

disclose his project. Nevertheless the day came when, after fervent prayer, he cast himself at the feet of Dom Romualdo's successor :

"Father," said he, "I owe you spiritual and corporal life ; but those you taught me to love as brothers are on the road to perdition ; an interior voice urges me to go to them."

The superior reflected a while and then answered :

"Go my son ; God wills it ; go and open a path for missionaries."

Enlightened and strengthened, Antonio hesitated no longer. He bade a lifelong farewell to the monks he venerated and to the beautiful church in which his lively faith made him find a kind of paradise.

The voyage was frightfully stormy. One would have thought that on account of this strange missionary the demons never tired of exciting tempests. But God was watching over Antonio and he arrived safe. As soon as his foot touched his native soil, he threw himself on his knees begging God's mercy on his unhappy countrymen. He then started out in search of those he had known in Brazil.

Alas ! sad as was the description given him of their state it did not approach the reality. But far from losing heart, Antonio began his apostolate valiantly. He raised a little chapel of bamboo to which he invited his former companions in America. He sang hymns, said the rosary and did his best to imitate the ceremonies of the church. Whether out of curiosity or owing to the remembrance of his generous friendship, many negroes came immediately at his call. He pressed, entreated and terrified them with threats of divine vengeance. He was deprived of the resource of the Sacrament of Penance, but he understood the power of prayer. He extolled this grand means of salvation and multiplied it in every form. His efforts were not fruitless. Nearly all the apostates consoled him by their return to the faith ; the pagans themselves yielded to the charm, asked for instruction and were baptized.

Thus did a poor emancipated slave, ignorant of everything but his catechism, succeed in creating a veritable christian settlement.

But a christian colony cannot long subsist without a