

Literary Notices.

A GLIMPSE OF THE GREAT SECRET SOCIETY.

London: William Macintosh. Third Edition.

The Great Secret Society, of which some of the workings are disclosed in this volume, is that which was founded by Ignatius Loyola in 1554, and which has since spread over the whole earth. The author does not merely romance about the power and intrigues of the Jesuits, but supports his assertions by referring to the original documents, whose authenticity cannot be doubted. Few have any idea of the overwhelming power, the matchless cunning, and the relentless audacity of this order, which enable it to influence, more or less, perhaps every government in the world, to make away with those who oppose its machinations, and to keep in power all who favor it. Jesuitism has always and every where proved itself inimical to human freedom. It has always supported absolute monarchy, as the confessor of the absolute monarch can easily rule the state. Again and again they have so disturbed the internal affairs of kingdoms that they have been ignominiously expelled, only to return in a short time in greater numbers and greater power than before. Perhaps the most interesting part of this volume is the glimpse at Jesuitism in relation to Papal Infallibility. The idea was simply this: the Pope must be made an absolute monarch, supreme over every law, ecclesiastical and civil, in order that the Jesuits, who rule him, may be also absolute and supreme. It is, however, a very awkward fact for the Jesuits, that this infallibility, which stretches back through the past, has solemnly declared the Society of Jesus to be infamous, and has actually issued a Brief for its effectual suppression. About thirty years after the founding of the Order, many accusations having been laid before the Holy See, Sixtus V., being convinced that these ac-

cusations "*were just and well founded*," appointed a congregation of cardinals to investigate the matter. "*But this pontiff having been carried off by a premature death*, this wise undertaking remained without effect." His successor, not wishing to share the same fate, confirmed all their privileges. For nearly a century and a half no pontiff succeeded in finding a remedy for the evils which were continually multiplying. In the time of Clement XIII., the Jesuits were expelled from France, Spain, Portugal, and Sicily, though they had succeeded in extorting from that pontiff a letter of recommendation. The sovereigns of these countries afterwards appealed to the Pope to abolish this Society; "*but the unexpected death of the aforesaid pontiff rendered this project abortive*." Clement XIV., his successor, took up the matter, and after, as he states, attentive examination and unceasing prayer for assistance, he issued the remarkable Brief from which the above quotations are made. This Brief first sketches the history of the difficulties which previous Popes had had with the Order, and then goes on to "*suppress and abolish the said Society*," annulling all its privileges and declaring all its authority, whether relating to things temporal or spiritual, extinct. This was to take effect immediately, and anyone creating the least impediment or delay, was to incur the greater excommunication. This Brief was declared in its concluding lines to be "*forever, and to all eternity, valid, permanent and efficacious*." Of this document our author says:—

Never was a more scathing denunciation of any society penned than is this crushing exposure of the evils of Jesuitism; and if ever a Pope spoke "*ex cathedra*," Pope Clement XIV. did, when he thus powerfully and judicially condemned the constitution and malignant tendency of the Great Secret Society. It is a marvel, to those who peruse this document and look on the present progress of papal affairs