



1876: By presidential decree, the village of Ste Monique is erected as a parish.

1886: Father Roy of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit meets with the missionaries of Lavigerie to agree on the adoption of the terms of the catechism in Kiswahili so that there is uniformity between the Missions of the Coast and those of the interior.

Letter to Propaganda Fide (28th June 1879).

Your Eminence,

I believe it my duty to communicate to Your Eminence, and through you to Our Holy Father Pope Leo XIII, that the two missionary groups that we sent in March and April last year to Equatorial Africa have themselves finally sent us news of their arrival at their distant destinations. By the grace of God, they have all successfully survived the dangers and the fatigues of such a journey, with the exception of Father Pascal, Superior of the mission of Lake Tanganyka, who piously died in Moukoudoukou last August.

In this letter, I am sending to your Eminence extracts from a letter from Father Livinhac, Superior of the Mission of Lake Victoria, because it contains some details that may interest the Sacred Congregation, especially what is said about the almost daily increase in English Protestant missions and the huge resources these ministers have. It is greatly to be feared that our Missionaries will not be able to compete, if we do not come to their aid, and that we are ashamed to see the heretics in advance of the Catholic Church in these regions. Your Eminence will see how regrettable it is that the Holy Childhood Association has not responded better to our requests and desires, when the Holy See first mentioned it to them, and which then dissipated almost as in a puff of smoke.

As for the personnel of the Mission: as soon as we knew the first Missionaries who arrived at their posts, we thought of sending them reinforcements. A note, which I am also attaching to my letter will inform your Eminence of the names of the eighteen new Fathers or Auxiliaries whom we sent from Algiers last Sunday to join their confreres in Equatorial Africa. Six of these new apostles are intended to strengthen the Lake Victoria Mission, which will now number ten. Each of these Missions will be divided into three separate stations, in order to act more effectively by extending its action. The five other Fathers remaining will establish an independent station

linking the two Victoria and Tanganyka Missions.

I decided all this for the sake of spreading the faith, according to the powers given to me last year by Propaganda to establish missionaries in the interior of Equatorial Africa, wherever other Catholic congregations are not yet established. The nearest of these stations will still be about 500 kilometres from the seashore, and therefore, establishments of the Holy Ghost Fathers. Finally, Rev. Father Guyot, a secular priest of my Diocese who was authorized by the Sacred Congregation to manage the Procure of Zanzibar without doing any ministry, also left with the last expedition.

I would now have a word to say to Your Eminence about the Auxiliaries who accompany our Missionaries. There are only six of them; but many other requests had been addressed to us from all the Catholic countries, and we had to refuse them, on the one hand because of the lack of resources, and on the other, so as not to commit ourselves any further in such a situation, without having dealt with this matter thoroughly with the Holy See.

