



## GENERAL INTENTION FOR DECEMBER, 1891.

*Named by Leo XIII with his special blessing and given to His Eminence the Cardinal Prefect of the Propaganda—the Protector of the Holy League of the Sacred Heart—for recommendation to the prayers of all the Associates.*

### THE AFRICAN MISSIONS.

**F**OR more reasons than one, Africa is entitled to the name lately given her of the Dark Continent. The teeming races which inhabit her zones are not only dark of color but have succeeded until our time in shrouding themselves under a mysterious veil from all light of civilization. They have found in the full blaze of a tropical sun a more efficacious screen than the inhabitants of polar regions in their mountains and seas of ice and snow.

Lying at the gate of civilized Europe, separated only by an inland sea from Rome, "the city of the soul," boasting once of her proud Carthage its rival, Africa came to be thought but a vast region of empty deserts and sandy oceans. The accounts left by the Jesuit missionaries who, two hundred years ago, penetrated into her wilds were lost sight of and forgotten, till in our own day the immortal Livingstone, followed by the venturesome Stanley,