

of which by Cardinal *Tolet*, our order obtained from the holy see, that no *Maran* (descended from the perfidious race of *Jews* and *Mahometans*,) who will not oblige himself to perform such a vow, should ever, for the future, be admitted among us ; but immediately expelled as a most virulent enemy, though a person of ever so great fame and reputation.

CHAP. XV.

Of our conduct towards nuns, and female devotees.

I. Let the confessors and preachers be very cautious of offending nuns, or of leading them into any the least temptation contrary to their calling ; but, on the other hand, having by all means gained the affection of the governesses, let them manage so as at least to take their extraordinary confessions, and preach to them, if they find them forward in making grateful returns ; for persons descended from noble families, especially rich abbesses, are capable of being very serviceable to us, either through their own, or the interest of their parents and friends ; so that by currying favor with the principal monasteries, the Society may by degrees get an acquaintance, and work themselves into the friendship of almost the whole city.

II. Yet, on the other side, let our female devotees be forbid to frequent nunneries, lest they should be most taken with that kind of life ; and we thereby be baulked in our expectations of what they have. But let them be induced to the performance of their vow of chastity, and obedience, by the care of their confessor, by his showing them that such method of living, is conformable to the purity of the primitive church, being as a candle which diffuses its light through the whole house, and not hid under a bushel, and consequently contributing nothing to the edification of our neighbor, or the good of souls ; and, like the good widows in the gospel, that they should communicate of their substance to Christ, by their bounty to his companions. Lastly, let every argument be applied which may create in them an aversion to a recluse life ; but let all these instructions be delivered to them under the strictest obligations to secrecy, lest other orders should happen to hear of them.

CHAP. XVI.

In what manner we must outwardly feign a contempt of riches.

I. Lest the seculars should represent us as too much hankering after riches, it will be proper now and then to refuse such small and trifling alms, as are offered for performance of pious offices ; though of such as are thoroughly attached to our interest, we must readily accept whatever they give us, lest we bring upon ourselves the imputation of covetousness, for our swallowing nothing but presents of value.