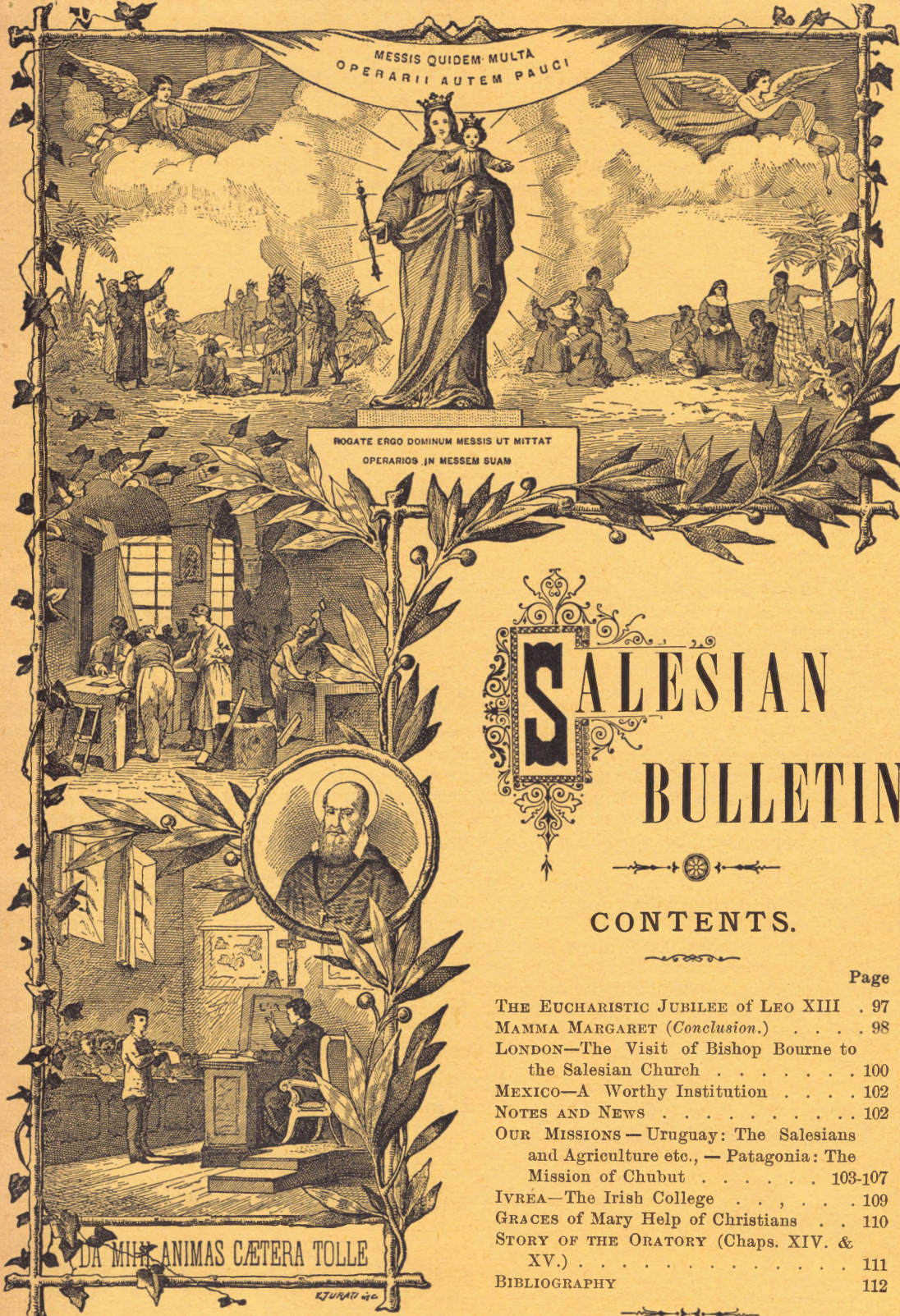


Correspondents are earnestly requested to repeat their Postal Address in every letter.



SALESIAN BULLETIN

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THE CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS.

ADVANTAGES OF MEMBERSHIP.

- 1.—During the erection of the magnificent Temple, recently consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, at the Castro Pretorio in Rome, it was established that, as soon as the grand edifice were finished, the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin and other prayers should be daily recited therein, and holy Mass offered on Fridays for all Contributors to the Building Fund of this International Monument of devotion to the Sacred Heart. In order to augment these spiritual advantages and admit to their enjoyment a greater number of the faithful, the Charitable Association of the Sacred Heart of Jesus has been established in the above named church; whereby all the members participate in the fruit of six Masses daily, in perpetuity, offered for the intentions of those who are inscribed in the books of the Association and have given an alms of One Shilling once for ever towards the Oratory of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
- 2.—Two of these daily Masses will be celebrated at the Altar of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, two at that of Mary Help of Christians, and two at St. Joseph's. We may remark that Don Bosco's venerable name is associated with the two last-mentioned Altars, for on them he offered the Holy Sacrifice during his last stay in Rome.
- 3.—Besides the six daily Masses all MEMBERS, both living and dead, participate in the fruits attached to:
 - (a) The recital of the Rosary and the imparting of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, which takes place every day in this church;
 - (b) The devotions performed by the little boys of the Oratory in their own private Chapel, including also the Mass at which they daily assist;
 - (c) All the Services, Novenas, Feasts and Solemnities whatsoever, that are celebrated in the aforesaid church;
 - (d) The prayers and good works performed by the Salesians themselves and by their protégés in their Homes, Colleges, Hospices, Oratories, Missions, etc., in Italy, in France, in Spain, in England, in Austria, in Switzerland, in America, in Asia, in Africa,—in a word, wherever they are established or may be called by Divine Providence.
- 4.—Participation in the holy Masses will commence on the day after the alms have come to hand, all the other spiritual advantages are enjoyed from the moment of inscription.
- 5.—The contributor, we repeat, of one shilling given once for all, is entitled to put his intentions in all the six Masses and all the other pious works, for his own advantage or for that of his friends, living or dead, and to change the intention *in every circumstance* according to his particular wants or desires.
- 6.—Inscriptions may also be made in favour of departed friends, of children, and of any class whatsoever of persons, even without their knowledge or consent.
- 7.—Persons desiring to participate more abundantly in these spiritual advantages may do so by repeating the alms of one shilling, thereby multiplying the inscriptions as often as they please.
- 8.—The offerings thus collected are destined for the maintenance of the boys of the Hospice or Oratory founded by Don Bosco on the grounds annexed to the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Salesians are in duty bound to fulfil all the obligations of the Charitable Association as above described.
- 9.—The names of subscribers will be entered on the Registers of the Association and preserved in the Temple of the Sacred Heart, in Rome, for perpetual remembrance.
- 10.—There are two centres for enrolment, one in Rome, the other in Turin. Address: The Rev. Rector, Ospizio del Sacro Cuore di Gesù, 42, Via Porta S. Lorenzo, Rome; or, The V. Rev. Michael Rua, Salesian Oratory, Turin, Italy.

Approbation.

We approve the "Charitable Association" and we wish it the greatest concourse of the faithful.
Given at Rome, etc., June 27, 1888.

✠ L. M. PARROCCI, Card. Vic.

The Papal Blessing.

