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

Ve, 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. We 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 become 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 assigns 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.

Vicar general of Auray

Vicar general of Saint-Brieuc