

Portuguese missionaries remained in Abyssinia till about 1688, having during the one hundred and thirteen years of existence of this mission amassed a wonderful amount of geographical information regarding the rivers, mountains, lakes, fauna and flora of that country. But they were never cordially received by the Abyssinians, partly out of suspicion as to the political intentions of Portugal, and partly because their Latin Christianity was so alien to the debaucheries of the Abyssinian priests.

From one cause and another, chiefly the dislike to the order of the Jesuits on the part of most European Powers, Rome grew disheartened about the conversion of Africa at the close of the eighteenth century. South Africa had come into the possession of the Dutch, who in those days were vehemently opposed to Catholicism. They had also taken from Portugal several footholds on the coast of Guinea from which Catholic missionaries once started on their despairing task of converting brutish negroes, whose chiefs in those days were entirely absorbed in the profitable slave-trade. It was now the turn of the Protestant Churches to attempt to spread Christianity amongst the coloured races of Asia, Africa and America. The great Moravian Church started on its wonderful career as a missionary body in 1782. With the permission of the Dutch it began to evangelize the Hottentots at the Cape of