

LETTER TO BROTHER PIERRE MERSY

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Pierre Mersy (1826-1864) entered Libermann's Congregation in 1843. The next year he was appointed to Haiti and when this mission failed, he saw himself appointed to the African Mission of the "Two Guineas." He died in Bordeaux, December 10, 1864.

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*Precaution to be taken in a tropical climate. Obedience and respect for priests.*

1844

*Vol. 6, p. 221*

Dear Brother:

I am glad that you arrived safely. You must now be faithful to your Good Master. Watch over yourself. The heat has a depressing effect and tends to make people soft. Be on your guard never to remain idle, for when the devil finds you idle and defenseless, he will seize you and overcome you, causing your perdition. Courageously act against softness. Be always regular. Make a rule for yourself for the whole day and be faithful to it. Always be docile to everything you are told by Father Tisserant and do not grumble. Know that it is through obedience that you will make progress.

Oh, dear friend! Would you have gone so far away in order to do your own will? Could you not have done your own will in France? Be faithful then to Our Lord and obey as Jesus Christ obeyed. Respect Father Tisserant and Father Lossedat, for they are Christ's representatives for you. Don't speak with them with that sort of over-familiarity I have sometimes pointed out and explained to you when you were here. When they are talking together, especially about the

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matters of the holy ministry and other things that belong to their sacred functions, remain self-effacing and don't join in that conversation. Be with them as the disciples of Our Lord were with Him. You will live much more happily that way than if you acted otherwise and will save your soul.

Avoid pride and ambition—but be simple and humble with your superiors and with everyone. Neither judge nor condemn anyone. When you hear someone speaking evil, do not repeat such things, especially when you hear bad things about priests; you must respect them even if they are bad, for they have the character of Jesus Christ. Weigh the words of this letter. Accomplish all that it contains and you will sanctify and save your soul.

FRANCIS LIBERMANN