

Correspondents are earnestly requested to repeat their Postal Address in every letter.



SALESIAN BULLETIN

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EXTRACTS FROM THE DIPLOMA OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SALESIAN CO-OPERATORS.

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT of the Association.

1. — All who have reached 16 years of age may become CO-OPERATORS if they so desire, and seriously intend to act according to the spirit of the Association.
*
2. — The Association is humbly commended to the protection and benevolence of the Sovereign Pontiff, and of all Bishops and Priests in their respective dioceses and parishes, on whom it shall depend without reserve in everything relating to our holy religion.
*
3. — The Superior General of the Salesian Congregation shall also be the Superior of the Association of Co-operators.
*
4. — The Directors of the several Houses of the Salesian Congregation are authorized to enrol new Members, whose names and addresses they shall immediately forward to the Superior General, so that they may be regularly enrolled in the Register of the Association.
*
5. — In districts wherein there is no Salesian House, when the number of the Co-operators amounts to at least ten, one of them should be selected as President—preferably an ecclesiastic—who will assume the title of Decurion, and take upon himself the correspondence with the Superior, or with the Director of any of the Salesian Houses.
*
6. — All Members may freely communicate with the Superior, and lay before him any matter whatever they may deem worthy of consideration.
*
7. — At least every three months, the Associate will receive a printed Report of the works that have been accomplished; the proposals that have come to hand, bearing on the purposes of the Association; and finally, the new enterprises to be undertaken for the glory of God and the good of our fellow-creatures. In the Annual Report this latter point will be treated more diffusely, so that Members may have a clear general idea of the Works to be accomplished in the ensuing year.
The names of the Associates who have passed to eternity during the year, shall also be forwarded to the Members of the Association, in order that they may be remembered in the prayers of all their brethren.

[The "Salesian Bulletin" has long since taken the place of the *printed Report* spoken of above.—ED.]

8. — Every year, on the Feasts of St. Francis of Sales and of Our Lady Help of Christians (January, 29, and May, 24) the Decurions should organize assemblies of all the members in their respective districts, so that the whole Association may unite in spirit and prayer with their brethren of the Salesian Congregation, invoking for one another the continued protection of these our Glorious Patrons, and the grace of perseverance and zeal in the arduous undertaking that our charity and the love of God have imposed upon us in conformity with the spirit of our Congregation.

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES.

1. — There is no exterior practice prescribed for the Salesian Co-operators. In order, however, that their life may in some points approach to the life of Professed Religious, we recommend to them the following; that is to say, modesty in their apparel; frugality in their meals; simplicity in their furniture; reserve in their speech; and exactness in the duties of their state: they should also be careful to have the repose and sanctification prescribed in all Feasts of Obligation exactly observed by those over whom their authority extends.
*
2. — They are advised to make a Spiritual Retreat of some days in the course of every year; and, on the last day of every month, or on such other as may suit their convenience better, to make the exercise of a holy Death, going to Confession and Communion, as though it were really to be their last. For the annual Retreat, and also on the day upon which they make the Exercise for a Holy Death, they can gain a Plenary Indulgence.
*
3. — All the Associates should say one "Pater," and one "Ave," daily, in honour of St. Francis of Sales for the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff. Priests, and those who recite the Canonical Hours, are dispensed from this Prayer. For them, it will suffice to add their intention to the recitation of the Office.
*
4. — They are recommended, furthermore, frequently to approach to the Sacraments of Penance and of the Holy Eucharist; the Associates being able, every time they do this, to gain a Plenary Indulgence.
*
5. — All these Indulgences, both Plenary and Partial, can be applied, by way of Suffrage, to the souls in Purgatory, with the exception of that for the hour of death, which is exclusively personal, and can be gained only when the soul is about to enter into eternity.

THE SALESIAN BULLETIN

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth... We ought therefore to help *brethren and pilgrims* that we may be co-operators to the truth.

(III St. JOHN, 4 and 8.)

Till I come, attend unto reading, to exhorting and to instructing.

(I TIMOTHY, IV, 13.)

Of works divine the divinest is to co-operate with God in the saving of souls.

(St. DENYS.)

A tender love of our fellow-creatures is one of the great and excellent gifts that Divine Goodness grants to man.

(St. FRANCIS DE SALES.)



Whosoever shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

(MATT. XVIII, 5.)

To your care I commend infancy and youth; zealously attend to their Christian education; place in their hands such books as may teach them to fly from vice and steadily walk in the path of virtue.

(PIUS IX.)

Redouble your energies and talents in the rescue of infancy and youth from the snares of corruption and infidelity, and thus prepare a new generation.

(LEO XIII.)

No. 33.

July 15, 1895.

Registered for
transmission abroad

PUBLISHED AT THE "ORATORIO SALESIANO,"—VALDOCCO, TURIN, ITALY.

TO THE READER.

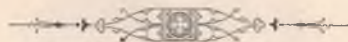
Owing to various circumstances the present issue of our *Bulletin* will reach our Co-operators considerably after date, and for this we feel called upon to apologise to them. We are glad, at the same time, to be able to announce an important change in the editorship of our little periodical. Up to the present the matter for the *Bulletin* had been prepared at Turin with all the drawbacks and difficulties of English composition in a foreign country. As a natural consequence the magazine received its tints from its surroundings, and its English was often strange

and outlandish. But this is all changed now. Henceforth the *Bulletin*, though it will continue to be printed and published at Turin, will be edited at our House in London; and, besides being issued regularly, no pains will be spared to render it more interesting and readable than it has been for the past. The former editor, in taking his leave of it, feels like a poverty-stricken parent who sees his ragged child adopted by a wealthy neighbour: the pang of separation is keen, but there is likewise consolation in the thought that his poor offspring will be better cared for than he could afford to do by it.

LETTER ADDRESSED TO H. H. POPE LEO XIII.

BY THEIR EMINENCES THE CARDINALS, ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS
PRESENT AT THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
OF SALESIAN CO-OPERATORS

Bologna, April 23rd, 24th, 25th, 1895.



Beatissime Pater,

QUOS exitus primus Adjutorum Salesianae Sodalitatis ex omni natione conventus, Tuâ praesertim praeunte benedictione, habiturus esset, vix dubitari poterat. Ex istâ enim orbis terrarum principe sede singularis quaedam et perpetua emanat virtus, quae omnia, quaecumque illi adhaerescunt, alit provehitque mirifice. Quod quidem quum in rebus et viris elucet plurimis, tum praecipue in Patre nostro legifero, qui obsequio ac reverentiâ erga Pontificem Maximum nulli unquam cessit, idemque suis documentum tradidit supremum. — Quod igitur votis jamdiu expetebamus, ut de communibus negotiis coram inter nos colloqui liceret, omnipotentis tandem Dei benignitate effectum est. Per hanc enim suavissimae consuetudinis opportunitatem omnia versavimus atque excussimus opera, in quibus Salesiana Sodalitas elaborat. Fructus Deo adjuvante perceptos in medium protulimus, non utique ostentandi causâ, servi enim inutiles sumus, sed ut nobis incitamento essent, invitamento ceteris. — Percipiendorum seges nimio patet latius; ad hanc nimirum impensius animos convertimus. De juventute rite excolendâ, de conditione opificum relevandâ, de bonis libris edendis, quâ maximâ potuimus sollertiâ ac diligentia, consilia contulimus, agitavimus, delegimus. Hinc enim potissimum, ut is rectissime vidit, qui haec Sodalitati a se conditae curanda proposuit, laboranti rei publicae salus petenda est. — Quoniam vero illius caritas viri, nullis circumscripta finibus, nullis perterrita difficultatibus, ad eos etiam provolvit, qui in tenebris et in umbrâ mortis sedent, ideo de sacris quoque apud barbaros expeditionibus promovendis quam studiosissime consultavimus.

Most Holy Father,

NO doubt could possibly be entertained about the success of the first international Congress of Salesian Co-operators, since it was held under your auspices and with your blessing. From the Apostolic See, the head and mistress of the whole world, there flows a special virtue that causes all that is in communion with it to thrive and bear fruit. This fact, so plainly illustrated by many instances taken from men and things, has been made still more evident in the person of our Father and Founder. He was second to none in showing submission and reverence towards the Holy Father, and this sentiment forms part of the inheritance which he left to his sons. The Divine Mercy has, at last, granted our ardent desire of being able to meet together and treat of our common interests. Thanks to this opportunity of meeting together so pleasing to us all, we have been able to treat and discuss conveniently, all things relating to the Salesian works. We have made public the results obtained up to the present day, not indeed in order to boast of them, since we are but useless servants, but in order that these results may serve as an encouragement to us and an incentive to others. But more abundant still is the ripening harvest which we have before our eyes. It is, then, on that harvest we have turned all our attention with renewed courage and activity. The education of our children, the amelioration of the workmen's condition and the necessity of spreading good books are the principal subjects which we have dwelt on most carefully and diligently in our committees, discussions and deliberations. It is from these sources that the remedy for our social disorders is to be obtained, as the Founder of this Society had already justly foreseen, and made its principal object.

—Tum denique ad ipsam Adjutorum consociationem ventum est, quam confirmare atque amplificare, quanti sit momenti, nemo non videt; hoc enim opere, specie vel minimo, tamquam fundamento, tota Salesianae Familiae nititur alacritas. — Jam porro labores, Dei gloriae susceptos atque animarum saluti, haud irritos futuros spe ducimur laetissimā, Virginis Deiparae et Francisci Salesii patrocinio freti atque ipsius etiam Patris nostri, cujus ea fuit vitae sanctimonia, ut de ejus in caelis auctoritate et gratiā minime dubii, eundem caelestes in terris honores quam primum adepturum magnopere confidamus.

Nihil autem spem cogitationum et consiliorum nostrorum magis roborabit, quam si pro indulgentiā erga nos Tuā Apostolicā benedictione, quā convenientes excepti sumus, digredientes dimittamur, ut omnes uno ore atque animo, ad sacros Tuos pedes pro-voluti, enixe petimus.

Bononiae, VII kal. maias MDCCCXCV.

Devotissimi et Obsequentissimi Filii

Sebastianus, Card. Archiep. Ravennatensis.
 Aegidius, Card. Archiep. Ferrariensis.
 Dominicus, Card. Archiep. Bononiensis.
 Andreas, Card. Archiep. Mediolanensis.
 David, Archiep. Taurinensis.
 Carolus M., Archiep. Mutinensis.
 Rochus, Archiep. Teatinus.
 Franciscus, Archiep. Tit. Amidensis.
 Achilles, Episc. Anconitanus.
 Joachimus, Episc. Faventinus.
 Aloysius, Episc. Imolensis.
 Vincentius, Episc. Regiensis in Aemilia.
 Felix, Episc. Montis Politiani.
 Camillus, Episc. Ananensis.
 Leonardus, Episc. Mutilensis.
 Franciscus, Episc. Theramensis.
 Joannes Baptista, Episc. Bobiensis.
 Carolus, Episc. Aversanus.
 Nicolaus, Episc. tit. Sebastenus.
 Joannes Baptista, Episc. Auximanus et Cingulanus.
 Alfonsus M., Episc. Caesenatensis.
 Robertus, Episc. Maceratensis et Tolentinus.
 Julius, Episc. Tudertinus.
 Petrus, Episc. Guastallensis.
 Vincentius, Episc. Tit. Callipolitanus.
 Alexander, Episc. Collensis.
 Carolus, Episc. Feretransus.

And as the charity of this saintly man which knew no limits and was daunted by no difficulties whatsoever, extended its beneficial effects even to souls still seated in darkness and the shadow of death, so we have also turned our attention to the furtherance of the Missions amongst the heathen. And lastly we have directed our thoughts to the society of Salesian Co-operators itself, the firm establishment and prosperity of which are, as every one can see, of the utmost importance; for on this Society, humble and modest as it may appear, the whole life of the Salesian family depends. And now we cherish the hope that our labours, undertaken for the glory of God and the salvation of souls, will not be fruitless.

These hopes we base on the patronage of Our Lady, St. Francis of Sales and of our Father himself, whose sanctity of life was such as to make us confident that he will, ere long, be raised to the altars, as we have even now no doubt of his powerful intercession in Heaven.

Nothing however will give a firmer basis to our intentions and resolutions than to be dismissed, at our separation, with your Apostolic benediction: this, in your condescension towards us, we received when we came, and this, with one heart and voice, kneeling at your sacred feet we now earnestly implore.

