

influential. An incident occurred, early in his ministry, which led to the expulsion of the Jesuits in France. Antoine de Lavalette, procurator-general of the Jesuit missions in the Caribbee Islands, who resided at Martinique, was engaged in extensive commercial operations for the support of the missions. In 1753, he was ordered to go to France, to render account to his superiors and to the government of his conduct in those enterprises. His two years' absence from his affairs, and the capture (1756) of some of his ships by English cruisers, caused him losses so great that he could not meet his creditors' claims. Some of these men, merchants of Lyons, held against him protested bills of exchange amounting to 1,500,000 livres; and he was compelled to go into bankruptcy, with liabilities of three millions. As Lavalette could not pay, the creditors brought suit against the entire order,—the latter having refused to aid Lavalette in his embarrassments, on the ground that the order could not, under its constitution, be responsible for the debts of its several houses, each of these being alone accountable therefor. Judgments against the order were rendered by the courts; the Jesuits appealed from these decisions to the Parliament of Paris, which ordered them to pay Lavalette's debts, in full, within a year. The Parliament also investigated the constitution of the order, as embodied in the *Institutum* (vol. ii., note 69), and (Aug. 6, 1761) condemned many publications of the Jesuits during the previous seventy years to be burned by the public executioner. Lavalette was found, by his superiors, guilty of having engaged in trade, contrary to the rules of the Society, and was accordingly expelled from its membership (1762). On April 1, 1762, the Parliament of Paris closed all the Jesuit colleges in its jurisdiction, and defied Louis XV. in his efforts to annul its decrees; and, on Aug. 6 following, decreed the suppression of the order, and the confiscation of its estates. Other provincial parliaments (except at Besançon and Douay, and in Alsace and Lorraine) quickly followed this example; and finally a royal decree (Dec. 1, 1764) ordered the dissolution of the order throughout the king's dominions—permitting the Jesuits, however, to reside therein as private citizens. It is said that at this time the Jesuits of France numbered four thousand.

All Jesuits residing in Spain or in her colonies were suddenly expelled therefrom, April 1, 1767, and shipped to the Papal States—to the number of 6,000. Naples and other Italian states did likewise; and finally Pope Clement XIV. issued a brief (July 1, 1773) abolishing the Jesuit order throughout the world; according to Daurignac (Clements's trans., Cincinnati ed., 1865, vol. ii., p. 180), it then contained over 22,000 members. The general of the order, Lorenzo Ricci, was imprisoned in the castle of St. Angelo, where he died