

**THE PROGRAMME OF
THE JESUITS: A
POPULAR EXPOSITION**

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The programme of the Jesuits: a popular exposition by W. Blair Neatby

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A Popular Exposition

BY

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"THREE LETTERS ON THE PROPOSAL FOR A
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PREFACE

AT the present crisis it can scarcely be necessary to apologise for calling attention once more to the policy of Jesuitism. However well-worn the subject may appear, it will be time enough to think of dropping it when Jesuit activity shows the slightest sign of slumber in any part of its world-wide domain, or when a just and necessary suspicion is fairly aroused in our nation. The Jesuits, who brought France to the verge of ruin in 1870, seemed on the very point of completing their work of destruction a year or two since; and he

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would be a very bold man who would dare to say that the peril had passed even yet. "Jam proximus ardet Ucalegon;" but that old familiar warning of our schooldays has been wasted on our easy-going security. It is a ruinous mistake to imagine that the Jesuits have no foothold, firm and broad, in the affairs of our own nation; and it is simply ignorance or infatuation, however it may assume the guise of liberality, to treat Jesuitism as a negligible quantity in our national problems.

The intrusion into England of religious orders expelled abroad, however serious it may be, is by no means the most alarming feature of the outlook. The spirit of reaction is passing, like a desolating blast, over the land that has been for centuries the sanctuary of free institutions and of spiritual religion. We are confronted with

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a legislation which, in its disregard of the principles of the English constitution, its contempt for our evangelical faith, its cynical indifference to the feelings and convictions of half the religious population of the country, startlingly recalls the reckless and, as the event so speedily proved, the disastrous legislation of the times of the Restoration. The opponents of the present Education Bill may be sure that they are counterworking, directly or indirectly, a far mightier and more terrible foe than any that appears on the immediate scene of conflict. For there is a spirit of reaction ever at work throughout Christendom—a spirit that will not rest content short of the full measure of medieval darkness, superstition, and tyranny. That spirit is, so to speak, incarnate in the frightfully misnamed Society of Jesus; and many a man

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to whom the very name of the Society is an abomination is doing, in his simplicity, the Society's work, by giving his short-sighted, if not his selfish, support to a reactionary policy. It is not, of course, the Jesuits who sow the seed of every policy of the kind, but it is the Jesuits who may safely be counted on to reap the harvest.

This little book does not deal directly with contemporary English questions. Perhaps it is not the less seasonable on that account. No one knows the perils of a game of reaction unless he knows something of the history of the supreme masters of reaction. That our civil and religious liberties are in jeopardy is probably plain to the majority of Englishmen to-day. It is not so widely realised that such a state of things in England, in the twentieth century, would be perfectly inconceivable

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apart from the great work to which the Society of Jesus devoted its earliest energies, and which it has prosecuted ever since with such a success in the face of apparently insurmountable obstacles as is not to be paralleled amongst all the other achievements of frail mortality. Yet this is, to the very letter, demonstrably a fact; and Jesuitism is therefore the last question of which any Christian, or any Englishman, has a right to be ignorant. If any man have no sound and reliable knowledge of the subject, let him sell his garment and buy it.

March, 1903.