

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.
- 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 assemb ies 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 STATE OF THE S

SALESIAN BULLETIN

little child in my name receiveth Whosоеver shall receive one such

(.c ,IIIVX .TTAM)

To your care I commend infancy oT

of virtue. in their hands such books as may teach them to fly from vice and steadily walk in the path and youth; zealously attend to

(RIUS IX.)

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

(LEO XIII.)

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

(III St. John, 4 and 8.)

Of works divine the divinest is to (.EI , vi , THTOMIT I) Till I come, attend unto reading, to exhorting and to instructing.

A sender low of or or fellow-ereacher the sender of the se (St. Denys.) .aluoa lo co-operate with God in the saving

(St. FRANCIS DE SALES.) ness grants to man.

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December 15, 1895.

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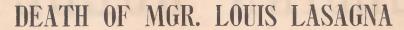
->+++++++-OUR CHRISTMAS CARD.

grant to our Benefactors a long succession of bright and peaceful sunshine and gladness to all! In fine, may Our Divine Saviour peace and happiness! May the coming year be one fraught with and most heartfelt affections," be for all a teeming fount of joy, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to our kind Readers and dear Co-operators! May the Aurora of the

quarter of the globe. spontaneously rise to the lips of Don Rua, and his sons from every These are the sincere and cordial wishes that, in this holy season, days in this life, crowned by a happy eternity in the next!

holy night when the Angels sang: "Glory be to God on high, and for their Co-operators and Benefactors on the anniversary of that little orphans entrusted to their care will offer up to the Infant Jesus These, the ardent wishes, the prayer that the Salesians and the

peace on earth to men of good-will."



and

five Salesian Missionaries.

N the evening of Nov. 7th, whilst the Salesian Family was still rejoicing over the glorious departure of an extraordinary expedition of Missionaries, so numerous and so consoling,—sorrowful news came to plunge it into the most profound grief. By a single act of His adorable will, Almighty God, Who is pleased to temper with mourning all the joys of this world, permitted a heavy blow, full of bitterness and of serious consequences to souls, to fall on our Pious Society.

Our venerated Father Don Rua received the following telegram from Rio Janeiro, the exact conciseness of which left no room for doubt:—

Mgr. Lasagna, Secretary and four Sisters killed through railway accident.— ZANCHETTA.

This is the signature of the Director of our House at Nictheroy (Brazil).

Some days after, another telegram, sent this time from Villa Colon (Uruguay), aggravated the sad news. Besides Mgr. Lasagna's Secretary, another Priest met his death in the disaster in question; this makes the total of seven Salesian souls, whom Our Lord has willed to call to Himself at the same moment and in a manner so astounding.

Two Portuguese papers, one dated the 10th, and the other the 11th of November, confirmed too well the sorrowful news, and indicated a little more accurately the place of the disaster. The "Primeiro de Janeiro," of Oporto, publishes the following telegram:— "We have just received news that a sad railway accident has taken place in the State of Minas Geraes (Brazil); some railway carriages were destroyed in a collision, killing a large number of passengers, amongst whom was Mgr. Lasagna. Many were injured; particulars are still wanting." The other paper, O Paiz of Lisbon, under the title:—"Railway Accident—Death of a Bishop", relates the news thus:—"Tidings have been received from Minas Geraes by the New York Herald of a railway collision which occurred on the 7th inst.

in that Brazilian state. It was a serious accident, but the number of the killed is not known, only that amongst them is Bishop Lasagna."

After twenty days spent in anxious expectation, in which God alone knows how we suffered, the Portuguese papers arrived to give us the following harrowing details:—

"The disaster", says the correspondent of the Primeiro de Janeiro (Nov. 21st), "was caused by the collision of two trains between Mariana and Procopio on the Ouro Preto line. The following were crushed to death:—Mgr. Louis Lasagna, Titular Bishop of Tripoli and Superior of the Salesian Missions in Brazil, Fr. Bernardine Villaamil, his secretary, Mother Teresa Rinaldi, Superior-General of the Sisters of Mary Help of Christians in Brazil, Sister Petronilla Edvige Braga and Sister Julia Sarmento, both Brazilians, and a stoker. Two other Sisters of the same Congregation are seriously injured, four lightly, and many other persons."

The Palavra, also of Oporto, on the following day, Nov. 22nd, says: "The disaster occurred on the Central Railway of Brazil. The through train from Minas collided with a luggage train between the stations of Procopio and Juiz de Fóra, resulting in the wrecking of a carriage, and the deaths of the Bishop of Tripoli, his Secretary, four Sisters, amongst whom was the Superioress, another from the Santa Casa della Misericordia in Ouro Preto and a stoker; there were eight persons in all, who were taken from the scene of the accident and buried at Juiz de Fora. Many were wounded, amongst whom were two Priests, three Sisters, two engine drivers, a guard and others. The engine drivers reversed the engine just in time to prevent a more serious disaster. The accident happened on the 7th inst. and the line was cleared for traffic by the following day. - The victims were going to open the College of Ponta Nova and the Home di Cachoeira do Campo, taking with them also two Sisters to the Misericordia of Ouro Preto. They were travelling is a special carriage near the engine, which was completely wrecked. The impression produced by this calamity is profound."

Notwithstanding the apparent discrepancies in these accounts, it remains certain that death has, in a single instant, snatched away six, or it may be, seven persons whom we loved as brothers, and who united to us in mind and heart, laboured with us in the vast field of the Salesian Congregation! They have been snatched away in the prime of their lives, and whilst they were preparing themselves for new works undertaken for the glory of God and the good of souls! They have been snatched away from us in so terrible a manner, too.

Indescribable was the anxiety which we felt in our hearts. Scarcely could we imagine and with difficulty comprehend the

misfortune which our dear confrères in America have experienced. To lose in a single moment six ardent Apostles! and amongst these were the zealous Superioress of the vast Brazilian Province, Sister Teresa Rinaldi, one of the foremost and most courageous Daughters of Mary Help of Christians who have gone to America; to lose, also, Mgr. Louis Lasagna, the second Salesian Bishop, who has filled us with wonder by his arduous and extensive projects.

At the age of but forty-five years, of robust constitution, adorned with well-tried virtue, of untiring zeal, of eminent piety and of no ordinary culture in philosophy, theology, science and literature, our beloved Mgr. Lasagna was rich in all that forms Apostles powerful in word and work. On this account, therefore, in the vast and important Missions which the Sovereign Pontiff LEO XIII. had entrusted to his care, the most joyful and the most holy hopes were assuredly smiling on the young and intrepid Bishop. Our faith finds consolation in the thought that the magnanimous sacrifice of so many supernatural hopes was his last thought. For us who knew that soul so full of God, this inspiration arising from our faith is a certainty. It helps us to stand immovable on Calvary where our Crucified God deigns to call us. It is a certainty which even enables us to say generously and from the bottom of our hearts the Fiat of resignation, whilst we adore the inscrutable decrees of Divine Providence.

