

conversion of infidels, organized in the preceding century. With this view, they obtained indulgences from the Holy See, and published an account of the destitute condition of their churches. These attempts had the effect of preparing the way, and favorably disposing many minds. Three years later, a young person in Lyons, whose life of active charity reminds one of the Christian virgins of the primitive times, received from her brother, a student of Saint Sulpice, a letter full of the saddest expressions. He told her of the deplorable poverty of the house of the Foreign Missions, and proposed to obtain regular resources for it, through the establishment of a charitable association. The pious sister took up the happy thought, and in the course of the year 1820, got together a society of persons, subscribing each one half-penny a week towards the support of the Seminary of the Missions. The work began among the pious workwomen, who honor by their hidden virtues, as they sustain by their labor the rich and popular trade of Lyons. During the six last months of that year, the foundress bore, single handed, the whole burden of her weighty undertaking. At that time, there was neither a union of prayer, nor a festival, nor a periodical publication. Soon, the number of associates reached to about one thousand ; a considerable result certainly, but not likely to increase, owing to the necessarily limited range of the influence which the originators could bring to bear. The collected offerings were sent as a pious memento from the church of Lyons to that ancient Asia whence she had received the faith. The amount was two thousand francs. It is pleasant to count the first drops of a dew which was one day to fall in greater abundance on a field of limitless extent. Meanwhile the correspondents of Mgr. Dubourg, seeing what had been done, were far from relinquishing the