

1870: Lavigerie is the first French bishop to visit Pius IX, a prisoner in the Vatican. A moving interview.

1874: Lavigerie sends Delattre and Charmetant to go to Canada to beg, and Armand Leroy to England and Ireland.

1879: Lavigerie publishes: "Research on the place of the Immaculate Conception and the birth of the Virgin Mary" (Algiers, 50 pages)

1879: Fr. Ruellan of the second caravan dies.

1892: Lavigerie sent Father Duval to Biskra to dismiss the Armed Brothers or Pioneers of the Sahara. There were 21 Brothers in all in Ouargla and Biskra. 9 asked to join the Society as Brothers. The others returned to their countries of origin.

News of the 8th Caravan for Equatorial Africa (21 November 1888)

A telegraphic dispatch from Zanzibar has been sent to His Eminence Cardinal Lavigerie bringing news from the interior of East Africa. Last August, just a few days before the revolt of the coastal natives, the Archbishop of Algiers had sent to the [region of the] Great Lakes a new caravan of his heroic missionaries who, despite the worries aroused in people's minds and the consequent dangers that they could run, did not hesitate to set out for their destination, namely the missions of Lake Tanganyika and Lake Nyanza.

This little apostolic troop was made up of nine priests or Brothers of the Society of Missionaries of Africa led by Monsignor Bridoux, titular bishop of Utica. He recently succeeded Monsignor Charbonnier, of the same Society, who had died in his mission in March of this current year. The missionaries forming this caravan were of three different nationalities, French, German and Belgian. It included besides three young Blacks who had been ransomed from slavery and then educated at the University of Malta through the care of the Cardinal and his missionaries. They have been studying medicine there and are returning to their country to serve in this capacity as auxiliaries of the missionaries. They were among the

group of Negroes who, last May, were presented to the Holy Father during the solemn Audience granted to the African pilgrimage. As is well known, during this Audience, truly moved by an apostolic inspiration, our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIII, entrusted to His Eminence, the Archbishop of Algiers, the mission which he has just accomplished in Europe [to bring about] the abolition of slavery.

Since its departure from Zanzibar, because of the break in communications, there had been no news of this caravan. The fear was that, like all the Germans established in this country, it had suffered some terrible catastrophe. Fortunately, there has been nothing of the sort. The news received today from Mpumpu in Ugogo relates that on the contrary they were respected everywhere they passed and, safe and sound, they are continuing their journey. It is known that the same thing happened with regard to the Holy Ghost Fathers in Bagamoyo, on the coast. Although the local population attacked the German establishments, the missionaries and their institutions, the benefits of which are appreciated, were respected. It should in fact be added that the great misfortune of the German Society, in this whole affair, was that some of its members had acted with brutality towards the local inhabitants among whom they had established themselves, both on the coast and in Ussagara. This is so true that, as several travellers have reported, the language of the Blacks as acquired a new word: to say brutal or wicked, the local people say "deutsch". Generally speaking, they [the Germans] have set aside the guarantees [of safe conduct] that the sultan of Zanzibar could give them when they were setting out and have relied too exclusively on the use of force, which in the interior can unfortunately provide no guarantee.

