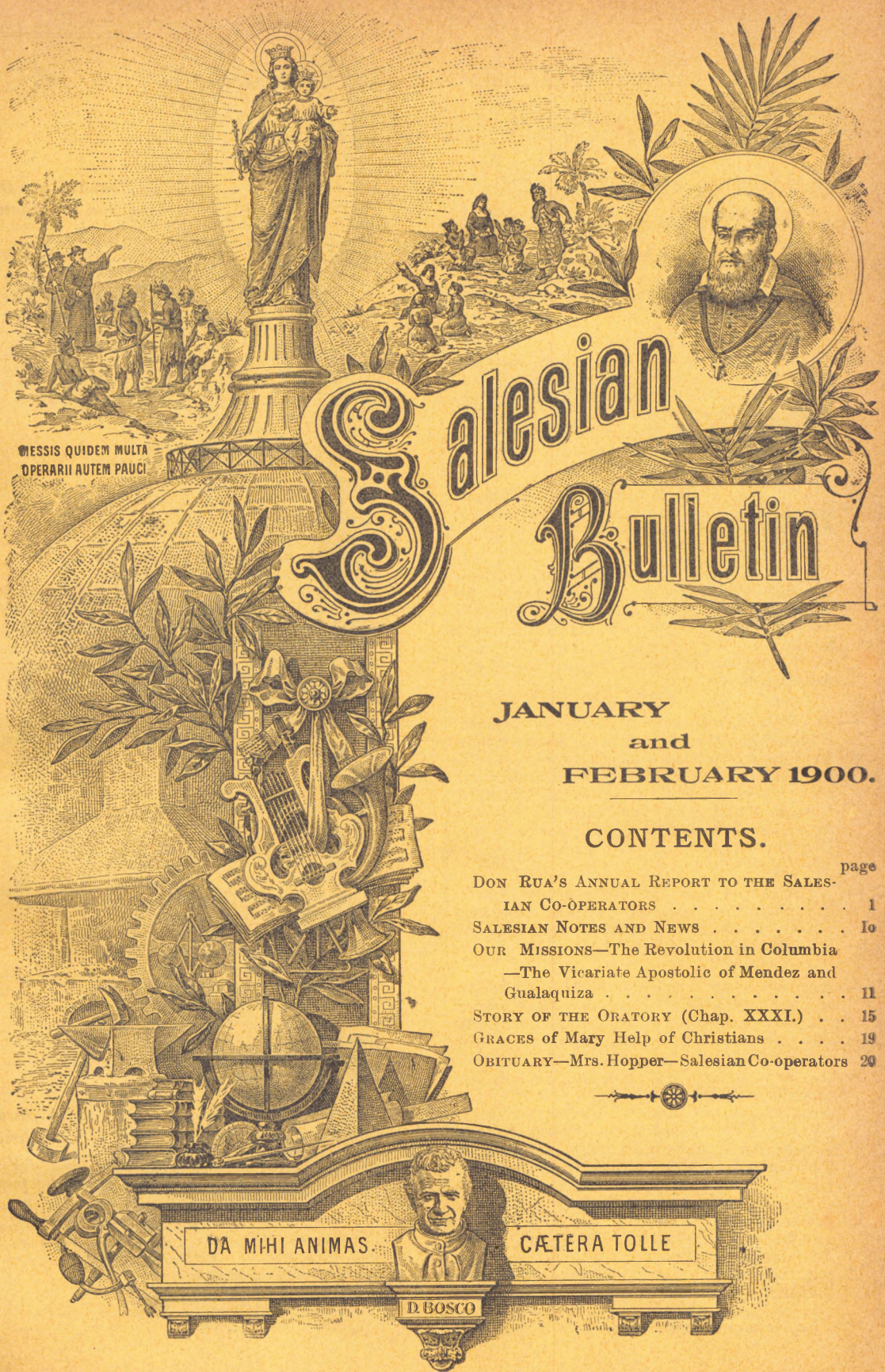


Correspondents are earnestly requested to repeat their Postal Address in every letter.



MESSIS QUIDEM MULTA
OPERARIJ AUTEM PAUCI

Salesian Bulletin

JANUARY
and
FEBRUARY 1900.

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DA MIHI ANIMAS



CÆTERA TOLLE

D. BOSCO

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

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT of the Association.

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

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

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

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

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES.

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

THE
SALESIAN BULLETIN

Whosoever 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 CÆTERA TOLLE

Vol. III. — Nos. 87-88. *January & February, 1900.* Registered for transmission abroad.

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DON RUX'S ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE SALESIAN CO-OPERATORS.

Dear Friends and Co-operators,

FOLLOWING the custom of previous years, I offer you a report of our Society's operations during the past twelvemonth. Although but a bare outline, (as is necessary in the limited space at my disposal), this report of the excellent results attained by our brethren and the Nuns of our Lady Help of Christians through your charitable co-operation, cannot fail to rejoice your hearts. From it you will gather some idea of what we have together been able to do in the wide field of rescue work, for the education of youth, and the spread of the Gospel among the heathen.

In a word, we shall see how far we have been instruments of Providence, in making our Divine Lord better known and better loved at home and abroad.

However, before touching on this subject, I wish to dwell on some of the trials with which Almighty God has been pleased to visit our Congregation last year. Two of our most indefatigable brethren—Don Louis Calcagno and Don Cesare Cagliero—have passed away from this world, and a great calamity has overtaken our missions.

By the death, at San Salvador (Central America), of Father Calcagno, the intrepid leader of the little band of missionaries who were forced to take the road into exile from Ecuador, amidst a thousand dangers and sufferings, a few years ago, our Society has lost a missionary of exceptional powers and rare devotion. We feel his loss most keenly

for his own sake, and also because there is a great need of *personnel* to fulfil the obligations we have assumed in connection with foundations in the San Salvador Republic.

Another sad bereavement which profoundly moved us Salesians, was the almost sudden death of our Procurator-General, Don Cesare Cagliero. Those who knew him intimately, who lived near him and had occasion to witness his daily life, can alone form an idea of the loss our Society and the Association of Salesian Co-operators have sustained. For this latter Association he had a predilection. He laboured with untiring zeal and energy to spread its influence; and his efforts were crowned with success, as the large number of distinguished personages he enrolled as members clearly testifies. Besides, many are the spiritual favours and privileges he has been successful in obtaining from the Holy Father for the Association; and for securing you these riches without price, he has placed you under an obligation to him. The messages of sympathy and regret, the assurance of prayers and suffrages for our deceased *confrère*, which have reached me from all quarters, are a source of great comfort and consolation to me; they are at the same time proof that you appreciate and know how to repay the services he rendered you. For my part, I am most grateful to you for the means you have employed to soften my grief, and I beg you to accept my sincere thanks.

Passing on to other tribulations which Almighty God has sent us during the past year, I come to speak of our afflicted missions of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. As, however, lengthy accounts relating thereto, from the pen of our missionaries and other sources, have appeared, and are still appearing, in the *Salesian Bulletin*, I will simply refer to the chief incidents.

It is just 25 years ago that our venerated Founder undertook the Salesian Missions in South America; and oh! what incalculable good the humble sons of Don Bosco have been enabled to do for the pagan and Christian peoples of that country, in this quarter of a century—especially in Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. And this is due to your benevolent assistance. But it is not my intention to deal with this point; and did I so desire it would be impossible to give

even a summary within the limits of a letter. Mindful of the saying of our Divine Lord in the Gospel: "*So let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven*," Don Bosco, did not hesitate (for the edification of our Co-operators and the general public), to give publicity, in the columns of the *Salesian Bulletin*, to the good results obtained by the Salesian missionaries. Hence you are acquainted with the abundant fruits with which it has pleased God to bless your generous charity, and the unwearied exertion, the patience, and the tears of our missionaries in heathen lands. Now the good work in which our Fathers were engaged—the outcome of years of laborious effort—has, in a few short hours, been scattered to the winds. The flood—that awful visitation of God—made its appearance in North and Central Patagonia, spreading desolation among the inhabitants and working havoc among our Missions. But a few months ago, how prosperous were our houses at Viedma, Patagones, Pringles, Conesa, Roca, Chos-Malal, Junin de los Andes, and Rawson! Like luxuriant trees, they rose on high stretching out their branches, far and wide, covered with an abundance of spiritual fruits;—to-day they either no longer exist, or are in a pitiable condition. However, blessed be the Hand which has thus been laid heavily upon us!

Also Tierra del Fuego, where dwell the unfortunate Ona race, was visited by God last year, when a great calamity befell our Missions there. A terrible fire reduced to a heap of ruins the stores of St. Raphael's Settlement on Dawson Island which were well stocked with provisions for the numerous inmates of the Mission; whilst fierce storms caused much damage to the transports which were conveying supplies to La Candelaria Mission. Besides, the winter—which occurs during the months of June, July and August in those parts—was exceptionally severe last year, great quantities of snow falling. In consequence, the cattle belonging to the Mission suffered greatly, several hundred head perishing. This loss is a grave misfortune, seeing that sheep-rearing forms almost the only resource of maintenance for the Settlement; and Monsignor Fagnano, Prefect-Apostolic of Tierra del Fuego, finds it no light

burden to provide for the large number of distressed Indians.

Almighty God, Who permits evil that good may come therefrom, and Who does not cease to love us even when visiting us with tribulations, has undoubtedly subjected our Missions to these trials in order to strengthen our faith in His divine Providence, and open to you, dear Co-operators, who are the trustees of our Missions, a wide field in which to employ your charity.