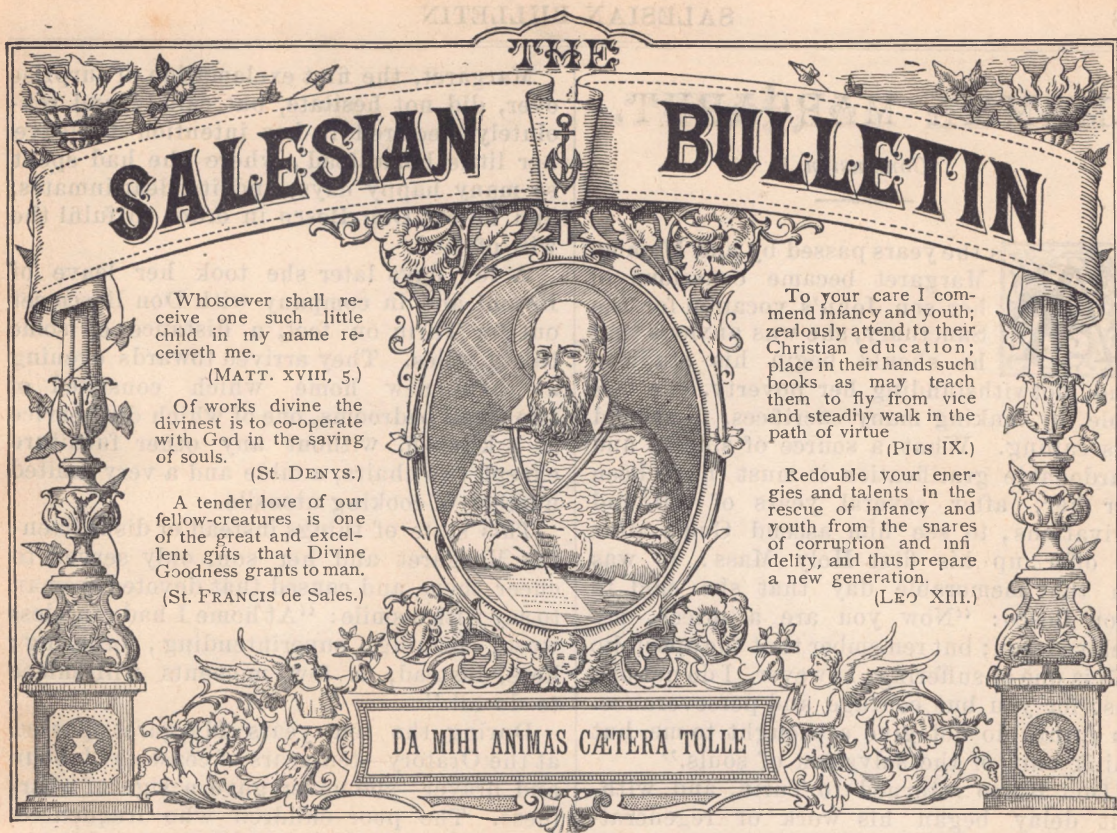
The Holy Father has deigned to accord the blessing asked for the Charitable Association of the Sacred Heart.

Given from the Vatican, June 30th, 1888.

ANGELO RINALDI, Chaplain, Sec.

N.B.—A chromo-lithographic reduction of the classic painting, placed above the High Altar in the Church of the Sacred Heart (Rome), will be sent as a "Certificate of Inscription" to the Pious Association for every offering received.

On application full particulars will be given at the Salesian Oratory, Turin, Italy.



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

(MATT. XVIII, 5.)

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.)

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.)

DA MIHI ANIMAS CAETERA TOLLE

Vol. II.—No. 45.

July 15, 1896.

Registered for transmission abroad

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THE EUCHARISTIC JUBILEE
OF
HIS HOLINESS LEO XIII.

THE Eucharistic Jubilee of Our Holy Father LEO XIII., which occurred on the 21st of June last, feast of St. Aloysius, excited intense joy and enthusiasm in the hearts of the Salesians and of the children entrusted to their care. That happy event was celebrated with every possible splendour and solemnity in all our Houses, even among the Indians of our Missions. On that memorable day our Churches and Chapels echoed and re-echoed with the chorus

of praise and thanksgiving which arose spontaneously from the heart of the entire Salesian Family, whilst hundreds and thousands of our little children devoutly approached the Altar-rails to offer up a General Communion for the August Head of the Church as a signal proof of their attachment and gratitude towards him.

Supreme Pontiff! on this propitious occasion of rejoicing and festivity, we solemnly protest our attachment and unalterable devotion to the See of Peter and to You, his worthy Successor. Your August Name will ever remain impressed on our hearts, and will ever shine forth in the Annals of our humble Society which already owes so much to you.

MAMMA MARGARET.

(Conclusion.)

As the years passed by and Mamma Margaret became conscious of her son John's vocation for the Sanctuary, she was anxious that he should begin his studies; and, notwithstanding her poverty, she was able, by making many sacrifices, to second his calling. What a source of sincere and pardonable gratification it must have been for her, after several years of toil and privations, to see him ascend God's altar to offer up his first Holy Mass! It was on that memorable day that she said to Don Bosco: "Now you are a priest, my beloved son; but remember that the apostolic life is one of suffering; however, I do not ask rest for you but courage and perseverance. In future do not give a thought to me, but think only of the salvation of souls."

Don Bosco returned to Turin, and without delay began his work of regenerating the poor and abandoned youth of that city; whilst Margaret continued peacefully to pass her days at Becchi with her eldest son Joseph and his family. She was far from suspecting that in a short time she would be leaving for ever her humble but dear home. Yet such was the case. God had destined her to be the generous helper of Don Bosco in the foundation of the Salesian Oratory.

In fact, Don Bosco on recovering from a severe illness in 1846, was ordered by the doctors who attended him, to pass a few weeks at Becchi in order to recruit his health. Whilst there in the semi-solitude of his native home, he had time to reflect on serious difficulties, which he had not yet been able to solve. Obligated to leave the Baroli Refuge, where he had served as chaplain for some five years, he had rented the field and two rooms of a certain Pinardi, where the Oratory had been transported. Now who would take care of his small household? He bethought himself of his mother; and without delay he made known his anxieties to her—the retirement of Pinardi's enclosure, the bad repute of Valdocco, the quarter of the city where the Oratory was situated, and, despite these disadvantages, the necessity of having someone to manage the house.

Margaret, the first exclamation of surprise over, did not hesitate, but calmly and resolutely declared it her intention to leave her little homestead, where she had spent so many happy days, and its dear inmates, and follow Don Bosco in order to fulfil the will of God.

A few days later she took her leave of Becchi and in company with Don Bosco set out for Turin on foot, a distance of some thirty miles. They arrived towards evening at their new home which consisted of two small bedrooms, one of which did service as a kitchen, without any other furniture except two chairs, a table and a very limited number of cooking utensils.

This state of things instead of disheartening Margaret and her son, only served to cheer them, and caused that devoted woman to say with a smile: "At home I had ceaseless work, cleaning, superintending, ordering; here, instead, a few moments will suffice to do all."

During the ten years Margaret passed at the Oratory—ten years of ceaseless labour and prayer—she never gave a sign of weariness. The poor children who frequented the Oratory soon learned to love this amiable and indefatigable woman and looked upon her as a mother. It was here that she earned the sweet title of Mamma, that has ever since been inseparable from her name. How little these forlorn and destitute children had known of the comforts of a cheerful fireside, what strangers many had been to the love of a father or mother! Hence how sweetly the loving care and affection of Margaret broke in upon their rude and untamed minds, throwing a charm around and making them sensible that they were no longer forgotten and abandoned! If a child were sad, she did not rest until his suffering was alleviated and his face wore a smile of happiness. If interrupted in prayer or work, she suspended prayer, but not work; though busy, she listened attentively, and never sent anyone away without being cheered or consoled.

Mamma Margaret was the soul of the Salesian Society in its first years. Don Bosco was frequently absent, visiting hospitals or prisons, or begging subscriptions. Notwithstanding this, order and regularity reigned in the Oratory owing to Mamma Margaret's presence, her activity, goodness, and the rectitude of her judgment, for she saw to everything. Her influence upon the young lads was remarkable, whilst her

tenderness won the wayward and undisciplined. It was a custom with her never to leave a reprimanded child alone to brood; and she hastened to apply balm to the culprit's wound.

