

of citizens. Thus by a strange confusion of ideas, and the consequence of this deplorable mixture of spiritual and temporal things, which has caused so much evil in the world, a religious act conferred civil rights, and a Priest determined the condition of citizens.

That revolution corrected the disorder, and placed the citizen in his natural situation; but as it was feared that custom and ignorance might induce many to be contented with the priestly ceremony, the new legislative code appointed that the civil marriage should precede the religious form.

Roman Priests never allow that any one of their disciples has been married unless the ceremony is performed by themselves. It is of no consequence to them how valid the matrimonial contract may be in the decision of the law, the parties are denounced as living in fornication; and no peace will be experienced by them until they have passed through the Roman ceremonial, and paid the Priest's demand, which, in that case, always includes a heavy fine. Men who designedly marry Protestant women, often evade the claim; but where a Romish female is married to a Protestant man, intimidated by the Priest's debasing character of her mode of living, and by his threats of the awful consequences, scarcely an instance is known, in which the man, for the sake of domestic peace, is not ensnared to submit to the ceremonial, and of course, to pay the sum of which he is thus openly defrauded. A late bull of Pope Pius VII. declares "*all marriages without a Roman priest's celebration, are null and void.*" —De Pradt. Jesuitisme Ancien et Moderne.

The Society of Jesuits was avowedly organized to counteract the influence of resuscitated Christianity. They nearly superseded all the other orders, and now constitute the Roman Pontiff's "body-guard"; expressly to defend the papal corruptions, and by every possible means to exterminate all persons who will not submit to the Romish Priesthood. The government of the order is the absolute despotism of an individual, exercising his undisputed control over the destiny, persons, conduct, belief, words, thoughts, and purposes of every devotee belonging to that nefarious association. All their principles, rules, and acts are comprised in one vow, "at all times to go upon any service, and to execute every mandate" of the General of the order, promptly, and without hesitation,—that is, "it is an oath of unqualified obedience to the Pope." Their diabolical tenets, their antisocial intrigues, their intolerable corruptions, and the innumerable murders, and treasons, and wide-spread desolations which they had perpetrated, coerced almost every government in Europe to banish them from their countries. Still they survived under the name of St. Sulpicius, Cordicoles, Freres de la Croix, and other titles. Pope Clement XIV., as he supposed, by his pontifical