THE FRUITS OF YOUR CHARITY IN 1899.

Coming to speak now of the missions and works confided to our care in other parts of the globe, I am thankful to say that they all, without exception, show signs of consolidation and steady development. This is certainly an encouraging feature and speaks volumes for your benevolent interest in Don Bosco's Society; for as you are well aware our "Festive" Oratories, Industrial Schools, Work-rooms, Agricultural Colonies, etc. have no fixed revenues, but owe their existence, under God, to your charity. That day in which your charity were to be denied us, our work would cease to be, unless by a special intervention of Divine Providence. During my visitation, last year, of our Institutes in the South of France, in Spain, Portugal, Algeria, and in many parts of Italy, I had ample opportunity of witnessing the abundant fruits of your charitable co-operation. I was deeply touched at the sight of the sincere affection which the Co-operators of the many towns I visited entertain towards the poor Salesians, and the efficacious manner in which they concur in maintaining the branch Institutes the sons of Don Bosco are carrying on in their midst. My heart goes out in gratitude to Almighty God and our Blessed Lady for having surrounded us everywhere by so many good friends and benefactors, and I pray that our heavenly Father will abundantly bless them all and repay their charity a hundredfold here on earth and grant them a glorious eternity hereafter in heaven. I take this opportunity to thank once more, with all my heart, all those who gave me such signal mark of their attachment to our Society during my visitation-tour. Of the kindly and gracious receptions everywhere afforded me, I shall ever retain dear memories.

Other fruits of your charity are the new undertakings we were enabled to embark in, during the past year, in various countries, on behalf of poor, abandoned children.

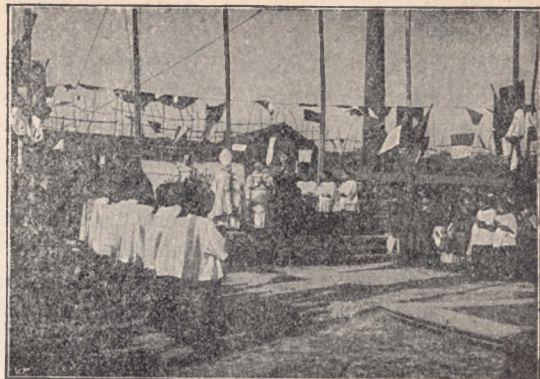
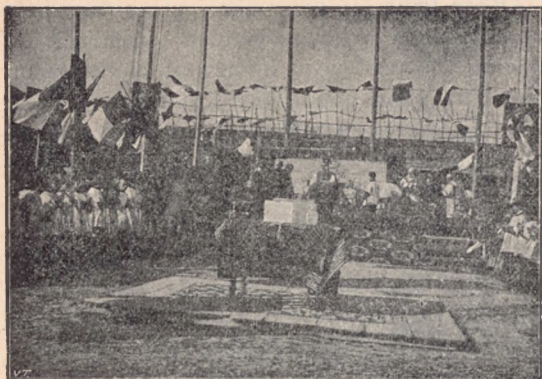
In Italy, "Festive" Oratories were opened at Carmagnola (Piedmont), at Ferrara, Comacchio, Chioggia (near Venice), at Figline (Tuscany), and at Forlì. At this latter town, besides the "Festive" Oratory, we assumed the direction of several workshops. Also at Pallanzano, in the Diocese of Parma, an Oratory was founded. For this we are indebted to the late Parish Priest of that town, who ardently longed to have the sons of Don Bosco in his parish, and who undertook to defray the expenses of the foundation. Adjoining the *Istituto S. Ambrogio*, in Milan, another Oratory, the second in that town, was solemnly inaugurated last May.

At the urgent request of the Local Council of Fossano, we have undertaken the management of the important Civic College there, for the purpose of providing a healthy moral and secular education for the children of the middle class who frequent the Grammar, Commercial, and Elementary Schools which form part of this Institution.

Private Elementary Schools have also been opened in the Testaccio quarter of Rome, for the many poor children living in that part of the city.

In various other towns of Italy the good seed was sown, and, we confidently hope, will bear fruit. Thus, the building of the handsome Church of our Lady of Snow is growing rapidly under the hands of the workmen. If nothing happens to check its progress, we hope to see it opened for public worship in the summer. At Savona, through the zealous and persevering efforts of the local Committee of Salesian Co-operators, of which his Lordship, Bishop Scatti, is president, a plot of ground was purchased, and the foundation-stone of a new Salesian Institute, which is to be dedicated to our Lady of Mercy, was laid in February last.

A similar ceremony took place last August in Ancona. There, an Association called *La Pia Opera di S. Luigi* has taken upon itself to collect and furnish funds for the erection of a large Institute and Church to be entrusted to the Salesian Fathers. His Eminence Cardinal Manara, Bishop of Ancona, blessed



His Lordship Bishop Scatti blessing the Foundation-stone of Salesian Institute at Savona.

the foundation-stone of the future Institute. For this condescension on the part of his Eminence, I am deeply grateful.

The country of France, whose generosity in behalf of Catholic works is proverbial, has also increased its Salesian patrimony by the inauguration of a House of Studies at Mordreux. The object of this new foundation—the existence of which has been made possible through the *Association of Mary Help of Christians*,—is to give a thorough course of studies to young men, without means, desirous of embracing the ecclesiastical state.

At Verviers, in Belgium, a Sunday Oratory and an Orphanage for the poor, homeless children of that populous town, have also been entrusted to the Salesian Fathers.

We have likewise accepted another Mission in favour of the Italian emigrants in Switzerland, who number at least 100,000 in that Republic. This new work, which has been undertaken for the workmen at Briga (Canton Valais), engaged in tunneling the Simplon, makes the second Italian Mission the Salesians have charge of in Switzerland, the other having been opened at Zurich some two years ago.

With regard to Spain, I am happy to report a wonderful extension of our Society in that country; a circumstance that is due to the generosity of several benefactors. Last year an Institute was founded at Seville,—the third Salesian House in that town—as well as a public Church, and Day and Night Schools; at Mortilla, in the Province of Cordova, a new College was opened; at Vigo, a “Festive” Oratory; whilst on October

18th, a Salesian House was established at Madrid. We undertook, besides, the direction of the St. Francis de Sales Institute, which was founded some years ago at Ciudadela (Minorca), by that zealous priest, Father Pareja.

In Portugal, the number of our Houses has been increased by the opening of a “Festive” Oratory at O’Pinheiro. Moreover, the Marquis de Liveri has made a present to the Salesian Congregation of an extensive plot of land for the purpose of building thereon an establishment comprising workshops, and schools for Primary and Secondary Instruction.

In England, the Salesians have been entrusted with the Chaplaincy of the Wandsworth Prison (London), and the spiritual direction of two Local Government Institutions.

THE SALESIAN MISSIONS.

But your charitable interest, dear Friends and Co-operators, has not been restricted to our works in Europe; it has also enabled our Society to extend its influence in other parts of the globe; and has been especially beneficial in our Missions.

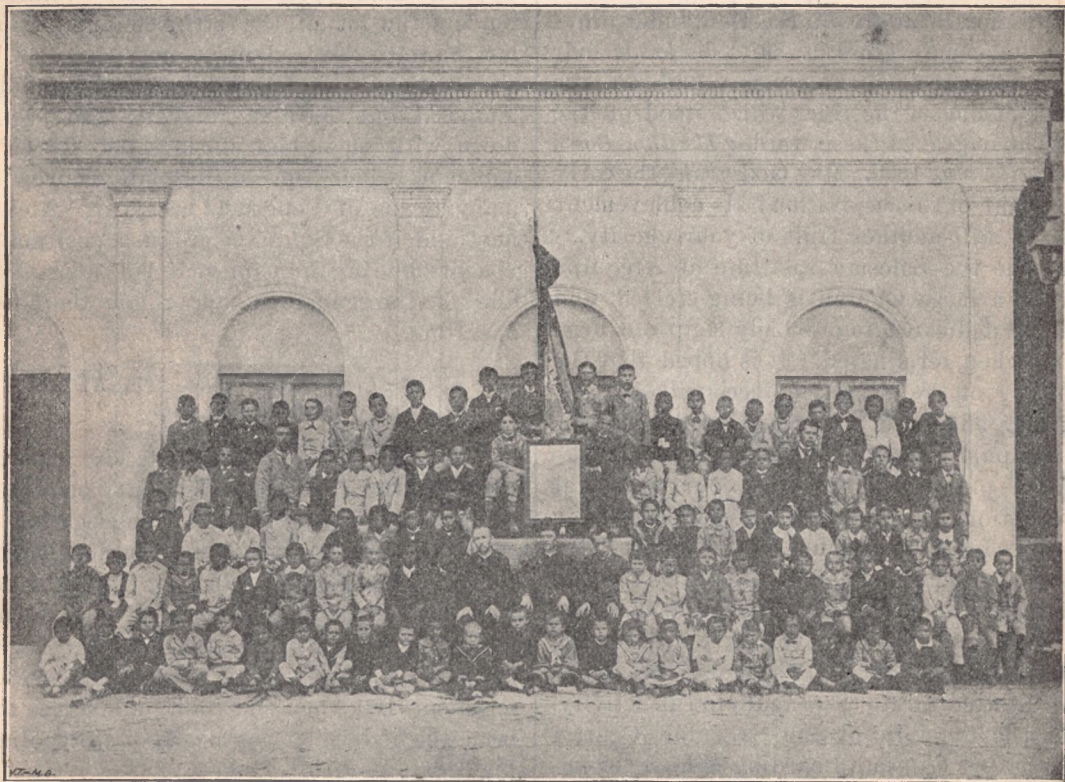
It was your charity which furnished the means to our Missions of North Africa for the building of a new House, adjoining the *Institut Perret* which was entrusted to us a few years ago; whilst it was also your charity which made it possible for our Missions of Palestine, during 1899, to rescue and maintain a larger number of poor, abandoned children than in former years.

