



# SALESIAN-BULLETIN



TURIN  
SALESIAN PRESS

*F. Carlucci*

# CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

FOUNDED IN FAVOUR OF

## THE ORATORY OF THE SACRED HEART

AT THE CASTRO PRETORIO IN ROME

TO WHICH IS ATTACHED THE CELEBRATION OF

## SIX MASSES DAILY IN PERPETUITY

offered for the intentions of those who make a single contribution

OF ONE SHILLING

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### ADVANTAGES.

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;



# THE SALESIAN BULLETIN

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

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.)

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.)

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.)

Vol. IV., No. 4

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Registered for transmission abroad.

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**T**he Month consecrated to the August Mother of God is drawing nearer and nearer. We need spend no words exhorting our **Co-Operators and Readers** to mark this time in some fitting manner, by taking part in the public acts of devotion whenever it is possible for them to do so, and in the bosom of their families following up the traditional and most commendable custom.

The enlightened and earnest piety of many among them, we are glad to say, has been the means of extending wider and wider this salutary practice.

The forthcoming triumph of **Our Lady Help of Christians**, to which the **Successor of Don Bosco, Don Rua**, refers in the letter contained in this number, should be for us all an additional motive, if one was necessary, to join in this universal chorus of praise that is raised up by her devout clients throughout the whole world.




# THE CORONATION

## of Our Lady Help of Christians

AND

# THE THIRD GENERAL CONGRESS

## of Salesian Co-operators




Dear Co-operators,





ON the 31st of January 1888, when I announced to you the loss of our lamented Don Bosco, I remember saying that I had never had or could ever have more sorrowful news to give you in all my life. But now, through the goodness and mercy of God, I can in all truth say that I now announce to you the most pleasing and consoling news that I have ever given or could ever give you, though I were yet to remain many years amongst you.

On the first day of the month dedicated to St. Joseph, there came from Rome the long-wished-for brief in which the Holy Father—whom may Almighty God long spare to our profound veneration and gratitude—**has decreed**, in acceding to our humble petition, the **Solemn Coronation of Mary, Most Holy, Help of Christians**. I leave it to you to imagine the joy I felt on reading this important pontifical document. Indeed the Vicar of Jesus Christ could not give the Salesian Society a more precious or more consoling pledge of his fatherly affection, and that on the eve of the close of the twenty-fifth year of his glorious Pontificate.

You know well all that Mary Help of Christians is to us. She it was who inspired, and so wonderfully guided our venerated Don Bosco in all his grand enterprises. She it was, who sustained and continues to sustain our works by her protecting aid, so that we can truly say with our holy founder that all we have we owe to the intercession of Mary Most Holy. This is why the brighter lustre, which is shed by the pontifical brief around her image, gives me such joy and consolation.

Our Holy Father the Pope, in decreeing this special honour to Our Lady, has solemnly declared that the imposition of the crown shall be accompanied by all possible splendour, *Suo nomine et Auctoritate*, that is, in his name and by his Authority; delegating the Archbishop of Turin, H. E. Cardinal Augustine Richelmy, to act in his stead. Hence on the 17th of May, the day fixed by the Papal decree, when we see our esteemed Cardinal Archbishop place the

crown on the brow of the August Mother of God and that of her Divine Infant, we may behold in the illustrious prince of the Church the Person of the Pope himself, since he has appointed the Cardinal as his special Representative. It will be a memorable occasion for all.

In order to add to the splendour, and to prepare more worthily for this extraordinary event, there will be held in Turin about that time the **Third General Congress of Salesian Co-operators**. This is another source of great joy to us. It will be held on the 14th, 15th and 16th of May.

In making the formal announcement to you I cannot refrain from expressing my hopes that this Third Congress will be no less solemn and grand than the preceding ones, held at Bologna in 1885 and at Buenos Ayres in 1900. The Honorary President will be H. E. the Cardinal Archbishop of Turin, who will have around him the most distinguished and authoritative of the clergy and laity of Turin to form the Executive Committee.