Although His hand weighs heavily on our Congregation in this hard trial, it does not follow that the God of overflowing goodness has ceased to wish it well; therefore on our knees and in the fulness of our hearts we say:—"May Thy Will be done. The Lord has given, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord!"—Fiat voluntas tua. Dominus dedit, Dominus abstulit: Sit nomen Domini benedictum!

Faithful imitators of Don Bosco's active life, Mgr. Lasagna and his companions fell, in the breach, victims to their ardent zeal for the salvation of souls. God, who infinitely rich in mercy, and who never fails to weigh in the scales of Eternity the apostolic labours of these courageous saviours of souls, willed, as we hope, to hasten for them the hour of reward, by giving them in the midst of Heavenly splendours the recompense of their works and their desires. From Heaven, then, they will protect our Pious Society and their Missions. Their prayers and merits will assuredly decide the Master of the harvest to send into the Salesian field many other evangelical labourers, animated with the true spirit of Don Bosco and well endowed with the virtue which makes Apostles.

In the meantime our venerated Father Don Rua, in a special letter, has taken the proper measures so that the dear Salesians who were victims in this disaster, may enjoy as soon as possible

abundant suffrages. For this reason in every Salesian House there has been or there will be sung a Requiem Mass, and all our Cooperators will be invited to take part in it. All the members of our Pious Society, as also our boys, have offered to God special prayers and Holy Communion in suffrage for the souls of these our dear departed ones.

And now, need we use many words to obtain from our kind readers their prayers for the souls of our dear confrères? We do not think it necessary; this sorrowful account already speaks for itself to every noble heart to unite itself to the afflicted Salesians by means of fervent prayers and generous sacrifices in order to implore the God of all mercies to grant eternal rest to our dear confrères.

In many places whilst the funeral rites were being celebrated for these victims of apostolic zeal, offerings were made in favour of the Missions entrusted to their care.

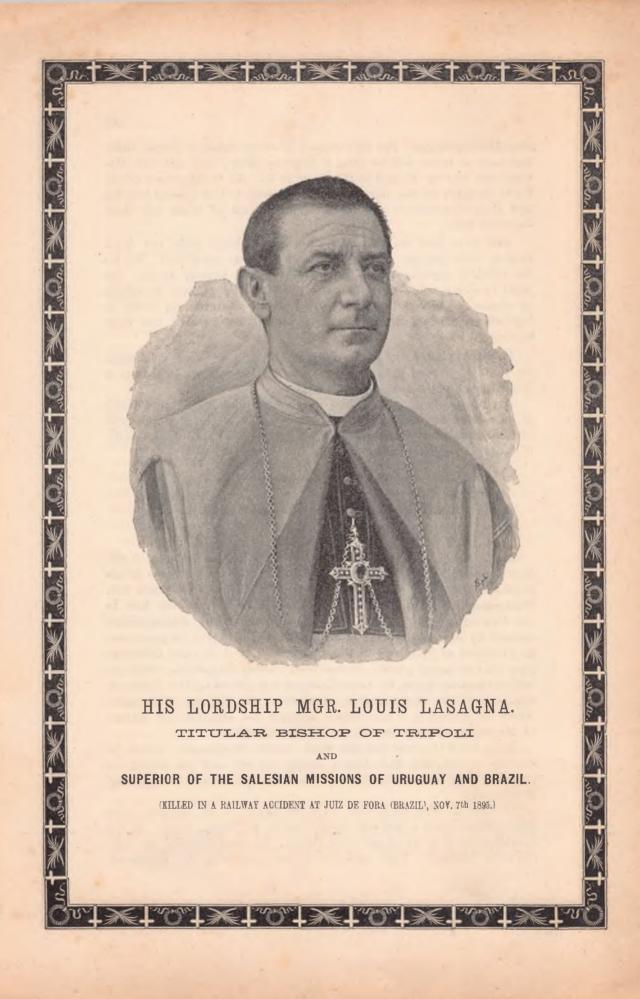
A sublime thought was this, which we praise highly, and desire to be carried out amongst all our readers, as a thing which will certainly redound to the great solace and consolation of the souls of these our departed Missionaries.

MONSIGNOR LOUIS LASAGNA.

Mgr. Lasagna was born March 3rd, 1850, in Montemagno, a village of Monferrato. Don Bosco visited this place with some of his pupils in 1863, and met him there when a boy twelve years old. Foreseeing his brilliant future, Don Bosco took him with him to the Oratory at Turin, and here the young Louis distinguished himself by his intelligence, study and piety. In 1872 he graduated as professor of literature in the University, and in the following year was ordained priest. Gifted with a lively disposition, endowed with no common mind, Fr. Louis Lasagna was placed by Don Bosco at the head of the Matriculation classes in the College of Alassio, where he gained in a marvellous manner the affection and esteem of his pupils and the confidence of his Superiors.

This, however, was not the work which Providence wished to entrust to him, and Don Bosco, seeing his zeal and his ability to preach, chose him as Superior of the first Missionaries that he sent to Uruguay.

In fact, in 1876, he set out with the faith of an apostle, and after experiencing a terrible storm, landed at Monte Video, in the neighbourhood of which at Villa Colon, he soon founded the first Catholic College. This institution was not long in producing



prodigious fruit, since from its walls issued doctors with degrees, lawyers and scientists, the most brilliant intellects of Uruguay.

In the meantime he took part in founding the Catholic paper El bien publico in which he was an indefatigable collaborator for many years, combating in its columns positivist and materialistic theories so widely spread in schools and in books. His articles were much praised by the Catholic press in those parts, and collected with care by his admirers, were compiled and published at their expense in a single volume.

At Monte Video he gave rules to the Catholic Associations, about fifteen of which were soon in a most flourishing condition, comprising a workmen's Guild which contains numerous associates. He gave life also to the Society of the Festive Oratories, whose rules the Bishop of Monte Video approved, and in a pastoral letter on the subject recommended it to the Priests and faithful of that Republic. He also promoted, wherever he could, the Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul.

Animated with a lively confidence in Divine Providence, he founded the Orphanage for boys in Las Piedras and the Houses of the Sisters of Mary Help of Christians for the education of girls in Villa Colon and Las Piedras. Afterwards he founded various free schools for both sexes, in different parts of that Republic and especially in Paysandù. In this place he also accepted the direction of that extensive Parish, at a time when it might have cost him his life and that of the priests whom he established there.

