

hope of establishing something similar for the benefit of New-Orleans, when they received a visit in the beginning of 1822 from the Vicar-General of that See. His presence still further inflamed the zeal of the benefactors of Louisiana. But it had often been objected that a work for the Missions could never have a solid foundation, unless organized in a Catholic spirit, that is to say, for the assistance of the apostolate throughout the universe. The idea soon became general. A meeting was called, and the twelve who were invited responded to the summons. The proceedings opened with the invocation of the Holy Ghost. A priest was the first to speak ; and after giving a short account of the progress and sufferings of religion in North America, he proposed the establishment of a great association, for the benefit of the Catholic missions in the two hemispheres. The resolution was unanimously adopted ; and before the meeting separated a president was named and a committee of three appointed to prepare a plan of operations. Then it was that in adopting the principle of universality which distinguished the new enterprise from previous essays, the Association for the Propagation of the Faith was founded. Now, it so happened through divine Providence, which seems henceforth to have assumed the government of the Association, so as to conduct it without the aid of man, that this first meeting was held, entirely without premeditation, on Friday, the 3d of May, the feast of the finding of the Holy Cross. It was only when, shortly after the foundation-day was appointed as one of the two annual festivals of the society, that it was discovered how one of our future anniversaries was consecrated to the veneration of the redeeming cross, whose conquests our humble contributions endeavor to extend. The approbation of the ecclesiastical authority, without which no innovation,