

# New Dominion Monthly.

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## JESUITISM.

In the face of the fact that strong efforts have already been made to obtain from the Legislature of the Province of Quebec the return of the confiscated estates of the Jesuits to that company, and that still further efforts in the same direction are meditated, a short article on the origin, doctrines, and designs of the Society of Jesus may perhaps not be out of place at the present time.

No society probably has ever existed which has wielded, and still does wield, so powerful an influence as that founded by the half-mad Spanish soldier, Ignatius Loyola, in fifteen hundred and forty. There is hardly any country in the world, Africa perhaps excepted, which has not at some time or other, felt the influence of their irrepressible followers, and bitterly learned to rue it. They have been driven repeatedly from every country in Europe, and have always found means again to make good their footing, once more to be repulsed, only to return afresh, and it is worthy of note that where they are most feared and hated has always been in the most Catholic countries, and their most bitter opponents have ever been found in the ranks of the Roman Catholic priesthood. It is a mistake to suppose that the wonderful constitution of the Society is due to the abilities of the

founder Loyola. The credit, if credit there be, for the framing of a constitution which has survived so many fierce attacks, wielded such unheard of power, and done, we fear, to the cause of civilization, so much harm, is due to far abler men than the half-educated enthusiast who, disabled by bodily infirmity from serving his king, enrolled himself as a soldier of the Virgin Mary. It is to Lainez and Acquaviva, probably two of the most able men Europe ever produced, that the world is indebted for the Society of Jesus, such as it now stands.

The foundation of the Society was of course, we are assured by its admirers, dignified and made remarkable by many strange miracles performed for the advantage and edification of its chief. Two alone we shall refer to. Loyola, being in Venice on his way to the Holy Land, sought repose on the hard stones under the portico of a wealthy Senator, named Travisini. Immediately an angel appeared to the master of the mansion, and told him to go forth and seek the servant of God. Travisini opened the door and found the saint. Another miracle, which will no doubt be appreciated by school-boys, was also vouchsafed him. His early education had been somewhat neglected, and, as he aspired to the dignity of