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In presenting the text of Father Isaac Jogues's description of New Netherland, called NOUUM BELGIUM from the form of its endorsement, we follow the original manuscript preserved in the archives of St. Mary's College, Montreal. The history of this document's preservation is most interesting. John Gilmary Shea gave a partial account of its pedigree in Collections of the New York Historical Society (2nd ser., vol. iii., part i.), which we are enabled to elaborate through the kindness of Rev. Arthur E. Jones, S.J., archivist of St. Mary's.

Father Jean Joseph Casot, the last of the old race of the Jesuits of the French colony, who died March 16, 1800, seeing that his order was about "to expire by the enactments of the English conquerors, which prevented their receiving new members, wished to save for Catholicity at least a few of the most valuable of the papers in the archives." He, therefore, having made a selection, placed them in the custody of the Augustine nuns of the Hôtel Dieu, at Quebec. There they remained until 1843, when they were restored to the Society, being entrusted to the Rev. Felix Martin, then superior of the Jesuits