"What have you done?" she would say; "You know we only desire your happiness; why, then, do you not help us? If you behave yourself we should be happy, and you also. How will you get on when you are older and far away from here? Poor child!" She left him softened and repentant.

Sometimes, but never without authority, she remitted the punishment, brought the little culprit to the kitchen, saying, as she gave him something to eat: "Accept this from Don Bosco, who works so hard for you boys! Are you not ashamed to give him pain? If he acted so in your place, what would you do? I am sure that I should not have his patience." The child, confused at these words, generally said he would ask pardon. "Don Bosco's pardon is not all," continued Margaret, "God is first! Our all-loving Creator, Who not only sees our actions but our most secret thoughts; the anger you doubtless felt as you were chidden,

or the want of resolution to change your conduct. Ask pardon, then, of God from your heart."

Many simple but beautiful episodes of Mamma Margaret's sweet and gentle mode of education could be narrated, but it would not be possible to do so in the limits prescribed to the present article. It would, however, be unjust to terminate this sketch without speaking of her spirit of poverty and detachment from the things of this world. She often repeated: "I was born in poverty, and I desire to live and die in

poverty." And next to her love and benevolence, her spirit of poverty always appeared to us remarkable. When she arrived with her son at the Oratory in 1846, their position was indeed gloomy. Besides the debts that had been already contracted, the daily expenses were large. Food and clothing had to be given to the wretched, destitute children who were devoid of help, save what they received at the Oratory. Money was necessary; and Mamma Margaret cheerfully concurred in this noble work by selling all

she possessed at her old home; she at once sent for and sold her wedding presents, still carefully preserved through all these years; her fine house-linen, and even her *corona* — the pearl ornaments which had been her wedding heirloom, the ornaments so precious to Italian women that they will suffer starvation before they will part with them. She only possessed one cloak, of which it was impossible to distinguish the original colour. Don Bosco begged her for his sake to buy another.

"But, my dear John," she protested, "this will do well enough. Look, there is not a spot on it."

"No, mother, it will not; poor people

in the streets have even better."

"But why should you wish me to buy another while we want so many necessities?"

"I decidedly wish you to have a new cloak. How much will it cost?"

"Twenty francs."

"Here they are."

Margaret went to her work. A week passed, then another; but the cloak did not appear.

"Mother! the cloak?"

"Yes, John, but I cannot buy it without money."



MAMMA MARGARET.

"But the twenty francs?"

"Gone; I could not spend them on a cloak, as there was a small debt due at the grocer's; then one boy wanted a tie, another a pair of shoes, so the cloak was out of the question. Oh! those shoes and boots do impoverish the mother of a large family!"

"Mother, I will not allow you to turn the conversation—you require a cloak for my credit's sake."

"In that case I must buy one."

"Do, Mother; here is another twenty-franc piece."

"Thank you." But this, too, was expended in clothing the orphans.

One day a distinguished personage on visiting the Oratory, entered into conversation with Mamma Margaret, and offered her a pinch of snuff. "Take it," he said, "it relieves the head."

"No, thank you; the pinch is nothing, but what should I do if I acquired the habit of snufftaking?"

"What would you do? A question easily answered—take my snuff-box." The snuff-box was silver. Much against her will, Margaret did so, but it was transformed into boots and shoes for her orphans.

She never shared in the additional fare given to the boys on festival days. Her diet was *polenta* and *peperone*, or an onion with bread. "We are poor" was her refrain.

At her death no vestige was found of any of life's comforts. The women who laid her out asked Don Bosco's permission to keep her clothes and linen as souvenirs, but she had none. Her only gown was on her in the coffin!

Towards the winter of 1856, by the side of the old house, a new boarding-school sprang up as if by magic. Don Bosco's heart overflowed with gratitude, for now he would be able to recover at least a hundred and fifty boys; nothing would have marred his happiness except that the failing health of his beloved, saintly mother threw a veil of anxious sadness over the household.

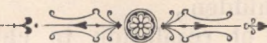
"Ah!" Margaret was heard to say, when helping to light the chafing dishes to dry the new walls, "these grand corridors are not for me." And, in fact, instead of changing to the new house, she was confined to bed in her old room. She called her two sons, and conversed with them to make her last wishes known. She advised Joseph to educate his children in their own sphere of life, unless they gave indications of studious tastes. "Poverty has its temptations," she

said, "but the temptations of riches are greater. I wish my grandchildren's lot to be like mine: comfortable, but working, and fully occupied; above all, to live in peace and harmony with one another; a union which will be thoroughly preserved if they abide in concord with the love of God."

Don Bosco thought he knew his mother well, but the keen and penetrating mind she now displayed amazed him. "My dear John, I wish to speak to you as in confession. Have confidence in your fellow-labourers in the Lord's vineyard, but see that their aim be the glory of God. Despise splendour in your works; have effective and real poverty as your object. Many love poverty in theory, but not in practice. The most efficacious base of instruction is to willingly undertake what we command. As your institution increases it should increase likewise in humility; and God will abundantly bless it." She then entered into minute, confidential details and added: "It is a great consolation to receive the last Sacraments of the Church from one of my sons, and to see many young scholars wearing the soutane, some even priests—your children, my dear John, and a few mine. I commend myself to your prayers and to theirs, and if God in His mercy receives me, I shall not forget any of you in Heaven."

The last Sacraments were administered to her by Don Bosco. After which she said: "Good-bye, my dear children; remember that sorrow and suffering are the portion here below." A few moments later she breathed her last. It was the 25th of November 1856.

Those who have known Mamma Margaret can never forget her. Her sweet image is indelibly impressed on their memory and they recall with tender love the bright days of pure happiness they spent under her maternal care.



LONDON.

THE VISIT OF BISHOP BOURNE TO THE SALESIAN CHURCH.

THE feast of the Sacred Heart, titular feast of the Salesian Church at West Battersea, London, was kept most solemnly, by the Salesian Fathers there on the 21st of June, feast of St. Aloysius. It had been

postponed, owing to the visit of his Lordship, Monsignor Bourne, the newly-consecrated Coadjutor-Bishop of Southwark.

In the morning solemn High Mass *coram Episcopo* was celebrated by the Rev. Father Barni. His Lordship pronounced an eloquent panegyric *infra Missam*, on the life and

fine Missal. It is a copy of the one presented by the Salesians to Our Holy Father Leo XIII. on the occasion of his Episcopal Jubilee and used by him at the Jubilee Mass. Not only the elegant binding, but the paper, the type and illuminations were productions of the Industrial Schools founded by Don Bosco,

where hundreds and hundreds of boys learn how to gain an honest livelihood and are given a good Christian education. The illuminated Decorations are reproductions of the best masters, the *chef d'œuvre* being the plate that precedes the Canon. It is an example of the best style of the 14th century and is a fac-simile reproduction of the *Crucifixion* in miniature that adorns the historic Missal of Cardinal della Rovere. It has been finely printed in sixteen colours, the press that brought it out having won several gold medals.

In the afternoon his Lordship administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to about twenty-five adults and seventy children. Mr. Bellasio of the *Lancaster Herald*, and Mde. Whiting kindly consented to stand as sponsors. His Lordship was obliged to leave early in the evening, as he had to give Confirmation at Greenwich. It was his first visit to the Salesian House since his elevation to the Episcopate,



THE RIGHT REV. FRANCIS BOURNE
Coadjutor-Bishop of Southwark.

