

comparative repose he set off again for Western Africa, where he has remained till the close of last year, passing from one mission to another in his zeal to further the spread of civilization.

Father Ferdinando Merlini is a native of Milan. He is about twenty-eight years of age, but, like his companion, looks much older. His frame is more delicately built than that of his brother missionary, and shows deeper traces of the hardships he has undergone. Trained in the Seminary of Milan and afterward in the aforesaid African Missions at Lyons, he was ordained priest by particular dispensation from the Pope when he was scarcely twenty years of age. Sent to the missions in Upper Egypt and Nubia, he has spent four or five years chiefly working among the black populations of the Upper Nile. During his sojourn there it has been his privilege to meet with a great number of the Africa explorers. Of the seven companions with whom he set out, only one survives. Fever carried the others off after a brief residence. According to his statement, missionaries rarely have been able to endure the climate for more than four years.

The French African missions were first organized by Monseigneur de Marion-Bresillac. It was in 1856 that this prelate obtained from Pope Pius IX, authority to establish a seminary where priests could be trained for the perilous task of carrying the Gospel to the negroes of Africa. In 1858, three missionaries started for the coast of Guinea. A year later, Monseigneur de Bresillac set out in person to join in the good work. At sight of the African coast his joy was such as can only be understood by those select few who are born with the faith of martyrs. At Freetown the intelligence met him that the country was ravaged