

I—Origin and History of the Jesuits.

Ignatius Loyola, founder of the "Company of Jesus," was the youngest son of Beltran de Loyola, and was born in 1491 at the Castle of Loyola, the family seat in the Province of Guipuscoa, Spain. He died at Rome July 31st, 1556, was beatified by Paul V, in 1609 and canonized with Francis Xavier by Gregory XV. on May, 13th, 1623, the bull being published by Urban VIII. on August 6th. Don Inigo de Loyola, brave and accomplished but unversed in letters, whilst serving his country as a soldier, was wounded in a battle with the French at the siege of Pampeluna, 1521. Sent by his chivalrous captors to his father's castle he was induced to wile away the tedium of his hours by reading the legends of the saints, and by these he was induced to devote himself to a religious life. Visiting Montserrat he made a vow to the Virgin, and after practising some austerities at Manresa, he proceeded to Rome, Venice and Jerusalem. Returning he studied at Barcelona—thence in 1526, to the university of Alcalá, where he began to gather a little band of fellow-workers about him. Suspected and imprisoned for a time by the Inquisition, he migrated to Salamanca, where he was again imprisoned. He reached Paris in 1528, and entered the College of St. Barbara, where in his sixth year of residence he attempted the organization of the most promising of the young men. In 1534, he and six others in the crypt of Notre Dame de Montmartre took their vows to one another and to the sort of life they contemplated, or to direct service of the pope should the former prove impracticable. The execution of their plans was postponed till January, 1537. In 1535, Loyola left Paris for Spain, where he remained a few months, thence to Venice. In 1537 he and his comrades were ordained priests at Venice, intending to go as missionaries to Jerusalem; but, war breaking out between Turkey and Venice, the leaders went to Rome, and others to the chief towns of North Italy where they began work as home missionaries. At this time Loyola abandoned the idea of an eastern mission, and determined that the "Company of Jesus" should become a special militia to the pope, or, as he expressed it, to Paul III., the "Light Horse" of the Church army. As a committee of Cardinals had reported to the pope in 1538 that the conventual orders were a scandal to Christendom, and should be abolished—"abolendos putamus omnes"—the time seemed favorable for securing papal influence to the new Order. Accordingly, the papal bull was issued on the 27th of September, 1540, confirming the Order, but limiting its membership to 60. In 1541 Loyola was chosen Superior. The members were immediately dispatched by the