

however commendable, could be introduced among the Christian people, was solicited. This, before much time had elapsed, was obtained, and thus the labors of the founders were consecrated. The receipts of the first month had been 520*fr.* 10*c.* for the diocese ; the total for the first year amounted to 15,372*fr.* 15*c.* But the pious zeal of the Association could not be confined within the bounds of a province. A few days after the first meeting was held, one of the members of the Central Council of Lyons set about enkindling the ever-ardent charity of the cities of the South. Diocesan committees were held at Avignon, Aix, Marseilles, Montpellier, and Grenoble. The most eminent of the clergy joined with the most religious of the laity, and from the hopeful activity of so many worthy people, great things might be expected. Soon after this, one of the founders repaired to Paris. Through his exertions another central council was established there, and from that date the whole kingdom was included in the Association. In the following year a delegate from the Council of Lyons, prostrate at the feet of the Sovereign Pontiff, Pius the VII, of happy memory, obtained the indulgences which permanently enrich the Association. Soon words of encouragement were heard from all the episcopal thrones in France. The prelates of the neighboring countries began to move in the same direction. Belgium and Switzerland, the various States of Germany and Italy, Great Britain, Spain, and Portugal soon joined the crusade of charity. Nearly three hundred bishops raised their voices in its favor ; and finally, his Holiness Pope Gregory XVI., by an Encyclical of the year 1840, having deigned to recommend to all the churches the Association for the Propagation of the Faith, the society was placed thereby in the rank of the institutions common to all christians.