I have, likewise, to report steady progress

of our Society in South America. In Buenos Ayres, the capital of the Argentine Republic, the *Italo-Argentino* College was opened by our Fathers, in the course of last year. It is situated close by the Salesian Church of our Lady of Mercy in that town.

As a stay to the urban tendency so prevalent in our own days, Don Bosco of holy memory, undertook the foundation of Agricul-

State, the missionary work has been actively maintained by our Fathers. They have traversed the virgin forests in many directions, seeking out the pagan inhabitants, and making known to them the Glad Tidings. Another work our missionaries have had in view for some time past, is now an accomplished fact. This is an Institution, comprising Primary and Secondary Schools, for the



The Superiors and Alumni of Salesian Institute at Corumba (Matto Grosso).

tural Colonies. It goes without saying that these useful establishments are of great importance and of far-reaching influence. The Salesian Society has planted many of them in the various parts of the globe. Among those inaugurated last year was one in Uruguay, the land for this purpose having been purchased just outside Montevideo by a circle of friends, and presented by them to the Salesians.

It is not a far cry from Uruguay to Brazil. In this Republic, a new Salesian House has been opened in the populous seaside town of Bahia, where such a foundation was urgently needed. Besides, in the Matto Grosso

education of the white and native children of Corumba, an important centre of population in Matto Grosso. These are the only schools in that town.

By the recent foundation of the *Casa de S. Vincente* in the capital of Columbia, the town of Bogota now possesses four Salesian Houses; whilst in the neighbouring town of Bosa, a Salesian Training College is in course of erection. Moreover, Father Rabagliati, with whose labours in the interests of the unfortunate lepers of Columbia our Readers are well acquainted, has been carrying on his leper crusade with unwearied zeal. His journeyings have had the effect of awakening

wide sympathy among the population for the lepers, and of arousing the people to a sense of the alarming danger that menaces the whole country on account of the apathy in the matter of isolating the infected portion of the inhabitants. That isolation is absolutely necessary is now the general conviction, so that Father Rabagliati has gained a most important point. Last year, in the month of May, whilst journeying in search of sites for lazarettos in the Santander province, he came across a suitable *locale* four days' march from Pamplona; and on the trunk of one of the trees which stood on the spot, he engraved these words: *The Don Bosco Lazaretto, May 1899*. May God grant the early fulfilment of this aspiration! Its achievement will be still another fruit of your charity.

Beside the Salesian Institute at Arequipa (Peru), a large Church is being erected, and will be dedicated to our Lady Help of Christians when terminated. It is hoped that the building of the sacred edifice will be sufficiently advanced to ensure its being open to the public during the present year.

I am pleased to say that our House at Concepcion, in Chili, which had been temporarily closed on account of the heavy debts which burdened it, and almost threatened its existence altogether, has been able to settle all accounts, and re-open its doors to the children of the poor. Its schools, workshops, and "Festive" Oratory are again in full activity.

In the Republic of San Salvador (Central America) a Salesian Boarding School for imparting Secondary and Elementary Instruction, was founded by the late Father Calcagno. This foundation was the last to which that good and zealous worker in the Lord's Vineyard put his hands.

Our Society is also giving its attention to the spiritual welfare of the Italian immigrants in the United States. Three years ago our Fathers were entrusted with an Italian parish in San Francisco by the Archbishop of that Diocese. Shortly after, his Grace placed the Salesians in charge of a second parish in the same town. Last year saw our Fathers also established in New York, at the kind invitation of his Grace Archbishop Corrigan, to undertake another Italian Mission.

Other precious fruits of your charity, dear Friends and Co-operators, are the thousands

of Indians of Tierra del Fuego, Patagonia, Matto Grosso, and Gualaquiza (Ecuador), whose reclamation to our holy Religion and civilisation, has been brought about in reason of the generous aid you have always given our missionaries. Then there are the unfortunate lepers of Agua de Dios and Contratacion in Columbia. The presence of our missionaries and the Nuns, which your charity has made possible in those Villages, renders the lot of the stricken inhabitants less hard to bear. I must not pass over in silence the invaluable services, spiritual and temporal, our Fathers rendered the people down with small-pox, during that dreadful epidemic which spread desolation over so many towns of Venezuela last year. And, I may add, if the Salesians are in a position to benefit suffering humanity, it is, under God, due to the generous support of their Co-operators.

THE SISTERS OF OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS.

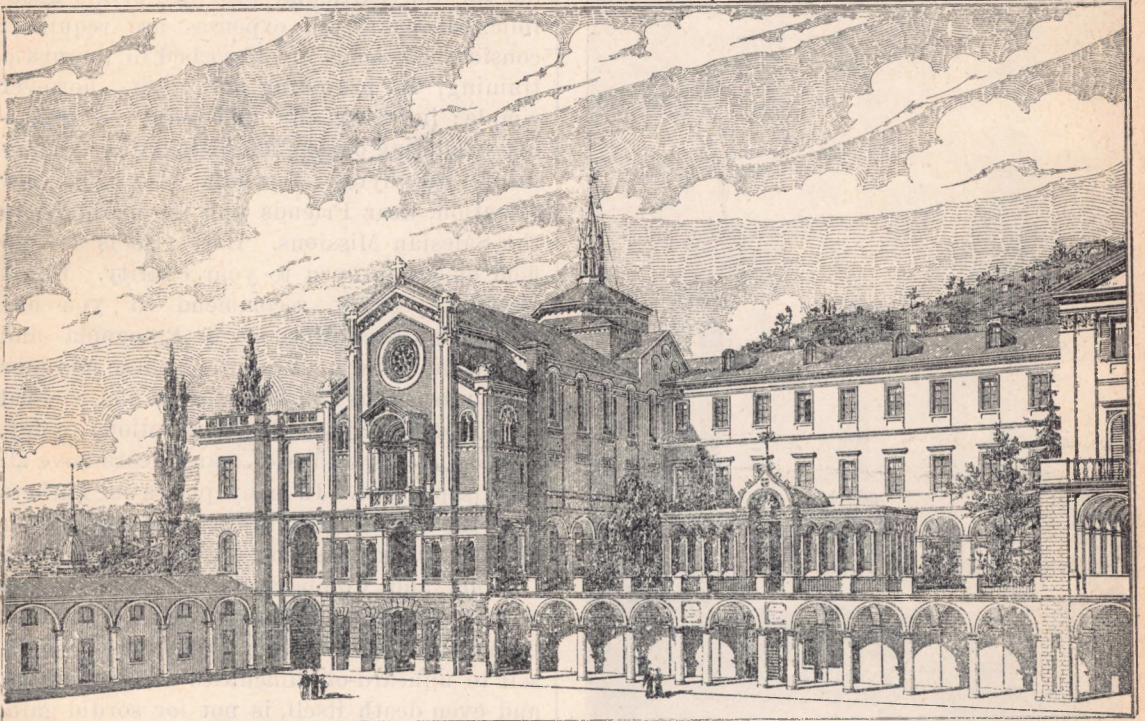
What has been said of your charity with regard to the Salesian Society, may be repeated in connection with the Congregation of Mary Help of Christians,—that other foundation of Don Bosco's. It, too, has extended its sphere of action on behalf of poor, homeless girl-children in our towns and villages, and the native women and girls in the missions; but your charitable assistance has been the indispensable means of accomplishing this.

Ever bent on enlarging each House of their Congregation, as circumstances required, the good Nuns have also increased the number of their Houses during the past year. In Italy, they have undertaken the direction of an Academy at Ascoli Piceno; and opened Infant Schools, Schools for grown-up girls, work-rooms, and "Festive" Oratories in Barcelona Pozzo di Gotto (Messina), Gioia dei Marsi (Abruzzi), La Torretta (Tuscany), Gattico (Novara), Cardano al Campo, Castellanza, Mirabello, and at Tigliole d'Asti. They have also established a Noviciate in Rome, and a *Pensionnat* at Sassi, near Turin, where lady-boarders are received, and are given every care and attention.

The Nuns of Mary Help of Christians have been likewise called to undertake a work

which, for its importance, deserves special mention. I allude to the *Homes for Factory Girls*. These Homes, or Boarding-Houses, have been opened by the owners of factories close by their works, to provide for the comfort of their female employees. It cannot be denied that these Homes supply a pressing want, and are certainly a veritable Providence for many poor girls. And further, wherever these establishments are under the

Republic; and another at Manga, in Uruguay, where they opened a Convent, work-rooms, and a "Festive" Oratory. At Punt Arenas (Magellan Straits), they assumed the direction of a Hospital; whilst the Schools and work-rooms they had opened at Junin de los Andes in Patagonia, shared the fate that overtook so many Salesian Missions during the fearful floods which spread desolation throughout Patagonia.



The Memorial Church beside Don Bosco's Tomb at the Salesian Seminary, Valsalice.

management of Don Bosco's Nuns, as at Intra (Lago Maggiore) and at Grignasco (Novara)—to which places they were invited last year,—the inmates find themselves at home indeed; with kind, sympathetic persons near them, to guide and watch over them with motherly care,—just what those poor factory girls, who are exposed to so many deteriorating influences, stand in need of.

