

where founded ; and some have even been established with the view of propagating religion in certain countries. But that which shines resplendently among all others is the pious association which originated at Lyons in France, nearly sixty years ago, and which bears the name of *Propagation of the Faith*. Primarily, its object was to aid certain American missions ; but soon, like the grain of mustard seed, it grew and became a huge tree whose widespreading branches bear rich foliage, and to day, it extends its beneficent assistance to all the missions of the world. This celebrated institution was promptly approved by the pastors of the Church and honored by them with abundant testimonials of praise. The Roman Pontiffs Pius the Seventh, Leo the Twelfth, and Pius the Eighth our predecessors warmly recommended and enriched it with indulgences.

It was favored with much more solicitude and cherished with a charity truly paternal by Gregory the Sixteenth, who, in his encyclical letter, published on the 15th of August 1840, passed on this institution the following judgment : " It is assuredly a very great and holy work, a work which we esteem most worthy of the admiration and love of all good persons, which is sustained, increased and fortified by the slender offerings and the daily prayers addressed to God by each of the faithful ; a work which was founded to assist apostolic laborers, to exercise works of christian charity towards neophytes, and to deliver the faithful from the onslaught of persecutions. And it must be admitted that it is not without a particular disposition of Providence that in these latter days it has been of such great advantage and utility to the church. Indeed when the infernal enemy assails the well beloved spouse of Christ by all sorts of machinat-