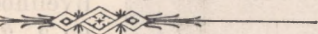
virtues of St. Aloysius. Haydn's *Sixteenth Mass* was effectively rendered by the choir and orchestra under the able direction of Father Rabagliati.

After dinner several addresses in English and Latin, in poetry and prose, were read and presented to his Lordship. Then followed the presentation to Monsignor Bourne of a

and long indeed will it be remembered. His Lordship's kindness of manner, his homeliness and his expression of good will towards our Society endeared him to all hearts.

In the evening Solemn Vespers were sung at seven o'clock, followed by a sermon by the Rev. Father Diamond. Then came a procession of the Blessed Sacrament. Very

beautiful did the Church look as the long procession slowly wound its way around the stately edifice. The altar, one mass of flowers and candles, the contrasting colours of the banners carried in procession, the beautiful new canopy, and finally, the devout recollection of the congregation presented a scene to be looked on rather than described. The festivities were brought to a close by Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.



MEXICO.

A WORTHY INSTITUTION.

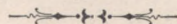
Under the above title, the *Two Republics*, Mexico, publishes the following article:

THE Salesian College of Arts and Trades, situated in the Colonia Santa Julia, is nearing completion. This edifice, which is 320 feet by 250, will have two stories; the ground-floor comprises the workshops, classrooms, refectories and kitchen, whilst the upper floor will be used as dormitories and infirmary. The building when completed will be able to accommodate at least 500 children.

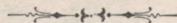
The Institute is destined for the education of poor children, who will be instructed in the arts, and taught the trades, by which they can gain an honest livelihood. The instruction will be both theoretical and practical. Children who show especial intelligence and application, and who desire to pursue a regular course of study, can do so in the same establishment. The workshops, now in process of construction, are for shoemakers, saddlers, joiners, blacksmiths, bakers, for the printing and bookbinding. As soon as possible other trades will be taught, as the demands of the school call for them. The pupils will have two hours of recitation each day, besides drawing, singing and instrumental music. To the south of the edifice, the foundations of an asylum for indigent girls have been laid. This building will be able to contain 200 interns and 100 externs who will be instructed in affairs appropriate to their sex, and in domestic matters. There is also projected between the building above described a Church of a Romanesque style of architecture; likewise an agricultural school for young men. All these works are to be accomplished solely by philanthropy as the institution is not endowed. Work is on the point of being suspended for lack of means.



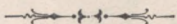
HIS LORDSHIP MONSIGNOR CAGLIERO, Vicar-Apostolic of Patagonia, during his recent pastoral visit to the Mission of Chubut, set on foot the Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul and inaugurated a new Salesian Hospital.



THE REV. FATHER TRIONE of the Salesian Oratory, Turin, has just returned from Sicily where he has been holding Conferences on the Salesian Institution and its Missions. Among the more important ones were those of Messina, Patti, Cefalù, Palermo, Alcamo, Marsala, Terranova, Mazzara, Nota, Syracuse, Vizzini, Pedara, Bronte, Randazzo, Catania and Acireale.

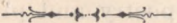


A FEW weeks ago a beautiful statue of St. Anthony of Padua was erected in the Church of the Sacred Heart at Battersea, London. This was in consequence of the many graces and favours that have lately been obtained in that parish through the intercession of this great saint. Two little boxes were placed at the foot of the Altar, one for petitions and the other for alms for St. Anthony's Bread. The Superior of the Mission, Very Rev. Father Macey, will be glad to receive offerings for St. Anthony's Bread in favour of the orphans who are being educated there.



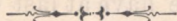
IN April last the Holy Father, in his sovereign goodness, presented the Salesian Fathers attached to the Hospice of the Sacred Heart in Rome, with a beautiful present. It was brought to Father Cesar Cagliero, Procurator-General of the Salesian Society by the Steward of His Holiness, Commendatore Sterbini.

The precious gift is a life-size portrait of Leo XIII. The workmanship is superb and the Holy Father seems almost to live in his likeness. It is surrounded by a rich and elegant frame. It will be a lasting memorial of the paternal bounty of the great Pontiff Leo XIII. to the sons of Don Bosco.



THE VERY REV. FATHER RABAGLIATI, Superior of the Salesians of Columbia, to

satisfy the repeated wish of the Archbishop of Bogota, founded in February last a Mission House on the *Llanos de S. Martin*. They had no sooner taken possession of the new House—the gift of our generous friend and benefactor, Señor Benito Rondon—when they were surrounded by a numerous tribe of Indians who had come to bid the “Padres Misioneros” welcome. After remaining some hours with the Salesian Fathers they returned to their encampment, well-pleased with the kindly manner in which they had been treated. We earnestly recommend this important Mission to the prayers of our Co-operators.



AMONG the many objects and memorials the Salesians brought from Paraguay, we may mention an Almanac for the year 1765. This was the year preceding the expulsion of the Jesuits, and the Almanac was written by one of the good Jesuit Fathers. Besides the calendar it contains a guide for the agriculture peculiar to the climate of the Republic. It is without doubt the fruit of the labours and observations of the Jesuit Fathers during their fruitful missionary work in Paraguay. This Almanac is so much the more precious as only one other copy exists. We can now make extracts from this guide, which will certainly be of great service to our confrères who are about to plant some agricultural colonies in the Republic.



WE publish with pleasure the following tribute of thanks, and we may add of praise, to the generous Irish residents of South America. It is taken from the Buenos Ayres *Southern Cross*:

“The undersigned, Superior of the Salesian Fathers, begs to return thanks to the Irish and Irish-Argentine residents of the Province of Buenos Ayres for their generous donations to the Pious IX. College of Arts and Trades. The donations were sent in by Mr. Francis H. Mulhall and Mr. James Ussher... He also desires to assure them that the 450 poor children which the College has in charge will pray fervently to God for their benefactors.

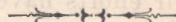
“The names of the benefactors will be published later on in the English papers of Buenos Ayres.

JOSEPH VESPIGNANI,
Salesian Priest.



URUGUAY.

THE SALESIANS AND AGRICULTURE.



We conclude the correspondence of our deeply lamented MONSIGNOR LASAGNA with the two following letters, which were the last written by him.

VERY REV. AND DEAR FATHER,

I wrote to you a short time ago to give you, in detail, news about my travels across the wildest parts of South America, where we have already established Missions to gain over to Jesus Christ the poor Indians who are still living in Paganism. To-day I am about to direct your thoughts to subjects widely different, but which will not be disagreeable to you. My intention, then, is, in this letter, to make known to you another field of Apostolic labour where your sons have long been dispensing the gifts of no common activity and energy. I am speaking of the natural sciences which several Salesians are cultivating with success, whilst devoting themselves especially to those which ensure the most practical results and are of more immediate advantage to the people.

I will not, then, dwell on the works which our confrère Father Bardariotti has undertaken, namely the formation of the most beautiful collection of *coleoptera* owned by anybody in Brazil.

Armed with powerful microscopes and above all with patience, he has discovered the existence and has studied the structure of some new insects in the tropical zone. More than this, he has described and classified them so well, that the scientists of Europe, especially those of Germany, value highly the labours of this humble missionary. The scientific reviews have already attached his name to many of these insects, as, for example, the *mirmicofilus Bardariottii*.

Neither will I tell you of the profound studies made by our regretted Father Cipriano aided by Fathers Minichinelli, Lino, Delvalle and Morandi in the geology and mineralogy of Uruguay. They have got together a fine mineralogical Museum, and thanks to their excavations carried on with the most judicious patience, they have discovered fossil of antediluvian animals, agates and especially onyxes in large numbers.

