

NEW DOMINION MONTHLY.

MARCH, 1872

THE NOVITIATE OF A JESUIT.

BY ANCIEN CATHOLIQUE.

I do not intend to write a history of the Jesuit Society; that task would require an abler pen than mine to do it full justice. Many of our ablest writers have nobly recounted the exploits of Loyola's trained warriors upon the field of battle; my object is simply to show the system of training that renders them such formidable *braves*. Very little has been said in praise of this remarkable body of men, but whole volumes have been written in condemnation of their principles. They have been accused of almost every crime, from falsehood to murder and treason, and history has added its weight to substantiate those serious charges. Their opponents are to be found in all classes of society, from the King down to the meanest of his subjects, and the members of many of the religious communities belonging to their own Church are among their bitterest enemies. So great is the distrust, if not fear, of those men that everywhere prevails, that even the name of Jesuit, though derived from that Name which is above all other names, has long since become synonymous with cunning and treachery. A blind submission to the will of their superiors, and a total disregard of the means employed to attain their end, when the interests of their Church are at stake, are among the traits of character that history ascribes to the Jesuits.

But it is not in a moment that men can be brought to such a low state of moral degradation; years of severe training are

requisite to bring about such a change, and every device that human ingenuity or diabolical agency can invent or employ is brought into action to effect this object. Under the blighting influence of such a system of education, men that should otherwise have become an ornament and a blessing to society, become not only mere religious enthusiasts, but a great social and political bane, objects of abhorrence and distrust to peoples and governments. So great is the spirit of fanaticism instilled into the minds of men at those Jesuitical institutions, that they are ready at the command of their superiors, to brave every danger, endure every hardship, undertake any service, no matter how hazardous, and as history abundantly proves, perpetrate any crime, no matter how revolting, provided only the interests of "Holy Mother, the Church," may be thereby advanced.

The foundation of such a character as that of the true follower of Ignatius de Loyola must necessarily be, is laid during the two years that he spends in the novitiate, and it might not prove uninteresting to many of your readers to have a slight glance at the internal arrangement and working of such an institution. It is my object, then, to show, as far as my humble abilities may permit me, the system of training which those who desire to become Jesuits receive preparatory to their taking the vows that bind them body and soul to that Society.

Having spent some time as a novice in