

Opis historyczny Konwikt Warszawskiego księży pijarów

A historical description of the Piarist Boarding School in Warsaw

SUMMARY

The published manuscript – edited and prefaced by Ryszard Mączyński – was written in 1822, afterwards, in 1830, it was completed and prepared for printing. The outbreak of the national September Insurrection was the main reason, that it has never appeared in print. Beyond any doubts, it is proved, that Kajetan Kamiński – in 1801-1822 rector Collegium Nobilium in Warsaw and also in 1818-1825 provincial of the Piarist order in Poland – was the author of this, up to now, anonymous work. This manuscript has a great value as a document, giving a description of the history of the boarding school founded in 1740 by Stanisław Konarski.

In his work Kamiński relates the history of the Collegium Nobilium based on the Piarist sources (in the greater part not extant nowadays). Next he gives us, as an eyewitness, a detailed relation concerning the rising and development of the boarding school in Joli Bord, which in 1811-1833 continued the best tradition of Konarski's school. The history of that Piarist educational institute was shown against a background of political history in Poland, therefore in the text appeared such famous persons like – for example – kings: Stanisław Leszczyński, August III Mocny and Stanisław August Poniatowski.

Kamiński gave a detailed description of the Piarist property in Joli Bord, all buildings of the educational institute, and the customs of the boarding school. In the appendix were quoted a few selected sources, among others: the list of over one thousand names of pupils in the Piarist Collegium Nobilium in Warsaw, from 1740 to 1822. Most of them became famous persons in political, scientific and artistic life in the Enlightenment and Romanticism period in Poland. The manuscript is not only a register of facts. The author wanted to show how after overcoming difficulties during the third partition of Poland, the Prussian occupation and the Napoleon Wars the institute, in the twenties of the 19th century, entered into a new period of full growth.

Kamiński's work had another meaning, not so openly formulated. The author wanted to underline the innovatory character of the Piarist institute in Joli Bord. Its conception was different from the old Collegium Nobilium (by the way: here for the first time critical remarks appeared about the palace Collegium Nobilium on Miodowa Street), and the other schools in Europe. Kamiński in the Joli Bord boarding school tried to give practical shape to some theoretical and pedagogical postulates of Jean Jacques Rousseau, and to create an innovatory “sentimental model of a school”. Such a school brought the youths to the nature and educated a sensitive man.