I wish rather to speak to you about what our confrères have done for agriculture and meteorology. In these two branches of knowledge their efforts have been crowned with such brilliant success, that we consider ourselves amply repaid for our troubles, our expenses and, above all, for the difficulties which it has been necessary to bear. The people who live in these Republics in the region of the River Plata, are scattered over its wide extent, and almost all follow the pastoral life; thus the raising of stock was the only source of public and private wealth. Millions of oxen, cows, horses and sheep pasture on the *pampas* which form a long dreary region stretching from Argentina to the Cordilleras, and from the undulating plains of Uruguay to the borders of Brazil. At the time of our coming into the country, agriculture was reduced to some few crops of cereals and vegetables. Just think, now, the wheat of the country then grown was not sufficient for its scanty population, and they had to turn to the United States for help. As for the vine, it was a rare plant and cultivated with the greatest care by a small number of fortunate individuals who were able to provide their tables with a few bunches of ripe grapes.

Far from thinking of extending its cultivation, they all bowed down before an ancient, deep-rooted prejudice, which asserted a complete incompatibility between the vine and the climate of that part of South America. People used to say that the soil would not support its cultivation, and that all attempts up till then had met with failure, etc., etc. I spare you the rest of the foolish stories which there were on this subject.

As I was incredulous in the face of all these pretended lessons of experience, I made up my mind, on the very first day of my arrival in Uruguay, to make some wine myself, at least for Mass. That which we bought tasted like some abominable drug made up of all sorts of ingredients. I began by making use of native grapes cultivated in the garden. They were, however, very

watery and poor in quality, and could not, under any circumstances, produce a suitable wine. But I improved on my meagre vintage, and added to it, when fermenting, raisins procured from Europe. I began thus by obtaining a modest triumph in producing a fairly agreeable wine, and what is still more precious, one that could be used with perfect safety at the Altar. Afterwards, in order to commence a vine-nursery, I went to all the gardens where there was a good variety of vines.

I wrote also for some from Italy, and Mr. Rinetti twice sent me from Montemagno slips of more than twenty varieties. After many trials we have at last obtained grapes of exquisite quality, several varieties of which, finding the soil and climate favourable, produce incredible quantities. Quite little stocks of *Nebbiolo*, *Crovetto* and *Dolcetto*, but especially the French plants of *Cavernais* and *Bourgogne*, cultivated according to the Guiot system, give us an average of fourteen to sixteen kgrs. per stock! Our vineyards offer a unique spectacle, and crowds of persons come to our House for the express purpose of seeing for themselves their surprising fruitfulness. Our wine is of a superior quality, as the medals which we have gained at the Exhibitions at Genoa, Chicago and Montevideo, attest. For several years past we have been supplying Altar wine to the greater part of the parishes in Uruguay, even in the most distant provinces. But what I had most at heart, was to ensure to the poor European emigrants work and an honest livelihood, by means of the cultivation of the vine. To those among them who owned a plot of land, I gave slips gratuitously, together with instructions and encouragement. As a consequence, within a very short space of time we saw rising near us, the beautiful vineyards of M.M. Saetone, Roca and Pastorino; and the thing assumed such proportions that the last mentioned proprietor has been selling for several years past more than fifty thousand francs worth of grapes every year. I made our dear Co-operators the brothers Montaldo come from St.-Nicholas de los Arroyos, and gave them also vine stocks and instructions; now they make more than a thousand hectolitres of wine every year.

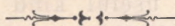
I did not confine myself to this. I strove to awaken interest among the rich proprietors of the country; and as they knew absolutely nothing about the cultivation of the vine, I brought to them honest families of vine-

dressers of our country to make the attempt on half their lands at advantageous conditions for both sides. And in order to prevent distrust and fear, I prepared the contracts with my own hand, making the parties sign them, and then appending my own signature as a guarantee to their reciprocal good-faith. I was thus able to obtain for my compatriots the charge of planting the vineyards of MM. Artagaveitia, Gallinal and Arocena, lawyers; of MM. Podestà, Lavalle, Horten, Sieura, Etchevarria and a hundred others besides, to the immense profit of our good emigrants and the proprietors, too. The latter, glad to be able to employ their capital thus, continue actively to plant extensive vineyards. This is carried on to such a degree, that several domains already yield a vintage of *three thousand, five thousand and even ten thousand quintals of grapes* every year. It is once more plain that in many things it is enough to strike the first blow at routine in order to destroy foolish prejudices, in a word to give the first impulse to an idea and thus give rise to great results. In another letter I will continue this subject, and our Co operators may perhaps find in it matters of some interest; our young missionaries, too, called to spread, little by little, over the whole of the Earth the light of the gospel and of civilisation, may perhaps, also find them of some service.

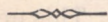
In conclusion, receive, beloved Father, the sincere homage, veneration and attachment of

Your devoted and affectionate son in Christ,

✠ LOUIS, *Bishop of Tripoli.*



THE SALESIANS AND METEOROLOGY.



VERY REV. AND DEAR FATHER,

YOU doubtless remember that in the Geographical Congress held at Venice in 1880, under the presidency of the celebrated Ferdinand de Lesseps, a motion concerning us was unanimously carried. The Congress begged Don Bosco to encourage his Missionaries to study the meteorological conditions of South America, and especially the phenomena that occur in its most southern part, from the River Plata to Magellan Straits and Cape Horn. It is precisely in this region that the storms and frightful hurricanes which afterwards

influence the general state of the atmosphere, take their rise.

The late Father Denza, who had proposed the motion, went afterwards to our venerated Don Bosco; he received from him a most cordial welcome and consoling assurances. Indeed, when at my return to Italy in 1881 our beloved Father entrusted the Mission to me—I had almost said gave me the order to set myself to the work—I obeyed with ardour. I sent at once our missionary Father Albanello to the Observatory at Moncalieri to acquire a practical knowledge of meteorology and of the instruments made use of. Afterwards I purchased, at the expense of the Mission, first class appliances for a complete Observatory, and at my return to Villa Colon I had a tower built, in which I established the meteorological station.

I shall never forget the solemn inauguration which took place on October 7th, 1882. At that very time Montevideo possessed an illustrious guest, Mgr. Mario Mocenni, one of the most distinguished prelates, now Cardinal but then Internuncio at Brazil. It was to him, then, in quality of representative of the Pope the great promoter of advanced study, that the solemnity was dedicated. A number of guests gathered round the monument, amongst whom we must mention the Bishop of Montevideo, a number of ecclesiastics and distinguished men, together with simple citizens and officials of the government of Uruguay.

Influenced by the same thought, and inspired equally by Don Bosco, Mgr. Cagliari later on founded his Observatory at Patagones on the Rio Negro, Mgr. Fagnano another at Puntarenas on the Magellan Straits and Fr. Tomatis another at San Nicolas de los Arroyos; we are not counting those established by ourselves at Paysandú and other less important stations. In this way we have enclosed as in a scientific net the whole of the immense zone between 30° South latitude and the extreme point of South America. Some of these stations, I must confess, could not be kept up through a series of insurmountable difficulties; but our own, that of Villa Colon, has overcome every obstacle. I assure you that we had much to put up with and to suffer, but we have been at last able, by dint of constancy, to reap an abundant harvest of excellent results and consoling triumphs.

I am glad to say that this tide of success is due, in great part, to the foresight and

talent of our worthy confrère Father Morandi who has directed the labours of our Observatory for more than ten years.

Every month we publish in Spanish a meteorological Bulletin in which are entered all the observations that have been made, down to the most minute. It treats thoroughly scientific questions of any real importance, and is sent to all the Observatories and principal scientific centres of the entire world.