A work like this in many respects is that undertaken by the Nuns at Barcelona (Spain), where they have established a *Pensionnat* for young girls attending the Government Training School.

The Nuns have also undertaken several new establishments in South America. Among these is one at La Plata in the Argentine

INTERNATIONAL HOMAGE TO DON BOSCO.

This *resumé* of the fruits of your charity would be incomplete were I not to speak of the Church at Valsalice, which, in response to the appeal of the Committee for the International Commemoration of Don Bosco, you have generously promoted. When completed, it will, indeed, be a worthy memorial of your devotion to Don Bosco's memory. And if you continue to support the Committee with the same generosity as in the past, it is hoped that the sacred edifice will be inaugurated during the year. On my part, I beg to renew my grateful thanks to the General Committee and to the many Local Committees, as well as to the Catholic Press and to all who have

concluded, in any way, in forwarding this tribute of affection to Don Bosco.

PROJECTS FOR THE HOLY YEAR.

During this Holy Year, I still further rely on your charity to enable me to assure on a solid basis, and to develop, all our existing Houses, for the greater benefit of the rising



The Salesian Church at Fontibon (Columbia).

generation in matters of religion and morality,—this being the chief aim of our Society. It was my earnest desire not to open any new Houses, nor undertake new Missions, during this year, in order to better accomplish this. But engagements already entered into oblige me to give my attention to several fresh foundations in the course of 1900. However, our first care must be for the thousands of poor children in our Institutes. They depend on Don Bosco's spiritual sons and the Salesian Co-operators for their maintenance, and for instruction in some art or trade wherewith to earn an honest living in time to come. Then there are our Seminaries to support, for they are open to the poorest of the poor,

when these manifest a true, apostolic vocation. These establishments furnish our Society with its School-masters, professors, priests and missionaries. In the case of the missionary, the outlay attendant on him, most often begins with the boy, extending over several years' boarding, clothing and education, and involving an expenditure of several thousand francs. When at length the young levite is ordained a minister of God, before setting out for the particular province of his apostolic calling, fresh expenses are required: considerable sums are absorbed in linguistic training; in providing an outfit, however simple; in vestments and sacred vessels—not excluding objects for distribution among future neophytes. I would also call your attention, dear Friends and Co-operators, to the Salesian Missions. Here also is a wide field of action open to your charity. But I would specially recommend to you our many distressed Missions in Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. Yesterday, these missions were prosperous and flourishing, and yielded us unbounded joy and consolation; to-day, the toil and sacrifice of many years have all but disappeared. In many places our Fathers and the Nuns must begin over again their arduous work. As you are well aware, dear Friends and Co-operators, the aim of the Salesian Missionary in abandoning all that is near and dear to him, and exposing himself to unheard-of difficulties and sufferings, and even death itself, is not for sordid gain, but to bring within reach of poor, ignorant heathen souls the inestimable riches of our holy religion. Worldly possessions he has none: he often stands in need of the very necessaries of life. Moreover, he is frequently obliged to provide food for the poor wandering Indians, and clothing to cover their naked limbs. Under ordinary circumstances, this would be wholly impossible for him, so Almighty God has raised you up, dear Co-operators, in order to make this practicable. Hence, if our devoted "fishers of men" have been able to convert to Christianity the greater portion of the Indian inhabitants of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego; to build Colleges, Convents and Industrial Schools for the education of native children; erect Churches and Chapels in almost every important centre of population,—all is due,

under God, to your charity. But as I said above, the toil and sacrifice of many years have all but disappeared before the raging floods which spread ruin and desolation over a wide area of Patagonia, in the months of July and August last year. It is now necessary to restore, or rebuild, chapels and schools and hospitals and missionary residences; and I renew my appeal on behalf of this urgent work, to those of my Readers who, being in a position to do so, have not yet answered my circular of November last.

Towards the end of the present year the Silver Jubilee of our Missions in South America takes place,—for next November marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first “expedition” of Salesian Missionaries to the New World. In view of the extraordinary development of our Society in that part of the globe during this period, and of the abundant blessings which our Divine Lord has been pleased to shower upon our work, our brethren in South America propose to celebrate the auspicious event by a series of religious festivals in thanksgiving to God for His immense benefits. The *Salesian Bulletin* will give the programme and details of the festivities in due course. I content myself with simply announcing the fact, in order that you may unite with us and our missionaries in cordially thanking our Divine Lord for His great goodness towards us, and implore fresh blessings on our Missions and on all our undertakings.

And now, dear Friends, allow me to make a slight digression at this point. We have entered on the Holy Year, and a few words in reference thereto may not be out of place. The Holy Year, or Year of Jubilee, is a celebration of the Old Law. By its institution our all-loving God wished to teach the Israelites love and compassion for their neighbour. Accordingly, in the Year of Jubilee, debts were cancelled; houses, vineyards, and other things, reverted to their former owner; exiles were allowed to return; and slaves were released from their bondage. Furthermore, the people were to abstain from labour, and employ the whole year in that which had direct relation to the service of God. In a word, rich and poor, old and young, master and hireling united together

in thanking and praising the Lord God of Hosts.

But the things which happened in the Old Law, and it is St. Paul who says this, were but types and figures of things, by far grander and more beautiful, that were to happen in the New Law. And the Jewish Year of Jubilee was a figure of the Christian Holy Year, which is indeed the year of redemption, wherein is spiritually accomplished, what materially had place among the Israelites of old. Many things however that were prescribed in the Old Law are not now practicable; still, one of the things enjoined by our holy Mother Church for obtaining the Jubilee indulgences is that those who have been favoured by God with this world's goods should lend a helping hand to the poor, the orphan and the widow, and charitable institutions. This condition our Co-operators fulfil by assisting the little orphan children in our Institutes, and the poor natives in our Missions.

There is no need for me to remind you of the advantages accruing to you from your works of mercy. You have not forgotten the promise of our Divine Lord: “Give, and it shall be given unto you: good measure and pressed down and shaken together and running over shall they give unto your bosom.” And those other words, likewise of our Lord: “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.” Commenting on these texts, Don Bosco has said that it is then God's own promise that all who are generous and compassionate in dealing with the poor and wretched shall meet with charity and compassion. How and when the promise of God will be fulfilled may be hidden from us, but faith teaches us that He will keep His word none the less. “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My word shall not pass away.” May we not often regard as the outcome of this promise that a bankruptcy, or some other serious calamity which had seemed inevitable, is averted from some charitable family? or that a lawsuit comes to a favourable issue? or the return to the path of virtue of a friend, or relative, who had been leading an irregular life; or recovery from a serious illness, and thousands of other experiences of almost every day occurrence?

Let us, therefore, dear Friends and Co-

operators, take this matter into serious consideration. And as we stand in need of being mercifully dealt with by God every moment of our lives, let us, by our works of mercy, place Him under the sweet necessity of being our debtor. Be assured that we cannot outdo Jesus in the strife of love. Have we done something for Him? He will render us the hundredfold in this world, and life everlasting hereafter.

PROMISES AND PRAYERS.

Before laying down my pen, I would tell how deeply I am beholden to you, for all you have done for the Salesian Society. But that is impossible. I thank you, however, with all my heart, and I beg to assure you and your families, of special prayers on the part of our community during this holy Year. For you, the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians will also pray. And in union with them the little children under our care, and the natives converted to Christianity in our Missions, will pray that God may bless you in your spiritual and temporal affairs; keep you from all harm; and be with you in your last hour, together with our Lady, to assist and comfort you, and take you to Himself.

Just a few words more and I have done. Every year, a large number of Salesian Co-operators are taken from our midst. It is the duty of the Salesians, the Nuns of Don Bosco, and their dependents, to pray every day that God may grant eternal rest to these dear departed ones. And I would invite you, dear Friends, to unite your prayers daily to theirs during this Holy Year, when our Divine Lord is pleased to grant His favours more abundantly than usual, for this same purpose.

Commending myself, and all those under my charge to your prayers, I remain, with profound respect,

Dear Friends and Co-operators,

Your humble and grateful Servant in Xto.

MICHAEL RUA,

Superior-General of the Salesian Society.

It is by coming to God every day, and trusting in Him, leaning on His help, believing in His Providence, conversing with Him in throbs and aspirations of prayer, that we come at last to be as certain of God's presence and love as of our own existence



AT Punt Arenas (Magellan Straits), Don Bosco's Nuns assumed the direction of a Hospital last year.

OUR venerable Superior-General, Don Rua, desires to offer the expression of his grateful thanks to all those kind persons who have sent donations in anonymous letters, in answer to his appeal for the distressed Salesian Missions of Patagonia.

IN the course of an article entitled "The Catholic Bishop of Jamaica and the Salesians," the Roseau *Dominica Guardian* of November 15 last, makes some gracious and flattering remarks about the Salesian Congregation. We are very grateful, and beg to tender our sincere thanks, to our esteemed contemporary for its kind and generous patronage.

IT may interest our friends of Cape Town to know that at the Salesian Institute in Buitenkant Street, there is a Catholic Repository, where a large assortment of devotional articles is kept. The Catholic Truth Society Pamphlets are also to be had there. We would remind our Cape friends that they promote, in a way, the work of the Salesians in Cape Town by making their purchases at this Repository, since whatever profit arises out of the sale of goods, is devoted to the maintenance of the poor boys in the Salesian Institute.