Sebastian, Cardinal-Archbishop of Ravenna.
 Dominic, Cardinal-Archbishop of Bologna.
 Andrew, Cardinal-Archbishop of Milan.
 Egidius, O. P., Cardinal-Archbishop of Ferrara.
 David, Archbishop of Turin.
 Charles M., Archbishop of Modena.
 Roch, Archbishop of Chieti.
 Francis, Titular Archbishop of Armida.
 Achilles, Bishop of Ancona.
 Joachim, Bishop of Faenza.
 Louis, Bishop of Imola.
 Vincent, Bishop of Reggio Emilia.
 Felix, Bishop of Montepulciano.
 Camillus, Bishop of Fano.
 Leonard, Bishop of Modigliana.
 Francis, Bishop of Teramo.
 John Baptist, Bishop of Bobbio.
 Charles, Bishop of Aversa.
 Nicolas, Titular Bishop of Sebaste.
 John Baptist, Bishop of Osimo ad Cingoli.
 Alphonsus M., Bishop of Cesena.
 Robert, Bishop of Macerata and Tolentino.
 Julius, Bishop of Todi.

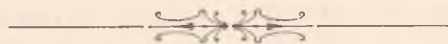
Paulus, Episc. Tit. Rhodiopolitanus.
 Andreas, Episc. Carpensis.
 Aristides, Episc. Fabrianensis et Mathelicensis.
 Raymundus, Episc. electus Foroliviensis.
 Jacobus, Episc. electus Coloniensis in Armenia.

Peter, Bishop of Guastalla.
 Vincent, Titular Bishop of Gallipoli.
 Alexander, Bishop of Colle Val d'Elsa.
 Charles, Bishop of Montefeltro.
 Paul, Titular Bishop of Rhodes.
 Andrew, Bishop of Carpi.
 Aristides, Bishop of Fabriano and Matelica.
 Raymond, preconised Bishop of Forlì.
 James, Bishop of Colonia in Armenia.



BRIEF OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIII.

IN ANSWER TO THE FOREGOING ADDRESS.



Dilecto Filio Nostro Dominico Tit. S. Onuphrii S. R. E. Presb. Card. Svampa, Archiep. Bononiensi — Bononiam.

LEO PP. XIII.

DILECTE Fili Noster, salutem et Apostolicam benedictionem. — Quem faustum Nos exitum nupero conventui vestro auspiciati fuimus, eum re ipsâ contigisse vobis ex tuis ceterorumque, qui aderant, Antistitum sacrorum litteris libentissime accepimus. Neque dubiis de eâ re Nobis esse licebat, quippe qui et navitatem tuam in coetu disponendo noramus, et congregantium studia ad Religionis utilitates promovendas, et Bononiensis civitatis maximâ cum humanitate hospitalitatem. Id igitur modo superest, ut quod sententiâ unanimi proposuistis, hoc efficaci opere persequamini; clementissimus vero Dominus, cujus est incrementum dare, benignitatis suae mune-

LEO XIII. POPE.

To our dear Son, Dominic Svampa, Cardinal Priest of the Holy Roman Church, under the title of St. Onophrius, Archbishop of Bologna.

TO OUR DEAR SON, HEALTH AND APOSTOLIC BENEDICTION.

WE have experienced the greatest joy in hearing, through your letter signed by the assembled Bishops, that your recent Congress has really met with all success which we wished it. Of that success, there could be no doubt for us so well acquainted with your diligence in preparing the Congress, and the zeal of all its members in furthering the interests of our holy religion, and the so courteous hospitality of the city of Bologna. It only remains to execute the resolutions which you have unanimously carried. May the all-merciful God to Whom it belongs to give the increase, foster with His graces, and prosper and crown with abundant fruit the work which

ribus foveat, fortunet laetisque fructibus augeat. Haec ut feliciter contingant, dum tibi et Antistitibus reliquis gratias de datis litteris referimus, Apostolicam benedictionem vobis in primis, tum universis, qui coeteri interfuere, aman- tissime in Domino impertimus.

Datum Romae apud S. Petrum die IV Maii MCCCXCV, Pontificatus Nostri anno decimo octavo.

LEO PP. XIII.

you have accomplished. And to that end, together with our thanks for the letter sent to us by you and the other Bishops, receive the Apostolic benediction in the Lord, which we give in all affection to you first and then to all those who have taken part in the Congress.

Given at Rome near St. Peter's, 4th of May, in the year MDCCCXCV, the 18th of our Pontificate.

LEO XIII. POPE.



CONSECRATION

OF THE

Rt. REVEREND Mgr. COSTAMAGNA.

By a special privilege of the Holy See, that imposing ceremony was performed in the Church of Mary Help of Christians, Turin, on Ascension-day.

Since early morning the Church, decorated in the best possible manner, was filled with communicants and at 9 a.m. no more standing room was to be found.

There were present Salesians from all parts of Piedmont, several deputations, amongst which the most numerous was from Caramagna, the birth-place of the new Bishop, the Superiors of the Congregation, Monsignor Carpanelli, Secretary of the Salesian Congress of Bologna, and now representing his Em. Cardinal Svampa, Father Catalanotto representing his Em. Cardinal Celesia, several Milanese Co-operators representing our friends from Lombardy, a few from Switzerland, several Salesian superiors from Italy, France and Spain; Father Piccono, Superior of our House in Mexico, and Father Colombo from Uruguay, the two last representing our confrères in America.

At half-past nine a.m. the imposing ceremony began. The services of Holy Church are always beautiful, always instructive, always impressive. But on this occasion, the fact that it was one of Don Bosco's

sons, one of our brothers who was to be elevated to the Episcopal dignity, and that the sacred rite was to be carried out in our own Salesian Church, made the ceremony, solemn and grand in all its Liturgical splendour, specially touching. The consecration was at last ended, and the Archbishop, who had just performed the sacred ceremony for the first time, was greatly affected. He addressed his immense audience in terms which showed his own appreciation of the greatness of the Episcopal dignity. He warmly congratulated the new Bishop and our Pious Society, and proclaimed Mgr. Costamagna one of its worthiest sons. He wound up his discourse by inviting all his hearers to assist, in some way or another, the poor and difficult Mission of Mendez and Gualaquiza, recently confided by the Sovereign Pontiff to the new Bishop.

The Episcopal Benediction.

After Mass the people received the Episcopal Benediction. Then, at the intonation of the *Te Deum*, a scene of indescribable enthusiasm took place. Choir and people answered alternately the verses of the glorious hymn of St. Ambrose and St. Augustine. All wished to see the new Bishop, all desired to receive his blessing. The two assistant Bishops accompanied him to the Church-door, and it was with great difficulty that they could force a passage.

Touching scene.

Upon returning to the sacristy a touching scene took place,—the meeting of Don Rua



His Lordship Mgr. JAMES COSTAMAGNA

Titular Bishop of Colonia (Armenia),

Vicar-Apostolic of Mendez and Gualaquiza (Ecuador).

with the new Salesian Bishop. The successor of Don Bosco tried in vain to kneel and kiss the Episcopal ring. Mgr. Costamagna received his Superior in his arms, and pressed him to his breast in tender veneration. Tears of joy could be seen in the eyes of both Father and son.

Proofs of affection.

The sons of Don Bosco and the children of the Oratory alike testified their delight in having, in the person of Mgr. Costamagna, a new Salesian Bishop. Desirous to express their sentiments in his regard, they presented him with a little book printed and bound in an elegant style in our workshops at Turin.

This little work contained a splendid portrait of his Lordship, and an admirable selection of Italian, Latin and Greek literature, prose and poetry. On the Octave of the Ascension, a fine drama from the gifted pen of Father Lemoyne, called *Christopher Columbus*, was performed in his honour.

During each of the five entr'actes, some of the compositions mentioned in the anthology above were read.

A brilliant assembly of clergy and townspeople, headed by the venerated Archbishop, Mgr. Riccardi, who came to honour the new Bishop, was present.



DON RUA IN PALESTINE.

THE Superior-General of the Salesians embarked on the 16th of February, at Marseilles, on the S.S. *Druentia*, belonging to the fleet of Cyprien Fabre and Co. He was accompanied by Father Albera, Spiritual Director of the Congregation and the Marquis de Villeneuve-Trans, a Co-operator of Provence.

THE VOYAGE.

The two first days of the journey were rather rough. A strong easterly wind obliged the captain of the vessel to furl the sails, first when coming out of the Straits of Bonifacio, and then under the heights of Civita Vecchia.

But after the third day the sea was smooth, and Holy Mass could be said on board, each morning.

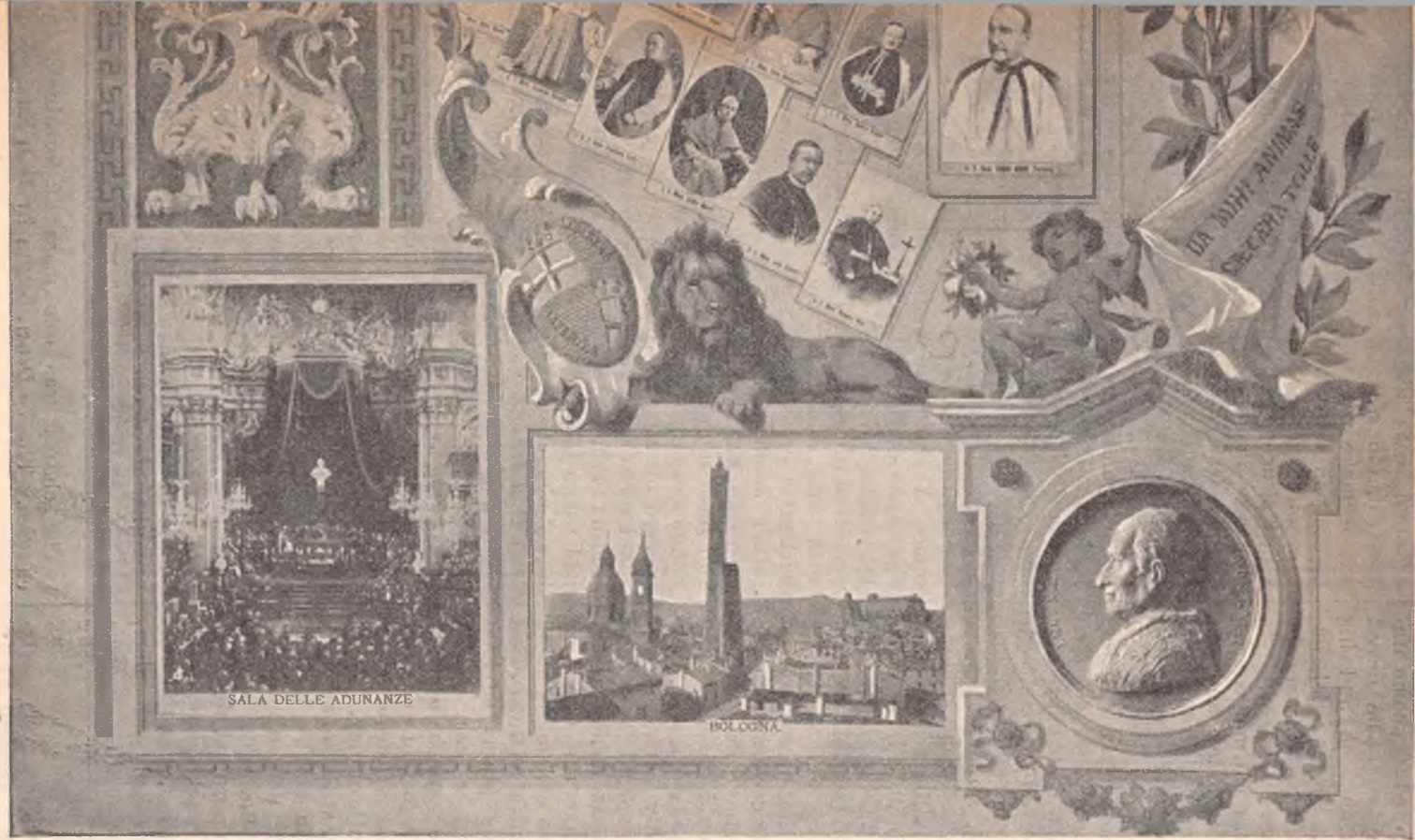
If, perhaps, our travellers did not find on board all the comforts and luxuries offered by the large mail boats, to make up for them they enjoyed the most perfect freedom and cordiality. These were things appreciated by them far more than the former would have been, and for which they were anxious to thank Mr. Cyprien Fabre, captain Bouille and the crew of the *Druentia*. Arrived too late in dock at Alexandria, on Saturday evening the 23rd, they were only able to go ashore next morning. Don Rua presented himself at the College of St. Francis Xavier, where the Rev. Father Cattin, S.J., Superior of that magnificent establishment, received him and his companions in a most friendly manner, bestowing on our Superior-General the greatest honours during the *fête* held on the occasion of the carnival.

During the three days Don Rua stopped at Alexandria, he was able to visit and admire the establishment of the Christian Brothers, the monastery of Franciscans and the convent of the Nuns of the Order of St. Francis of Assisi. He was received by his Lordship Dr. Corbelli, and was pleased to spend a few moments with one of our excellent Co-operators Mr. Veritas, solicitor, and a worthy Catholic lady who, at her own expense, has opened and maintains an orphanage for girls. The sojourn of our Superior in Alexandria, showed him plainly that in order to complete the work of education so necessary in that city, a Salesian House where boys could be trained in useful trades, was indispensable. To provide for this want he reckons on divine Providence and the prayers of all our Co-operators.