Fr. Morandi has collected, analysed and discussed with unusual sagacity the observations that have been collected since the foundation of our Observatory, as well as others which he discovered in the State archives. He has written a *Monography on the Rains in the Republic of Uruguay*, in which he shows the periodicity, unsuspected till then, of four great storms which, every year, rage round these coasts. This work was so remarkable, that M. Charles Honoré, engineer and astronomer, spoke most highly of it in the papers, and gave a special name to these phenomena, whose motions are controlled by what is henceforth to be known as the *Morandi Law*.

We have in like manner been able to make a special study of the terrible cyclones which at times fall upon us, ravaging our harvests, uprooting trees, overturning houses, damaging and wrecking ships and the boats belonging to the port. Father Morandi has met with such success in his studies that as a rule he has been able to foresee a long time in advance the approach of these frightful atmospheric disturbances. He has thus been able to warn the authorities of Montevideo in due time, so that they, by hoisting the flag of alarm, have, in their turn, been able to prevent numbers of shipwrecks and incalculable misfortunes.

In order to recognise these important services, Colonel Dupuis, Commandant of the port of Montevideo, sent us an official note, reproduced at his request in all the journals of the capital. This note contained, in favour of the Observatory, the warmest praises and thanks in gratitude for the precious forecasts to which so many interests of every order owe their preservation and safety. From time to time we still find in the papers praises in connection with instances like these. The learned Bishop of Montevideo himself, Dr. Soler, has several times deigned to write to Father Morandi to congratulate him; only lately in a masterly paper, his Lordship called our confrère *the prophet of science*.

Matters have now come to such a point that, in order to receive our communications more promptly, the Government has had a special telephone wire, more than six miles long, constructed to connect our Observatory with the General Post Office in the capital. This has given us much work and causes a great deal of trouble; indeed, when the weather is threatening, ships will not raise their anchors without knowing the forecasts of our Observatory.

In April last, Montevideo held an Agricultural Exhibition. On this occasion a Congress on Agriculture was held. Many of the most noted and learned personages of the State took part in it. In this assembly of manufactures and skilled engineers a single cassock represented the clergy. It was that of Father Morandi who was placed at the head of three important Commissions of which two chose him for their spokesman. He was thus able to display his activity and knowledge, whilst lending his aid in solving questions of the highest importance, not only in the domain of science but also in that of morals. Through his influence a project for the reformation of the instruction and education of country children was discussed and carried.

They decided also to create a wide system of meteorological stations connected with the central Observatory and dependant on it. At this Exhibition we presented samples of wines, which were honoured with a medal. Talking of medals, one of our confrères, Father Dominic Zatti, has obtained four for himself alone; one for honey, another for a new and very useful kind of bee-hive, a third for an apparatus, worked by steam, for extracting in excellent condition the honey and wax, and the last for a liquor called *Eucaliptine*. This product has received its name from the fact that it contains the essence of the eucalyptus, a precious tree which grows here to an enormous height, and is found all over the country.

You will easily see, Very Rev. Father, that even outside the interest of science in general and those of our own people in particular, these studies are dear to us because the result helps to uproot wide-spread prejudices planted everywhere in South America by the Free-masons, such as—that priests are retrogrades, that religion is the enemy of science and progress, that faith clips the wings of genius and cannot endure the development of civilisation. All this nonsense the sectarian papers, the novels and pamphlets

of these false scientists are full of; but in the face of facts, these absurd inventions are scattered like mist before the rising sun.

You will also be glad to know that your children are endeavouring to extend the Kingdom of Jesus Christ among the savages; that they are not delaying to raise on high the standard of the Cross in the midst of the young Republics of South America; that they are gathering round this divine standard, the symbol of true progress and civilisation, the high and the lowly of this world in the same love.

Father Vespignani has also had a fine Observatory built at Buenos Ayres. For ourselves we hope to soon add to our meteorological, seismic, magnetic and electrical departments, one also for astronomy; in a word we wish to undertake studies and labours of such a nature as to reflect great honour on our Society and our country from which we are so far, but which has all the thoughts of our mind and the affections of our heart.


In conclusion, Very Rev. Father, recommend me to God in your prayers, and accept once more the sentiments of profound esteem and veneration which animate

Your affectionate son in J. C.,

✠ LOUIS, *Bishop of Tripoli.*

PATAGONIA.

THE MISSION OF CHUBUT.

N the 1st of October last Monsignor Cagliari, Titular Bishop of Magida and Vicar Apostolic of Patagonia, embarked at Buenos Ayres on the steamer *Primer de Mayo* for the Mission of Chubut in Central Patagonia.

On his arrival at Trelew, some twelve miles distant from Rawson the capital of the territory and centre of the Mission, he was enthusiastically received not only by the Salesian Fathers and pupils of the College of Our Lady Help of Christians, but also by the Governor of the Territory and many ladies and gentlemen, who, having heard of his Lordship's intended visit, had come down from the capital to welcome him.

Leaving Trelew, Monsignor Cagliari set out for Rawson accompanied by this numerous *cortège*, and arrived there late in the evening. During his stay at the capital, he preached

almost every day and administered the Sacraments of Confirmation and Baptism to a goodly number. Among those baptized were three Welsh converts. The solemnity and novelty of the functions attracted many Protestants; and some of the American papers took occasion to note the marked difference that exists between the Catholic missionary who assiduously devotes himself to spreading the Gospel of Christ, and the Protestant pastor who troubles himself very little about his flock, giving up almost all his time to his family.

His Lordship desiring to pay a visit to Trelew to give the four or five Catholic families there the benefit of his sacred ministry, the Governor placed at his disposal his own carriage and accompanied him thither. As there was no Church a small Chapel was improvised in the house of a good Genoese merchant named Pasquale Daleoso. Here the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered to seven children, a short sermon preached, and before leaving the Bishop presented each with a souvenir.

During his visit to Rawson, Monsignor Cagliari did not forget the Tehuelches Indians. Profiting by the presence of the Cacique Salpo at the capital, he took occasion to impress upon his mind the necessity of the Indians of his tribe being instructed in our Holy Religion and baptized. Moved by his words the Cacique gave his consent, and his Lordship at once sent Father Bernard Vacchina on this important mission.

The following geographical and historical items of Chubut are from the pen of Monsignor Cagliari:

PATAGONIA is divided into three regions, northern, central and southern. Northern Patagonia lies between 36° and 42° south latitude and comprises the territories of Rio Negro and Neuquen; Central Patagonia extends from latitude 42° to 46° south, and forms the extensive territory of Chubut. These three immense territories make up our Vicariate, whilst the large tract of country that lies south of the Vicariate together with Tierra del Fuego forms the Apostolic Prefecture entrusted to Monsignor Fagnano.

Chubut and its History.

It is only recently that Chubut has been explored by our Missionaries and the saving Truths of our holy Religion announced by them to the Tehuelches Indians.

The word Chubut means *winding river*; in fact the country takes its name from the river itself, which, rising in the Cordilleras on the western confines of Chili, flows east for more than three

hundred leagues before discharging itself into the Atlantic. It has many tributaries of but little importance, the largest being the Chico; they form, however a vast net-work of streams that water and fertilize the numerous valleys.

The water of the Chubut is yellow and limy like that of the Tiber, and as there is no other to be found in the neighbourhood this has to be used, and happy is he who owns a filter.

The territory of Chubut has an area of about 140,000 sq. miles and is a little larger than the British Isles. Scarcely half of it, however, is fit for cultivation or pasture; the remainder of the country presenting for the most part a melancholy and barren appearance, has a low temperature, is continually assailed by strong and lasting winds and is without the blessing of rain to restore and fertilize it.

Sometimes the southern winds which come from the icy zone are so bitterly cold that in a moment they change summer into winter, and he who does not wish to take cold runs to put on woollen garments at once.

The Undisputed Monarchs of the Land.

