



Letter to the Superior of the house at Beni-Arif in Kabylia (12th March 1879)

My dear Son,

For some time now, I have been sorry to see that the mission station at Beni-Arif is the only one where the missionaries have not obtained any results. Up to now, they have not had even a single boarder. A post like this can only be a discouragement to the missionaries and, little by little, lead them to lose their vocation. It also leaves us open to criticism and mocking from our adversaries, whose number keeps on increasing as the revolution grows and among whom there will now be the new Sub-Prefect of Tizi-Ouzou.

All these reasons lead me to take advantage of the next departure of missionaries to Equatorial Africa and close the post at the Arifs until things improve. But before taking this step, I wanted to ask the opinion of the missionaries in Kabylia. So, I am asking you and your confreres what you think of this proposal. I shall write a similar letter to the superiors of the other mission stations, and I would ask that you send me your reply as soon as possible, as I wish to deal with this matter once and for all with the Council of your Congregation which has already discussed it. I am pleased, my dear Son, to take this opportunity to give you and your confreres my good wishes.

Letter to Rev. Fr. Horner, Superior of the Spiritan Fathers at Zanzibar (19th March 1878)

Very Reverend Father,

You have probably learned through the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda, rightly concerned for the invasion with which the Protestant Missions threaten the interior of Equatorial Africa, has decided to create several new Missions in these regions. It has made a special appeal to the Society of Missionaries of Algiers to found two of these Missions, one on Lake Nyanza and the other on Lake Tanganyika.

Moreover, our Holy Father Leo XIII has graciously chosen to delegate me to confer on the heads of these two Missions the powers I consider suitable. To avoid any problem now or in the future, and also to demonstrate my respect for the admirable zeal that your Congregation shows on the coasts of Zanzibar and Mozambique, I have determined

that our Missionaries in the neighbourhood of the locations currently occupied by you, neither residence nor occupations of any kind; if they have a supply station on Zanzibar, it will be entrusted to seculars already established in the country.

However, to prepare their immediate departure upcountry, it would be required to make arrangements before their very imminent arrival. For this reason, I will send Rev. Fr. Charmetant, Procurator of the Society, accompanied by Father Deniaud one of his confreres, ahead of them. I venture to commend them without delay to your paternal charity, which I have learned, for some time now, to know and admire the effects in relations at the Work of the Propagation of the Faith and in the writing of Archbishop Gaume. I know that our Fathers will not find a bigger or more apostolic heart than yours to assist them in the task of organising a caravan for the distant lands to which their confreres must travel.

