

councils, an honor attached to the office of intendant or commissary-controller.

For these reasons, we are justified in saying that it was a great undertaking for the council of New Orleans to pronounce upon the Institute of the Jesuits.

In truth, it is reasonable to suppose that *Monsieur de la Frenière*, instructed from his youth in the Latin language, had also studied civil law during the long sojourn that he had made in France; but his ability could not communicate itself to the judges who were to pronounce their decision upon his requisition; the majority of them, at least, could be reproached for their ignorance of the language of the document which they were about to judge. In that there was a great lack of competency, there was another still greater,—I mean to say, the lack of authority and jurisdiction. The matter upon which these judges undertook to pronounce was a spiritual matter, if ever there were one; now, they all were only lay judges. And, after the opinion declared by the council of Trent regarding the Institute of the Jesuits, if a new examination were to be made, to whom could such inquiry pertain except to the Church universal?

None of these considerations deterred the council of Louisiana. One powerful motive encouraged the judges to enter upon the affair; there had arrived several volumes of requisitions and reports upon the same subject rendered in different parliaments of France, with the decrees pronounced in consequence thereof.

To these Gentlemen, it was enough to believe themselves well informed; one could not go astray