The undisputed monarchs of this land who range its dreary plains in untamed wildness, have been, and still are, the puma, the ostrich, the guanaco which feeds and clothes the wandering Indian with its flesh and valuable skin, the *piche* or wild boar, whilst the eagle and vulture and other rapacious birds are seen wheeling over the mountains and soaring over the plains. Owing to the wind and severe cold very few insects or venomous reptiles are to be found.

The puma, when hungry, will often attack the wayfarer, as indeed happened quite recently to a poor woman. She was travelling from Port St. Julian with her two sons and a step-son. As their provisions ran short the young men descended the mountains into one of the valleys below in search of a guanaco or other animal to appease their hunger. They were foolish enough to leave their mother alone and unprotected, telling her not to move until they returned, so that she might not lose her way.

Now whether the unhappy woman, tired of waiting, had gone in quest of her sons, or continued the journey, is not known; the fact, however, is that when the young men came back the woman was gone! They ran about in all directions, shouting at the pitch of their voices, but all in vain. After three long days of weary searching they came across a few shreds of their mother's dress! The pumas had devoured her!

Some Aspects of the Country.

The sea-coast is literally strewn with beautiful molluscs, especially with *mejillones* of the ostra class, whilst the sea-wolf, seal, dolphin and whale can be seen roaming through the waters around the shore.

Nuevo Gulf is one of the principal ports of Central Patagonia. Its entrance is only about

seven miles wide, but within it is quite a small sea, being forty-five miles long and thirty-eight broad. It is the intention of the government to make a naval port of it and use it for naval manœuvres.

At San José there is a very rich natural salt mine, besides a large quantity of gold bearing sand.

Near the Cordilleras which also contain some real mineral treasures, verdant and fertile valleys are to be met with where strawberries and apples grow profusely. These latter were brought over, so the story runs, by the good Jesuit missionaries from Chili two hundred years ago. Then, no doubt, they were pleasant to the palate; since then, however, they have become wild, and have a rather peculiar flavour something like those I tasted in the valleys of Norquin.

The Tehuelches Indians.

The Tehuelches Indians of the *race of the giants* are fast disappearing before the march of *modern civilization*. With the advance of this hollow mockery they are either forced to join the ranks, or exterminated, or obliged to flee from their native soil conquered by the sole force of arms. It is, however, just to say that during the last few years the Presidents have made every effort to mitigate this evil by taking the poor Indians under their protection and making over to them tracts of land in their former territory, where they might peaceably settle down. The Indians are scattered about in groups of two hundred, three and sometimes even more than five hundred. They dwell for the most part in hidden valleys that lie engulfed in the bosom of the mountains, where they enjoy a momentary peace. Some of them lead a nomadic life and wander about the country from north to south in search of pasturage for their cattle, and of liberty for themselves and families. The Salesian Missionaries visit them from time to time, traversing immense distances and enduring great hardships.

The Welsh Colonists.

Between 1865 and 1875 the first colonists, who came from the Principality of Wales, settled down near Nuevo Gulf on the banks of the Chubut. They had to suffer a great deal in the first years, and had not the Indians generously come to their assistance they would undoubtedly have perished of hunger. Later on they found themselves with better prospects of success, and by means of constant labour have diverted the river into numerous little channels thus irrigating their lands for hundreds of miles on both sides of the valley. This year they have obtained 100,000 sacks of good corn, and by means of a small railway, some forty-five miles long, they had it conveyed to Nuevo Gulf, and thence to Buenos Ayres.

Their actual number is 2,500. They live scattered about the country and in their modest cottages. Their tongue is Welsh; they live by themselves and have no great affection for the Latin race, especially as it is Catholic. They refuse to learn Spanish, and are, therefore, unable to speak the

common language of the Argentine Republic. They are very much attached to their sects, which are numerous even among this small community, there being the Anglican, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Anabaptist, etc.

At present the Colony of Chubut has three towns: Rawson, Trelew and Gaiman. Rawson is the capital with well-built houses and some public buildings. Adjoining the Church, which is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows, stands the Salesian House and College of the Mission, and further on is the Hospital and College of the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians.

Rawson received its name from the Argentine Minister who granted the contract to the colonists. It has a mixed population of some four hundred

IVREA.

THE IRISH COLLEGE.

At Ivrea, an ancient city in the north of Italy, in the province of Turin, the Salesians of Don Bosco opened an Irish College some years ago. Irish boys who have finished their elementary studies and have reached their twelfth year, study Latin and are educated there to become missionary priests. This College, by God's grace, has continued admitting boys of much promise,



THE IRISH COLLEGE AT IVREA.

inhabitants, the majority of whom are Catholics. The population at present is small, but if the government were to realise the project of making the neighbouring Nuevo Gulf a naval port, and were it, moreover, to facilitate the entrance of mercantile ships into the Rio Chubut by means of towing-boats, both the inhabitants and commerce would remarkably increase.

At Trelew, a few miles distant from Rawson, there are only four or five Catholic families living in the midst of Welsh Protestants. The same may be said of Gaiman distant about seven leagues from the central House of the Mission.

God grant that our Holy Religion may flourish among these good people, and that those outside the fold of Christ may soon be brought to the unity of the Catholic Faith.

✠ GIOVANNI, *Vicar-Apostolic of Patagonia.*

and we hope that it will flourish still more in the future.

But why did the sons of Don Bosco choose Ivrea for the site of an Irish College, and not Turin, the centre of the Salesian institutions, or even some other place more suitable for those who come from Ireland?

The reason is a very important one.

In times past the Irish and English who wished to go to Rome by land, as a rule crossed the Alps by the Great St. Bernard, a road which passes through Ivrea. It is certain that St. Patrick passed by this road, as also did St. Malachy and many others, who all went to this city.

Now, the Bollandists, and Mgr. Gradwell

in the work of Succat, the best life of the saint, say that St. Patrick was consecrated Bishop at Ivrea by Bishop Amatorix who was his friend.*

St. Malachy, Bishop of Armagh, not only passed through Ivrea, but, as St. Bernard relates, in the year 1139 A. D. worked a great miracle there. By his prayers he restored almost instantaneously to life the son of his host who was grievously ill.†

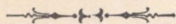
Again, the Blessed Thaddeus Makar or MacCarthy, Bishop of Cork and Cloyne, in Ireland, not only passed through Ivrea, but also died there in 1492. His relics are kept with the greatest care under the High Altar of the Cathedral Church.

It was for this reason that the Salesians determined to open an Irish College there, after they had, providentially, come into possession of the land adjoining the house where this saint died.

Devotion to Blessed Thaddeus is ancient; but he was not recognised by the Church until last year, and only in next September will his Feast be celebrated, and his Office and Mass, recently approved by the Holy See, be said.

Since the life of Blessed Thaddeus is almost unknown, we intend to give a short account of it in the following numbers, and to inform our readers at the proper time of the solemnities which will take place in his honour next September.

However, if anyone wishes to send boys to the Irish College of Ivrea, he has only to address himself to the Very Rev. Don Rua, Superior General of the Salesian Society, Turin, Italy; or to the Rector of the Salesian Irish College at Ivrea. The Very Rev. Fr. Macey, 64, Orbel St., Battersea, London, S. W., will be pleased to give any information regarding the boys' journey there.



DURING a recent missionary journey among the Indians of the Pampas and the Cordilleras, Father Dominic Milaneseo traversed the whole of the Apostolic Vicariate of Patagonia, a journey of some 3,000 miles. His efforts in extending the benefits of our holy Religion have been crowned with success. Here is a slight *résumé* of the fruit that has blessed his apostolic labours: 437 Baptisms, 400 Confirmations, 4700 Confessions, 4200 Communions.

* Succat, The Story of the Life of St. Patrick.

† St. Bernard, in his Life of St Malachy.