Not content with this, from time to time he despatched Missionaries to the open country to catechise the Gauchos, the native wanderers of these vast deserts, and to the various Italian colonies existing there, in order to give them an opportunity of fulfilling their religious duties.

In 1881 he commenced the foundation of Meteorological Observatories. The principal of these has a very important monthly publication, and has its seat in the Collegio Pio. This Institution takes its title from the great Pontiff Pius IX. to whom Fr. Lasagna, in his audience with the Holy Father before starting for the Missions, promised that the first house founded by him, should be called after his name. And the Observatory referred to, was placed in connection with the celebrated but lamented Fr. Denza. The study of the phenomena and the different climates of that hemisphere is much appreciated and carried on by scientists.

The inauguration of that Observatory was presided over by Mgr. Mario Mocenni, now Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church when he was received as Internuncio in Brazil, and was on his way to that city. Fr. Louis Lasagna bound by long friendship to Mgr. Mocenni desired him to preside over the inauguration, the

minutes of which signed by his hand are still preserved by the illustrious Prelate.

In that same year, 1881, Don Bosco of happy memory, seeing the great success of Fr. Lasagna's labour in Uruguay, and his unwearied zeal, entrusted to him the Brazilian Mission. He travelled through the principal cities and provinces in the east, penetrated as far as the Amazon, and began to found establishments at Nictheroy near Rio Janeiro, at St. Paul and at Lorena.

After asking for Sisters of Mary Help of Christians from Europe, he began also to open in that vast Republic, Homes and Festive Oratories for girls.

To his energy and activity were due, besides the foundations referred to namely at Villa Colon, Las Piedras and Paysandù in Uruguay, St. Paul, Nichteroy and Lorena in Brazil, those of Monte Video, Canelones and Mercedes in the first Republic, and those, too, at Guarantigueta, Pindamonhangaba, Pernambuco, Araras and Cuyabà in the second. In all these places an inmense number of boys and girls are brought up in a Christian manner.

Seconding the desire of our venerated Founder in that vast Inspectorate dependent on him he established two petits Séminaires, in order to educate for the ecclesiastical state those boys who showed a special vocation for it. The object in view was that he might be able to supply with a sufficient personnel those same foundations and also the Missions to the savages. His attempts were not in vain: the Salesian Houses there already contain several Priests, natives of those countries. A similar work, due to his influence, was realised by the Sisters of Mary Help of Christians, in order to furnish their Houses of education and Missions with personnel. And it was precisely from these Institutions that Father Villaamil and Sisters Braga and Sarmento came, who with their Master fell victims in this disaster.

Persuaded as he was that the Priest in order to be able to do good everywhere, has need of great knowledge joined to deep and sound doctrine, as soon as he could he sent to Rome, some of his young clerics to pursue their philosophical and theological studies there. At this very time some are now following the Philosophical Course at the Gregorian University so wisely restored to vigour by the reigning Pontiff Leo XIII.

Whilst carrying into effect these noble works, he was planning and beginning special Missions for the conversion and civilisation of the savage tribes of Paraguay, Matto Grosso and the State of St. Paul.

His influence in these countries was extended in a special manner to the Italian emigrants who reach the number of two millions and a half. In fact by his Missionary visits he won for himself the good-will of all the Italians, who looked upon him as a father.

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Besides the classical languages Greek and Latin, and his own mother-tongue, he had a thorough mastery of Portuguese, Spanish French and English. For his knowledge and prudence he was held in the highest esteem by those in authority, from whom he obtained favours and unlooked for powers in various circumstances.

In the December of 1886, when Fr. Lasagna returned to America for the last time but one with a numerous band of Missionaries, Don Bosco caused a little box to be sent to him, saying:—"This is for Fr. Lasagna." He took it without seeing what it contained, and preserved it as a souvenir of his beloved Father. Later on, as soon as he heard the sorrowful news of Don Bosco's death, whilst looking over the memoirs of his lamented and venerated Superior, he opened the box. He found it contained a gold chain with a note from a noble Salesian Co-operator on one side of which was written:—For a grace received through the intercession of Mary Help of Christians, and on the other:—For the second Salesian Bishop. That chain was to be his own.

He came to Italy, at the end of the year 1892, in order to obtain more help and the blessing of the Holy Father on his great and daring plans. His Holiness Leo XIII. then raised him to the episcopal dignity. His consecration took place on March 12th, 1893, in the Salesian Church of the Sacred Heart, at Rome, at the hands of His Eminence Cardinal Parocchi, our Protector. There were present pilgrims from Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil.

Within a month, on the 3rd of April following, he set out again for America, taking with him thirty Salesian Missionaries.

The Providence of God had decreed that we should see him no more!

It is impossible for us to give here more than a bare enumeration of the works completed by the zeal of our dear Mgr. Lasagna in these last two years, but we hope to give our Co-operators a more detailed account, already commenced, from his personal correspondence.

Here we will only say that he succeeded in introducing the Salesian Missions among the native *Coroados* of *Matto Grosso* in Brazil, against whom a war of extermination had been decreed. Other similar important undertakings were being prepared for the sayages in Paraguay!

Death snatched him from this earth in the fervour of his Apostolate, and in the still flourishing age of forty-five years. Let us adore the decrees of Almighty God!

May he complete in Heaven, by his prayers, all that his enterprising zeal would have done on earth!



Saresian notes and news.

WITH this issue of the BULLETIN we present our dear Readers and Co operators with the closing number of our first volume. At the same time, we gratefully thank them for their co-operation and kindness, and sincerely hope that they will encourage us by their support for the future.

During the month of May, the Sisters of Mary Help of Christians stretched their wings even to Mendoza which is about thirty hours distant by railway from Buenos Ayres. The new Superioress, Sister Enrichetta Darmello, tells us how lovingly Divine Providence is manifesting itself to this Institution which takes its name from Our Blessed Mother. They began at once to open a Festive Oratory for girls, to which on the second Sunday about fifty came. May God bless their labours and render them fruitful.

ADJOINING the Salesian College of Santiago (Chili), "the Patronage of St. Joseph," but quite separated from it, the Salesians opened a new Festive Oratory in May last, under the title of Don Bosco. About three hundred boys attend, the best of whom already belong to the Confraternity of St. Aloysius. They have also classes in instrumental music. Our confrères expect to present to Mgr. Fagnano at his next Inspectorial visit, about five hundred regular attendants.

