

1866: Lavigerie has a dream at the sanctuary of St Martin of Tours. It seemed to him that he had been transported to an unknown, distant country, where human forms, of black or brown face and barbarous language, presented themselves to him.

1876: The Missionaries of Africa settle in Bou-Saada.

Letter to Father Deguerry, Superior of Saint Cyprien des Attafs Village (11th November 1872)

My dear Son,

I am advising you once again about what I told you two days ago. I sent you to the Attafs as a Missionary and not as a farmer. You are not in the slightest in charge of directing the work, which is Brother Jérôme's field, but only to give general direction from the religious and moral point of view and for the exact carrying out of the duties entrusted to each individual.

You and Father Feuillet, you should busy yourself only with the Mission, visiting the tribes, creating bonds of friendship with the Arabs and opening your school as soon as possible. I ask you to make sure that all the points of the Rule, without exception, are kept by everyone: rising, going to bed, meals, prayers, visits to the Blessed Sacrament. This is of prime importance, especially at the beginning and I hold you responsible for any laxity you would let into the Work. Don't waste time running around the fields spending hours at a time there. Be content with a general inspection from the point of view I gave you, on each one's duties.

Remember you are a priest and a Missionary and that God will hold you accountable, not for the harvest, but for your soul and the souls entrusted to you. Tell this on my behalf to Father Feuillet and remind him of the obligation to write to me at least once a month.

Letter to the Prefect of Propaganda Fide (20 November 1877)

Your Eminence,

I have received the circular, which Your Eminence graciously addressed to me relating to the Brussels International Conference on the exploration of Africa. I had already set to work on dealing with this matter, after visiting Your Eminence at Rome last August. My work on it is complete, but since I wanted to deal in all aspects with such an important matter as the African missions faced with the dangers threatening them, my memorandum has led to a long explanation.

Before sending it to Your Eminence and to facilitate its study, I would ask you if you would prefer if I have it printed on the presses of my Archdiocese, attaching similarly printed maps, or if you find it simpler to send you the manuscript. The first way, I think, would be more convenient, if these sensitive and important matters need to be studied by the Eminent Members of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda. However, I did not presume to adopt it myself for fear of appearing unduly pretentious.

