

October, 1858; the convention between the Holy See, dated 25th August, 1859, and the convention enforced by the law of the 7th April, 1861. The principle of converting the said estates, sanctioned by the said laws, is even acknowledged in the convention; but it appears as if it was dictated by a mutual agreement, contracted in view of the bad condition of these estates, of their complicated administration, and of the difficulty in establishing their real value.

By the law of the 31st December, 1876, the estates belonging to the Institution of the Pie School, and those belonging to the Sisters of Charity, of St. Francis of Paola, are only excluded by the obligation of converting the estates into rent.

Every congregation can alienate it; and in Spain to do it it is only necessary to obtain the consent of the diocesan bishop who, as every one knows, in Spain is nominated by the king, and has the rank of a public functionary.

In spite of all that, a very ancient law, which is yet in force, limits the power of alienation or sale to a certain number of determined cases.

PORTUGAL.--In Portugal the laws of the 11th April, 1861, 22nd June, 1866, and 28th June, 1869, are those which govern the religious corporations.

Every corporation, called of mortmain, be it for a religious purpose or instruction, cannot possess any estate.

According to a very old Portuguese law, which goes back as far as the reign of King Alphonse IV, in the 13th century, it was forbidden for the corporations of mortmain to possess estates. When by donation or legacy