



**1881:** The Foreign Office makes official complaints to the French Government: it accuses the French missionaries established in Tanganyika of being slave traders and slavers. The Minister of Foreign Affairs replied that it was not a question of purchases but of the redemption of slaves.

**1888:** Anti-slavery speech at the Prince's Hall in London.

**1889:** Following a contract between Cardinal Lavigerie and the Portuguese Government (June 19, 1889), a decree of the Propaganda dated July 31, 1889, creates the Provicariate of Nyassa. This mission will become an Apostolic Vicariate by decree on 12 February 1897.

### Conference given at Prince's Hall, London, 31st July 1888

My Lord, (Lord Grandville)

Allow me to thank you, first of all, for the extreme kindness of your words. One of the most precious memories of my life will be that of having been presented to this assembly by a man whose name is the honour of England, before his own country and before all the governments of the civilized world.

Please allow me also to thank my eminent colleague, Cardinal Manning, for the support given to me today by his presence and his name rendered so venerable by the remembrance of a noble life, entirely consecrated to the service of his country and to that of the Church of which he is the Pastor.

Ladies and Gentlemen, It is not a politician who presents himself to you today. I have never preoccupied myself, and I do not preoccupy myself at this moment, with any other interests than those of souls, of humanity, of religion. Neither is it an orator. Absorbed for nearly a quarter of a century by the works of my ministry in a continent that is half savage, I have almost forgotten my mother tongue. Today I have the double regret of not having learned yours and of not being able to communicate to you the sentiments that fill me except by the tone of my voice and, as has just been said to you with such grace, by the bonds of affection that attach me to those of your brothers who come, each year, in great number, to take a place in the sun of our Algeria. So, I am only an old Pastor, half broken by fatigue and years, who wants to plead before you the cause of a

portion of his flock, condemned to atrocious tortures and menaced by complete destruction.

I am going to speak to you about the horrors of African slavery. I have already twice solemnly spoken up to condemn them: the first time, in Rome, at the feet of the Sovereign Pontiff, the great Leo XIII, my father as well as the father of all Christians; the second time, in France, my native land. But, having fulfilled this double duty of filial respect and of patriotism, it is to you I come, Christians of England. Despite what separates us, I am certain, in advance, that our sentiments will be the same in a cause which is that of humanity, of justice and of liberty.

I come, then, to you because you, in these sentiments, have been the first sentiments, to declare war on slavery in the West Indies. For three centuries, it has oppressed millions of human creatures cruelly snatched from Africa. It was supported by all the sophisms of greed, and so seemed invincible. You, it is, and your fathers, who, without letting yourselves be scared by any obstacle, have undertaken to destroy it. The world knows the names of the writers who led this noble campaign and of the statesmen who supported them, the names of Wilberforce, of Clarkson, of Buxton. And I cannot forget, pronouncing this last name, that it is the name of the founder of your Society, of this Anti-slavery Society, under the auspices of which we are gathered at this moment. For more than half a century, it has nobly fought for this holy cause. It has just noted its triumph, seeing first Cuba, then Brazil, embrace the ideas and sentiments that, together with the writers of France and of the United States of America, it has publicized everywhere.