This select Committee — to whom I publicly offer the homage of the gratitude of the whole Salesian family — under the Effective Presidency of His Lordship Mgr. Spandre, Auxiliary Bishop of Turin and an old pupil of Don Bosco, and of the Vice-presidents His Excellency Baron D. A. Manno and Cavaliere Richard Cattaneo of the municipal council, the General Secretary Count Olivieri, has already begun its work and gives every assurance of a most successful issue. But, Dear Co-operators, in order that so many expectations may be realised, your support and efficacious assistance is necessary. We therefore earnestly invite you to join heartily with the illustrious Committee, gladly receiving the proposals which by means of the *Bulletin* or by special circulars it has been judged opportune to make to you. You are hereby invited to the Congress if you are able to come, and if not to participate by communication.

The undertaking is no doubt an important one, and little time now remains. Here then is an occasion on which to make manifest to all what fraternal charity and zeal distinguishes those who work for the benefit of youth under the patronage of St. Francis of Sales.

If the generous love you bear Don Bosco would suffice of itself to urge you to take part in this solemn and public homage to his work, surely from the lively zeal you have for the glory of our common Mother, Mary Help of Christians, will spring that eager interest which will make this General Congress a worthy preparation for the grand solemnity on the 17th of May to which we are anxiously looking forward.

May Our Lady Help of Christians obtain copious blessings for us all and bring consolation to the paternal heart of His Holiness Leo XIII.

Believe me, Dear Co-operators,

*Your obedient Servant*

*Michael Rua.*

Turin, February 20th, 1903

The twenty, fifth anniversary of the exaltation of Leo XIII.

# THE PONTIFICAL BRIEF for the Coronation

LEO XIII, POPE

Beloved Son, Health and Apostolic Benediction.

*A*mong all the churches which the priest John Bosco of venerated memory, founder of the Pious Salesian Society, has, by his untiring energy, raised up to the greater glory of God, and to promote the salvation of souls, that of Mary Help of Christians at Turin solemnly consecrated in 1868, both on account of its vast proportions and the devotion of the worshippers, must be considered as the most celebrated.

In fact, as soon as it was opened for public worship, and that image of the Blessed Virgin, wonderfully represented in the midst of the Apostles who reverently offer homage to her from every side, with a sceptre in her right hand, and her Divine Child Jesus gracefully resting on her left arm, was exposed on the altar to the devotion of the faithful, that Church became in a most wonderful manner celebrated and held in veneration everywhere.

A sodality in honour of the Help of Christians was erected there, which was soon raised to the dignity of an Archconfraternity and enriched with many privileges and indulgences by this Holy See.

The devotion to this sacred image of the Mother of God then passed the confines of Italy and Europe, and to-day, by the special disposition of Providence, it is wonderfully spread among almost all nations of the Christian world. The signal and innumerable favours granted by Mary Help of Christians are solemnly declared both by the votive offerings, and the numerous pilgrimages.

Reviewing all these considerations when Our Beloved Son, priest and Superior General of the Pious Salesian Society, Michael Rua, in his own name and that of all the Salesian family, made to Us the supplication, that We Who in this year happily celebrate the twenty-fifth year of Our Pontificate, might be pleased to crown that venerated image, We, Who have nothing more at heart, and to whom nothing could be more consoling than

to see increasing daily more and more among Christian peoples devotion to the August Mother of God, have thought well to willingly comply with this request.

For this object all those who are concerned by these letters are hereby absolved and freed from any excommunication, interdict or any other ecclesiastical censure under which they may have fallen, and We charge you Our Beloved Son to perform the ceremony of the coronation of the Image of Mary Help of Christians, who bears in her arms her Divine Child and our Saviour Jesus, in the above mentioned church in this your city of Turin, exposed to the veneration of the faithful on the day which shall be assigned by you, with solemn rite and in Our Name and by Our Authority, observing those rules which become the dignity of the coronation of Our Lady and the Divine Child.

