

endeavoured to emancipate themselves from this guardianship, but their efforts were always without result, on account of the explicit declarations of the French Senate (sitting on the 21st June, 1867, and 3rd March, 1868). The State's guardianship is not only exercised especially and particularly in the interest of the families, which could be ruined by unjust dispositions of the testators, but is even exercised for the benefit of the public interest with the aim and intention of preventing the increase of mortmain. For this reason the Council of State never authorizes in favour of the said four congregations the acceptance of legacies of estates, except on the condition that these estates shall be alienated without delay, and with the obligation to invest the received price in rent's certificates.

Outside of these four congregations, which enjoy an exceptional treatment, juridicial personality is refused absolutely to every other congregation, and especially to the Propaganda, which is more generally known under the name of the Propaganda of Lyons.

The Council of State has always refused to deliberate on the liberalities done in favour of the Lyons Propaganda, because by law she has no existence (opinions 9th July, 1877, 27th October, 1875, 22nd October, 1879, 19th February, 1884, 5th March, 1884, and 11th March, 1884). The corporations and congregations not recognized—amongst which is the Propaganda of Lyons—exist only because the government pretend not to know of their existence; and whatever contract is made by them is void. Those beings not having a juridicial life, are obliged to address themselves to the mediation of third persons, and