

together with the knowledge of the evil effects produced by godless education, made such an impression on the mind of Mr. Ryken, that he determined to found a Congregation of men who would sacrifice their lives to the christian education of youth. Thinking that Europe had her just proportion of religious teaching orders, his eyes turned to the New World. Accordingly, in 1838, he visited St. Louis, and laid his plans before Bishop Rosati, then Bishop of that Diocese. The impression that Mr. Ryken made on that venerable prelate will be seen from the following letter which he gave to the founder.

JAMES ROSATI, *Congregationes Missionis.*

*Dei et Apostolicæ Sedis gratia,*

*Episcopus S. Ludovici:*

Since the instruction of boys in literature and religion is much wanted in our diocese, a Religious Society or Community of Brothers, who would undertake this work and apply themselves to it with all their strength, would be very useful among us both for the glory of God and the salvation of souls; and, therefore, most acceptable to us and all good souls. Mr. Ryken has made known to us as well by letters from Belgium, as also in conversation, when a few days ago he visited us for that purpose, that he has for some time been seriously thinking of engaging in so laudable an undertaking. We, therefore, think his intention of collecting some pious youths in Belgium under certain rules, of proving them well, and rightly instructing them in religious discipline, afterwards to bind them by vows to this good work, and to come