On Wednesday, 27th of February, at 10 o'clock a.m., Don Rua and his companions stepped on board the *Charkai* mail steamer of the *Khédivié* company's fleet. The passengers were very many in number, and most of them English and German. They were on an excursion tour conducted by Mr. Cook to Jerusalem and the East. The weather was fine and calm. On Thursday, at 11:30 a.m., Jaffa was reached. Don Belloni, founder of the Orphanages in the Holy Land, at the present day member of the Salesian Congregation and Superior of the above mentioned orphanages, together with a few confrères received Don Rua on the quay. Their joy at seeing Don Rua, successor of their beloved Father Don Bosco, made



PRIMO CONGRESSO SALESIANO
IN BOLOGNA 23, 24, 25 Aprile 1895



THE CARDINALS, ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS
WHO WERE PRESENT AT THE SALESIAN CONGRESS OF BOLOGNA.

(Designed and reproduced by the Photographic School of the Salesian Oratory, Turin.)

the hearts of the Salesians and their friends beat faster, but it was only by good elbow knocks scientifically applied in some unfortunate ribs, that a way could be forced through the crowd to Don Rua and his companions. The cries, shouts and importunities of the Arabian porters can be experienced, not described.

Like as in medieval times the monasteries are the only hostelrys available, and the charitable hospitality given indiscriminately to rich and poor by the good Franciscan Fathers is a real providence for the traveller in those countries. Although the greatest cordiality accompanies the reception given to each, something extra was added to that which Don Rua was received with. It was then about two o'clock p.m. and Don Rua was waiting for the train, which started at two o'clock for Jerusalem. What a striking contrast is offered by civilisation in that country so thoroughly biblical! It is as if God wanted to keep it through all ages as a living proof of the divinity of the Holy Scriptures.

The train moved, but that was about all could be said for it, for at certain moments, if a weary passenger stood in need of stretching his legs, he could get out of the train, sit down by the roadside, and afterwards catch it again easily before it had gone very far. It is whispered here and there among the people that coals are an expensive article, and that the Company prefers receiving money to expending it on coals. The view was beautiful as we crawled along. Magnificent fertile plains covered with luxuriant crops could be seen. Not a stone was there, and the rare habitations scattered here and there, just in sufficient number to remind us that we were in an inhabited contry, were built of clay. Those of the Arabians are simpler still, and measure something like nine feet in height, with an opening serving for door and window at one and the same time. But after a while the scene changed. Sloping ground plentifully sown with stones and rocks, but not a vestige of trees or vegetation, was the next variation. As we approached Jerusalem, traces of cultivation and fertility became more and more abundant. Olive trees, fig trees and rough stone walls enclosing cultivated land, were to be seen everywhere. At 6 o'clock p.m. the train stopped at Jerusalem! With what emotion does not the heart swell, on putting foot on that soil so often trod by our Blessed Lord. But what

a pity we should be obliged to enter the Holy City in such a manner. A station crowded with shouting Arabian porters, hotel, omnibuses and cabs . . . well! cabs which make you say an act of contrition before you venture in them, and which seem to rejoice among themselves for not having killed altogether the unfortunate passenger who was in them last. Without entering the city, Don Rua took the way to Bethlehem. The carriage of the Orphanage drove off with him, but a great number of the boys escorted him, some on horseback, others on donkeys and some on foot. All were in the highest spirits possible, and seemed to think nothing whatever of the race, and of the noise they were making.

Night had set in by this time, but it did not prevent the travellers noticing as they passed, the well of the Magi, and Rachel's tomb. At about half-a-mile from the Orphanage, some of the children were waiting for Don Rua. What joy when at last they perceived the carriage! They all had lanterns with them, and each and every one, not without a little bit of a struggle and even rather much of it too, was able to reach Don Rua, kiss his hand and ask his blessing. But once round him, the little fellows would not go away any more, and our poor Superior, pressed on all sides, had as much as he could do to reach the entrance of the avenue leading to the House. The brass band which had taken its stand on the threshold of the lovely chapel of the Orphanage, as soon as Don Rua was in view, woke all the neighbouring echoes by its lively and harmonious strains. The priests in their vestments and the clerics in cotta, received Don Rua at the entrance of the Chapel and led him to the Sanctuary.

Soon everybody was in his place, and the God of the Crib, now the God of the Tabernacle was exposed, adored and prayed to. The Superior General sang the *Te Deum* in thanksgiving, and all present united in the same sentiments of gratitude towards Him Who conducted so well His chosen people in that same land, and who had now brought into it our beloved Father-General.

SOJOURN IN THE HOLY LAND. (*)

The chapel was one mass of burning candles. The *Te Deum*, begun by Don Rua,

(*) The information which we publish on the stay of our Superior in the Holy Land is given us by one of our confrères of Bethlehem.

was continued in a most spirited manner by the members of the choir who for the occasion seemed to have borrowed Angels' voices. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament terminated this first part of the fête. I can not tell you what or how we felt. We could but thank Almighty God for all the graces which He sent through his beloved servant our Superior General, successor of one of his saints, Don Bosco.

A little while after the Benediction service was over, and when the Salesians and all the children had assembled in the reception hall, which was most tastefully decorated by loving hands and enthusiastic hearts, Father John Belloni read to Don Rua an address of welcome expressing the feeling of all,—love and respect for our Father.

But now it was more than time that our dear travellers took some refreshments after their long journey, and the nuns, notwithstanding the difficulties placed in their way by all the rigours and strictness of an Eastern Lent, proved themselves quite up to the occasion and worthy of the good opinion which we have long had of their culinary skill.

NEXT MORNING'S VISIT TO THE GROTTA.

Unable to express my sentiments I leave to you to form an idea of all that filled the hearts of our beloved visitors when they prostrated themselves in that grotto which witnessed, nearly two thousand years ago, that ineffable mystery of love,—the Son of God taking to himself our poor human nature with all its miseries and defects. The tears which ran from the eyes of the dearest of Don Bosco's sons, at this moment and the next day, as he was celebrating Mass, were no doubt counted and gathered by the Angels, and will be converted into a heavenly dew of graces for all the Salesian family. After Mass Don Rua and his companions visited the grottos attached to that of the Nativity,—that of St. Joseph, of the Holy Innocents, and of St. Jerome. Before returning to the Orphanage they paid a visit to the Franciscan Fathers, to whom we are indebted for the preservation of places so dear to every Catholic heart and soul. After the visits just mentioned, the children were determined to have Don Rua to themselves for a while. An academy or literary and musical entertainment had been got up by them in his honour, and it is but just to say that they sustained each part in a most

praise-worthy manner. And Don Rua's appreciation of their talent and good will was an ample reward for the labours and pains bestowed upon the Latin, Greek, Arabic and French addresses which they read to him.

Friday and Saturday were two days of rest for Don Rua, if not in fact, at least in name, since the visits seemed to be uninterrupted. Every one seemed to want to salute our Superior General. We, his sons, were obliged to postpone our own interviews with our Father until more favourable times. On Saturday evening, under the guidance of Don Rua, who told us a number of interesting facts about the lives of our deceased confrères, we began the devotions for a happy death. The pious ceremonies of the first Sunday of Lent being over, our Superior assisted at a meeting of the confraternity of Our Blessed Lady, and of the conference of St. Vincent de Paul. For each one, Don Rua had a word of comfort and encouragement, and we hope that his longed-for presence at those meetings will be the beginning of a new era of grace for all there present.

The evening was brought to a close by the performance of the religious drama entitled *Patagonia*, written by Father Lemoyne, different pieces of music and the recital of two little French comedies which formed the humorous note in that entertainment, not likely soon to be forgotten by our dear little ones.

Next day, together with Father Albera, Father Belloni, the Marquis de Villeneuve-Trans, Don Rua went to Jerusalem to venerate the Holy Places, to present his homage of respect to the Patriarch, to M. Ledoulx, consul general of France, and other persons. But the post is here, and I must continue this narrative in a next letter.

(To be continued).

NOTES FROM OUR MISSIONERS

THE SALESIAN MISSION OF BAHIA BLANCA IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Bahia Blanca.

REVEREND AND DEAR FATHER RUA,

Few times indeed has the name of Bahia Blanca been mentioned in the Salesian Bulletin, and yet for four years we have been

endeavouring to do a little good in this part of the world. I am happy to say, too, that little as we have done, it has not been without consolation for us, and I hope not without fruit for souls and the glory of God. Although many a time I have been on the point of writing you a few lines on the state of our Missions, urged thereto by a desire of fulfilling a duty by informing our generous Co-operators of what has been done, thanks to them, I have waited for an occasion to break my long silence. That occasion is now furnished me by the inauguration of an Industrial school and the blessing of a new Church.

In order to give you a clear idea of our position it will be necessary to take things from a little higher stand-point, so as to have a glance at the darkness of the past, which will throw into greater relief the light of the dawn of the present, and make you understand our hopes for the noonday splendour of the future, if Almighty God continues to bless our humble labours.

**How and by whom the city of
Bahia Blanca was founded.
Its religious principles.**

The little city of Bahia Blanca, which up to the end of last year was simply designated as a *pueblo*, was founded in 1836 by Manuel Rozas tyrant of the Republic of La Plata, and justly styled the *tigre de Santos Lugares*.

Its first name was *Forte Argentino*, and its first inhabitants were mainly soldiers, because as it was an advanced outpost on the Southern confines, it had to serve like Patagones, to check the terrible invasions of the savages, and as a place of detention for political and civil prisoners.

Those who took the most active part in its foundation were the Colonels Gelarayan, Sosa, Estomba and Captain Olivrieri. The first of these was assassinated by Rozas on the banks of the Colorado, the second was poisoned by command of the same, whilst the third disappeared in a most mysterious manner, and the last was murdered by his own soldiers.

Of no high moral standard were the unhappy creatures who were transported from Buenos Ayres. Even now some families record with horror those times, when they were compelled to keep their children under lock and key, so that they should not be exposed to ruin owing to the public scandals. The mind refuses to think of so much blood shedding, so much wickedness.

With such sad antecedents it is not to be wondered at that Bahia Blanca ran full speed in the way of corruption, and soon broke the record of everything in the way of wickedness, crime and guilt. Religion was either unknown or ridiculed. The poor little Church was always empty, and in a state of utter misery and dilapidation. Any priest who, urged on by his desire of saving souls, presented himself there, had to expect continual dangers and even death itself at any moment,—a fate which befel the first military chaplain, who was intentionally shot down whilst attending a poor wretch on the point of being executed. After that, the place remained for a considerable time without a priest, but was served from Patagones. When the Salesians came into the plain of Patagonia, it was under the care of a zealous Spanish priest who from beginning to end spent himself unsparingly in ameliorating the religious state of the place, but notwithstanding his good will, being completely alone, he saw iniquity continuing to sway its sceptre over his flock.

To anyone with even a grain of zeal for religion, the way in which the Ministers of God were treated, was painful to behold. In the beginning of the Mission when the children saw our black cassocks, they ran for shelter to their mothers, who repeated to them with horror all the stock calumnies contained in the cheap foul literature of the day.

**Arrival of the Salesian Fathers
and Nuns.**

This state of things formed a continual source of pain to all, but to none more than to our good Superior Monsignor Cagliero who, each time he had to go from the capital to Patagonia, was obliged to stop at Bahia Blanca; and many were the prayers said to be able to establish definitely the reign of Christ in that almost God-forsaken country. But our Lord heard them. In 1890 the last secular parish priest, unable to stand things any longer, resigned his office into the hands of the Archbishop, and his Lordship who was well aware of what the Salesians had done in the ten years that they had been in Patagonia, thought well to entrust to their care the charge of this Mission also.

At the call of the Archbishop the Salesians came, and lost no time in beginning their work. The few members who were

sent, took possession of their new House during Holy Week of the same year. If, with reason, the sons of Don Bosco expect great results from small beginnings, we had more reason than any of them to look with confidence to the future, and thanks be to God we have not been deceived in our expectations.

Four years ago where nothing but a miserable hut, a sort of a den was to be seen, there rises now a modest but commodious House in which we have been able to offer hospitality to three Bishops and other eminent clergy who had come to take part in our festivities. There too, where formerly ran riot an abandoned garden, a vast edifice has been built, encircled by a spacious playground filled with those same children who formerly ran away from us with fear, and who now live with us, treat us with confidence, love us and call us Fathers.

Feeling keenly the need to provide the same advantage that the boys enjoyed, for the girls of the place, we asked the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians to come to our aid.

At the cost of great pecuniary and other sacrifices, and thanks to the generosity of our Co-operators, we managed to secure a large field where, in less than a year, we were able to construct a large building which has now become the Home for the Nuns and girls, and where a great deal of good is done daily. Now, thank God, those little girls have been transformed completely and from the little vixens they were and perhaps big ones too, they are in a good way to become if not heavenly Angels, at least good girls and women.

