individually nor collectively, could hold property for personal profit or emolument. We shall not stay to enquire how these trusts were executed. That is a matter of history, and is not pertinent to the present issue.

At the capitulation of Quebec article thirty-four provided that "all the communities and all the priests shall preserve their movables, the property and revenue of the Seigniories, and other estates which they possess in the colony, of what nature soever they be. And the same estates shall be preserved in their privileges, rights, honors and exemptions." With that regard for its plighted faith which the British Government has always maintained, this article was kept inviolate; and for fourteen years the Jesuits remained undisturbed in the possession of their properties.

But whilst under the British flag against which they had so often intrigued, and under the protection of the British Government which they had so often assailed, the Jesuits enjoyed peace, it was not so with them in the countries of Roman Catholic Europe. Two years after the conquest of Quebec they were suppressed in France, where the exposure of their constitution and method of acting, consequent upon the failure of Lavalette's commercial enterprises, made their presence intolerable. Five years later they were altogether expelled from the dominions of His Most Catholic Majesty, their properties sequestrated, their colleges closed and their teachings forbidden. In 1767 they were suppressed in Spain, the most Roman Catholic country in Europe and the land of their birth, but where their poli-