

of the Jesuits, he had only ten disciples, but in 1608, the number amounted to ten thousand five hundred and eighty one! And before the expiration of the sixteenth century, they had obtained the chief direction of the education of youth in every Catholic country in Europe, and became the confessors of almost all its noblest monarchs! In spite of their vow of poverty, their wealth increased with their power; and they soon rivalled in the value and extent to their possessions, the most opulent of the monastic fraternities. About the beginning of the seventeenth century, they obtained from the court of Madrid the grant of the large and fertile province of Paraguay, which stretches across the southern continent of America, from the mountains of Potosi to the banks of the river La Plata.

In the reign of Louis XIV they reached the summit of their power and prosperity. But their glory was soon after obscured. Before the fall of the Port Royal Seminary, the "Provisional letters of Pascal," had been published, in which the quibbling morality and unintelligible metaphysics of the Jesuits were exposed in a strain of inimitable humor. The impression was deep and wide, and gradually sapped the foundation of public opinion on which the power of the order had hitherto rested. Voltaire afterwards directed against them all the powers of his ridicule, and finished the piece that Pascal had sketched. Their power had come to a very low ebb when the war of 1756 broke out, which occasioned the famous law-suit, which led to their final overthrow.

(To be Continued.)

DOMESTIC PIETY.

PARENTS, if your children do not meet with a spirit of piety in your houses; if, on the contrary, your pride consists in surrounding them with external gifts, introducing them into worldly society, indulging all their whims, letting them follow their own course, you will see them grow vain, proud, idle, disobedient, and extravagant. They will treat you with contempt; and the more your heart is wrapped up in them, the less they will think of you. This is seen but too often to be the case, but ask yourselves if you are not responsible for their bad habits and practices, and your consciences will reply that you are; that you are now eating the bread of bitterness which you have prepared for yourselves. May you learn thereby how great is your sin against God, in neglecting the means which were in your power for influencing their hearts, and may others take warning from your misfortunes, and bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the *Lord*! Nothing is more effectual in doing this, than an example of domestic piety. Public worship is often too vague and general for children, and does not sufficiently interest them; as to the worship of the closet, they do not yet understand it. A lesson learned by rote, if unaccompanied by any thing else, may lead them to look upon religion as a study, like those of foreign languages or history. Here, as every where, and more than elsewhere, example is more effectual than precept. They are not merely to be taught out of some elementary book that they must love God, but you must shew them that God is loved. If they observe that no worship is paid to the God of whom they hear, the very best instructions will