THE sad news which recently appeared in our little magazine about the great calamity that befell the Salesian Missions in Patagonia, awakened a widespread sympathy among our Co-operators and Friends. Here is an extract from one of the many touching letters addressed to our venerable Superior-General. It is from the Rev. Father K. of Pittsburg, U. S. A., who has earned our everlasting gratitude by his unwearied and benevolent interest in the work of our Society.

I have just received the November and December Nos. of the *Bulletin* (writes our Rev. Benefactor),

and with them the first knowledge of the "Great Disaster" in Patagonia. I am grieved to hear of the sad occurrence and hasten to express my sympathy, and send my little help in behalf of our dear friends. Such strange happenings as those related in the *Bulletin* must be intended to test our faith in God's fatherly Providence, and whilst, amidst the terror and gloom of such scenes, the heart's cry is heard,—"My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me,"—there comes the consoling message—"Resurrexit sicut dixit"—Yes, my dear Father, out of the tomb of this disaster shall arise new life, new zeal, new triumphs. "Quis sicut Deus" shall be the burden of the song of those apostolic men and women who have given their lives to the work of carrying the Faith to those "who sit in darkness and the shadow of death;" and the very defeats shall be changed into victories....

OUR youthful readers have also been touched by the account of the disaster, and many have generously deprived themselves of their pocket-money and sent it on to Don Rua for the little Patagonian children in distress. From among several letters of a like nature, we choose the following, written by the young members of the Sodality of St. Aloysius Gonzaga attached to *Corpus Christi* Church, San Francisco:—

We have read of the severe misfortune which befell the Salesian Missions down in the wilds of Patagonia, and we most feelingly sympathise with you and your beloved Congregation, and wish it lay in our power to lessen the load of grief which has fallen to your lot.—Words cannot express how deeply we regret our inability to contribute much to relieve the distress of the Salesians and the children under their care in Patagonia, for you must know, beloved Father, that we are the sons of poor daily bread-earning fathers.—Knowing, however, that the mite of the poor is as acceptable to you as the large contribution of the rich, we, the members of the Sodality of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, have thought of sending you the small sum laying in our Treasury, and we have asked our friends to add to it in order the better to aid our little Indian brothers in Christ, who, together with the Salesian Missionaries, are in such distressing circumstances.—The sum (20 Dollars) is not much, it is true, but you, good Father, will, we know, accept it in the spirit in which our Lord received the widow's mite.—Trusting that the sentiments which actuate us in making this offering may awaken like sentiments in the hearts of those who are better able to assist, We remain, etc.

God bless and reward you, dear children, for your generous donation! Your noble sacrifice will be for the poor native children of Patagonia, a fine objective lesson of the brotherly love our holy Faith enkindles in the hearts of her followers.



THE REVOLUTION IN COLUMBIA.

TOWARDS the latter part of December last, our venerable Superior-General received the following letter from Father Rabagliati, Provincial of the Salesians in Columbia. It relates to the revolution which recently broke out in the Columbia Republic. The news contained in the letter has naturally made us deeply concerned for the welfare of our *confrères* labouring in that country, more so since telegrams have appeared in the daily papers, during the past few days, announcing that the rebel forces have been victorious in several places. We have not yet forgotten the ignominious expulsion of our brethren from Ecuador by the triumphant revolutionists a little over three years ago. We hope and pray, and we ask our Readers to pray also, that the Salesians in Columbia may be spared the trials and sufferings their brethren of Ecuador were obliged to undergo in 1896. Father Rabagliati's letter reads as follows:—

Bogota, November 9th, 1899.

VERY REV. DEAR FATHER,

For over a month a revolution—an almost every-day occurrence in these South American Republics—has been raging in Columbia. Its baneful effects are being everywhere felt. Commerce is almost at a deadlock; communications abroad have been interrupted; and, what is worse, many homes are in mourning. The schools and colleges in the town have been closed, with the exception of our institutes which are full of orphans who have no home where to go.

We have been obliged to suspend the building of our new House at Bosa, and also to abandon for the time being our scheme for the construction of lazarettos which was progressing so favourably.

Since the outbreak of hostilities I have received no news from any of the Salesian Communities in Columbia, save from the Leper Village of Agua de Dios. The town of Bogota is quite isolated, and we are left to

guess what is passing in the world outside. I am sending you this letter by a friend of ours, who has been entrusted by the Government with an important mission. He leaves here to-day; but I do not know whether he will succeed in crossing the enemy's lines safely.

The expulsion of our brethren, and the confiscation of their property during the revolutionary disturbances in Ecuador, a few years ago, have taught me to be prepared for a similar emergency. So I have had everything belonging to us in this district—our Houses and property at Bosa and Fontibon, and our Institutes in Bogota—placed under English protection, there being no Italian Consul in this town.

So far it would appear that the Government troops have had the best of the struggle, and no serious danger is at present apprehended here. However, the revolution is raging most fiercely in the Santander province, where is to be found one of the Leper Villages—that of Contractacion. As telegraphic communication has been interrupted for some days, we are very much in the dark and can only conjecture the events that are developing in that part of the country. I fear that our brethren and the Nuns attached to the Leper Village, as well as their *protégés*, the lepers, will be put to much inconvenience, and, perhaps, have to suffer many hardships, should the revolution be prolonged, on account of the lack of food. Cut off, as they are, from the outside world, this is not an unusual occurrence in times of war. I would willingly send them some assistance could I only see my way to doing so. Of our Missions at San Martin and Villavicencia I am also without news.

Bless us, dear Father, and pray for us. Do not be worried if you should not receive any news from me for some time to come, seeing that communication is so difficult. Believe me.

Your devoted Son in J. C.,

EVASIVUS RABAGLIATI.

IN THE VICARIATE APOSTOLIC OF MENDEZ AND GUALAQUIZA.

Leaves from a Missionary's Diary.

July 10. — In the first week of July, I left Cuenca for Gualaquiza, as was arranged, in company with my *confrère* Father Garcia, who has been recently ordained, and six

young men desirous of dedicating their lives to the conversion of the Jivaros in the Gualaquiza Mission. It was during this journey that I had a very narrow escape from death; and I feel sure that it is owing to our Lady's protection that I am still alive. At the end of two days' march, under a constant down-pour of rain, we reached San Jose, where we passed the night. On the morrow, I celebrated Mass in the Village Church, preached to a large congregation, and afterwards administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to several children of the place. As I was anxious to reach Gualaquiza before sunset, we did not prolong our stay at San Jose, but resumed our journey as soon as the sacred functions were over.

As I mentioned above, our little party was composed of eight persons. Some of these were provided with horses, and some with mules. We had, besides, three pack-mules with us. In all the five years I have lived in these wild regions, this was the first time that I had got together such a numerous caravan, and one so well-equipped. We had left San Jose about half-an-hour, and were climbing a very steep and dangerous path (we were travelling over a mountainous country), when suddenly my mule slipped, and, before I had time to extricate myself from the stirrups, it rolled down the precipitous bank dragging me along with it. In the downward tumble, we rolled over and over together,—sometimes the mule was underneath, and sometimes the poor rider. Yet all this time I preserved full possession of my senses. I expected every moment to be crushed to death, or have my brains dashed out against a boulder. I recommended myself to the protection of our Lady, and I was greatly surprised at not feeling any pain either from the weight of the mule as it passed over me, or from the stones and trunks of trees with which I was brought into continual contact. At length, the stirrup-straps broke, and I managed, not without great difficulty, to get free of the mule, but I found it impossible to stop my downward progress at once. And now another danger confronted me. Only a few yards below was the River Cuchipamba. Owing to the recent rains, it was much swollen, and to be caught in its raging waters meant certain death. But here again I had reason to acknowledge the protection of our Blessed Lady, for almost at the edge of the river-bank, I came to a sudden stop. Getting on to my feet, I looked around me and espied the mule, not far away,

in close proximity to the river, but safe. We had both escaped unhurt from the awful ordeal and without even a scratch! With the aid of a hunter's knife, I made my way back to where my companions were standing, mute and trembling, and full of apprehension in my regard. They were overjoyed to see me and hear that I had sustained no injury whatever; and they joined with me in a hymn of praise and thanksgiving to our Lady.

* * * * *

July 16.—We reached Gualaquiza without further incident after my unpleasant experience close by San Jose. I am happy to say that everything is proceeding well here at the Mission. I have at length been able to enrich the parish Church with four new bells, and provide one for the Chapel at San Jose. I have also seen my way to "get up" a band, on a small scale, among the boys of the College; and to supply the work-rooms with a larger quantity of instruments. Besides, the number of boys under our care, learning trades, has been lately increased; and we have ten lads studying for the priesthood. Two of these will receive the habit in September. God be thanked for all this!

Comparing the Vicariate of Mendez and Gualaquiza of to-day with what it was a few years ago when entrusted to us by Divine Providence, with what changes for the better we are confronted on all sides!

Certainly we have every reason to thank and praise Almighty God for the wonderful manner in which he has deigned to bless our humble efforts.

* * * * *

August 8.—During my absence from Gualaquiza an epidemic broke out among the Indians of the Village. As the customs which they follow on such occasions only serve to spread disease, our college was converted into a hospital, and as many patients as the place could hold were transferred there. They received every attention from our brethren, headed by Father Giaccardi; and it is consoling to relate that all the sick recovered who were cared for by us. The epidemic has now wholly disappeared.