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OUR confrères who arrived at Pernambuco in December last, solemnly inaugurated their College in that city on the 10th of Feb. The following is taken from the account forwarded from the place:

"The Sacred Heart of Jesus continues to show a special protection towards this House dedicated to It. We find an evident proof of this in the sympathy manifested towards us by all, in the promises of aid that have been made to us, and in the rapid construction of a beautiful and devotional chapel. For this we must also thank our good Co-operators, the V. Rev. Canon Curio and his brother Dr. Curio, the chief Military Doctor. This

last named obtained from the Governor of the State the Altar, the beautiful Via Crucis, and a large number of vestments and ornaments for the Church and sacristy. Even the soldiers took part in the work in order to complete it as soon as possible, so that on February 10th last, our Diocesan Bishop was able to bless the chapel and celebrate Holy Mass therein. There were present our principal benefactors, some Prelates who were in the city, the representatives of many Religious Orders, and a large number of soldiers. At the Gospel the Rector spoke in touching terms of Don Bosco and his work. It remains to be added that many illustrious personages visited the Salesians during the day, amongst whom we must mention the illustrious Governor of the State himself."

THE following has been taken from a Peruvian paper:—The pupils of the School of Crafts and Trades at Lima, educated under the care of the Salesians, gave on July 30th last, a beautiful literary and dramatic entertainment in honour of the Apostolic Delegate Mgr. Macchi, who has done so much to restore peace in that much harassed Republic. Proceedings were opened by a sacred song dedicated to this illustrious representative of His Holiness. A comic sketch followed next, and with good effect. All those who took part in it, as also in the recitations which followed, sustained the parts admirably and were much applauded. A large gathering was present. The whole was brought to a close by a short but eloquent discourse by the Delegate. We present our best congratulations to the sons of Don Bosco in that part.

A SHORT time ago, a school for girls, dedicated to Mary Help of Christians was opened at Araras. The building is a gift of Señor Barâo, to whom the city of Araras is already indebted for other similar acts of munificence. After the blessing of the school, High Mass was celebrated and a conference given by Father Alexander Fia to a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen. The management of the school is confided to the care of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. Our best thanks are due to Señor Barâo for his generous donation, and to the Rev. Father Antony de Alkmim who has always been so kind to the Salesians.

THE

SALESIAN BULLETIN

ORGAN OF

THE SALESIAN CONGREGATION

AND

THE ASSOCIATION OF SALESIAN CO-OPERATORS.

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NOTES FROM OUR MISSIONERS.

BRAZII.

LETTER OF MONSIGNOR LASAGNA.
FIRST VISIT TO MATTO GROSSO.

(Continued).

INDIAN HUNTERS - MEETING OF AN OLD FRIEND.

The captain of the Mercedes is an old Genoese, called Stephen Nocetti, an excellent man. He has navigated this river for the last forty years. Before commanding this steamer he was captain of many small sailing vessels and steamers, and used to run on the Paraguay up to Corumbá and even Cuyabá, a journey of more than a hundred days.

It was a real pleasure to listen to his adventures and anecdotes. He knows every inch of the river and the neighbouring lands, for when he was out on a sailing vessel and the wind happened to be unfavourable, he would shoulder his gun and go hunting in the forests. He assures us that geese, pheasants, partridges, stags, chamois, boars and scores of other kinds of game are to be found.

Many times he found what he did not look for or want, in the shape of savages, armed with poisoned arrows, tigers, crocodiles and serpents of every description. He told us things on those subjects that made our hair stand on end. At the present moment colonists have settled down here and there on the left bank of the river. The lands on the left bank are uninhabitable up to Petcomayo owing to the continual inundations which they are subject to.

The preceding governments of the Argentine Republic have always shown themselves pitiless towards the Indians, and have by military expeditions exterminated them to such an extent that in the immense region called Argentine Chaco there are no traces of them to be found any more. What remained of them were driven across the frontiers of the Republic of Paraguay where they now abound. We could not but feel sad at the thought that those banks had been once inhabited by numberless tribes, which are perhaps doomed to destruction if the Missionary does not hasten to save what is left of them, wandering through the boundless forest of the tropics.

We must admit, to our shame that our so much praised civilisation is really implacable towards those poor creatures. Just one fact to give you an idea of how things went on down here once upon a time.

I arrived here at the same time as a Swiss, who took part in the Muller exploring expedition of the Chaco, and who is known under the shameful name of Indian hunter. His praises were on every tongue because he never missed his aim and had shot down without remorse in the Chaco some hundreds of poor natives. To us this sounds horrible, but here it causes no surprise, as the people are quite used to it. But I must proceed with my narrative. As we go along, occasions will offer themselves plentifully to tell an anecdote.

On the 15th of May we stopped for a few hours at Diamante to take four hundred sacks of flour on board. Diamante is a growing village which, in a short time, will doubtless become an important town, owing to the fact that several colonies of Europeans have settled in the neighbourhood. The soil produces a certain kind of wheat very much appreciated in all the markets, and is considered as the best of Meridional America.

Thinking we should enter the port of Parana, that same evening I wished to announce my arrival to the venerable Bishop of the District and wired to that effect. As I was going ashore to despatch my telegram and pay a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, I was met by our excellent friend Father Joseph Gonzales who, eighteen years ago when we took charge of the Parish of Las Piedras, acted there as curate. He welcomed us warmly and did not leave us till our departure. He is alone in charge of that population of more than 20,000 inhabitants, dispersed over an immense area. He insisted upon my visiting the Pagella family. Signor Pagella is from Genoa and came here when quite young and poor, but through a brisk trade in flour, he is now at the head of an immense capital. We also visited a municipal building, erected for a naval school, but which had been abandoned when nearly finished.

It is a pity to see that magnificent building, nearly finished and whose new walls are already crumbling away, owing to the state of abandonment in which they are left..... Some persons would like to offer it to the Salesians. For the present I think that out of the question because we have no personnel to manage it with,

IN THE DIOCESE OF PARANÀ—ITS RUINS—
REMAINS OF ANCIENT GLORIES

Having returned on board, we resumed our journey, but we had the misfortune of arriving at an advanced hour in the night at the port of Paraná. The Vicar General had waited a long while on the quay. Night having set in, he had retired, charging some one with a letter for us in which he wished us, in the name of the Bishop a most hearty welcome, and authorised me to exercise my ministry if I chose to land anywhere in his diocese. It is the most extensive of the Republic, and the Bishop, notwithstanding all his zeal, could not visit it all unless God gave him the wings of an angel. Without counting the immense territories of Rosario and Santa Fé where the population is very dense, it comprises the whole region between the provinces of Entre-Rios and Corrientes and the territory called the Missiones which extends between Paraguay and Brazil. This territory is as yet a bone of contention and to such an extent that with the object of preventing an inevitable war, Brazil and the Argentine Republic have agreed to submit their respective rights to the arbitration of the President of the United States, whose decision is expected from day to day.

How often, ascending the course of the Uruguay to go to Paysandú, my eyes wandered sadly over these vast regions from which only the course of the river separated me. And how I greeted from afar the pretty little towns of Gualeguaychú, Conception, San José, Concordia and others, whose territories are populated by such an immense number of emigrants without priests, without guides, without comfort. Has the moment to help them come at last?