By what has been said, it has already become evident that God's blessing was with us, and that His grace was working for us. The little Church was well attended, the confessionals were besieged and the schools were not capable of holding another pupil. Two things were still needed, a Church in proportion to the population and a college thoroughly Salesian. It is necessary to note that the present Church is in a desperate state of ruin and the ground given for a new temple by the Municipality, is just the one where a temporary college has been erected.

We were in a great state of anxiety about that, when Divine Providence came to our aid by removing all obstacles in our road.

(To be continued.)

FAVOURS AND GRACES

OBTAINED BY INVOKING

MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS.

(Owing to the great number of communications we are continually receiving for insertion in this column we are obliged to limit ourselves to the publication of a few extracts (as the expression, more or less, of the others) and the names of all those who desire to make public thanksgiving to their Celestial Benefactress. All manuscripts, however, are carefully deposited in the archives of the Sanctuary; and, perhaps, we shall one day be able to publish them in a separate volume in honour of our Heavenly Queen.—Ed.)

Acknowledgment to Mary.—I, the undersigned, was afflicted with *traumatic tetanus* towards the middle of September last, and received the last Sacraments including Extreme Unction, expecting only immediate death. But he that puts his confidence in Mary obtains everything. A medal of the Blessed Virgin Help of Christians to be worn round the neck, was sent to me, and I recommended myself to her powerful intercession. And the Blessed Virgin did not abandon me, for, notwithstanding that every hope of recovery had been abandoned by the eminent doctors M. Alexandre Lucca, physician of the town of Volpiano, and M. Vallino, physician of Leyni, from that moment the sickness began to leave me, and on the 25th of November I was able to go to Turin in order to give thanks personally to our Helpful Mother for so much goodness towards me.

—PETER GOFFI, *Volpiano*.

✱

I, the undersigned, declare that M. Peter Goffi, twenty three years of age, who lived at Volpiano, in the middle of September of this year, had a very serious attack of *traumatic tetanus*, from which he was perfectly healed in the space of seventy days, although on the part of science all hope of recovery was lost.

The present has been given on the demand of Goffi.

Volpiano, 24th of November, 1894.

ALEXANDRE LUCCA

Doctor of Medicine.

The following have also sent us relations of special favours they have received, and

desire to render public thanksgiving to their Celestial Benefactress, Mary Help of Christians:—

Peter Rossi, Rossignano (Montferrat); Helena Lucchi, Beccherle; Henrietta Muratti, Avogadro-Locarno (Switzerland); Adele Altomare, Milan; P. C., Salesian Co-operator, Marsala; Louis Clemente, Quarna di Sopra; N. N., Diocese of Ivrea; Angiolina Pagliano, Rambaldi, Porto Maurizio; Anna Macocco, Cornegliano d'Alba; Mary Barabino, Sestri Ponente; Theresa Rossi, Como; M. O., Montaldo Bormida; Antonina Sciacca Quattrocchi, Giarre (Sicily); N. N., A Salesian Co-operator; Rev. Sister N. N., Genoa; Annette Berrino, S. Michele d'Asti; Matilda Tranquillini, Milan; M. M. Pettinengo; Mrs. Tedeschi, Turin; Magdalene Fontane, Coreggio Matilda Morgna, Turin; A Pious Lady sends an offering; Rose Mazzoglio, Lu Montferrat; A poor Salesian Co-operator, Trieste; Mrs. Dotto & Mrs. Mary Magdalene Bianchi, (communicated by Sister Caroline, Montaldo Bormida).

OBITUARY NOTICE.

THE V. REV. FATHER ANTHONY SALA,

Economer-General of the Salesian Congregation.

On the 21st of May last, one of our head Superiors, the V. Rev. Father Antony Sala, Economer-General of the Salesian Congregation, gave up his soul in peace to his Creator, at the age of 59 years. Constantly surrounded by his confrères and several members of his family, he had the consolation of receiving the last Sacraments and all the rites of holy Church, which are one of the privileges of Religious life. Born at Monticello di Romagnate in the diocese of Milan, he entered the Oratory of Turin on the 5th of March, 1863. In October 1864, that is, after about two years trial, he received the cassock at the hands of Don Bosco, who always looked upon him as one of his dearest children. Whilst pursuing a thoroughly good course of philosophical and theological studies, he discharged several offices at the College of Lanzo, and on the 22nd of May 1869 was ordained priest in the cathedral of Milan by the lamented Archbishop of Milan, the Most Rev. Mgr. de Calabiana. Gifted with a sweet and even character, rectitude of mind and exemplary piety, Father Sala was soon idolised by all, and loved especially by Don Bosco who, struck with his particular aptitude, recalled him from Lanzo and appointed him Economer

of the Oratory. Later on, through the unanimous election of the Society, he was named Economer of the whole Congregation, an elevated office, in which the confidence and the repeated elections of his confrères kept him to the end of his life. Under his intelligent direction, over and above the numerous establishments opened in the course of twelve years, in Italy and elsewhere, he completed the construction of the important Church and Oratories of St. John the Evangelist at Turin, of the Sacred Heart at Rome, the mausoleum of Don Bosco at Valsalice (Turin), and lastly, the restoration and decoration of the Church of Mary Help of Christians at Valdocco (Turin).

Father Sala,—we now quote our Superior-General's words,—has really deserved well of the Congregation, since it was with indefatigable zeal that he always, even at the detriment of his health, promoted and looked after its interests.

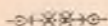
For more than a year he suffered from heart disease. We all hoped that the affectionate cares of the doctors, but above all the prayers which we have asked for him on all sides, would have saved so precious an existence. But God has judged otherwise. He was ripe for Heaven. Let us submit, and adore the Fatherly hand of God who does all for our greater benefit. It seemed as if Mary Help of Christians, whom he so much loved, called him to keep her Feast with her in Heaven, and that she wanted to introduce him into the splendours of the heavenly court on the very day which for years and years it had been his privilege and joy to render as solemn as possible. The Requiem Mass and all the funeral service and procession have had all the solemnity, grandeur and the profound gratitude which the Congregation owes to Father Sala, and which could be desired.

This last token of friendship we have not been the only ones in giving to our dear departed. A great number of personal friends, co-operators, nuns, the *Artigianelli* and a great number of little girls dressed in white, attended the service. These last named had come spontaneously from a neighbouring village to show their gratitude to Father Sala. We again thank all those who have taken part in consoling us in our loss, and ask them not to forget in their prayers the repose of the soul of our dear Father Sala.

THE STORY OF THE ORATORY

OR

DON BOSCO'S OPENING APOSTOLATE.



CHAPTER VII. — (Continued.)

A walk to Soperga—Military Obedience—The Marquis de Cavour and his threats.

One Sunday Don Bosco took his boys for a walk to the celebrated Basilica of Soperga. I think it would prove interesting to describe it just as it happened, and as it was related to me by one who took part in it.

In the morning, after meeting together in the field, and going to hear Holy Mass in the Church of the Consolata, at about 9 o'clock they were formed in ranks, and two and two, like a regiment of soldiers, they took the road for Soperga. They had with them their band, which consisted of an old drum, a trumpet, a fiddle and a guitar—out of tune: there was not much, certainly, but as it served to make a noise, it suited their purpose admirably. In the company some carried baskets of bread, others cheese, some huge sausages—the historic *salame*,—others dried figs and other articles necessary. As long as they were in the city they maintained silence,—more or less,—but as soon as they reached the Po, they began to chatter, to talk all at the same time, to sing, to shout and to cry out in such a way as to make the people think that they were going to take the hill by storm. Early in the morning the theologian Borel had preceded them in order to make the necessary arrangements there, and prepare suitably for the squadron which he knew would soon arrive at the top quite ready to devour their small loaves. When they were at the foot of the ascent, they saw awaiting them a quiet horse ready saddled, which the good priest Don Gugliemetti, the Parish priest of Soperga, had sent to the captain of the brigade. At the same time Don Bosco received a note from the theologian Borel, which was as follows: "You may come on quietly with the boys; the soup, the meat, and the wine are all ready."

Don Bosco then mounted in the saddle, and making the boys come round him, he read them the letter just quoted. This was received by all with such applause and with

such repeated shouts of joy as to bewilder not only the rider but also the poor horse. After giving full scope to their heartfelt delight, and breaking their ranks, the boys began the ascent, escorting their general like a guard of honour. Thus making their way, some took the beast by the bridle, others by the ears, some even by the tail, here some one patted him, there another pushed him on, and the gentle animal bore it all with such calmness as would put even the most patient donkey to shame.

In the meantime, amidst laughing, joking, singing and talking, the company, after reaching the top of the steep hill, arrived at the Sanctuary. As they were all covered with perspiration, Don Bosco at once made the boys gather together in the court-yard of the adjoining house in order to protect them from the chilly air, and after a short rest, as soon as the tables were ready, arranged them there. The theologian Guglielmo Audisio, at that time President of the Ecclesiastical Academy, regaled them with good soup and plates of meat, and the Parish priest with wine and fruit, thus making it evident how much, even at that time, they esteemed Don Bosco and his work. Next to God the boys thanked those dear benefactors, and whilst they shouted "Hurrah for the President, hurrah for the Parish priest", the musicians joined in with the sound of their instruments. The good gentlemen were pleased with the boys' good will, but they could not help laughing at their strange music, which sounded just like that which the street acrobats used formerly to play in the squares whilst they made their monkeys dance. However that may be, the boys rose from table more light hearted than princes. At a fixed hour Don Bosco told them all about the origin of the Basilica consecrated to the August Mother of God, he spoke to them about the tombs existing underneath, of the Academy founded there by Charles Albert, making them learn many beautiful features in their country's history. Afterwards they visited the Church, the tombs of the Princes, the hall of the portraits of the Popes, and they even went up on the superb cupola whence a good part of Piedmont can be seen. There they gazed in admiration on the majestic circle of the Alps, which seem to touch Heaven with their snow-clad peaks. About three o'clock in the afternoon they gathered together in the Church, where at the sound of the festive bells, many people who were scattered

over the hill-side, came. After Vespers Don Bosco mounted the pulpit and gave a short discourse. Some, even now, remember that he spoke of the efficacious intercession of Mary with Jesus her Divine Son, and of the method to be followed in order to be favourably heard, when we have recourse to her. "If it is possible," said he, "first make a visit and say a prayer to the Most Holy Sacrament; afterwards invoke Mary, who will obtain for you that grace which seems useful or necessary, and be quite sure that this powerful and all-pitiful Mother will obtain for you either that grace itself, or another equivalent, or even one that is better." After the sermon the musicians went up to the orchestra, and accompanied by Don Bosco, and to the sound of the organ, sang the *Tantum Ergo* for Benediction. At that time it was not usual to hear boys sing to music, in Churches. The members of the Academy and all the people who happened to be present that evening, hearing the silvery voices of the boys who seemed to be a chorus of Angels come down from Heaven in order to praise God, were beside themselves with wonder, and many wept from sheer consolation.

After the sacred functions were over, they let off some fire-balloons, which by their rapid flight towards Heaven, seemed to raise their thoughts and affections to God. About seven o'clock, to the roll of the drum and a flourish on the trumpet, the young troop banded together, and after renewed thanks to those who had so charitably given them hospitality on that day, they began their descent to the city, either singing or shouting, or even praying, reciting the Rosary and their night-prayers. Afterwards when they reached Turin, one after another, upon reaching the place nearest to his home came out of the ranks and, after saluting Don Bosco, went away to his parents.

This walk was, as it were, the beginning of a long series of many others of a similar nature, which Don Bosco, during that summer and in successive years, conducted, now to one place, now to another. Generally he announced it some time in advance, and proposed it as a reward, insisting that the boys should be punctual at the Oratory, diligent in learning their Catechism, and not reluctant in approaching the Holy Sacraments from time to time. In this way this good Father made use of everything in order to attract his children to good, endeavouring to make them see that serving

God can go together with becoming joy, and in a beautiful way too, having read that saying "*Servite Domino in laetitia.*" The enthusiasm which these excursions and pastimes aroused in that assembly of boys, was indescribable.

Enraptured as they were with such a blending together of devotion and honest pleasure as this was, they were deeply convinced of the sincere love which Don Bosco bore towards them. They saw it in the tender solicitude and deep interest which he took in their welfare, and they endeavoured to reward him in the best way they could, and above all by obeying him with an admirable promptness.

(To be continued).

NOTES TO THE READER.

When applying for a copy of this periodical, please state whether you already receive our "Bulletin" (Italian, French, or Spanish) and if you desire to have it suspended henceforth, or not.

Communications and offerings may be addressed to our Superior-General:

The Very Rev. MICHAEL RUA,
Oratorio Salesiano,—Turin, Italy.

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The Salesian Bulletin

EDITORIAL OFFICE.—PUBLISHING OFFICE:
Oratorio Salesiano, TURIN, ITALY.

