

A GREAT CHARITY.

ORIGIN OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROPAGATION OF
THE FAITH, AS TOLD BY FREDERICK OZANAM.

Cries of distress, on the one hand from the East, and on the other hand from the West, reached the ears of two pious women dwelling in a provincial city of France, and inspired them with the design which, having been now happily realized, supports in our days, with efficacious aid, the missions of the two worlds. In the year 1815, Mgr. Dubourg, bishop of New-Orleans, on his return from Rome, where he had been consecrated, stopped for some time at Orleans. Full of anxiety on account of the extreme poverty of his diocese, in which he had everything to organize from the very foundation, he earnestly recommended it to the charity of the citizens of Lyons. In particular, he spoke of his anxieties to a truly Christian woman, a widow, whom he had formerly known in the United States, and told her that it had occurred to him to establish, in aid of the spiritual necessities of Louisiana, a charitable association, fixing the subscription at one franc a year. The kind-hearted widow entered at once into the Bishop's views, and spoke on the subject to some few persons; but she met with many difficulties. She had to await the heaven-appointed hour, and content herself meanwhile with collecting some trifling alms for those christian settlements of America, which were the objects of her maternal solicitude. About the very same time, that is to say, in 1816, the directors of the Seminary of Foreign Missions, which had been a year established at Paris, formed a desire to revive the union of prayers for the