But unfortunately another epidemic remains. It is of a more malignant character, and more difficult of cure than the other. I allude to the continual enmity prevailing among the Jivaros, and dividing them into two factions. Poor creatures! It is a great pity they cannot live in harmony for long with one another, and that they must have recourse to arms to settle every little dis-

pute. Full of daring, fearless, and intelligent, they possess qualities which go to make a great people. If they would only curb their fiery spirit of resentment and revenge, they might soon become a prosperous and wealthy race.

After the death of the *Brujo* Andrea, relative of Ramon the chief of one of the factions, this latter had his revenge by treacherously killing a warrior of Naranza, head of the opposite faction.* On this account the animosity between the two rival parties increased, and the desire of revenge became keener.

On the 28th of last month, there arrived at our Mission a small band of Jivaros, among them being a certain Santiago Visuma, a notoriously bad subject and a relation of the Chief Naranza. Ramon, who had been sick and was now convalescent, was staying with us at the time with all his family. Hence I could not suppress a feeling of uneasiness when Visuma and his band of warriors made their appearance, because I feared they were intent on no good. As for Ramon, he became furious on learning who the visitors were, and he asked for a weapon so that he might despatch Visuma. It required all my authority to dissuade him from carrying out his wicked design there and then; and to further prevent him resorting to violent measures, I locked him in his room. But notwithstanding this, he managed to communicate with a member of his own family, whom he directed to acquaint his (Ramon's) followers of Visuma's visit to the Mission, in order that they might waylay and kill him on his departure. Meanwhile, Visuma remained with us until late in the evening. He knew that Ramon was in the house, but being a *galantuomo* (a savage one, of course) he would not take advantage of his enemy's illness to do him mischief. His remark in this regard was characteristic of the man. Speaking in the curious *patois* (a blending of their own tongue with the Spanish language) so common among the Jivaros, he said to me: "Father Francis, you may tell Ramon that, although I am eager to kill him, I will wait until he is well again before I do so!" I tried to reduce him to more Christian sentiments, but I fear with little result.

An hour after he had left the Mission, I was informed that Visuma and his party had been set upon in the forest, and that two of them had been killed and several wounded.

* See Father Mattana's correspondence which appeared in the *Salesian Bulletin* for July-August, 1898.

Visuma himself was among the killed. He had been mortally wounded in the affray and left for dead by the foe, but as soon as they disappeared, he endeavoured to reach the Mission, only to die by the way. When Ramon heard that his fiendish orders had been faithfully carried out, fearful of the consequences, he fled from the Mission.

I hastened at once with a few Indians to the scene of the conflict—all was silence, not a sign of anyone about. After a short search we were rewarded by finding the body of Visuma pierced in several places. Life was quite extinct; so I blessed the remains, and had them carried to the Mission and deposited in the Church, in readiness for the exequies on the morrow, as Visuma had been baptised some years ago.

Shortly after we reached home, a crowd of Indians, friends and relations of the slain chief, gathered outside the Mission House and created an uproar. The night air rang out with their loud wailing, their shrieks, and threats. Our boys, frightened almost out of their senses, fled from the College, afraid that if they remained they would be all massacred. Meanwhile, the furious Jivaros, shouting imprecations on my head, made their way into the house and called for Father Francis. According to them, I was accountable for Visuma's murder. On being told of my whereabouts,—I was in the Church at the time, laying out the dead body,—they made their way to the sacred edifice, howling and shrieking. This was the first intimation I had of their presence. Taking in the situation at once, and resolved not to see God's temple profaned, I inwardly commended myself to His protection, and went to the door. There I was confronted by the threatening mob of savages. I called for silence, which being obtained, I gave them to understand that I cared little for their threats, and told them that if they wanted to enter the Church they must leave their weapons outside. I then went on to tell them I was deeply grieved to hear of the sad tragedy, and that, on learning the news, I had hastened to the spot where the dark deed had been enacted, in order to prevent further bloodshed, if possible, and to succour the wounded. I assured them that had it lain in my power to prevent Visuma's death, I should most certainly have done so; but as this was not to be, it might, perhaps, be consoling for the grieved relations and friends to know that his body would receive decent and Christian burial.

The Jivaros listened to me without interrupting me once, and when I had finished speaking, a certain Anthony Visuma, brother of the dead savage and leader of the motley group, advanced towards me and taking my hand in his, kissed it. This done, he said: "Your words, Father Francis, satisfy us, and you need have no apprehension as to our intentions towards you. We were angry with you at first, because you had given hospitality to Ramon, who is the cause of our troubles. Oh, the heart of Ramon is bad to have inflicted upon us this blow!" The concluding exclamation of Anthony excited the angry passions of the Jivaros. In a moment, they were once more a howling, shrieking mob, uttering this time fierce imprecations on Ramon's head. It was some time before calm could be restored, and then I said a few words to them and made them promise me that they would all be present on the following morning at the exequies of the dead chief. And they kept their word. At dawn of the next day, they were at the Mission with many other Indians besides. They brought with them the remains of another Jivaro they had found near the spot where the conflict had taken place, and these I had deposited beside the body of Visuma.

I shall not attempt to describe the scene enacted in the presence of the dead. It was awful to contemplate. In their wild, passionate outburst of grief, the poor savage creatures, sobbed aloud with convulsive violence; or shrieked and groaned and shouted; or uttered fierce imprecations against Ramon and his followers, swearing to wreak vengeance upon them. It all seemed to me like a horrible nightmare. But it was their way of expressing their grief. Strange to say, when the sacred functions began, they calmed down, and were quiet and attentive all through. One would have said that these poor creatures, most of whom were pagans, derived solace and consolation from the sad and impressive Christian ceremony, as was no doubt really the case. The funeral procession from the Church to the cemetery had place soon after mass, all the population of Gualaquiza, besides a large number of Indians of the neighbourhood, taking part therein.

* * * * *

August 13.—Only a few days have elapsed since the distressing events of which I made an entry in my diary on the 8th inst., and I am obliged to register fresh scenes of blood.

Naranza and his followers bent on revenging the murder of their kinsman, enlisted the

services of some Indian tribes of the interior, and with the assistance of these allies, assailed Ramon's dwelling-place two or three days after Visuma's funeral. But Ramon, meantime, had not been inactive. Divining the intention of Naranza, he too had sought the aid of other savage tribes, and was prepared to make a determined stand. However, he was no match for his foes. After a severe engagement he and his party were put to flight, leaving behind them several killed and a large number of wounded. His dwellings were then burned to the ground. This is only the beginning of what I fear may develop into a protracted and terrible war between the savage Jivaros. For the present, the missionaries and Christian inhabitants of Gualaquiza are in no immediate danger, but if these Indians, whose nature is so suspicious and fickle, were to take it into their heads to vent their rage on the Mission, we should certainly be in a very tight place.

Last night we went to fetch the body of an Indian lad, about 18 years old, who was murdered in the forest. He had been dead already two days, and the body was in a state of putrefaction on account of the many wounds received. The poor lad was a frequent visitor at the College, where he delighted to join with the boys in their play, or spend his time in the company of the missionaries for whom he had a great affection. His name was Jose Mario, and no doubt Almighty God has rewarded him in heaven for his conduct which was always exemplary.

* * * * *

And now a word about the Jivaros of Mendez. They envy the lot of their brethren of Gualaquiza, because these latter enjoy the presence and assistance of the missionary. On three different occasions during the last six months, deputations of Indians from Mendez have waited on me, and pressed me to go back with them and make my home among them. They are ready to make any sacrifice so long as they can have a missionary. God bless them for their good-will! It was a sad disappointment for them on learning that this was impossible, at least for the present; and it pained me also, not to be able to comply with their wishes. But I cheered them with the promise to pay them a visit at an early date, when I might likewise be in a capacity to make arrangements for the foundation of a Mission in their midst. There is quite a large number of Jivaros in Mendez. Perhaps in the near future, it may be possible

to establish there a flourishing missionary centre.

I have also received urgent requests from personages in high positions, to open Salesian Houses at Cañor, Gualaceo, and Sigsig,—three populous centres where much good can be done. But at present I am short of *personnel*. It is most consoling to note the enthusiasm of the people for the Salesian Work, wherever Don Bosco's Congregation is known. And judging from the success which has attended the exertions of Don Bosco's sons in the past, I can safely predict a brilliant future for the Azuay provinces, which are already on the high road of true progress and Christian civilisation. That God in His infinite mercy and goodness may bless and crown our efforts is my daily prayer.

FRANCIS MATTANA.

Salesian Missionary.

THE STORY OF THE ORATORY

OR

DON BOSCO'S OPENING APOSTOLATE.

CHAPTER XXXI.

The Church of St. Francis of Sales —A Prophecy?—King Victor Emmanuel's Gift—The First Decade

WHEN the purchase of Pinardi's house put an end to the unpleasantness due to its tenants, and when the inn adjoining had been done away with, the time had come to think of building a new Church which should be less unworthy as a place of worship, and better suited to the growing needs of the congregation. The old chapel had been somewhat enlarged by throwing into it some small rooms; nevertheless it remained cramped and unsuitable. There were two steps to descend, at its entrance, by which, in winter and wet weather, the rain came in. Owing to the low ceiling and to insufficient ventilation, it was suffocating in summer. People came there less often than they would have done had the chapel not been so hot and airless a place. There were few feast-days upon which some youth or other was not seized with faintness. When carried out, the sufferer seemed like one asphyxiated. Thus, it was not only useful, but necessary, to build a large church which should be more healthy and better adapted to its object.

Only a few days after Don Bosco had purchased Pinardi's house, he said to his mother: "Now I have a great wish to raise up a fine Church in honour of St. Francis of Sales."

