

of these new-born African Christians, and a number of our readers wished to become our Benefactors.

It is in reading the Annals of the Propagation of the Faith that the blessed Theophane Venard heard the first callings to the Apostolic life, a life that was to be one day crowned by a glorious martyrdom. It is in reading this humble Magazine that here in America young readers have felt themselves drawn towards this Africa where there are so many souls to convert, and the majestic St. Lawrence which saw in times of yore the Missionaries from France ascend its course to bring Christian Faith to Canada, now sees, every year, young Canadians descend its course, to carry the true Light to the Africans still sitting in the darkness and the shadows of death.

And from this fact, dear readers, this little Magazine has become still more yours, if I can thus express myself, than by the past. In the beginning, it related but the works not of strangers—for a Missionary is nowhere a stranger in the great Catholic family—but the works of Missionaries born in other countries. To-day it is no longer the same thing. The letters which it contains, the accounts that interest you, your children, your brothers, your sisters, your compatriots have written; and when by their pen you read the names of so many barbarous countries, these countries become dear to you, because they are now the new home of those you love.

So in addressing myself to you, at the dawn of this New Year, dear subscribers, devoted promoters, generous Benefactors, I do not speak to you as to strangers, but I speak to you as if you were "of our folks". And because you are "of our folks", we will pray for you, as we like to pray for the members of the family. In doing this, we are sure of giving you the best proof of our gratitude.

To all I wish a happy New Year.

THE FATHER DIRECTOR.