The actual President of the Argentine Republic, Louis Saenz Peña, a man of great heart and vast experience, is an enthusiastic admirer of Don Bosco's works. Having learnt from Bishop Cagliero that I was going to undertake this long journey, he desired to see me, and having overwhelmed me with courtesies, he made the most urgent instances to persuade me to introduce the Salesians into those regions. He gave me letters of introduction to the Governors of those places and promised me his personal and official assistance in order to establish Salesian Houses there.

We journeyed still three whole days before arriving at Corrientes the capital of the province of the same name, and which depends, also, as I have said already, on the Bishop of Paraná.

Scarcely had the steamer cast anchor, when the honourable Senator Carlo Avalos, together with a Spanish priest, Father Arachevaleta, came to meet us. They conducted me courteously to the President of the Province, Señor Verasoro, to whom I gave a letter from Señor Saenz Peña. We spoke for a longti me on the needs of the Province and the works of Don Bosco, but I thought it prudent for the moment not to enter upon any engagement. The religious services in town and out of it are carried on with zeal by two monasteries of excellent Franciscan Fathers, to whom I paid a visit. One of these monasteries has Italian Fathers and depends on the Propaganda at Rome. You can imagine the consolation we experienced at being together at this enormous distance from our common fatherland. It was a real treat for them and a great satisfaction for us. I should also have experienced a great pleasure in seeing our dear Adamo who accompanied us in 1876, at the time of our first expedition to Uruguay and who now lives in that monastery where he is spending in peace the last years of his life. But whilst we were there he was absent, and I had to hurry away on board.

After three hours we left on our right the Paraná which runs in between the Argentine and Paraguay and bends back in an Easterly direction to be lost in the forests of Brazil and reach its source there at a little distance from the Atlantic Ocean. Above the town of Corrientes the navigation is difficult for two days and then becomes a sheer impossibility, because of the frequent and majestic waterfalls and horrible precipices. It is just there that the banks begin to be populated by numerous tribes of savages. It is there too the Jesuit Fathers in days of yore accomplished those prodigies of zeal and pratical wisdom which were, are and ever will be the admiration of the world. At the entrance of the forests the ruins of their celebrated colleges, their gilded churches and superb towers are still to be seen.

But the heart in vain tries to revive the echoes of the hymns and prayers which once rose to Heaven from thousands of hearts of the simple child-like neophytes. In vain the eye looks for the magnificent fields and gardens cultivated by thousands of Indians gained over to religion and civilisation by the sole zeal of their Apostles. Everything

is now ruined and lost. The Indians have retired to the majestic and solitary forests, and amidst the yet gold covered walls—the shelter of innocence, piety, and love in times gone by—are now to be found only tigers and hideous serpents.

LOUIS, Bishop of Tripoli. (To be continued).



LETTER FROM THE RIGHT REV. MGR. CAGLIERO, DIRECTED TO HIS EMINENCE THE CARDINAL PREFECT OF PROPAGANDA IN ROME.

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MY LORD CARDINAL,

I have the pleasure of presenting to your Eminence a short account of the Missions confided to the Salesian Priests and the Sisters of Mary Help of Christians, in the territories of the Rio Negro of Neuquen, of Chubut, of Santa Cruz and Tierra del Fuego. Last year, thanks be to God, was fruitful in evangelical works for the good of the poor natives who are to be found in large numbers and widely scattered over these deserts. It was fruitful, too, in works of progress for the well-being of the colonies which keep on every day increasing in number and advancing in Religion, good morals and Christian civilisation. Our Missionaries have visited with greater and greater frequency the banks of the Rio Negro, the Rio Colorado, the Rio Neuquèn and the Limay. They have traversed for hundreds of leagues the mountains, valleys and rocky precipices of the Cordilleras, by the pass of Bariloche and the Rio Barranca, which traces the confines of Mendoza with the Territory of Neuquen.

Besides this, during a seven months' journey, two of our Missionaries visited the tribes of the Thehuelehes Indians, situated in Balcheta, in the valleys of the Chubut and Maquincheu as far as Lake Nahuelhuapi and Junin of the Andes. Others in the meantime penetrated the more southern parts, the valley of Santa Cruz, Rio Gallegos and the open plains of the Rio Chico. These Apostolic excursions and Evangelical labours undergone in the Residencies and Mission Stations, have borne fruit in the

conversion of many of the natives and the Baptism of their children. They have showered down religious consolations on the poor inhabitants of the desert, and have been of immense advantage to these new peoples by means of moral and religious instruction and Christian civilisation.

On the east coast of Tierra del Fuego, by dint of no few personal and pecuniary sacrifices, we have been at length able to open the new Mission of Candelara, with House, Church and schools, along the borders of the Rio Grande. In this new mission about five hundred Indians of the tribes of Onas and Acalufes, who were previously scattered about Ushuaia, have come. Besides instructing them in the truths of Faith, it was necessary to supply them with food, clothing and lodging in houses and wooden cabins, as is already done in the Mission of St Raphael in Dawson Island. I must say, too, that the Sisters of Mary Help of Christians in these icy and inhospitable regions, afford us their disinterested aid with true heroism.

In the Falkland Islands, our Missionary Priests continue to work for the good of these inhabitants of the Atlantic with satisfactory results.

In Roca, the parish Church was finished in December last, and was opened for Divine Worship amidst the universal joy of the garrison and the people who have been long sighing after that sacred edifice which is indispensable to their moral life and to the social increase of the colony. The expense was borne by the population, the Mission and the Government. In this place our Priests and the Sisters of Mary Help of Christians direct the two Colleges of the Mission, much praised by the inhabitants and the Authorities. An Hospital, too, has at last begun to be built, and a modest stock of medicines has been provided for the poor natives and the colonists. And all know how indispensable such an establish. ment is amongst these elevated plains and in the midst of the desert.

In Junin de los Andes, in the Territory of Neuquèn, the new Church is just being finished, and we have begun raising buildings for Residencies, Schools and Hospitals. These edifices are necessary for that numerous and flourishing colony, which contains large numbers of Indians of the tribe of Yancuche, the greater part being already Christians.

In Conesa near the Rio Negro, we have begun the new House of the Mission. It

will serve for a temporary Church and College for the instruction and Christian education of that growing population, surrounded by numbers of huts belonging to the natives.

In the Residencies of Pringles, Choele-Choel and Chosmalal, our Missionaries and the Sisters of Mary Help of Christians educate hundreds of boys and girls in their Colleges. There they train them in the principles of Religion. Many grown-up persons, too, are instructed in the rules of the Evangelical morals and in the practice of Christian virtue.