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RELIGIOUS PRACTICES OF THE SALESIAN CO-OPERATORS.

- 1.—There is no special exterior practice prescribed for the Salesian Co-operators. In order, however, that their life may, in some points, approach to that of the Professed Religious, we recommend to them the following: that is to say, modesty in their apparel; frugality in their outlay; simplicity in their furniture; reserve in their speech; and exactness in the duties of their state: they should also be careful to have the repose and sanctification prescribed on all Feasts of Obligation exactly observed by those over whom their authority extends.
- 2.—They are advised to make a Spiritual Retreat of some days in the course of every year; and, on the last day of every month, or on such other as may suit their convenience better, to make the Exercise of a Holy Death, going to Confession and Communion, as though it were really to be their last. For the Annual Retreat, and also on the day upon which they make the Exercise for a Holy Death they can obtain a Plenary Indulgence.
- 3.—All the Associates should say daily a *Pater* and *Ave* in honour of St. Francis of Sales and for the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff. Priests, and those who recite the Canonical Hours, are dispensed from this Prayer: for them, it will suffice to add their intention to the recitation of the Office.
- 4.—They are recommended, furthermore, frequently to approach to the Sacraments of Penance and of the Holy Eucharist, the Associates being able, every time they do so, to gain a Plenary Indulgence.
- 5.—All these Indulgences, both Plenary and Partial, can be applied, by way of Suffrage, to the souls in Purgatory, with the exception of that for the hour of death (*in articulo mortis*), which is exclusively personal, and can be gained only when the soul is about quitting the body and entering on eternity.

Correspondents are earnestly requested to repeat their Postal Address in every letter.



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EXTRACTS FROM THE DIPLOMA OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SALESIAN CO-OPERATORS.

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT of the Association.

1. — All who have reached 16 years of age may become CO-OPERATORS if they so desire, and seriously intend to act according to the spirit of the Association.
- *
2. — The Association is humbly commended to the protection and benevolence of the Sovereign Pontiff, and of all Bishops and Priests in their respective dioceses and parishes, on whom it shall depend without reserve in everything relating to our holy religion.
- *
3. — The Superior General of the Salesian Congregation shall also be the Superior of the Association of Co-operators.
- *
4. — The Directors of the several Houses of the Salesian Congregation are authorized to enrol new Members, whose names and addresses they shall immediately forward to the Superior General, so that they may be regularly enrolled in the Register of the Association.
- *
5. — In districts wherein there is no Salesian House, when the number of the Co-operators amounts to at least ten, one of them should be selected as President—preferably an ecclesiastic—who will assume the title of Decurion, and take upon himself the correspondence with the Superior, or with the Director of any of the Salesian Houses.
- *
6. — All Members may freely communicate with the Superior, and lay before him any matter whatever they may deem worthy of consideration.
- *
7. — At least every three months, the Associate will receive a printed Report of the works that have been accomplished; the proposals that have come to hand, bearing on the purposes of the Association; and finally, the new enterprises to be undertaken for the glory of God and the good of our fellow-creatures. In the Annual Report this latter point will be treated more diffusely, so that Members may have a clear general idea of the Works to be accomplished in the ensuing year.
The names of the Associates who have passed to eternity during the year, shall also be forwarded to the Members of the Association, in order that they may be remembered in the prayers of all their brethren.

[The "Salesian Bulletin" has long since taken the place of the *printed Report* spoken of above.—Ed.]

8. — Every year, on the Feasts of St. Francis of Sales and of Our Lady Help of Christians (January, 29, and May, 24) the Decurions should organize assemblies of all the members in their respective districts, so that the whole Association may unite in spirit and prayer with their brethren of the Salesian Congregation, invoking for one another the continued protection of these our Glorious Patrons, and the grace of perseverance and zeal in the arduous undertaking that our charity and the love of God have imposed upon us in conformity with the spirit of our Congregation.

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES.

1. — There is no exterior practice prescribed for the Salesian Co-operators. In order, however, that their life may in some points approach to the life of Professed Religious, we recommend to them the following; that is to say, modesty in their apparel; frugality in their meals; simplicity in their furniture; reserve in their speech; and exactness in the duties of their state: they should also be careful to have the repose and sanctification prescribed an all Feasts of Obligation exactly observed by those over whom their authority extends.
- *
2. — They are advised to make a Spiritual Retreat of some days in the course of every year; and, on the last day of every month, or on such other as may suit their convenience better, to make the exercise of a holy Death, going to Confession and Communion, as though it were really to be their last. For the annual Retreat, and also on the day upon which they make the Exercise for a Holy Death, they can gain a Plenary Indulgence.
- *
3. — All the Associates should say one "Pater," and one "Ave," daily, in honour of St. Francis of Sales for the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff. Priests, and those who recite the Canonical Hours, are dispensed from this Prayer. For them, it will suffice to add their intention to the recitation of the Office.
- *
4. — They are recommended, furthermore, frequently to approach to the Sacraments of Penance and of the Holy Eucharist; the Associates being able, every time they do this, to gain a Plenary Indulgence.
- *
5. — All these Indulgences, both Plenary and Partial, can be applied, by way of Suffrage, to the souls in Purgatory, with the exception of that for the hour of death, which is exclusively personal, and can be gained only when the soul is about to enter into eternity.

THE SALESIAN BULLETIN

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth... We ought therefore to help *brethren and pilgrims* that we may be co-operators to the truth.

(III St. JOHN, 4 and 8.)

Till I come, attend unto reading, to exhorting and to instructing.

(I TIMOTHY, IV, 13.)

Of works divine the divinest is to co-operate with God in the saving of souls.

(St. DENYS.)

A tender love of our fellow-creatures is one of the great and excellent gifts that Divine Goodness grants to man.

(St. FRANCIS DE SALES.)



Whosoever shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

(MATT. XVIII, 5.)

To your care I commend infancy and youth; zealously attend to their Christian education; place in their hands such books as may teach them to fly from vice and steadily walk in the path of virtue.

(PIUS IX.)

Redouble your energies and talents in the rescue of infancy and youth from the snares of corruption and infidelity, and thus prepare a new generation.

(LEO XIII.)

No. 34.

August 15, 1895.

Registered for
transmission abroad

PUBLISHED AT THE "ORATORIO SALESIANO,"—VALDOCCO, TURIN, ITALY.

A NEW TOKEN OF BENEVOLENCE FROM THE HOLY FATHER.

AS managing president of the Congress of Bologna and Superior General of the Salesian Congregation, Don Rua has also written a brief account of the proceedings of the Congress and sent it to His Holiness, through Mgr. Tarozzi, Latin secretary to the Holy Father.

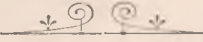
The Holy Father deigned to accept with great benevolence that account, and has caused his satisfaction to be expressed to

Don Rua and all the Congressists, granting them again his Apostolic blessing. We are glad to say that Mgr. Tarozzi has written a letter well calculated to give us great joy. We quote a passage from that letter. "*The account which you sent has given great consolation to the Holy Father, who charges me to thank the Superior of the Salesians for it, as well as the whole Congregation. His Holiness hopes that the Sons of Don Bosco will reap abundant fruits of salvation in their enterprises, to which also numerous Co-operators will give their ever increasing support and help.*"



TO HIS HOLINESS LEO XIII.

ON THE FEAST OF ST. JOACHIM.



WITH HEARTS TOUCHED AND FULL OF GRATITUDE TOWARDS GOD
WHO HAS WILLED TO GRANT YOU TO HIS CHURCH
IN THESE TIMES SO TRYING AND YET SO RICH IN TRIUMPHS
THE SALESIANS, THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS,
AND THE SALESIAN CO-OPERATORS
RENEW TO-DAY THEIR PRAYERS FOR YOU

O MOST HOLY FATHER

ANGEL OF PEACE AND OF LOVE

LIVING IN THE MIDST OF THE BITTERNESS AND PAIN.

WE HAVE SEEN YOU FROM THE HEIGHT OF THE VATICAN

BLESSING US ALL GATHERED TOGETHER AT BOLOGNA

IN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

WHILST IN THAT GREAT THOUGHT OF YOUR HEART

YOU WERE CALLING TO UNION AND TO GLORIOUS PEACE

THE EASTERN DISSENTIENTS,

YOU REMINDED THEM OF THEIR ANCIENT DEEDS AND GLORY.

YOU ALSO STRETCHED OUT THAT HAND WHICH CAUSES MIRACLES TO BE RENEWED,

TO ENGLAND

WHO HAS LIVED FOR THREE CENTURIES FAR FROM HER MOTHER!

MAY SHE RETRACE HER WANDERING STEPS

IN THE BLESSED FOOT-PRINTS OF HER FATHERS,

AND SHE WILL BE EMBRACED WITH A CHRISTIAN LOVE SO EARNEST,

THAT THE WHOLE WORLD WILL EXULT IN HER HAPPINESS.



HIS LORDSHIP MONSIGNOR COSTAMAGNA in audience with the Holy Father.

Rome, June 20th, 1895.

I have just had the great happiness of being admitted in private audience with His Holiness, who has deigned to converse with me for above a quarter of an hour. It is needless for me to say how consoling this conversation with the Vicar of Our Lord Jesus Christ was.

Leo XIII. is now eighty six years old, but, is, notwithstanding his age, in perfect health, and in full possession of all his intellectual faculties.

On entering alone his private room, I knelt before him as prescribed:—"Come on, come on," said the Holy Father, "come on, Monsignor Costamagna. How are you?" I kissed his slipper and ring, and then in compliance with his wish, sat down by the side of my august interrogator. But I could not long remain seated; for such great kindness and majesty completely overwhelmed me, and I could only throw myself at his feet to answer his most affectionate and amiable questions.

His Holiness wished to learn from me a number of things concerning Ecuador, which is at present a prey to a most cruel revolution. He also made enquiries about my difficult mission among the *Jivaros*; and having received this and other information, he made me give him a detailed account of the Argentine Republic, M. Saenz Peña (whom he esteems highly), M. Uriban (in whom he places his great hopes), the future Archbishop of Buenos-Ayres, the Vicar Capitular, Monsignor Boneo, and our dear Monsignor Espinosa. His Holiness then desired me to tell him about the Salesian Houses in America, and more especially about those situated in the Argentine Republic. Great was his surprise when he learned that this sole Republic possesses twenty Houses, nine of which are within the city of Buenos-Ayres.

The Sovereign Pontiff spoke for a few moments of the deplorable state in which the Republics of South America are plunged, and of the difficulties which the Catholic Church has to deal with in those countries; and while thus giving expression to these sad considerations, I could not help noticing

the wrinkles in his forehead, and I saw his face, which usually wore a kindly smile, becoming suddenly melancholy.

I need not say how fervently I recommended to the Holy Father, my successor as Head of the Salesian Houses in the Argentine Republic, beseeching him to bless him and to obtain for him of the Lord Jesus, all the strength required to walk courageously amidst the numberless difficulties in store for him in the discharge of his duties.

At my request, His Holiness deigned to authorize my successor Father Joseph Vespignani, to confer the Papal blessing on each of the Salesian Houses, as well as on those of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, situated in the Argentine Republic.

Never shall I forget those dear Salesians, who have during so many years shared with me both the pains and the joys of that Mission; and whom I have ever cherished, not as brethren only, but as beloved sons. And how could I forget them when I knelt at the feet of the Vicar of Jesus Christ? It seemed to me I saw them all gathered round me, conversing, beseeching, and together with me inundated as it were with heavenly consolation, before this living miracle of the present century.

I obtained also a special blessing for all the Salesian Co-operators of America, for Mgr. Cagliero, Mgr. Lasagna, Mgr. Fagnano and their respective missions. I then begged leave to present to His Holiness the homage of his Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Milan, who had been kind enough to give me the most cordial hospitality in his own palace, when I was giving a conference in his episcopal city. This homage was received by His Holiness with marked pleasure, and he blessed this champion of our holy religion, his clergy, his seminary, the new Salesian Institute and all the Co-operators in Milan. Then the conversation turned on the pious work of "*Sunday rest*" recently established at Milan; a work which His Holiness blessed most particularly, and upon which he called down the grace of increase and perseverance. The holy Father brightened up, his eyes became animated, and a smile illumined his face.

I also mentioned the preparations that are being made in the capital of Lombardy, with a view to the thirteenth Eucharistic Congress, which is to take place in September next; and when in answer to the holy

Father I told him that I should be present at the Congress, he encouraged me most earnestly, and exhorted me not to fail under any pretext whatever.

My heart still overflowed with the joy and enthusiasm which I experienced at Bologna during the days of the Salesian Congress, when in company with his Eminence Cardinal Svampa, that great and amiable personage.

