

of religion, and were especially enjoined to study the dispositions and to cultivate the friendship of persons in the higher ranks.

Loyola, influenced perhaps, by the notions of implicit obedience which he had derived from his military profession, resolved that the government of the Jesuits should be absolutely monarchical. A general chosen for life, by deputies from the several provinces, possessed supreme power, extending to every person, and applying to every case.

Every member of the order, the very instant he entered its pale, surrendered all freedom of thought and action; and every personal feeling was suspended by the interests of that body to which he had attached himself. He went wherever he was ordered; and performed whatever he was commanded, he suffered whatever was enjoined; he became a mere passive instrument, incapable of resistance. The gradation of ranks, was only a gradation in slavery; and so perfect a despotism over a large body of men, dispersed over the face of the earth, was never before realized.

The policy of the order was *expediency* in its most extended and licentious form. The paramount and characteristic of the order from which none of its members ever swerved, under any circumstances, was simply this, that its interests were to be promoted by all possible means, and at all possible expense. They adopted the spirit of accommodation in all their missionary undertakings; and their christianity, chameleon-like, readily assumed the color of every religion where it happened to be introduced. They freely permitted their converts to retain a full portion of the old superstition, and suppressed any point in the new faith which was likely to bear hard on their prejudices or propensities. They proceeded to still greater lengths, and besides suppressing the truths of revelation, devised the most absurd falsehoods, to be used for attracting disciples, or even to be taught as parts of christianity. A Jesuit in India produced a pedigree to prove his own descent from Brahma; and another in America, assured a native chief that Christ had been a valiant and victorious warrior, who, in the space of three years, had scalped an incredible number of men, women and children! It was, in fact, their own authority which they sought to establish, and not true religion. And true christianity was just as little known, when they had quitted their labors among heathen nations, as when they commenced the work.

"A protean tribe, one knows not what to call.  
Which shifts to every form, and shines in all;  
Grammarian, painter, auger, rhetorician,  
Rope-dancer, conjurer, fiddler, and physician,  
All trades his own, your hungry Greekling counts."

GIFFORD.

They labored long and hard to qualify themselves to become teachers of youth, and at length succeeded in supplanting their opponents in every Catholic country. In the next place they aimed to become the spiritual directors of the higher ranks, and succeeded in establishing themselves in most of the courts which were attached to the papal faith, not only as the confessors, but frequently as the guides and ministers of superstitious princes! The progress of the order, though slow at first became rapid at the end of half a century.

When Loyola, in 1540, petitioned the Pope to authorise the institution