Moreover, in order that this solemnity may turn to the greater spiritual advantage of Christian people, to all the faithful of both sexes who truly repentant, shall confess and communicate on the day of the coronation and shall receive the Benediction which you will impart in Our Name and Authority, in the prescribed form and rite, and for the time to come, on the anniversary day of this Coronation between the first vespers and sunset of the following day, to those who shall piously visit the church and Image and there pray devoutly for concord among Christian Princes, for the extirpation of heresies, for the conversion of sinners and for the exaltation of Holy Mother Church, We grant through the mercy of God a Plenary Indulgence and the remission of all their sins, applicable also by suffrage to the souls of the faithful detained in Purgatory. And this, any other disposition to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at Rome, at St. Peter's, under the ring of the Fisherman on the 13th of February 1903, in the twenty-fifth year of Our Pontificate.

ALOYSIUS Card. MACCHI.

(Place of the Seal.)

Dilecto Filio Nostro S. R. E. Presbytero  
Cardinali Richelmy ex dispensatione  
apostolica Archiepiscopo Taurinensi.

To Our Beloved Son Augustine Richelmy Car-  
dinal Priest of the Holy Roman Church by  
apostolic dispensation Archbishop of Turin.



# THE THIRD GENERAL CONGRESS

## OF THE SALESIAN CO-OPERATORS

**A**FTER the first and second Congress held at Bologna (1895) and Buenos Ayres (1900) respectively, a third one is about to assemble in the coming month of May at Turin, the cradle of the work of Don Bosco.

When the first idea of a Congress had suggested itself and was expressed by some friends and admirers of Don Bosco, some misgiving and hesitation was perhaps felt about its opportuneness and feasibility. But once, through the enthusiastic support of H. E. Cardinal Svampa Archbishop of Bologna, and the intelligent and active concourse of distinguished Ecclesiastics and laymen of that city, the project was entertained and discussed, it soon became evident that great and lasting good would be effected by such an assembly.

There the vast field of Don Bosco's labours would be reviewed and illustrated; the programme of his providential mission better unfolded and explained; its marvellous results summed up and brought into evidence as an instruction, an example, an encouragement to all those, who, prompted by christian spirit, are eager to exert themselves for the good of their neighbour. Such a gathering moreover would draw closer the bonds that hold together the members of Association of Co-operators, who have already common aims and aspirations, promote exchange of views affording stimulating

and instructive lessons, enabling one to profit of the garnered wisdom and long experience of others, sparing thus, in many cases, the disappointments and uncertain work of first experiments.

The various Committees were soon hard at work in making the necessary preparations, drawing up programmes and sending out invitations. The proposals and the invitations were received with universal favour. The meetings were honoured by the presence of four Cardinals, more than twenty Bishops and attended by about two thousand members. Many, being unable to attend, expressed their hearty participation in it, among whom were eleven Cardinals, eighteen Archbishops and ninety-six Bishops, besides a large number of Societies, Sodalities, Clubs etc., and many persons from every nation. A résumé of the proceedings and of the resolutions passed appeared in the *Bulletin* of that year.

Even now, when recalling to the memory those days, considering how the blessing of God rested on that Congress and its marvellous results, we are filled with wonder and thank God Who had thus indirectly deigned to glorify his faithful servant.

That which had taken place at Bologna in 1895, had, in a great measure, a counterpart at Buenos Ayres in 1900. There.



in South America, in the course of twenty-five years Don Bosco's works had spread marvellously, fulfilling the rôle assigned to them by Providence of infusing or reviving and maintaining the christian spirit in many a motley population of recent and rapid growth, staving off the baneful effects of religious indifference and unbelief, and of announcing the Gospel to the Indians.

There too had grown apace that army of zealous christians who are like the good leaven of society—the Salesian Co-operators.

That assembly afforded an opportunity of bringing to light for common edification and good example their noble work, and also of giving to them a public testimony of gratitude.

