



**1877:** The missionaries settled in Tazmalt (European centre). The missionaries settled in Ighil-Ali.

### **Opening of Woluwé (Belgium) instructions to Father Bresson (1st November 1884)**

In everything that has been said or written up to now about the Woluwé foundation, nothing has yet been said explicitly and precisely about the purpose for which this house was set up, as far as the resources the Society of the Missionaries of Algiers must find in Belgium and Holland are concerned.

All this, of course, is implied and the members of the Council are aware that one of the main aims set down for this foundation is to guarantee these resources from abroad, whereas those France provides are diminishing every day because of the adverse times we are living in. This is what has been dealt with at great length in the Councils of the Society and in correspondence with its superiors.

The fact that the General Bursar of the Society has been appointed as the first superior, on a temporary basis, of the house at Woluwé shows up the true meaning of the superiors' seeming unwillingness to act. So, Father Bresson will have to remember that his role in Belgium is to obtain resources needed by the Society, and especially by the houses where missionaries are trained, which absorb considerable sums of money each year. He, more than anyone else, because he has seen them close to hand, knows the difficulties in which the Mother-House finds itself in this regard.

Consequently, he will concentrate all his efforts into creating, in Belgium and in Holland, a stream of donations and even, if this is possible, of foundations from annual annuities or gifts given to help with the Society's work. Since the Belgians who will be welcomed in Woluwé must necessarily pass through all the training establishments, it will always be true to say that we are collecting for the Belgians and in this way encourage adoptions or the creation of bursaries, as we have done for the missionaries. It would surely not be difficult to find in Belgium one hundred, two hundred, or even three hundred

wealthy families who would take responsibility for paying a full education scholarship, that is for a ten-year period, the average time which would seem necessary. These scholarships, like those of the missionaries, should be calculated at eight hundred francs per year. These should be settled in total on 1st April each year or by termly payments of 200 francs each, on the first day of January, April, July, and October. But we must be careful not to promise to award the scholarship to any particular candidate who might strike up a relationship with the benefactor. This has given us some serious problems in the past, because of confusion over names, mistakes through carelessness and through our circumstances and the drop in vocations. A programme must be arranged for these adoptions, and this must then be brought to the best families already known to us. There would, of course, be collective scholarships granted by convents and boarding schools.

Finally, the king would be asked to do for Woluwé what he has promised to do for Turnhout. All of this is quite separate from the collections made in parishes or homes, as has been agreed. As the success of these kinds of arrangements largely depends on how they begin, Father Bresson's conscience and that of his collaborators must be responsible for all that goes before. Father Bresson must therefore write to the Council at least once every two weeks to give an account of all he is doing concerning the organisation of this work.

