

cussion of the said bill was pending, the idea of exclusion was again brought forward; but after a mature consideration of the question, it was concluded that there was not sufficient reason to exclude from the conversion the estates of the aforesaid congregation.

And do you know, Hon. Judge, the reason of such a step, which seems to you so unjust? It was not in order to spoliage the religious corporations of their properties; but in order not to perpetuate and increase the mortmain,—by everybody acknowledged to be the cessation of every economical progress and the principal cause of the country's non-progressiveness and of the *maluria* which exists in the Roman provinces.

Thus, Hon. Judge, at the presenting of the bill before Parliament, Art. xvii of the law of the 19th June, 1873, was substituted for the Article which asked the exclusion from conversion of the estates of the said five stately churches, as well as those of the Propaganda.

On that occasion a few concessions were made as follows:—

First.—That the corporation could themselves execute the said conversion, provided that before three months they should make a declaration before the Committee appointed for the liquidation of the Ecclesiastical estates.

Second.—That these corporations could accept in price of the sale, not only the state's rents' certificates, but even titles of Credit Foncier, and of other three establishments of credit.

Third.—That land capable of amelioration could be excluded from the conversion and could be given in tenancy.