"Permit me" said one of the orators, Fr. Vespignani, in addressing the meeting, "Permit me then to reveal to the world the work of God: *Opera autem Dei revelare et confiteri honorificum est.* The good already done is due to you, as that also will be, which, by the help of God, is to be accomplished in the future; because you are the mainstay of the Salesian Institutions. Like Don Bosco, his Successor does not undertake any foundation without your proposal, help and

support, which are to him the manifestation of the Divine Will, the luminous cloud that guides our steps; convinced at the same time that, without this safeguard, much time would be lost, per-



H. E. Cardinal Richelmy, Archbishop of Turin,  
Hon. President of the Congress.

sonnel rendered useless, and nothing accomplished. According to the spirit of Don Bosco, the Co-operators always head the march of the Salesian action; they know the persons, the places, where our work can be undertaken with profit."

A writer of *La Voz de la Iglesia*, an

an excellent newspaper of that Capital, dwelling on the good that would accrue from the Congress, thus expressed himself: "We are convinced that these resolutions matured in well-balanced minds and buoyed up by the high aspirations of noble hearts, will result in the good of all, in a uniform and beneficial *modus operandi* which will enlarge the radius for the grand works of Christian civilization that the Salesians, with self-sacrifice and abnegation are carrying forward. From these resolutions will be derived the impulsive and creative force resulting from the united energies of those who co-operate and those who execute; that force of the will of all united, which so condenses itself in one proposition and directs the beginning towards a great current; that force which sprung from a masterly idea creates a powerful generating impulse. Whatever may be the conclusions the Salesian Congress will arrive at in relation to the great problem of the day, which affects so vitally the interests of the moral order, compromising at times even the existence of Society itself, it may be taken for granted that they will be based on a spirit of Christian regeneration, of improved civilization, of true charity and justice, etc."



Mgr. Spandre, Auxiliary Bishop of Turin,  
Effective President of the Committee of the Congress.

The years that have passed since the first Congress have witnessed a rapid increase in number and marvellous development of those works, and the sphere of action of the Association of Salesian Co-operators considerably enlarged and extended to other places.

Moreover, subjects, which could only

be touched on cursorily at that time, claim and deserve further consideration and closer study; suggestions then advanced not without hesitation, have since been put to the test of experience and received confirmation; so that fresh light and practical guidance may be looked forward to from the labours and studies of those distinguished and competent

persons who have undertaken to treat these subjects, and from the contributions that are expected from many places.

In the annual report which Don Bosco addressed to the Co-operators at the commencement of the year 1882, after giving a short account of the works accomplished in the previous years and

laying before them the projects which, notwithstanding the obstacles in the way, he hoped to accomplish, he himself raises the difficulty that might have presented itself to the mind of some, viz., with such difficulties in the way would it not be better not to undertake those new works, and slacken in doing good?

And he answers: "I would accept this suggestion and follow your advice of putting off those good works, but on condition that the devil and his satellites also cease from doing evil. But since



Baron D. A. Manno.  
Vice-president of the Committee of the Congress.

they are doing the very opposite, I must tell you that I too cannot stay inactive, and I go forward trusting in Providence and in your charity."

Now, indeed, more than ever, it seems that the devil, far from ceasing from doing evil, is summoning up all his forces for an even fiercer contest. It seems that, lashed into fury by the revival of Christian life and activity which happily has been brought about in many places during the glorious Pontificate of Leo XIII and through his exertion, the enemy of mankind is trying his very utmost to wreak his rage by multiplying the means of corruption, straining every nerve in order to stamp out the very germs of Christian life.

To further these fiendish designs, he, chiefly through the agency of a venal, licentious, irreligious press, wages a fierce war against the Church, her Head and her ministers, and carries on a relentless campaign of calumnies, slanderous insinuations and misrepresentations against the religious bodies, the bulwarks of Religion.

To this end also are directed the persistent efforts of rendering pagan elementary and secondary education and withdrawing the artisans from the influence of Religion imbuing them with perverse maxims and luring them with false and deceitful promises.

Alas! that the evil one, not only has willing ministers for this work of corruption among his votaries, but finds at times unconscious helpers among well-meaning but indifferent, self-seeking Christians who could do something to check the progress of evil.

