



1853: Lavigerie and his priest friends launched the "pious and instructive library for the use of Christian youth". Lavigerie publishes "Charity in the Nineteenth Century, —Faith and Martyrdom," "Martyrs in China and the Tong King," "Triumphs of Faith over Barbarism."

1879: Arrival of the first armed volunteers for Equatorial Africa.

Letter to Father Coulbois (4th June 1884)

My dear Father,

You have now been in Tanganyka for some time. I have waited for you to have this personal experience before speaking to you of a plan I have concerning you in the light of reports from your superiors.

Father Guillet asked me a long time ago to relieve him of his responsibility and the title of apostolic pro-vicar. I believe the time has come for me to acquiesce to his request and so, by this letter, I appoint you and institute you as apostolic pro-vicar, assigning you all the spiritual powers Father Guillet has had up to now. This will pertain until the day, not long off now, when an apostolic vicar is appointed, as happened at Nyanza in the person of Father Livinhac.

I am totally confident, my dear Son, that you will fulfil according to the spirit of God the duties I am entrusting to you. I recommend to you especially respect, deference and obedience in all your dealings with your superiors, remembering that one cannot give out orders if one does not know how to obey; and charity towards your confreres, remembering that it is by serving the others that one becomes worthy of leading them. In conclusion, my dear Son, may this sign of my trust in you not make you proud; humility is the basis for all and without this you can only head for great failures.

You will appoint Father Guillet to the post you judge suitable for him, which will doubtless be that of superior in one of the established mission stations. Please write to me keeping me informed of all that is happening in your mission, your plans and your views.

I am very actively involved in the question of your armed auxiliaries; but it is not an easy matter to resolve. Next Monday, I leave for Rome in order to speak directly with the Holy Father. I should very much like Saint Joubert and his confrere to remain there, to be part of the new arrangement. Tell them this from me. Tell all your good confreres as well that

I send them my fatherly affection and my most sincere blessings.

Letter to Father Charmetant (29 June 1871)

Dear Son,

I need your news, as it was not without acute worries that I left you. I pray God daily, at each moment, for your children and you and I ask him for the means to repair the evil already done for many reasons. Take advice from Father Creusat for problems of detail that could arise. Whatever happens, do not give way to discouragement. Have recourse to Our Lord and to Our Lady of Africa. Do your best and give good example in all areas. Farewell, my dear Son. Write, tell me a bit about what the situation is, material, and, above all, spiritual. I bless you with all my heart.

