

« In the name of the Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit,

we, Jean-Marie de la Mennais, vicar general of Saint-Brieuc,
and Gabriel Deshayes, vicar general of Vannes and parish priest of Auray,

Inspired by the will to provide the children of the common people, especially those of
rural Brittany, with teachers of solid piety, have resolved to establish provisionally
at Saint-Brieuc and at Auray two novitiates of young men who will follow
as much as possible

the rule of the Brothers of Christian Schools and use their teaching methods; but bearing
in mind that this enterprise can grow and wax strong only with time and that either
of us may die before it has become strong enough to be self-sustaining,

we have agreed on the following:

- 1) The two novitiate houses of Saint-Brieuc and of Auray will be directed respectively
by Father de la Mennais and Father Deshayes.
- 2) The two houses will follow the same rule, the same teaching methods,
and indeed will constitute a single house.
- 3) Each of us will direct and supervise all the Brothers placed in his diocese
and those he will assign to other dioceses.
- 4) When we deem it opportune, we shall choose from among the Brothers a superior
and two assistants and shall decide on their place of residence. If this has not yet been
done at the death of one of us, or if for any reason one of us cannot participate,
the choice and arrangements for the good of the society will be made by the other.
- 5) As soon as possible, we shall try to find a house which is centrally located
for the two dioceses, not too far from a main road and preferably in a rural area.
- 6) Each of us will arrange that at his death all resources remaining
for his house will pass to the survivor, who will put them together
with his own for the support of the society.

Drafted in duplicate at Saint-Brieuc on Trinity Sunday, June 6, 1819.

Gabriel Deshayes

Vicar general of Auray

J. M. de la Mennais

Vicar general of Saint-Brieuc