

The other society which we have mentioned is taken up with the care of youth, and endeavors, by all means, to instill into their minds sound doctrine, whilst, at the same time it takes care to avert from them the dangers of false science to which they are often exposed by reason of their imprudent curiosity to learn.

However, both societies come to the aid of the that society which bears the name of Propagation of the Faith, and united with it by a friendly compact, they conspire for the same end, relying also upon the alms and the prayers of christian nations ; for the aim of all is, by diffusion of the light of the Gospel, to bring the greatest possible number of those who are outside the Church to know God and to adore Him, together with Him whom He has sent, Jerus-Christ. It is, therefore, with reason that our predecessor Pius the Ninth, as we have already said, in his apostolic letters, lauded these two institutions and liberally granted them holy Indulgences.

These three societies have therefore flourished with the marked favor of the Sovereign Pontiffs, and have never ceased to prosecute their work with unrivalled zeal ; we have also seen them producing abundant fruits of salvation, powerfully aiding our Congregation of the Propaganda in sustaining the charge of the missions, and finally so far prospering as to give, for the future, the cheering hope of a more ample harvest. But the many and violent storms which have been let loose against the church in countries long illumined by the light of the gospel, have injured even the works destined to civilize barbarous nations. Indeed, many causes conspire to lessen the number and the generosity of the associates. And, surely, when so many perverse ideas, diffused among the people whet