In Rawson, the capital of Chubut, our Priests and Nuns are the scourge of invading heresy and the safeguard of the Argentine Catholics, whose children frequent the Church and the two Colleges of the Mission. Seeing that the want of an Hospital in those far-off regions was much felt, one is now being erected by the aid of the population, the Mission and, it is hoped, of the Government. The country round this Mission is inhabited by the tribes of the Thehuelches Indians, who willingly listen to the words of the Gospel whenever it is preached to them by our Missionaries.

In Viedma, the capital of Rio Negro, by dint of perseverance, sacrifice and great expenses borne by our Pious Society, we have finished the large building for the new Hospital; it is more commodious and airy than the former, which was miserable and only temporary. The new one consists of a dispensary which is furnished with every kind of medicine, halls for the convalescent, and three spacious wards for the sick. And it is the only one in the whole extensive valley of the Rio Negro.

From its foundation, which took place in about the middle of 1889, to the present time, more than five hundred patients have entered; out of this number four hundred and fifty have left cured in soul and body. This Hospital is supported by the Missionaries and is directed by the Sisters of Mary Help of Christians.

A grand new edifice, three storeys high, is just now being completed: it is destined for a College and Industrial school. In its vast halls, schools and workshops, about one hundred and fifty boys are already studying, labouring and acquiring trades. These boys are externs, those of the House, natives and orphans who have been entrusted to us and recommended by the local Authorities.

Generally, the pupils, who frequent our colleges, succeed remarkably well in the examinations which take place in the presence of the Authorities; and the work executed in our work-shops, whether done by blacksmiths, carpenters, tinworkers, shoemakers or tailors is appreciated by people who know how to value good work. Praises, too, are not lacking for the pieces of music which our instrumental band often executes on religious solemnities and National Feast-days.

Our practical school of Agriculture is progressing, to the great admiration of those who live near us. The vine with its rich grapes, the kitchen garden with its vegetables, and the orchard with fruit pleasant to the taste, are an incontestable argument of the progress of Agriculture in this valley, which was, but yesterday, so unfruitful and sterile. Its products, too, are of no light service to the two hundred mouths which ask for their daily bread in this House of ours, the centre of the Mission and the home of all those who are poor and abandoned.

The Sisters continue to work in their vast College and adjoining Home for the education of a hundred and fifty girls, comprising externs, those in the House and little orphans. And what they are doing at Viedma, their sisters are doing at Roca and Rawson in Chubut, namely rescuing the poor little orphans and the fallen women placed in our Houses by the judicial authorities. It is consoling to see how these poor unfortunates make progress in religion and instruction, striving to learn to read and write, and to practise the virtues proper to Christians and to their sex.

There are twelve Colleges and Festive Oratories in the Mission. About two thousand children of both sexes attend them, to their own great advantage and the visible progress of religion and their Christian education.

I cannot be otherwise than pleased with the good and zealous conduct of my sixty Salesian priests, clerics and catechists. The same must be said of our Nuns who labour in this wide vineyard of our Lord.

The Confraternities of the Sacred Heart for women, the Children of Mary for little girls, of St Aloysius for boys and of St Joseph for men, are flourishing.

The frequenting of the Most Holy Sacrament is promoted with praiseworthy zeal by our Missionaries, in all the Houses and

Stations of the Mission. I do not exaggerate when I say that there are about thirty or forty thousand Holy Communions made during the year in this new portion of Christianity. Piety, therefore, and good morals are sufficiently watched over although there is still very much to be desired in several families and colonies, where depraved habits, religious indifference and attachment to the material interests of this world still keep the upper hand. We hope in the infinite goodness and mercy of God, the Master of the vineyard, Who, in proportion as He sends Evangelical labourers to cultivate it, wills to shower down from Heaven the copious floods of His divine graces for their total conversion.

In this report, I have but given your Eminence a mere general outline, so as not to weary you or take you from your grave and pressing occupations. I think, however, that it will suffice to give you a complete idea of all that our Mission is effecting in this remote territory for Religion and for the advancement of this new Christian society.

I cannot, however, hide from your Eminence, that without the powerful moral and material support of our good Salesian Cooperators, it would be impossible for us to continue, with success and general satisfaction, this grand work of colonising and civilising Patagonia, which has been entrusted, in great part to our zeal and Apostolic ministry.

Whilst presenting to your Eminence my own most respectful homage and that of my fellow-workers in the Mission, I have the happiness to subscribe myself

Your humble servant in Corde Jesu,
GIOVANNI CAGLIERO,
Vicar Apostolic of Patagonia.
Viedma (Rio Negro), April 1, 1895.



THE SALESIAN CONGRESS AT BOLOGNA.

DELIBERATIONS.

HILST we are giving our readers an account of the deliberations taken in the several sessions of the Salesian Congress at Bologna, we are glad to be able to state that the hopes and counsels of the illustrious orators and august Prelates who were present, thanks to the zeal of our Cooperators, are now beginning to become a consoling reality.

During the past few months we have brought under your notice good work lately begun, the object of which is the Christian education of the rising generation. might mention here the opening of a Festive Oratory at Balerna in Switzerland, and we are also glad to note that a religious school has been opened at Chieti, under the auspices of that venerable Archbishop, Mons. Rocco Cocchia, who honoured so much our first Congress with his presence. This zealous Pastor not only blessed the idea of a school for higher course of religious instruction, but also set aside for this purpose his private Oratory and other rooms of his palace. In the month of June last, Father Camillo Tiberio, Spiritual Director of the Archiepiscopal Seminary, and our Decurion and Correspondent, sent a printed invitation to parents and to all those who desire the real prosperity of their city. Its object was to ask them to send their children to this school, in order that they might receive a sound scientific religious training. It is so much the more necessary now-a-days, because it is so much neglected, and as a consequence its enemies have increased in number.

We heartily welcome this holy beginning and we recommend the inhabitants of Chieti to second the desires of their loving Pastor. We sincerely hope that many other cities will soon follow this noble example.

In the meantime, whilst presenting a second portion of the deliberations taken by the Congress, we pray that they may be carried into effect in every town and country where a Salesian Co-operator is to be found.

ELEMENTARY AND HIGHER SCHOOLS.

The Congress resolves:—

- 1.—That Religious instruction in the public elementary schools, imparted in the manner desired by the Church, and in accordance with the state laws, be introduced; promoting also by means of petitions to the Government and local Authorities, the application of those laws which give assurance that such teaching be adequately given.
- 2.—That parents should see that such Religious instruction for the students of the elementary and higher schools is continued, especially by making them attend special classes in a higher course of religious instruction.
- 3.—That in choosing schools and colleges, parents should act with sound judgment and with a

conscience fully inspired by the light of Faith and Catholic morals.