Thanksgiving.—With my heart full of gratitude for grace received, I beg you, in order to fulfil the promise I made, to insert in the *Salesian Bulletin* the expression of my thanks to Our Lady Help of Christians and St. Anthony of Padua, who have already obtained for me many graces.

J. C., Geneva.

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Restored to Health.—When my mother was ill last August, I invoked our Lady Help of Christians and Don Bosco promising, if she recovered, to have the favour published in the *Salesian Bulletin*, and to send an offering of five shillings for the orphans of the Oratory. She got better, and although late I fulfil my promise, and beg you to publish the grace.

MISS KATHERINE HUTHWAITE,
Ventnor (England).

June 19th, 1836.

**

A Novena of Prayers.—A relation of mine, a young lady, suffered continually from severe headaches for over three months. She sometimes had such painful attacks as to cause her to lose all consciousness. Thus she was obliged to lay aside not only her studies, but also every other occupation, and in consequence had to leave the boarding-school where she was, in order to breathe her native air. The first thought that occurred to me, on hearing of her sad condition, was to put in practice the advice of St. Thomas of Aquin: *In your affliction have recourse to Our Blessed Lady*. Instantly my thoughts turned to the Madonna of Don Bosco, Mary Help of Christians. Parents and friends united together in making a Novena. Wonderful to relate she began to get better and, after about three weeks, was able to go back to the boarding school and resume with new ardour her usual occupations.

REV. C. BERTOCCI, Saturnana.

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"Salus Infirmorum, ora pro nobis."—May the most powerful and clement Virgin Mary Help of Christians be ever praised and thanked by all! In these days of grievous affliction owing to a serious illness from which my mother was suffering, I had recourse to the Blessed Virgin, imploring her intercession as the only medicine which could be really efficacious for her. I promised to have a Mass said at Our Lady's

Altar, should my petition be granted, and Mary, in her maternal goodness, heard me favourably.

Rev. G. Sosio, *Bormio*.

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:—

Theresa Barberis, Piana S. Michele (Alessandria); Francis Giolo, Rovigo; Louis Mangani, Viterbo; Mr. & Mrs. Sirtori & Family, Calozio; Laurella Gentile, Marcoregno; Margaret Presbitero; Julia Cugia, Rome; Mary Ann Borgogna, La Morra; Christopher Camozzi, Rio Janeiro (Brazil); Anthony Locatelli, Berbenno; Theresa Brigadoi, Predazzo; John De Lauro, Puebla (Mexico); Joseph Graziani, Mezzano; Frances Guelfa, Turin; Magdalen Gardoncini, Klagenfurt-Karten (Austria); Margaret Tarro, Demonte; Mary Valsesia, Veruno; Cornelia Molina, Oulz; Henrietta Nobile, Codeville; John Gastaldi, Salluggia; Caroline Accossato, Turin; John Bambino, Isolabella-Poirino; Mary Sandrone, Casalgrasso; Catherine Suffietta, Rivoli; Gaspar Moriondo, Trofarello; Mary Mattiolo, Turin; Felicity Grosso, Pino Torinese; John Vottero, Villafranca; Rev. James Piona, Rivalta Bormida; Mary Cravero, Settimo Torinese; Victoria Arisio, Turin; Lawrence Pennazio, Andezeno; Joanna Manasero, Turin.

The musicians prepared to enliven the feast with their melodious strains, and the sacristans decorated the Church in grand style. Outside a modest pavilion was prepared, and a beautiful arch of leaves and flowers, bearing the following inscription: *In this your first visit, O beloved Pastor, the Boys and Superiors of the Oratory, joyfully bid you welcome, and offer you the filial affection of their hearts.*

Not even the joyous notes of the bells were wanting on that occasion. As they did not possess a peal to ring on feast-days, they laid hold of a large bell and carried it about with them in triumph ringing it *opportune et importune*. They did this in order to make known to everybody, whether they wished it or not, that the Feast of St. Aloysius was going to be kept in a few days at the Oratory, and that it was to be honoured by the presence of his Grace the Archbishop. In short, the coming feast occupied the minds of all.

At length the longed-for day came. In order that all might take part in it, the 29th of June, solemnity of SS. Peter and Paul had been chosen, because as it was a day of obligation, it was also a holiday for the lads who were working in the city. At a very early hour a good number of boys surrounded the confessionals of Don Bosco and of several other priests, and towards seven o'clock the crowd was greater than it had ever been before. It seemed as if all the boys of Turin had gone to the Oratory. So many were present, even of those who were not going to be confirmed, that a great number had to stay outside the Church, and go and hear Mass at the Sanctuary of the Consolata.

THE STORY OF THE ORATORY

OR

DON BOSCO'S OPENING APOSTOLATE.

CHAPTER XIV. (*Continued*).

As the time was drawing near and the Catechism on Sundays only did not suffice for the candidates for Confirmation, Don Bosco organized a Catechism class for every evening during the week. The attendance was very large. Nevertheless, with the help of some zealous priests and gentlemen from the city, he was able to well prepare the young lads, and on the appointed day everything was ready.

It was Monsignor Franzoni's first visit to the Oratory, and the first time that such functions were carried out there. However, although they were poor, the lads spared no pains to render the feast as splendid as was possible under the present circumstances.

CHAPTER XV.

The Feast of St. Aloysius—The Functions in Church—An amusing incident—The Confirmation—The Little Theatre—Words of the Archbishop—The game of Pip-kin—The Procession—The End of the Feast—Honorary Associates.

Shortly after seven o'clock the Archbishop, accompanied by several ecclesiastical dignitaries from the city and two Canons from the Cathedral, reached the Oratory. Some priests who were already at the Oratory, put on the cotta and went to meet him in procession. When his Grace and escort arrived under the pavilion, Don Bosco met them and read a beautiful address. In it he expressed the joy which he, the Priests, the

Co-operators and all the boys felt at seeing amongst them their beloved and worthy Pastor; he showed above all his ardent desire to give the Archbishop a welcome worthy of his high dignity and incomparable goodness; he begged him not to look at the poverty of the preparations but at the internal affection which was very great. Amongst other things he said:

"We should like to possess precious tapestry to adorn the poor walls of this house; we should like to have the most beautiful flowers to strew the roads along which you have to pass; we should like to be the masters of great riches to offer you gifts and presents not unworthy of your person. But all this would only be the symbol of our hearts which are full of esteem, gratitude and love for you.

"Now, since our poverty does not permit us to offer you the symbols, we beg Your Grace to accept the reality. Yes, accept our homage; accept our affection; accept the prayers which we raise to God for you this day. They are prayers imploring Him to pour down graces upon you, and to preserve your life for many years to come, so that we may enjoy your benevolence for a long time, and that you may see the fruits of your charity more and more abound."

After entering the Chapel and putting on the sacred vestments, the Archbishop celebrated Mass, during which he distributed the Bread of Angels to several hundreds of boys. When he saw for himself so many boys, who once were heedless of the duties of piety and religion, now in Church and approaching the Holy Communion with a recollection that excited devotion, the good Prelate felt a holy joy. He confessed afterwards that that was one of the functions which had especially moved and delighted him.—"How could I help feeling my heart throb with joy," he kept on saying, "when I saw myself surrounded by so many hundreds of virtuous and pious boys, who, perhaps, without this Providential work, would like so many others, have fallen into sin and vice? How could I help a tear of delight moistening my eye, when I saw in the Church and in the arms of Jesus Christ so many lambs; who, without this pasture and sheep-fold of the Oratory would perhaps have gone to feed on poisoned herbs, and have fallen into the fangs of wolves and even become wolves themselves?"

(To be continued.)



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The Salesian Bulletin

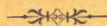
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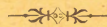
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