I could not restrain myself from entering upon that subject with His Holiness, who seemed to be well acquainted with all the circumstances of that great event, and in a most consoling manner uttered repeatedly: "*Oh, what labour does not that Cardinal impose upon himself! Yes, to him is due the splendid success of the Congress; to him also the victory won by the Catholics in the administrative elections.*" In connection with the administrative elections, His Holiness continued to speak with great satisfaction of another important victory, viz, that which the Catholics of Turin have obtained. His Holiness spoke in terms of great praise of our Archbishop, Monsignor Riccardi. "*Monsignor Riccardi,*" said he, "*is a providential Archbishop, cut out for the needs of the city and the Archdiocese of Turin. He loves his flock and his flock loves him. He is moreover a real and energetic defender of Pontiff and Church, and therefore I charge you to convey to him my cordial salutations, together with my most hearty thanks.*"

I brought our interview to a close by telling the Holy Father that when the solemnities of the Sacred Heart were over I would return to Turin in order to keep the Feasts of Don Bosco and Don Rua; and I asked in favour of the latter, a special blessing extending to all the Salesians and their Co-operators. "*Oh Don Rua, Don Rua*" exclaimed the holy Father, with visible satisfaction, "*yes, my blessing to him and to all, and a happy Feast, In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost?*"

Afterwards the Holy Father blessed my brother Louis, his family and all the inhabitants of Caramagna, my birthplace; and he then permitted our dear Procurator General, Father Caesar Cagliero, and Father Michael Fassio, missionary of Chili, to be introduced. He heard their requests, blessed them, as also the children of the Oratory of the Sacred Heart, who, according to the promise of Father Cagliero, were to offer up their next morning's holy communion for His Holiness.

We then took leave of the Holy Father, who addressing us in a few affectionate words, recommended us to the omnipotence and mercy of our Lord. *Deo et Mariae gratias.*

✠ JAMES

Titular Bishop of Colonia.

DON RUA IN PALESTINE

(Conclusion.)

JERUSALEM.

On Monday the 4th of March, our travellers started for Jerusalem. The biblical souvenirs still scattered profusely in their way, gave rise to many and many interesting and edifying reminiscences. Before reaching the Gate of Jaffa, they passed the Gehenna, reduced to-day to a foul pond filled with stagnant waters. This is where the idol of Moloch, the false god to whom so many poor little children used to be sacrificed, once stood. On the right frowned a fortress with time-worn black walls, designated as the tower of David, because it was erected on the precise spot where the Royal Prophet once dwelt. Don Rua, like the Crusaders of old, would have liked to hurry on to the Holy Sepulchre, but a sense of duty and civility compelled him first to present his homage to the Latin Patriarch Mgr. Piavi, who, notwithstanding his precarious state of health, received him in the most friendly manner. On leaving, Don Rua desired to be introduced to the coadjutor of the Patriarch, his Lordship Mgr. Appodia. He was happy to meet there, also, Canon Villanis*, an old pupil of the Oratory at Turin and the Rev. Father Scanzo who for years was a most active fellow-worker with Canon Belloni.

The next place Don Rua went to was the Seminary. Scarcely had he reached the terrace from which a magnificent view of the whole city can be had, when the Seminarists came to greet him and receive his blessing. Our venerated Superior did not want much pressing to address a few words to them, and, with his well known kindness, pointed out to them the necessity of that

* We are sorry to have to record here the death of Canon Villanis, which occurred shortly after the above-mentioned visit. R. I. P.

solid love of study and piety which every seminarist ought to have, in order to fulfil worthily the part of the work allotted to him in that Mission. Our pilgrims presented next their respects to the Very Rev. Guardian of the Holy Land the Superior

after a visit to the Italian Consul, Don Rua could at last satisfy his devotion. I dare not say anything of the emotion that he felt at the Holy Sepulchre and on Mount Calvary. Stopping at each of the places that were enriched with indulgences, he showed plainly



THE BRASS BAND OF THE HOLY FAMILY INSTITUTE (BETHLEHEM).

General of all the Franciscan monasteries in the East. M. Ledoulx, Consul-general of France, received Don Rua with the utmost kindness, presented him to his family and gave evident marks of the interest he takes in the Salesian works. In the afternoon,

his sorrow on being obliged to leave so soon those hallowed spots, everlasting proofs of Jesus' love. But night set in, and the Franciscan Fathers were waiting for him to begin supper. They gave him a room close to the Holy Sepulchre, so that next

morning, he might celebrate Holy Mass on the spot. A place of special interest for our dear visitors was the Carmelite convent, which rises on the very spot where Our Lord taught the Our Father to his followers. The prayer is written on the walls of the convent in thirty different languages. They also visited a grotto called the Grotto of the *Credo* because it is believed that it was there that the Apostles assembled when they composed the Creed called after them. Next day, after satisfying their devotions and making a visit to the *Stone of the Ascension* still bearing the imprint of Jesus' feet, they went to venerate the place where our Lord was betrayed by Judas, the Grotto of the Agony and Our Lady's Tomb.

Towards evening, our venerated Father returned to Bethlehem where he was anxiously expected by all, because every one had many a thing to speak about to him.

CREMISAN.

On the 6th of March, our venerated Superior General started for the Salesian House situated some six or seven miles from Bethlehem, at Cremisan. Notwithstanding the bad condition of the roads, he went on foot. As soon as he was in sight, he was welcomed by loud shouts of joy. After mutual greetings, they all went back to the House. It did not take them long to feel quite at home with Don Rua, and to gather together in the well decorated assembly hall, where addresses of welcome succeeded one another in several languages. Next day the same hall gave shelter to the same happy gathering, and the exercises of piety being over, an Italian drama, *Emmanuelita Gonzales*, was produced with much success.

Before leaving Cremisan, Don Rua was conducted through the vineyards where our boys are trained in the cultivation of the vine. He then visited the cellars which he found well stocked with wine. It is the only produce of the soil in these parts, but it is so difficult to sell...., and yet, bread must be obtained!

BEITGEMAL.

According to Don Rua's plans, the 13th of March was given up to a visit to our confrères of Beitgemal, and the children of that agricultural colony which is situated between Jerusalem and Jaffa. At 10 o'clock he reached the station of Deyroban. There he was anxiously awaited by the whole family of Beitgemal which escorted him with

many expression of joy and affection, to the agricultural school there. Our Superior visited carefully the finely situated House of Beitgemal. In order to form a good idea of the labours of his children, he examined everything closely, and ended by blessing a grotto modelled on that of Lourdes. He recommended the children not to be satisfied with having a grotto and statue of Our Lady in their play-ground, but to endeavour to make their heart a continual residence pleasing to Mary and her Divine Son, and to make their stay in them daily more pleasing by avoiding sin, and greeting Mary each time they passed before her image.

Don Rua left Beitgemal on the 14th inst. after having consoled and encouraged all the inmates by his kind advice, and blessed the House to enable it to overcome the thousand and one difficulties of all sorts that it has to struggle against.

NAZARETH.

The very limited time at the disposal of Don Rua prevented him from visiting all the interesting places so numerous in the Holy Land, but he could not leave before going to Nazareth, the place where the Incarnation of the Son of God took place, and where the Salesians have a large plot of ground. He reached there on the 15th at 1 p.m. after a journey by rail, boat and carriage. He was received by the Franciscan Fathers with their well-known cordiality. They would not let him proceed before he had taken some refreshments. He then went to venerate the place formerly occupied by the *Santa Casa*. He prostrated himself before the altar on which is written: *Verbum caro hic factum est — Here the Word was made flesh*. Next morning about 4 a.m. our Superior celebrated Mass on this same spot, and made a long thanksgiving, kneeling on the ground trodden for thirty years by Mary and her Divine Son. Of all the sanctuaries in the Holy Land, that of Nazareth is the one which certainly gives most consolation to all Catholic hearts, because here we do not find that confusion of rites and those rivalries which form the plague of the pilgrims to Jerusalem and Bethlehem. A visit to the grounds bought by Don Belloni, near the sanctuary, filled up the time that was left.

MOUNT CARMEL.

After returning to Caïpha, our travellers started for Mount Carmel to pray at the

places sanctified by the Prophet Elias, and where the first sanctuary in which public honour was given to Mary was erected. The reception given to Don Rua and his companions by the Prior of the Franciscans was one of those one never forgets and the remembrance of which will always draw forth words of thanks.

A register in which visitors to that sanctuary jot down their impression was presented to Don Rua, and our Superior wrote the following words. "*As one ascends this mountain, one thinks necessarily of those words of the psalmist: Quis ascendit in montem Domini?..... innocens manibus et mundo corde.*"

FROM CAIPHA TO JAFFA.

Our travellers descended from Mount Carmel on Sunday the 17th of March, after Mass which was celebrated in the splendid Church of the Carmelites. They intended to take the mail boat running from there to Jaffa in six hours, but a violent tempest obliged them to give up that way and go by land. The Rev. Father Alexis, Carmelite, whose charity has made him known all over the Holy Land, kindly provided them, with a carriage and necessary provisions for the road. We beg again the Rev. Father to accept our most hearty thanks for his many acts of kindness towards our venerated Superior. The carriage left Caïpha at 8 a. m. and reached Jaffa next day about 10 a. m. We will not attempt even to mention the different surprises and accidents that journey was chequered with, but it gave our Superior and his companions leisure to see the actual state of the Holy Land and the many efforts attempted by the Jews, schismatics and protestants of all denominations to spread their influence in the country. It confirmed him in his resolution to spare no efforts in extending there the beneficial effects of the Catholic Church.

DEPARTURE FOR BETHLEHEM.

The feast of the great St. Joseph is a grand day at the Orphanage, and each and every one was resolved to keep it well, the more so as they had invited Don Rua for the occasion and that the invitation had been accepted. And it was in order to keep his word that Don Rua undertook the long journey that we last mentioned. The children saw him back again in their midst with the greatest pleasure, and received him with demonstrations of joy. But the thought that he would stop with them only for a

day acted now and again upon their spirits like a very much unwished for damper, and when he bade them farewell and spoke to them for the last time, no one could help feeling a choking sensation in the throat and tears in the eyes.

At 3 p. m. on the 20th of March, Don Rua said good-bye to the Holy Land for the last time, and went on board the *Sindh* S.S. a magnificent boat of the *Messageries maritimes* fleet. Some seven hundred passengers, of whom more than two hundred were Syrian emigrants, were on board.

Scarcely had the doctor of the vessel, M. Petrowski, heard that the Superior of the Salesians, the successor of Don Bosco, had come on board, than he hurried to find him out and to offer him his private cabin, thinking it would afford greater convenience for the celebration of daily Mass. The whole Salesian family feels grateful for his delicate attention to their beloved Father. Some very charming acquaintances were made during the course of the voyage, and Don Rua was happy to find on board several Co-operators and friends of the Salesians, amongst them being M. Deschamps, a generous benefactor of the Salesian Oratory at Lille. These circumstances helped greatly to break the monotony and tediousness of the sea voyage.

In order to see a few Co-operators residing at Cairo, Don Rua, Don Albera and the Marquis of Villeneuve-Trans landed at Port-Said and went by rail to Alexandria. It is well known that the railroad runs along the Suez Canal and favours passengers with the charming spectacle known as a *mirage*. A visit to the pyramids and other curiosities came naturally into the programme, whilst staying at Cairo.

The Rev. Jesuit Fathers, who received our travellers with the warmest cordiality, accompanied them to Matarieh where the tree under which tradition tells us the Holy Family rested in their flight into Egypt, is to be admired. The house where Jesus, Mary and Joseph had lived during their exile was next shown to Don Rua and his companions, and venerated by them. After a very brief stay at Alexandria, Don Rua again embarked on board the *Sindh*, and after a prosperous voyage, reached Marseilles on the 29th of March at 3 p. m.

*

From the depth of our hearts we thank and bless Divine Providence which has



THE HOLY FAMILY ORPHANAGE AT BETHLEHEM.

watched over our dear Superior with paternal care, preserving him through danger and difficulties, and rendering his efforts and labours fruitful for the salvation of souls.



FILIAL HOMAGE

TO

DON BOSCO AND TO DON RUA.

Our readers know that the Oratory of Turin keeps faithfully the 24th of June, the feast of our beloved Father Don Bosco, and that a special yearly homage is offered on that day to his successor Don Rua.

This year also, these family feasts have been surrounded with all those hearty manifestations, the very soul of which is the joy that the entire family and our benefactors, many of whom were present, feel. Letters and good wishes arrived in great numbers from the Old and the New World to rejoice and console the heart of our venerated Father, Don Rua. Amongst the numerous gifts we may mention especially four large metal candelabra, an offering to the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians, by Don Bosco's old pupils. There were also a large oil-painting representing the Successor of Don Bosco, the work of an old pupil of the Oratory the painter Rollini, some sacred ornaments for Salesian Churches, vestments and altar linen for our missionaries, etc., etc.

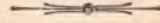
The diocesan Directors of our Co-operators have, in like manner, written to express their good wishes. To these some have also had the charity to join generous offerings destined for the Works and Missions of Don Bosco. But what put the finishing touch to our joy was the good wishes of the Vicar of Jesus Christ, Leo XIII., who had intrusted them to our new Bishop, Mgr. Costamagna who came from Rome to take part in the family festivities. To God our praises, and to the Sovereign Pontiff, His Vicar here below, our most grateful thanks.