For us, dear Co-operators, the threatening evils should, after the example of Don Bosco, serve to make us redouble our efforts, stimulate our zeal, point out to us the necessity of serrying our ranks and strive to recruit new members, bearing always in mind these grave and weighty words of the Holy Father:

"We stand in the presence of evils all too numerous, we are threatened with a disastrous upheaval.... the situation therefore calls, and calls imperatively for courage and unity..... Religion and Society are at stake and it is the sacred duty of all good men to save them from dishonour" (1).

(1) *Encyc. Graves de communi.*



# Don Rua's Representative

## IN AMERICA

(Extracts from his Secretary's Correspondence.)

**E**VEN from what I have been hitherto relating, you may infer what marks of esteem and regard the Representative of Don Rua has received everywhere and from persons of every class. His Excellency the President of the Federation received him with great kindness and showed himself well satisfied with the good that Don Bosco's institutions are doing to his country; he expressed the regret of being unable now to help it as much as before when in San Paulo, where he was President of the State.

I need not speak of the Minister of Public works who granted us a free first class ticket on all the railways of the State (and later on for the boats also) for all the time of our stay in Brazil. We made it our duty to go and thank him before leaving; chiefly as everywhere his orders had been carried out with utmost attention and punctuality.

We also paid a visit to other Ministers; to the ex-President of Cuyaba, who along with the Bishop of that town had exerted himself for the establishment of our Houses and Missions in Matto-Grosso; to the first Magistrate and to the Presidents of Cuyaba, Bahia, Pernambuco, San Paulo, etc. all of whom treated our Superior with great consideration: and some even condescended to return the visit.

These general remarks might perhaps have been left out, were it not that they are a grateful and dutiful acknowledgment.

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To return to my diary. We arrived at Lorena at 12 o'clock under a broiling sun, and in an atmosphere that was sultry to suffocation; still at the station there was a considerable crowd of people waiting, regardless of all discomforts. Immediately on the arrival of the train a band struck up a march of welcome and escorted us to our church of St. Benedict. This church is due to the munificence of Baron de Castro, a true father of the people of Lorena, as there is no good

work in which he does not share largely, making good use of the wealth which Almighty God has given him.

The Church is not large and was soon filled to overflowing, whilst many patiently and devoutly waited outside for the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament which Fr. Albera was to give.

In Lorena we have two houses: one for cultivating the ecclesiastical vocations of those who, for some reason or other, could not do so in their school days, the other is the Novitiate. Here also resides the Provincial for the South of Brazil. As the town of Lorena is conveniently situated within easy reach of those where there is some Salesian institution, Fr. Albera chose it as his head-quarters during our stay here. For, chiefly at this season, the railway-journeys on account of the heat and the dust are so fatiguing and exhausting, that it is a necessity to shorten them as much as possible.

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We went to Guarantigueta by means of the tramway. There is a boarding school at that town under the patronage of St. Joseph. It is situated on a hill, but the fatigue of the long climbing is well repaid by the fine view that is there displayed before one's eyes.

The soul of all the religious movement in this town is a venerable old priest, with white hair and most amiable countenance. He came from Italy to Guarantigueta when a young priest, and he has not left this place since.

It is he who got ready the boarding school on the hill where there are now seventy boarders. It is he who called the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians to undertake the direction of the hospital. He also gave them a house, now one of their principal ones, large, and roomy enough to start a novitiate, and to hold a flourishing boarding school and also a Festive Oratory. On the occasion of the Visit of Fr. Albera their pupils gave in his honour a musical-literary

seance in which they displayed great skill and excellent training.

At this entertainment there was perchance among those present a gentleman from Rio Janeiro. Towards the close of it he asked leave to speak and said that he was a Professor from Rio; he and his family were mostly engaged in teaching, and that, by commission of the Government, he had been visiting and observing several institutions in Europe, "well," he added, "nowhere have I found instruction of the mind and education of the heart so happily blended and cultivated together." That these words were not empty compliments is evidenced by the fact that this gentleman has three of his daughters there as pupils, although he lives at Rio the Capital which is eight hours' journey by express from Guarantigueta. And the General in command of the troops of Matto Grosso, some forty days journey from San Paulo, has his two daughters in this same school. I must say a like good reputation is enjoyed by the sisters everywhere, at Ouro Preto, Lorena, Ipiranga, Arara, etc. at Pontenova they have the training college for girls, the only one in the state of Minas Geraes.