"But where find the money?" asked Mamma Margaret. "Of our own, you know well, nothing remains. All went, long ago, in feeding and clothing these little ones. Therefore, think twice before you embark on so costly an undertaking, John, and come to a clear understanding with the Lord!"

"Yes; that is what we will do. And you, mother, if you should have the money, would you give it for this purpose?"

"Surely you know how glad I should be!" replied Margaret.

"God," continued the son, "who is so much kinder and more generous than yourself, has stores of wealth sufficient for the whole world, and we may hope that, when something so greatly redounding to His own glory is in question, He will send money in due season."

Filled with this confidence, Don Bosco one day sent for the Engineer, Cavaliere Blachier; and, showing him the ground intended for the site of the Church, begged him to draw the plans for it. About the same time, having a certain Frederic Bocca with him, he asked him if he would be prepared to take the contract.

"Willingly," answered Bocca.

"But," added Don Bosco, "I warn you, I may not be always punctual with the payments."

"In that case, we would proceed more slowly with the work."

"Oh, no; I should want the Church to be built as fast as possible, so that it should be complete and handsome within a year."

"Well, we might also hurry on the work." said the contractor.

"Then, let us begin," Don Bosco finally decreed. "I have something in hand. Divine Providence will send the rest in good time."

In the Spring of 1851, the ground was cleared; and in early summer, the foundations were being put in.

Several former students told me something which I wish here to record, without attempting to give an opinion as to its nature.

In 1846, when Pinardi's coach-house was transformed into a chapel, it was necessary to lower the floor by over a yard, (as I set down already), in order that no one should strike his head against the ceiling. The earth was heaped up at the north west side of the house. The boys liked the mound for a place to romp upon. When they played at

soldiers, they carried the heights, or descended them, according as they were victors, or vanquished, in their mimic war.

On one of the feasts of the summer of that same year, Don Bosco himself climbed up the mound, and, surrounded by many of the children, he made them sing a hymn in honour of the Names of Jesus and Mary. Suddenly, he called for silence, and he said to them: "My dear children, listen to a thought that has just come to me. *Sooner or later, in this very place where we now are, the altar of a church will stand, and you will approach it and receive Holy Communion. Near this altar you will sing the praises of our Lord.*" The Church was begun, and the high altar was placed at the very spot indicated by Don Bosco; but not until five years afterwards.

The works advanced apace, and in a few months, (on the 21st of July) the solemn blessing and laying of the corner-stone took place. Over six hundred of the Oratory boys, and as many from outside, had carried news everywhere through the city, with the result that, already, the evening before the ceremony, such a crowd had collected on the spot as had never before been seen in that neighbourhood.

The stone would certainly have been blessed by the Archbishop of Turin (who held Don Bosco in the greatest esteem and affection) had it not been for the troublous times. As I have already recorded, the intrepid Prelate had been obliged to go into exile, in August, 1850, and was now living in Lyons. In his place Canon Moreno, the Diocesan Administrator, came to perform that part of the ceremony; whilst the stone was laid by Signor C. Cotta, (himself a friend to the poor, and a great benefactor of Don Bosco's undertakings). A complete record of the proceedings, with some money, medals, and other memorials, were placed in the stone itself.

The celebrated Father Barrera, (moved by the sight of the vast crowds, and edified by the great number of priests present, as well as by the assembly of so many of the noble ladies and gentlemen of Turin), took a position upon some rising ground, and spoke on the spur of the moment, with extraordinary eloquence. Towards the close of his discourse, he said: "Brethren, there is a double significance in the stone that has just been laid and blessed. As the grain of mustard seed, it will grow into a mystic tree, and many children (like the birds of the air of the Gospel), will settle therein. The stone stands also for the general work of the

Oratories, which is founded on Faith and in the Charity of Christ. This work will form a solid mass against which the foes of Religion and the spirits of darkness will strive in vain." He then compared the present time to a hurricane which threatens alike cities and hamlets with destruction. Every living creature, in fear and trepidation, seeks shelter and safety. "Our days are evil days, above all, evil for youth in destitution. But here is a church, like a sheltering tree, which will strike deep root, and the tempest shall not have power over it. In the shade of this tree, and within the walls of this Church, thousands of young souls will find shelter, and protection against the errors that are scattered broadcast, to-day, by impious men and venal writers, to the destruction of the young. I seem already to see, flocking to this spot, like startled doves, a host of children, seeking safety. Here they will find not only shelter and defenders, but also food for their souls, and food for their bodies. Oh, my brethren! Let it be your task so to act that this tree shall soon grow to giant proportions, spreading its branches over the whole city, to be the happy resting-place of thousands of poor waifs who, but for its friendly shadow, would be left to wander about our streets and squares, open to the darkest influences, and in imminent danger of becoming their own moral enemies; the disgrace of their families; and the scourges of society. What grander work could you engage in, for Church or state? On the good or evil training of youth depends the life, or death of the family; the realm; and the world." In conclusion, the good priest uttered this touching prayer: "And Thou, O God," he pleaded, "God our Saviour, symbolized by the corner-stone, protect with the strength of Thine Arm the work of these Oratories. Is it reviled by the impious? Thou shalt bless it. Hated? But Thou shalt hold it dear as the pupil of Thine Eye. Has it not every title to Thy love? It gathers together; teaches; educates; the little children that in Thy mortal Life were the delight of Thy Heart. They are, and they will ever be, the objects of thy tender Love; lambs of Thy flock; choicest flowers of the garden of Thy Church. Under Thy protection will its seed, borne by the winds of Thy grace, spread everywhere; and though the pillars which sustain the firmament should fall, yet will not this great work cease and disappear from the face of the earth."

These words had a wonderful effect. The

preacher appears, indeed, to have been illuminated by a heavenly light, a gift of prophecy. His predictions have been fulfilled already, and will continue in growing fulfillment.

The Church, however, had risen but a few feet above the ground when Don Bosco's funds were exhausted. With the help of several well-wishers, he had collected thirty-five thousand francs, but this sum had melted like ice before the sun. It now became necessary to appeal to the public. The Bishop of Biella, Monsignor Pietro Lomanna, invited the Parish Priests of his Diocese, to further the work of the Oratory. His pastoral letter ran:

"The distinguished and devout priest, Don Bosco, animated by a truly evangelical charity, has been in the habit of collecting together on Sundays and holidays all the homeless boys he met with, in the large and populous district between Borgo Dora and Martinetto. Sometimes, he has fed them; sometimes given them secular, as well as religious, instruction.

"His zeal has been such that the original chapel has become too small to contain more than a third of the six hundred who flock there. He has embarked upon the arduous undertaking of building a Church of a size adapted to his own pious plans. But, for this, he is obliged to have recourse to the charity of the Faithful. With special confidence, he pleaded for my help; for, out of the six hundred boys attending the Oratory, more than two hundred are from the Diocese of Biella; and many of these are lodged and fed, in his own house, and clothed at his expense. There, also, they learn a trade. Thus, not only as a matter of charity, but also of justice, I beg your Reverence to make known to your good parishioners the merit of this work; to bring the charity to the notice of those with means; and to set apart a Sunday or holiday upon which a collection may be made.....

"In the earnest hope that the first collection will be one to bring consolation and assistance to the praiseworthy and godly man, while at the same time it will give a proof of the appreciation of the people of this diocese for a most pious, useful, (and even necessary) undertaking, I desire to renew the expression of my deepest esteem and affection.".....

GIOVANNI PIETRO, *Bishop*.

Biella, September 13, 1851.

This appeal brought in a sum of one thousand francs, but that was only a few drops of water in a thirsty land. Some other method of raising funds had to be found. It was then that Don Bosco thought of his first lottery. A committee for its promotion, composed of a number of benevolent ladies and gentlemen, was elected. Its members sought for gifts on all hands. His Holiness, Pius IX.; King Victor Emanuel; The Queen-Mother, Queen Adelaide; the Duke and Duchess of Genoa; the Court; and the nobility of Turin, made rich presents. The Government granted free postage for circulars, letters, and parcels for the lottery. Three thousand two hundred and fifty-one prizes were thus collected. The Municipality of Turin lent a large hall in which these gifts were exhibited. In consequence of their great value, leave was given to offer for sale a hundred thousand tickets at half a franc each. These tickets were sent to all parts of Italy, and the clergy and laity showed great zeal in distributing them, and forwarding the price of them to Don Bosco. Many tickets were, however, lost; and money for but forty-four thousand was received:—a considerable sum undoubtedly; but Don Bosco in his generosity, decided to divide it with the Cottolengo Institute, then under the management of Canon L. Anglesio.

Providence rewarded Don Bosco very soon for this fraternal charity, and in the following manner. A month before the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone, Don Bosco presented a petition to the King. He returned thanks for the royal favour shown towards the boys of the Oratory; gave an account of the Church then building; asked His Majesty to lay the foundation-stone; and, reminding the King of his past support, and of the charities of his royal ancestors, besought him to continue his favours towards the Salesian Institute. In a short time, Don Bosco received a most important letter from the Secretary of State; and, before the Church was finished, the gift of ten thousand francs, with other valued offerings. Part of the letter ran thus:

“His Majesty learns with real satisfaction that your Reverence and other pious persons receive boys into the Oratory, and there give them a moral and religious training.

“Unable, on account of the multiplicity of his engagements to be present on the occasion of the laying of the foundation-stone, the King is nevertheless anxious to aid in the matter of the new Church, whenever need may be.