The enthusiasm and acclamations evoked in honour of Don Bosco and Don Rua, were only surpassed by the shouts of delight drawn from all hearts by the filial veneration with which they regard the Successor of St Peter.

FAVOURS AND GRACES

OBTAINED BY INVOKING

MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS.



(Owing to the great number of communications we are continually receiving for insertion in this column we are obliged to limit ourselves to the publication of a few extracts (as the expression, more or less, of the others) and the names of all those who desire to make public thanksgiving to their Celestial Benefactress. All manuscripts, however, are carefully deposited in the archives of the Sanctuary; and, perhaps, we shall one day be able to publish them in a separate volume in honour of our Heavenly Queen.—Ed.)

Freiburg, Switzerland, Feb. 2nd 1895.

VERY REVEREND FATHER RUA,

In every number of your monthly *Bulletin*, you relate many instances of graces obtained through the help and protection of Mary Help of Christians.

I consider it my duty to describe one of which I was the object, some years ago, in like manner through the help of Our Good Mother.

Together with three friends of mine, I had climbed to the summit of a mountain to enjoy there the beautiful view that it presents tourists with. The top of the mountain was about six thousand feet high; the slope facing the south was formed of steep rocks rising to a height of about four hundred and twenty feet from the ground. Its northern slope was clothed with slippery grass, dotted here and there with rocks jutting out, with a steep inclination of some 10°. The slope terminated at the bottom with a ridge of rocks about forty five feet high.

We were returning from the summit, and had taken about two hundred steps down the last decline when I slipped and fell. I rolled down for a space of a hundred and seventy or perhaps two hundred yards with a dizzy speed which kept on increasing every second. My friends, in mute terror, watched me rolling, but were not able to help me without running the same risk themselves. They thought that it was all over with me.

Suddenly, and without meeting the least obstacle. I stopped short, not across the line of the steepest slope, but parallel with it, and with my head uppermost. I got up at once, on my knees at first; I had only a scratch on my face.

Good God! What did I then see before me? My Rosary stretched out to its full length on the grass. I knew at once where help came from: it was Our Good Mother, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary who had saved me in my dangerous course.

I knew it was a miracle so much the more from the fact that my Rosary had been at the bottom of one of my trousers pockets, underneath my purse; whilst in the other there were only a knife and three keys, separate from each other. All these objects, very likely to fall out of themselves, were in their place; the Rosary alone had come out, while naturally it ought to have been the last.

From that day you may be sure, I have redoubled my confidence in the Most Holy Virgin, and I have preserved towards her the deepest gratitude for this so visible mark of her protection. And as further testimony of this gratitude and also to acquit the debt which I have contracted towards her, I beg you to publish the present letter in your Bulletin.

I enclose an offering of thirty francs for your Works.

M. BISC
Commissary.

P. S. I send you by postal order the sum of thirty francs, of which twenty are an offering from my sister-in-law, Miss Elizabeth Brugger, who also recommends herself to your prayers. The remaining ten francs are on my own account.

The following have also sent us relations of special favours they have received, and desire to render public thanksgiving to their Heavenly Benefactress Mary Help of Christians:—

Theresa Sayno, Milan; Rev. G. B. Tacchini, Varazze; Frances Fragalà Vecchio, Piedimonte Etnio; Ernestine Donna, Turin; Emilius & Elisa Signorelli, Pallanza; Isoletta Vitali-Rosati, Roma; Rev. V. Sacco, Foglizzo; Clare Bianchi, Sizzano, (for the conversion of a dying person); Mary Razetti, Turin; Quinta Stella, Turin; Isabella Grossetti, Lù; Frances Gamberutti, Vigone; Mary Ann Rigo, Chieri; Frances Allerino, S. Bernardo; Michael Marco, S. Bernardo; Antony Abellonio, Pruicea; Pauline Ferrera, S. Stefano Roero; Emilia Boero, Turin; Felicity Crotti, Turin; Bartholomew Carelli, Castelnuovo Calcea; Louis Cauda, Castilione (Turin); Jerome Marchisio, Caramagna; Margaret Bonisconti, Turin.

NOTES FROM OUR MISSIONERS.

THE SALESIAN MISSION OF BAHIA BLANCA IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

(Continued from our last.)

A generous donation.—Preparations for a great solemnity.

A noble Portuguese, an illustrious descendant of the celebrated Goffredo the hero of the *Gerusalemme liberata*, who possesses immense capital and has no children, thought it his duty to invest part of his fortune in pious works. Without delay he set to work and ordered a Church with a College adjoining, just as we should have wished, ourselves. At first we knew nothing of what he intended doing, and already the building was going on so well that one could form a good idea of what it would be when finished, and admire the beauty of it. It was only then that this charitable gentleman told his Lordship, Bishop Cagliero, that he intended giving the whole building to the Salesians, with full liberty to make an orphanage or college out of it as they should think best. The elegant Chapel was soon completed, and there seemed to be a rivalry among the people as to who should furnish the magnificent marble altar, who the pulpit, who the lamps, who this who that, and in less than no time the chapel was provided abundantly with all necessaries, and only stood in need of the consecration to be thrown open to the public for Divine worship. At first we thought to have that ceremony performed on a scale in proportion to our feeble means, but little by little it assumed such dimensions that we ourselves were astonished at it, and could not but marvel at the wonderful change which had taken place in four years in this town. On this occasion the Salesians were honoured by the visit of the first ecclesiastical and civil dignitaries of the country.

We commenced by inviting the President of the Republic, Señor Luis Saens Peña, to take the lead in the proceedings, and the Most Reverend Archbishop of Buenos Ayres as officiant in the sacred function. When they were both made acquainted with the object of our festivities they accepted readily and told us, the first that he would bring all his family along with him, and the other an auxiliary Bishop and a considerable

number of Priests. When we saw that we had obtained so easily what, we had asked for, and even more than that, we were in a fine fix about the reception and the lodging for all those grand people. But our stupefaction ran up at the rate of eighty miles an hour when we were informed that not only all the notabilities of the city were coming to honour us by their presence, but that from Buenos Ayres a little army of Governors, Ministers prime and otherwise, generals, doctors, members of scores of divers associations of all descriptions. Admirals, Army and Navy Officers and many others, besides, had started, and were coming along by forced marches to be present at the inauguration services, and to form a worthy escort to the President of the Republic.

But, yes, now begin our troubles and we are fairly at our wits' end. How ever are we going to find accommodation for all those people? It is no use asking ourselves the question a thousand times, so we put our heads together and decide on immediate action, trusting in Providence for the rest. Our Superior Father Michael Borghino, with his practical manner so well known to you, calls together our principal benefactors in the town, and there and then forms half a dozen committees to provide, one the lodgings, another the victuals, another this, another that. As for us we must reduce ourselves to the smallest compass possible, and a general removal and turning out of rooms commenced. But when all the possible nooks and corners were filled with ourselves, we found that we had been able to turn out of six rooms only; in the college same result.

There they were, twelve rooms in all, as bare as when the builders left them. But we could not leave them like that.

A minute search was made through the house to find something to put in them, but no use, nothing was found.

So one of us took his hat and went to one and another of our lady Co-operators to tell them most privately and under the greatest possible secrecy our new trouble. In less than a day, from the four corners of the city, carpets, chairs, beds and all the requisites to furnish the rooms with a luxury they were little accustomed to, arrived by cartloads. There was another of our troubles settled, and in the excitement caused by the removal of all the furniture that came on like a storm, we had not

noticed the storm which had gathered on the face of our *confrère* to whose care was confided the something that we call choir. When approached prudently, we learn from him that all the effect of his labours will be entirely lost if a brass band does not come to his assistance. But a brass band requires instruments, and excepting a few tin cans and a penny drum, a relic of our last Christmas tree, we had nothing to bring forward in that line. And even had we found instruments, we should have been at a loss to find people to play them.

We determined to write to the good Superior of our House at Buenos Ayres, and to ask him to send, by the next train, his brass band, instruments and instrumentalists. So off went the letter! but, oh Heavens! what had we done! That meant seventy more to be lodged for a week. But the House was full, there was a bed in every corner. Besides this, our kitchen is very small and the number of our guests very large. Well, never mind, we must arrange something or other, and Providence is so good! When we were just at the very end of our wits, in came a gentleman who charitably placed at our disposal his large storage rooms, which were readily turned into dormitories to afford accommodation for all. Some persons sent in mattresses, blankets, dinner services, etc. Others were even so thoughtful as to send us a good supply of fowls, turkeys and so forth, things which are somewhat rare in a Salesian kitchen.

But in the midst of all these preparations, time went by quickly, and some one had to go to meet our dear Bishop, Mgr. Cagliero who was coming from Patagonia.

Since his return from Europe it was the first time that he visited Bahia Blanca, and whilst they were away we set to work to prepare a reception not altogether unworthy of his person and of the great love and esteem which we hold him in. He arrived here with his secretary Father Pirola, a week before the feast. The academy or soiree prepared for him, was attended by all the people of rank in the town, and his Lordship was exceedingly well received by the whole population, who admired in him the artist, the Apostle and the faithful reproduction of Don Bosco himself. That little family feast was but a prelude to greater ones, entailing on us enormous labour, so we all went to work with renewed strength and courage. Here a temporary

kitchen was established, there an arch erected, one looked after the decorations, another the illuminations, a third whilst preparing the banquet hall kept an eye on the rehearsal of the theatricals, and even his Lordship Mgr. Cagliero took part in the work, by practising our three hundred and odd boys to kiss the Archbishop's ring in all due form and style. Old Father Time, as a rule, travels very quickly but then he seemed to be sitting on horseback galloping as fast as he could, and before we were well aware of it we had reached the 12th inst.,—the appointed day for the arrival of our dear guests. By the same train arrived the brass band, at whose disposal two splendid first class sleeping carriages had been placed by the Railway Company. At 9 p. m. a special train brought the President of the Republic, the Archbishop and Bishops with other eminent guests. The saying *motus in fine velocior* had found once more its realisation in us, and when we heard the train steaming in, with a proud sigh of satisfaction we could exclaim every thing is ready. *Deo gratias!*

Arrival of the President of the Republic, and the Right Reverend Archbishop.

A few seconds afterwards, the echoes of a brilliant military march told us that our guests had arrived. But here I ought to tell you a little instance of his Lordship Bishop Cagliero's tact and kindness. He had sent a deputation of clergy and boys, and another composed of some of the most eminent men in the city, to the last station,—where the presidential train stopped a while,—to represent, the former the college, the latter the city to welcome the travellers into the district.

After paying their homage to the Archbishop, they waited to be presented to the President. At this juncture, by order of the President, Father Pirola, the private secretary of Mgr. Cagliero, was invited into his private carriage. The President detained him for a considerable time, asking many questions and showing a deep interest in Don Bosco and his Mission in Bahia Blanca. Another incident showing forth the pious dispositions of the President of the Republic took place at his arrival at Bahia.

As it was getting late, and as our visitors had travelled some six hundred miles, all thought it would be well for the travellers to at once gain the houses where apartments

had been prepared for them, and retire to rest. But the President thought otherwise, and directed the cortège to take the way to the Church. The enthusiasm was indescribable when the long file of gala carriages passed through the rejoicing crowds. Arrived at the Church the Archbishop entered first, and our little choristers of San Carlos rendered splendidly the magnificent *Benedictus* by Madonno, and it was only after receiving the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and having given such a splendid example to his people that the President would receive the homage of his subjects and retire to rest.

The next two days, the 13th and 14th, were spent by our illustrious guests in visiting the city, the docks, the bay, the public buildings et caetera. The evening was spent at our little theatre, on the boards of which, our little artists did their utmost, and if they did not put all the most celebrated actors in the shade, it was certainly not their fault or for want of good will.

Solemn Inauguration of the new Church and College.

The blessing of the new Church had taken place privately, and all our efforts were concentrated on assuring the success of the inauguration, which took place on the following Sunday.

But it will perhaps be best to quote here the paper of the town:—“A little after 11 a. m. on Sunday, the President of the Republic, accompanied by his escort which was composed of members of the Municipality and other eminent personages, entered the Church of *La Pietà*. A hundred men of the 10th regiment of the Line with their brass band, had taken up their position in front of the Church. It is not our intention to describe here that magnificent building, because thousands of visitors have already admired it and we ourselves could not do it justice. Immediately afterwards, the sacred ministers left the sacristy and Solemn High Mass began, Bishop Cagliero being celebrant assisted by eminent clergy. On the left, seats had been prepared for the Most Reverend Archbishop of Buenos Ayres and his Coadjutor Bishop, Mgr. Espinosa, whilst on the right the throne of the celebrant was erected.