Because:-

(a) Religious teaching is indispensably necessary for the sound education and moral instruction of the young.

(b) It is the duty of Catholics and especially of parents to take care that such teaching is given in the best manner and with regularity.

COLLEGES AND HOMES FOR BOYS.

The Congress resolves:-

1.—That Salesian Co-operators use much diligence in selecting Colleges for their boys, and that they display a wholesome zeal in this respect in influencing their friends and acquaintances.

2.—That when opportunity offers, they take care of children who are abandoned or in danger, and that they do their best to have them placed in some Home or Oratory, moved by the spirit

of Christian charity.

3.—That they generously support the Pious Salesian Society in the work of Colleges and Homes, and help it not only to maintain in a flourishing condition the Houses that have been founded for this end, but also to facilitate the progress of the many new foundations, which, by the grace of God are being everywhere multiplied. Thus they will render themselves sharers in the work of saving souls.

Because:-

- (a) The education of the young cannot be always given efficaciously at home, and in order to satisfy this need Homes and Colleges have been erected for the young belonging to the different social classes.
- (b) An educational establishment can become, by means of its informing principles, a fruitful source of virtue in which good Christians and upright citizens are trained, or a hot-bed of vice wherein faith and morals are destroyed.

THE EDUCATION OF GIRLS.

Whilst reminding parents of the allimportant duty of attending to the Christian education of their daughters, the Congress:—

1.—Exhorts Salesian Co-operators not to entrust the education of their daughters to those Institutions in which religious instruction and practices of piety do not form the basis of such teaching; as also to make known such

Institutions to their parents, friends and

acquaintances.

2.—Invites in a special manner lady Co-operators to promote by every possible means Parochial Catechism for girls, and if necessary, to offer their aid to the Parish Priest as Catechists; it invites them, also, to take care that the children dependent on them, and all those over whom they are able to exercise any influence, be present at it.

3.—Recommends Co-operators to use their influence in promoting the preferment of those teachers who, by reason of their education, studies and good qualities, give promise of fulfilling their office well, both from a scholastic and from a religious point of view.

4.—Hopes that in cities and large trade-centres, where the need is greatest, Festive Oratories and Sunday classes for girls may be established, and if possible, entrusted to the care of Sisters, and that such institutions when already establish-

ed, be supported.

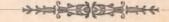
5.—Hopes that Salesian Co-operators will favour the idea of having the Sisters introduced into large industrial establishments as surveillants for girls, pointing out the advantages which both masters and girls would thus derive from

a moral and material point of view.

6.—Finally, desires that the different works carried on by the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, founded by the much lamented Don Bosco and dependent on the Pious Salesian Congregation should be made known. For they meet the needs of the age and are practically recognised as efficacious in promoting the religious and moral well-being of girls of the working-classes.

Because: -

- (a) On the education and religious instruction of girls depends not only their own individual future, but also that of the family and of society.
- (b) The manner and spirit in which instruction is given in schools, no less than the example of teachers themselves, have a very powerful influence on the minds and hearts of girls.
- (c) Principally in cities and trade-centres, the morality of numbers of young girls of the working-classes is exposed to danger; this takes place owing to the want of the religious instruction proper for them, and through their being abandoned by their parents on Feast-days.



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.]

I invoked the Blessed Virgin and my prayer was heard.—One of my sisters had been suffering for more than a year, from a violent fever, against which medical art had been of no avail. We were advised to have recourse to Mary Help of Christians. The sick woman hung a miraculous medal round her neck; she united her intention to my prayers and these of other pious persons, and we began a Novena together in order to implore the grace of her cure.—O wonder worked by Mary!— The Novena was not yet over when the grace prayed for was already obtained. My sister is cured! May thanks be given to Mary for it. It is with feelings of the deepest gratitude that I send the modest offering enclosed. Please receive it as the pledge of my eternal gratitude to Mary, whilst at the same time I fulfil my promise.

SISTER CAROLINE CURINO.

Our hope has not been in vain. -Although late, I come forward to render public homage to Mary Help of Christians for the grace which she has obtained for me. In the midst of the serious illness which made me keep my bed, I was attacked with a violent sore throat which prevented me from swallowing even a drop of water. Seeing that all remedies were ineffectual, the doctor manifested the gravity of my state to my family, and Extreme Unction was administered to me. My sons gathered round my bed and wept bitterly. "Turn to Mary Help of Christians," said they, "and promise her as an offering, the most precious object in your household." I gladly welcomed this proposal, and I have had no reason to repent of it.

Very soon afterwards feeling a little better, I made known that I wanted something to eat. From that moment, I became convalescent. A few days after I went to Turin in order to fulfil my promise and to render thanks to Mary for the favour obtained.

ALBERA DOMENICA.

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:—

Dominica Vanzetti, Spilimbergo; Magdalene Giordano, Turin; The Countess de Bricherasio; Efisio Pischedda, Att., Oristano (Sardegna); Frances Vassallo, Marrano; Margaret Penazzo, Riva di Chieri; Catherine Busso; Louisa Gianotti, Vinovo; Lucy Cerruti, Riva di Pinerolo; Paula Vincenti;

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THE STORY OF THE ORATORY

OR

DON BOSCO'S OPENING APOSTOLATE.

CHAPTER XI.

The Marquis of Cavour again—The Town Council in extraordinary session—An august Protector—A gain—The gout—The guard—The politics of the Oratory—Sunday and evening classes—The formation of masters—The first books—Honours for those who deserve them.

Although order, discipline and tranquillity reigned in the Oratory of Valdocco in such a manner as to leave nothing to be desired, nevertheless the Marquis de Cavour, whom we have spoken of before, persisted in calling this assemblage of boys dangerous, and desired to break it up. He was not, however, able to bend Don Bosco to his wishes, nor could he induce Mgr. Franzoni to forbid him to exercise his sacred ministry. In order to attain his object, the Marquis have the Oratory closed, by attempted means of a formal condemnation pronounced by the Ragioneria, which body would be something more than the Municipal Council of to-day. It consisted of a board composed of the leading Town Councillors, in whose hands the whole civic administration was concentrated- The head of that Corporation was even superior to the Syndic, and this head, as was said before, was Cavour.

After working, then, for some weeks in preparing the minds of the Councillors, the Marquis determined to convoke them to an extraordinary meeting. As, however, he had not been able to gain over the Archbishop to his side, who was a man as intrepid in his duty as he was zealous for the good of souls, he desired that he should, at least, be present at it. His object was to make it understood afterwards that the cross had united with the sword in order to give our Oratory its death-blow. Hence, as he had heard that the illustrious Prelate was not in good health, and would not be able to go to the Municipal Palace, the Marquis called the Council together in the Archbishop's house itself.