“It is a pleasure to me to let your Reverence know how very favourably His Majesty regards your Institutes; and I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without expressing my own admiration for the zeal and good management with which you carry them on. I am with deep respect,

Your Reverence's devoted servant,

(for the Minister)
The Chief Secretary,
DEANDREIS.

On the eighth of December of this same year, occurred the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Oratory. On the previous Sunday, Don Bosco recalled that fact in affectionate terms to the boys. He would have liked to keep the anniversary with great solemnity; but the Church was not yet finished. He therefore restricted himself to recommending his pupils to thank Mary Immaculate with great fervour for her maternal protection. He recalled the chief of the signal favours of which they had been the recipients during the past ten years; and he recommended all, as a sign of their filial gratitude, to approach the holy Sacraments in honour of the Blessed Virgin, on her feast. This advice was followed. Under the ægis of the Queen of heaven, the tenth year was closed, and a new decade begun. The first may be called a period of birth and infancy; the second, a period of youth and growth.

(To be continued).

THE VALUE OF EVERY ACT.

How it is that every act we do leaves upon us its impression we know not; but the scars and seams of our bodily frame may warn us of the havoc sin makes in our unseen nature. The current of our thoughts, the wandering of our imaginations, the tumult of our passions, the flashes of our temper, all the movements and energies of our moral being, leave some mark, wither some springing grace; strengthen some struggling fault, decide some doubtful bias, aggravate some growing proneness, and always leave us other and worse than we were before. This is ever going on. By its own continual acting, our fearful and wonderful inward nature is perpetually fixing its own character. It has a power of self determination, which, to those who give over watching and self-control, becomes soon unconscious and at last involuntary.—CARDINAL MANNING.



[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.]

An Acknowledgment to Our Lady.—I desire to acknowledge, in the *Salesian Bulletin*, a temporal favour received through the intercession of our Lady Help of Christians. I also request your prayers for two special intentions.

MARIAN McG., *Belfast (Ireland)*.

* *

Our Lady's Blessing.—My little nephew was given over by the doctors, who said that human aid could not save his life. Prayers were offered up by the children of the Salesian Institute of this town for his recovery, and a priest imparted to him the blessing of Mary Help of Christians. I am pleased to say that the child is now quite well again to the joy of his parents, and to the great wonder of the doctors.

BIANCA B. CERTACCI, *Bologna (Italy)*.

* *

A Novena in honour of Mary, Help of Christians.—I had read in the *Salesian Bulletin* of the many favours obtained by people in affliction when having recourse to the intercession of our Lady Help of Christians, and being dangerously ill, I placed her medal round my neck, and made a Novena in her honour for my recovery. In order to still further induce our Lady to obtain the grace of my cure, I had a letter written to the Superior of the Salesian Institute of this city, asking him to have a novena of prayers to our Lady offered up by the children under his care for my intentions, which he promised. Wonderful to relate! the very first day of the novena, I began to feel better, and on the fourth day I was

able to leave my bed, to which I had been kept for nearly eight weeks. I have progressed favourably ever since, and I am now almost entirely recovered. I beg you to publish this favour for the greater honour and glory of Mary Help of Christians.

A. BARANGÉ, *Gerona (Spain)*.

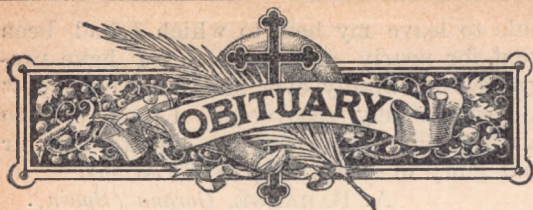
* *

Mary hears our Prayers.—A short time ago, on being informed that my father was seriously ill, I recommended him to the intercession of our Lady Help of Christians by a novena of prayers. I also promised to have the favour published in the *Salesian Bulletin*, in the event of his being spared to me. As I have since received the consoling news that he is well again, I wish to fulfil my promise by having the favour inserted in the *Salesian Bulletin*.

C. B., *Turin (Italy)*.

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

Baroness Nicotera di Marta, Nicastro (Catanzaro); Alexander Sesino, Orsara Bormida (Alessandria); D. E. L., Parma; Mary and Victoria Campostrini, Parona all'Adige (Verona); Rev. B. D. Sasso, Pedemonte; Anthony Patrucco, Riva (Vercelli); Angela Bardina, S. Francesco al Campo; Teresa Vizzardell-Varese, S. Lorenzo al Mare; Rev. Anthony Bedeschi, Reda; Francis Pinanzola, Sartirana Lomellina; Aurelio Sanna, Serrenti (Cagliari); M. D. S., Stradella; Rev. Peter Bowio, Pobietto (Novara); Adelaide Fumasoli, Tesserete (Canton Ticino); Louis Rosso, Turin; Mary Rosa (Bergamo); Evasius Della Valle, Turin; Francis Vigna, Villanova d'Asti; Rev. Gabriel Migliorini, Tremignon (Padua); Teresa Ferraro, Trino (Vercelli); Mary Ingnoli, Varallo Pombia; Mr. & Mrs. E. De Rizzoni, Verona; M. Mortarotti, Veruno; Philip Garrone, Volvera; Rose Tavini, Varallo Pombia; N. N., Parma; Camilla Meuli, Airolo (Canton Ticino); Esther Merlo, Alba; Joseph Carollo, Alcamo; S. Pestarino, Bogli (Pavia); Amelia Colucci, Alexandria (Egypt); Mary Meli, Bologna; Peter Bortolotti, Ascoli Piceno; Rev. Secondo Gay, Asti; Vincenzo De Giovanni, Aterrana (Avellino); Rev. E. Bianco, Borgo S. Martino; Q. Sogno, Bornate Sesia; L. Mellongo, Caire Montenotte; Mary Favitta, Caltagirone (Sicily); Louis Zanone, Camorino (Switzerland); A. Fattori, Pavia; M. Virgillito, Catania (Sicily); Dr. Charles Bragadin, Venice; Leopold Gentile, Ceva; John Bertalmia; Chiavari; Antonia Cucchini, Cividate Camuno; Laura Sant Andrea, Clusone; R. v. B. Pioreschi, Cologne (Germany); Camilla Gario, Como.



Mrs. Hopper.



ON Boxing Day, Mrs. Hopper of Canterbury (England), a most excellent Catholic and a devoted Salesian Co-operator, was called to her reward. She had a great veneration for our holy Founder, Don Bosco, and, for many years past, she took a deep interest in the work of the Salesian Society, assisting it by every means that lay in her power. She had the happiness of seeing one of her sons raised to the sublime dignity of the priesthood, and of giving two others to religion in Don Bosco's Congregation. Speaking of this good lady, Father Fletcher, M. A., Master of the Guild of Ransom, says in the *London Monitor*: "She was a noble woman, a model mother, a wonderful missionary. Many, under God, owe their conversion to her. I was her guest at dinner the last two pilgrimages. How she loved those days, and how we shall miss her now! I heard the sad news at Cannon Street on the morrow of her death from her son, Father Hopper, who was on his way to Canterbury. I said Mass for her on St. Thomas's Day (no day more fitting for her *requiem*), and on Saturday at the Salesian College, Battersea, where I was spending the afternoon, I heard from another son, Brother Edmund, about the funeral which was about all that could be desired, though very sad, her son celebrating the Mass. Through much tribulation she has entered the Kingdom of God. May she rest in peace!"

SALESIAN CO-OPERATORS CALLED TO ETERNITY DURING 1899.

His Eminence Cardinal Schoenborn, Archbishop of Prague, Austria.
 The Most Rev. Dr. Jacopi, Archbishop of Agra, India.
 The Right Rev. Dr. O'Hara, Bishop of Scranton, U. S. A.
 The Right Rev. Athanasius Salbaugh, Bishop of St.-Jean d'Acre, Palestine.
 The Right Rev. Dr. Vertin, Bishop of Marquette, Ind., U. S. A.
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 Barnard, Mr. Edward A., L'Ange Gardien, Canada.
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 Dillon, Rev. Sr. M. Austin, Ursuline Convent, Blackrock, Cork, Ireland.
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 Francis Regis Hebert, Rev. Sr., Monastery of Charity, Bartestree, Hereford, England.
 Franz, Mr. Laurence, Chicago, U. S. A.
 Galvin, P. P., Rev. Coleman, Cappatagal, Ireland.
 Good, Dr. Edward, Melz, Switzerland.
 Grainger, Very Rev. Monsignor, Exmouth, England.
 Hannan, Rev. Richard, Langley Moor, England.
 Harmel, M. Felix, Warmeriville, France.
 Haverman, Mr. Joseph W., Setterich, Germany.
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 Nangle, P. P., Rev. John, Croghan, Ireland.
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 Schumacher, Mr. P. A., Milwaukee, Wis., U. S. A.
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 Vaughan, Miss Henrietta, London, England.
 Warmoll, Rev. F. J., Stowmarket, England.
 Welsby, Rev. John, Windleshaw, England.

The Salesian Bulletin

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED AT THE SALESIAN ORATORY, TURIN, ITALY.

This Magazine is sent gratis to Catholics who manifest a desire to become Members of the Association of Salesian Co-operators, and concur in helping our Society in any way whatsoever.

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Gerent, GIUSEPPE GAMBINO.—Salesian Press.—Turin, 1900

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- (b) Be inscribed on the Register of the Association, kept at the Salesian Oratory, Turin.
- (c) Recite daily a Patér and Ave in honour of St. Francis of Sales, for the intention of the Sovereign Pontiff; and lead a practical Christian life.

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