

" The Jesuits, who in the early settlement of the country were merely missionaries, obtained a patent (*Petits Droits des Colonies Françaises*, vol. ii., p. 441) by which they acquired a license to purchase lands, and hold property as in France. The property the Jesuits possessed in this country in after times, was acquired by grants from the kings of France ; by grants from the Company of New France ; by gifts from individuals, and by purchase. *

Smith estimates the revenues of the society, when, after P. Casot's death, they reverted to the Crown, at only 1600*l.* per annum. Weld comes nearer to the statement of Lambert. He visited Quebec in 1796, four years before P. Casot's death, and states that the great possessions of the Jesuits had centered in him, and amounted to 10,000*l.* per annum. It is to be remembered that in 1764 the order of Jesuits was abolished by the King of France, and the members of the society became private individuals.

" The college of the Jesuits at Quebec was long considered as the first institution on the continent of North America for the instruction of young men. The advantages derived from it were not limited to the better class of Canadians, but were extended to all whose inclination it was to participate in them, and many students came thither from the West Indies. From the period of the expulsion of the Jesuits from the States of Europe, and the consequent abolition of their order on that continent, this establishment although protected by the British Government, began rapidly to decline.

" When by the death of the last Canadian Jesuit the landed property devolved to the Crown, it was designed by the sovereign as a recompense for the service of Lord Amherst, who commanded the troops in North America at the time of the conquest of Canada. The claim of these estates has

* Smith's *History of Canada*, vol. i., p. 27 ; Weld, p. 249.