

the neighbouring diocese, and in the kingdom of Spain. The vow of M. de Belzunce* is still most religiously observed in Marseilles. Even in the present year the feast has been celebrated with great pomp, and a mass of thanksgiving for the cessation of the great plague has been offered up, at which all the authorities and a great multitude of the faithful assisted. At the offertory the mayor presented a large wax light, with the arms of the city. All the shops were closed, and from an early hour in the morning the city had all the appearance of an holiday.

In the reign of Louis XV., this devotion was extended to every diocese in France. His pious consort, the princess Mary Deesinzka, daughter of Stanislaus, king of Poland, the memory of whose virtues will be long cherished in France, had a most singular devotion, in common with the whole Polish nation, to the most Sacred Heart of Jesus, and manifested the greatest desire for its extension throughout her adopted country. At the general assembly of the French Clergy, held at Paris, in July, 1765, the president, the archbishop of Rheims, communicated the anxious desire of her Majesty that the devotion, and an office in honour of the Sacred Heart, should be instituted in every diocese where it had not been already established. The prelates in the Assembly unanimously acceded to her wishes, entered into a resolution to establish and encourage the devotion in their respective dioceses, and in a circular letter invited the other bishops of the kingdom to follow their example.—

* This great prelate was afterwards named to the archbishopric of Aix; but he refused to leave a people who were endeared to him by so many sufferings.

† 1589.

Even so early as the year 1767, the prior of the chief confraternity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Rome, published letters patent of aggregation, which were addressed to all British subjects and their descendants, in every part of the world, and by which they associated them to the parent confraternity, with a title to the indulgences, &c. This they were empowered to do by three decrees of Pope Clement XII., two of which were published in February and March, 1732, and a third in June, 1736. The devotion, however, had long before existed in the British dominions. In 1789, a petition of British subjects, members of the order in the chapel of the English Seminary at Bruges, which prayed, that the benefits of the institution might be imparted to them, if they should from distance, or any other cause, be made to attend the chapel appointed for the purpose, provided they performed the other good works prescribed for gaining the indulgences, was granted by the Holy See. On the 27th June, 1814, the indulgences annexed to the association of the Sacred Heart were extended to the Catholics of the midland district of England by an indult of Pope Pius VII. The devotion to the Sacred Heart had been always favourably received in Ireland, and in some dioceses the Mass and office in its honour were said with the approbation of the ordinary. At length, such was the eagerness with which it was embraced in all parts, that the archbishops and bishops of Ireland addressed a petition to the Holy See, that the festival of the most Sacred Heart might be celebrated throughout the kingdom, with the rite of a greater double, and a proper Mass and office on the Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi. This prayer was granted by his present holiness at an