



1867: Lavigerie is confirmed Archbishop of Algiers.

1880: Baptism of the first catechumens in Uganda.

1882: Lavigerie elevated to the cardinalate.

1884: Publication of "Selected Works" by His Eminence Cardinal Lavigerie. 2 volumes. The books are dedicated to the White Fathers and sold for the benefit of the work of the Missions of Africa.

Foreword to the selected works of Cardinal Lavigerie (March 1884)

To the Missionaries of Algiers

It is especially for you, my dearly beloved Sons, that I am publishing these two volumes. I dedicate them to you. The letters they contain speak of the barbaric missions you have in your care along with me and for which we have given up everything in this world, even our homeland. They will remind you of my thoughts, my advice and my struggles over a quarter of a century.

Basically, in many different forms, one single feeling inspires them. It is the one Our Lord asked of Peter before making him the head of the Apostles, the one Saint Augustine the Doctor of our Africa and of the Church, proclaimed to be the sole law of Christians; the one I myself have taken as my motto : charity; love of God and love of so many abandoned souls. This love has sustained me through difficulties and labours that have worn me out before my time. It is this that will give you also the strength, the heroic self-sacrifice, the perseverance necessary to save from death the people to whom you are sent.

So, love them as a mother loves her children, in as much as their wretchedness and their feebleness requires. Love Africa which is far away from us for the bleeding wounds of its slavery, for the cries of pain which have come, for so many centuries, from her depths. Love that Africa, which is nearer, which was once Christian, for its misfortunes of the past, for its great men, for its saints.

Love, even though you have suffered from her, even though you may suffer again, love the two races which are to be found there and which must, according to the plans of Divine Providence, blend into one single people. Love the race which comes, with the activity, the energy, and sometimes the impatience of a child who, right from the cradle, already announces, by the very heat of its anger, the vigour of maturity. Love the old race whom we found there, made up of ten different races, in which the blood of

Christians has left traces. Love both of them and teach them one day what can bring them peace (Luke 19, 42). This is the only feeling you will find, in many different forms, in each of these pages.

The patriarchs loved right up to the very stones of Sion, for them a symbol of so many hopes : *Placuerunt servis tuis lapides ejus* . Following their example, I have loved everything in our Africa, its past, its future, its mountains, its clear skies, its sun, the great sweeps of its deserts, the blue waves which lap its shores.

To express these thoughts, I have not sought the help of art treasures. I give these writings to the public as they came from my pen, surrounded by the impressions, the necessities and the dangers each day brings. May these tones coming from my heart, from my faith, win for your apostolate renewed sympathy and support. In this way, may my voice continue to be heard by you!

Soon it will no longer be heard in this world, but from deep within this volume, it will continue to speak, as it has for so many years : "*Vox clamantis in deserto, parate vias Domini, rectas facite semitas ejus*".