“The President with the ministers, governors and twelve generals occupied a row of seats in the front near the Altar rails,

whilst a second one was filled by distinguished civilians.

"The band and choir of San Carlos executed a Mass written in a really devotional style, and which was much appreciated by all. They were highly complimented by the President who declared that not even excepting the Cathedral of Buenos Ayres, in no Church had he seen or heard such beautiful services.

"In an eloquent sermon composed and delivered with great talent, the Rev. Father Camillo Giordano, S. J., demonstrated the necessity of a Church in every town and village.....

"When Mass was finished, the President and other guests adjourned to the adjoining College where the act of donation of the Church and College was read by a solicitor, and signed by the President, the Archbishop, Bishops Cagliero and Espinosa, the two first authorities of Bahia Blanca and lastly by the solicitor himself. The President of the Republic, in a few words, declared himself honoured in attaching his signature to an act of this kind. He praised the generosity of the donor, and congratulated Bishop Cagliero upon the gift made through him to the Salesian Congregation, to which the Republic was already indebted for so many benefits."

The speech was interrupted and closed by loud and sustained applause, and a distribution of memorial medals commenced, the President himself being the distributor.

The next day ought to have seen a repetition of the preceding day's solemnities, but our distinguished guests could not stop with us any longer, their numerous occupations calling them back to their respective spheres of action; they left us in the morning, but not until they had again expressed their entire satisfaction with all they had seen and heard. But although we were sorry to lose these distinguished persons, the sacred functions were gone through as fixed upon in the programme, and High Mass was celebrated by Father Pirola, and Mr. Lucchini's master piece was rendered by the choir. But the solemnities could not be closed without Bishop Cagliero addressing the people. He did so with his usual eloquence, and after thanking, in Don Bosco's name, our generous benefactor, and all those who in any way had taken part in our work, he thanked our Lord for having granted that in the immense solitude of the Pampas a temple, erected to His honour,

should at last be found. He pointed out that the foundation of that Church and Orphanage in a suburb of the town would be a cause of development to the city. He based his assertion on what had been witnessed in Turin, Buenos Ayres and San Paulo in Brazil, where the Salesian House and Church had also risen in an almost deserted suburb, and had been the means of drawing a crowded population into that district.

Great hopes for Bahia Blanca's future.

Bishop Cagliero spoke of things within his knowledge, and in fact, almost immediately after the return of the President to Buenos Ayres, the daily papers gave long articles on the importance of that rising city, confirming all that his Lordship had said. It was called the future Liverpool of the Argentine Republic. It was seriously spoken of establishing at the entrance of its magnificent bay a naval port, and the necessity of extending the railway lines was clearly shown, which would then put it in communication with all the Midland provinces, and even with Chili. And if that were accomplished what future would not Bahia Blanca have to look forward to, both from a strategical and commercial point of view! Situated in a central position on the Argentine sea-board, and almost in the same latitude as the naval port of the rival nation, it would be a match for its naval forces. Here, too, in about twenty four hours, military and naval forces can come from all parts of the country. As a centre of commerce it embraces a large productive zone and would, doubtless, in a short time, become a rival if not a superior city to Buenos Ayres, on account of all the advantages it can claim. The entrance to its harbour is easier and will become less and less expensive, and also the distance from most parts would be shortened because of the difficulties of reaching Buenos Ayres.

These reasons and others similar, and the not at all impracticable idea of making it the capital of the province, assure not only the possibility of a glorious future but make it a matter of fact. And in view of this we also work with more zeal and ardour at the foundation of that prosperity, namely its moral and religious progress and stability, without which no material progress can last or be useful.

Our dear Bishop, Mgr. Cagliero, before returning to Patagonia preached a short Retreat to the children belonging to our College and the Sisters' Home, thus remaining another week with us, and affording us thereby great pleasure and benefit.

And now our festivities were at an end, and thanks be to God, to the general satisfaction.

We have resumed our usual occupations, thanking God, Who so visibly protects and helps us through our Benefactors and Co-operators; we trust that when these present buildings have become too small, as they soon will be, they will again help us with their alms, prayers and influence to erect what the times require.

But now I must finish, having already gone beyond all reasonable limits. Hoping the narration will afford you consolation, dear Reverend Father, I present you with the kind regards and filial love of your sons of Bahia Blanca, and ask a blessing for them and particularly for

Your son in J. C.

Charles Dall'Era,

Salesian Missionary.



THE STORY OF THE ORATORY

OR

DON BOSCO'S OPENING APOSTOLATE.

CHAPTER VII. — (Continued.)

A word, a sign, sometimes a mere glance was enough to check a conversation, prevent a disorder and impose silence on four hundred and more young tongues. Once they were all busy running, playing and shouting when Don Bosco wanted to speak to them: at a sign from his hand all clatter and games ceased at once, and they gathered round him to hear his orders. At this sight a carabineer who had been standing looking on for some time, could not help exclaiming: "If this priest were a general of an army he would be able to fight against the most warlike armies in the world, and be quite sure of victory."

In connection with war and soldiers, it will be well to remember that in those days people began to talk of revolutions and popular outbreaks in many parts of Italy;

hence this affection and obedience on the part of the boys gave a new impulse to the absurd saying that Don Bosco, with their aid, might become a dangerous man, and at some time or other excite a revolution in the city. This idle talk found credence with the local authorities, and especially with the Marquis de Cavour, father of the famous Gustave and Camillo, then Governor of Turin, that is to say Chief of the city authorities. Some time before, he had seen Don Bosco in the fields of the so-called Cittadella, sitting on the ground in the midst of a crowd of boys. He was trying, in that sweet manner of his, to instil into their minds some good religious and moral thoughts. Cavour asked:

—"Who on earth is that priest in the midst of those little urchins?"

—"It is Don Bosco" was the answer made him.

—"Don Bosco! O he is a fool!"—said the amiable Marquis—"otherwise he would be a man fit to be brought into the Senate." He meant to say that he deserved to be put in the prisons of the palace, still called the Senate.

With these absurd notions of his, we shall not be surprised that he did and said what is now going to be related.

The Marquis had Don Bosco summoned to the municipal palace, and after a long discourse about the false reports then spread about the Oratory and its Director, he wound up by saying:—

"I am quite persuaded that the meetings of your boys are dangerous, and therefore I cannot tolerate them. Take my advice then, my dear Don Bosco, leave these rascals alone, because they will only prove a nuisance to yourself and a trouble to the public authorities."

Don Bosco answered:—

—"I have no other aim, my Lord Marquis, than to better the condition of these poor children of the people. I do not ask for money; I ask only to be able to gather them together in some place where they may stay and amuse themselves. My object is to prevent them from wandering about the city, and also to instruct them in Religion and good manners. By this means I hope to be able to diminish the number of street-roughs and inmates of the prisons."

—"You deceive yourself," replied the Marquis, "and you are throwing all your labour to the winds. And then, where shall you find the means to pay for lodgings, and to bear the expenses which these vagabonds

cost? I tell you again, therefore, that I cannot allow these meetings any longer."

—"The results already obtained assure me that I do not labour in vain. Many boys, who had been entirely neglected, have been already gathered together and freed from evident danger of irreligion and immorality. They have been sent to learn some trade or craft under a good master, to the great advantage of themselves, of the family, and of society. Material means, up to the present, have not failed me; they are in the hands of God, Who is accustomed with little to do much, and even from nothing to draw all things."

—"Be patient, Don Bosco, obey me without raising difficulties, and promise me to break up these meetings."

—"Grant me this favour, my Lord Marquis, not for myself, but for the good of so many boys, who would perhaps end badly, without this Oratory."

This noble resistance on the part of Don Bosco, annoyed the Marquis, who answered, somewhat in anger:—

—"Be silent, I am not here to argue the point with you. Your Oratory is a disorder, which I will and must prevent. Are you ignorant, perhaps, that every assembly is prohibited, where it is not legally permitted?"

—"My assembly," replied Don Bosco, not in the least intimidated, "has no political aim, but is purely religious. I only teach Catechism to poor boys, with the permission and approval of the Archbishop."

—"Is the Archbishop informed of these matters?"

—"He is fully informed, since up till now I have not taken a step without his consent."

—"If the Archbishop were to tell you to desist from this ridiculous undertaking, would you raise any difficulty?"

—"None at all: I have begun this work and have carried it on up till now, with the advice of my Ecclesiastical Superior, and at a simple sign from him, I will abandon it at once."

—"Very well, go away now; and I will see the Archbishop. I hope that you will not show yourself obstinate against his orders. Otherwise I shall be obliged to adopt severe measures."

Thus terminated that conversation, followed afterwards by other disturbances no less unpleasant, with which the enemy of the human race tried to beat down Don Bosco's courage and destroy his work.

CHAPTER VIII.

New and final notice to quit—The word of a prophet and the tears of a friend—Don Bosco is turned out of the Refuge—Abandoned—A lunatic of a new kind—A pilgrimage to the Madonna di Campagna—The ringing of the bells.

An illustrious French writer, in a little treatise on Don Bosco and his work, when speaking of the boys who attended the Oratory in the beginning, made use of a beautiful simile which I am glad to record here:—"Just as on a winter's day", he writes, "the little birds are seen gathering together in numbers, where a providential hand has scattered the grain which is to feed them; so numbers of little children and boys, whom the world cares not for, were thronging in crowds round Don Bosco."

He spoke the truth, since, as many at the present day are fully aware, Catechism, instructions, sermons, edifying stories, becoming conversations and pleasant amusements, which Don Bosco gave them in their days of greatest danger, were the very means which saved them from irreligion, from immorality and bad ways;—they were their salvation and their life. "But", to continue the pleasing comparison, "just as it sometimes happens that an ill-natured person frightens away the birds that are pecking at their food, and forces them to look for more elsewhere, so did it happen more than once to the first children of Don Bosco, the little birds of the Oratory. They, too, were constrained to fly first from the Church of St. Francis d'Assisi, then from the *Ospedaleto*, next from the *Molini* in the city, afterwards from St. Peter in Vinculis, again from the Moretta house, and finally from the spacious field,"—as we are now about to relate.

After the conversation with the Marquis de Cavour, Don Bosco thought that he would have been able to pass some time in peace with his boys. How great then was his grief when upon returning home from the Palazzo di Città, he found a letter in which the brothers Defilippi gave him notice to quit the field which they had let him for the whole year!—"Your boys", wrote these gentlemen, "with their continual trampling on our field, will destroy the very roots of the grass. We are, however, content to remit the rent now due, on condition that

you leave us free to enter our field again within a fortnight. We cannot grant you a longer delay."

And so poor Don Bosco had to make his bow and go elsewhere. There seemed to be a net-work of deep-set plots; but they were only trials which Our Lord sent to Don Bosco, in order to bring out more prominently the work to which he had set his hand.

When the news of these and other difficulties, which arose at every step, got about, some friends of Don Bosco, instead of encouraging him to persevere, began to suggest to him to abandon the undertaking altogether. Some of them who saw that he was always thinking about the Oratory, that he did not seem to know how to tear himself away from the boys, that he was always visiting during the week, where they were working, that on feast days he looked after them with a more than fatherly tenderness, in short that he was always speaking to them or of them, began to think that he was perhaps afflicted with monomania and on the way to become mad. For this reason they tried to distract him as much as they could. One day that incomparable friend of his, the theologian Borel himself, in the presence of Father Sebastian Pacchiotti, another pious priest attached to the Refuge, began to speak to him thus:—

—"My dear Don Bosco, in order not to place us in danger of losing everything, it is better to save a part. Let us, then, send away nearly all the boys in the Oratory, keeping only about twenty of the youngest. Whilst we are occupying ourselves with these few, God will open for us the way to do more, providing us with means and a suitable place."

Don Bosco, who even then foresaw what by Divine mercy really happened later on, like a person certain of what he said, answered:—

—"You know Father, how hard it has been for us to rescue from the path of evil so large a number of boys, and how well they have corresponded to our cares. My opinion is, therefore, that it would not be right for us to abandon them to themselves and to the perils of the world again, as this would prove very dangerous to their souls. You bring forward as reasons the want of place and means. There is no need to be afraid, since place and means are both ready: there is a beautiful house, an ample play-ground, wide cloisters and a magnificent

Church with Priests, clerics, catechists, masters and assistants, ready at a sign."

—"But where are all these things?" asked the good theologian.

—"I cannot say where they are now," said Don Bosco, "but they do exist and they are for us."

When Father Borel heard these words, he was, as he himself assured us, when narrating the story in after years to some of our oldest members, deeply moved. It seemed to him that in this assertion there was a clear proof of the madness of his dear friend, and he exclaimed: "Poor Don Bosco! certainly his head has given way." Then not being able to control his pent-up feelings any longer, he approached him, kissed him and then went away shedding warm tears. Father Pacchiotti, too, looked at him compassionately, and saying: "*Poor Don Bosco*", also retired in sorrow.

(To be continued).

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EDITORIAL OFFICE.—PUBLISHING OFFICE:

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