Behold, then, on the day and at the hour appointed, the said burghers in all pomp and solemnity betook themselves to the Archbishop's house, and seated themselves on the judgment seat prepared for them. "When I saw," as the good Pastor said to

a friend afterwards, "when I saw all these magnates assembling together in this hall, it seemed to me that the universal judgment was about to take place." In this imposing assembly many arguments were brought forward by one side and by the other; much was said touching the advantages or disadvantages of so many boys meeting together; and finally, as there was a majority on the side of the Marquis, the conclusion they arrived at was that they ought to prohibit and close the Oratory altogether. Hence deceit and ill-will would certainly have prevailed, if Heaven had not prepared a powerful defender for Don Bosco and his children.

In fact, God, Who permitted these contradictions to arise, in order to make the work of the Oratory shine out the better, did not forget to sustain it, even by means of powerful friends at the Royal Court. Amongst these, we must mention with the deepest gratitude Count Joseph Provana di Collegno, in those days Minister of General Control, or Finance, at the court of King Charles Albert. Many times this charitable gentleman had given Don Bosco subsidies both on his own account and on that of his sovereign, whom he kept minutely informed on the affairs of the Oratory. The King himself, on his part, listened to him with pleasure, whenever he spoke on the subject. Upon the occasion of any special solemnity, the King used to read with pleasure the account which Don Bosco used to send him, or listened to that which the illustrious Count was wont to give him in words. Therefore, convinced as he was, of the great good which was being done to so many poor children in his dominions, he often used to let Don Bosco know how much he esteemed that part of the sacred ministry which he had assumed. He used to compare it to work among the Foreign Missions, and expressed the desire that in all the towns and villages in his kingdom institutions of this kind should be founded. Nor was his generous soul satisfied with words alone, and in that same year he had sent him as a New Year's gift three hundred francs with the words "For Don Bosco's little urchins."

Now with such a friend and protector as this, the cause of the Oratory could not suffer danger. Indeed, when he knew that the Corporation was holding a meeting for the purpose of decreeing the closing of the Oratory, he had the Count, who was one of the members, called to him, and charged

him to communicate in that sitting his august will in these words:—"It is the express will of the King that these festive meetings should be promoted and protected; if there is any danger of disorder, means shall be sought to prevent it, but nothing further."

For this purpose, the Count, who had sat in silence during the lively discussion raised by his colleagues, upon seeing that the order for the definite closing of the Oratory was being prepared, rose and asked permission to speak. He fulfilled his duty by manifesting the will of the King in the above mentioned words. Upon receiving this sovereign communication it is impossible to say how the Marquis and his satellites bore it. Each one bowed his head and remained silent and Cavour declared the meeting adjourned, sine die. Thus at the very moment when everything seemed lost, Our Lady brought it about that there should be no loss at all, but rather gain. It happened, too, in consequence of this, that some of these Councillors who had, perhaps, been badly informed and had shown themselves hostile or indifferent, became hence forward the friends and benefactors of Don Bosco and bis children.

Notwithstanding this, the Head of the Municipality of Turin continued to show his anger. Wherefore, he summoned Don Bosco to the Municipal Palace and after calling him an obstinate priest, concluded his discourse with these benevolent words:-"You may, perhaps, be working with a good intention, but the good you are doing is fraught with danger; I am bound to watch over the public tranquillity; I must therefore send some one to keep your person and your assemblies under surveillance. At the very first act which can in any way compromise you, I will disperse your little vagabonds, and your Reverence will have to answer to me for whatever happens."

Don Bosco went away from the Municipal Palace with greater confidence than ever; but, as for the Marquis, it was the last time that he showed his face in that place. The reason of this was either in consequence of the agitations with which the city was stirred in those days, or some other evil under which the Marquis himself was already labouring. The fact is that he was afflicted with an incurable gout, which, after causing him much suffering, finally brought him to the grave.

Nevertheless, during the short time that he remained in office, he sent every Sunday, some archers or civic guards to pass the day at the Oratory. Their office consisted in being present at and spying out all that was said and done both in Church and out of it. But the sentinels, upon seeing how the simple word of a Priest was enough to keep so large a number of children in order, on perceiving how merrily and peacefully they amused themselves, upon hearing the sermons and instructions which were given to them, showed themselves much edified. Far from holding these assemblies in suspicion, they soon began to have a great esteem for them. One of them narrated a conversation to the point, which occurred between himself and the Marquis. It was as follows:—

-"Well?" said the Marquis to him one day, "what have you seen, what have you heard in the midst of this rabble?"

-"My Lord, I have seen an immense crowd of boys amusing themselves in a thousand different ways, without a quarrel, and I said to myself:—"Oh! if all the boys in Turin would go on like this! we should soon have very little to do, and the prisons would no longer be so full." I have heard many sermons in Church which caused me great fear, and made me want to go to confession."

-"And what about politics?"

—"Of politics I have not heard even a single word; and it is only natural, because these boys would not have understood a scrap about them. As far as I could gather, Don Bosco's politics consist in teaching his boys how to be good Christians; in teaching them how to read and write, and do sums; in mixing with them to prevent bad words or deeds in playtime; in putting them in good situations with Christian masters; in visiting them during the week and giving them good advice; in fine, in doing all that their parents ought to do for them, but do not, either because they cannot or will not."

-"But do they never speak of revolution and war?"

—"Not a word has ever been said about these things, either in Church or out of it. As far as I can see, these boys would be willing and able to create a revolution and fight a battle over a basket of bread; I feel even confident that each would give such proofs of prowess as to deserve a medal of honour. Beyond this, my Lord, there is no danger of any kind."

The guard spoke the truth; these always were and are now the politics of the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales and its disciples.

(To be continued.)



OBITUARY.



Salesian Co-operators who have passed to eternity during the year 1895.

(Not including places in France, Belgium, Italy, Spain, and South Americathese being published in their respective Bulletins.)

"The names of the Associates who have passed to eternity during the year, shall be forwarded to the Members of the Association, in order that they may be remembered in the prayers of all their Brethren."

-Salesian Co-operators, Constitution &c. V. 7.

Of your charity pray for the souls of the following:

The Right Rev. Dr. Siedenbush, O.S.B., Savannah (United States).

The Rev. S. J. NORMANDEAU, Ogdensburg, N.J. (United States).

The Most Rev. Dr. Kirby, Rome (Italy).
The Most Rev. Dr. Jacopi, Agra (East Indies).
The Rev. J. A. Poullain, Compt, Mo. (United)

The Rev. H. L. FEYERLEIN, Fleinhausen (Bavaria). Mme. C. S. RIVERIN, St. Roch de Quebec (Canada).

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Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine: et lux perpetua luceat eis.

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