



1885: The Sacred Congregation gives its approval to the Constitutions of the Missionaries of Africa for five years. This temporary approval was a disappointment for Cardinal Lavigerie who had asked for the final approval.

Instructions given to Mr Guyot for his journey to the Congo (December 1882)

- 1) Travel to Brussels, so as to meet Colonel Strauch and ascertain my definitive recommendations.
- 2) Write to me immediately from Brussels to tell me the king's reaction, whether favourable or unfavourable to my letter which Mr Guyot will have passes on via the colonel.
- 3) Come back to Paris so as to learn precisely how the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of the Navy feel concerning either Brazza or Stanley and report back to me immediately.
- 4) Tell Mr Randonnet that the departure is fixed for February 5th (1883), but only if the attitudes expressed in Brussels and Paris are not an obstacle to this.
- 5) Go straight to meet Stanley, if the King of the Belgians has given you a letter of recommendation.
- 6) Seek all the necessary information and permission to enable you to travel up the Congo River and set up a post in the most favourable place, namely at the confluence of a tributary where people who are friendly and fairly numerous have their homes; when we say 'set up a post' we mean; prepare a place for a short-term stay.
- 7) Make the same arrangements for a second post set up in the same conditions, but on the other bank of the river, since the River Congo is the dividing line for the two pro-vicariates. Each of these posts will serve as a point of departure for each of the two.
- 8) These two mission stations will need to be as near to each other as possible so that they can give mutual support to each other. Providing they are ten kilometres from Stanley-Pool, that would be sufficient. Were they even to be 60 or 80 kms away, that would be acceptable.
- 9) In any case, do not settle less than 25 kms away from any Protestant or even Catholic if any of these were already established.
- 10) Keep the travel diary up to date regularly and send it to me by each post, remembering that it is for publication.
- 11) Be careful with expenses, as we are hard up at present with all the expenses incurred in Tunisia and the failure of the lottery.
- 12) As soon as Mr Guyot has completed his mission, which is to find locations for the two mission stations as indicated above, he must write and tell me. I leave it to him whether he wants to remain there in the country and await the arrival of the missionaries or return to Algiers to give them the appropriate information.

While waiting for the missionaries, if he decides to wait, he can go on the trips he considers useful, but he is strictly forbidden to place himself in any real danger.