In all these places Fr. Albera, aided by Fr. G'ordani, preached a spiritual retreat; but nowhere perhaps more earnestly than at Pontenova where he had before him the future school-mistresses of the State who can exercise so much influence either for good or for evil.

It was here at Pontenova also that the authorities followed by the people and the children of the schools had come to the station for two days following to meet the Representative of Don Rua, and were disappointed. The train was a whole day late. A telegram had been sent to inform them of the delay, but it has not arrived yet. On his arrival Fr. Albera was accorded a triumphal reception by those good people.

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We left Guarantigueta at about midnight and were going the same way that had formed the last journey of our lamented Mgr. Lagsagna. The darkness and hush of the night served to bring more vividly before our minds the sad occurrence in all its harrowing details. Here, we said to ourselves when on the platform, here stood that dark looking man who after having stared at the Salesians and the nuns who were taking their places in the carriage, expressed his wonder at not

seeing Fr. Albanello among them also, and in a low voice enquired about him from one of the railway officials. When he heard that that father had left the day before, he added: "He has been acute, but never mind, he shall not escape."

At Ouro Preto we remembered also how the carriage assigned to the missionaries had been designedly placed almost immediately after the engine notwithstanding the objections of Fr. Albanello who was there waiting for the Bishop.

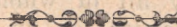
At Juiz de Fora the imagination pictured to itself the rowdy gathering of miscreants near the nuns and their mysterious threats: "By and and by you will see." And then we seemed to see the disaster taking place before our eyes; to hear the repeated whistles of the engine; to see the useless efforts of the drivers to avoid the collision; to hear the word of the Bishop crying out: "My God! an accident, Mary Help of Christians save us;" then the clash of the engines; their carriage telescoped by the collision, splintered, crashed! crushing the passengers within half a yard of Fr. Albanello and Fr. Zatti who saw a Salesian and a Nun falling at their feet in a pool of blood, whilst the Bishop with his head resting on the window was crushed to death by the boards pressing on his chest.

We wished to visit the exact spot where the accident took place, the room where the dead and the wounded had been removed, and we were shown everything with exquisite kindness by the Redemptorist Fathers.

There still lives in that Community the Rev. Fr. Matthias, the one who attended the poor victims with a solicitude truly maternal. Almighty God will surely reward him according to his deserts, and Fr. Albera wished to thank him in public in the name of the whole Salesian family.

Almighty God so disposed that the labours, the sufferings, the conflicts of that hero should be sealed with blood, so that his soul should go to heaven much richer in merits, and that his example should spur us on to undergo and suffer anything so that the kingdom of Jesus Christ may extend and triumph here on earth.

(To be continued.)





# NEWS FROM

## the MISSIONS

### COLOMBIA.

#### Solemn consecration of the Republic to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Bogota. 23rd of June 1902.

VERY REV. AND DEAR FATHER,

**A**T last, after nearly three years, during which I have had scarcely anything but bad news to give you, I am now able to give you some that is good and consoling.

The old tale—A base calumny.

From the 18th of October 1899 till the present time my letters have always told the same tale; namely that we are still at war; massacres, deaths, ruins continue with ever increasing fury; infectious diseases are everywhere spreading and raging, the yellow fever in the hot, marshy regions, the typhoid fever, the small-pox, dysentery and pneumonia in the temperate and mountainous districts are carrying off innumerable victims.

We have sufficient proof of this in our own house. In 1899, the first year of the war, four of our confrères, all young and full of life and vigour, died of typhoid fever; two others died in 1901, also of typhoid fever; and now in the year 1902 one has even been carried away by *leprosy*. I shall write to you on this subject more at length in another letter; the present one has matters of another kind to treat of.

The Salesians were not the only ones to pay tribute to death during this war. The Sisters of Charity have had more than thirty victims, nearly all of whom died in the military ambulances or in the hospitals

whilst assisting the sick. The Jesuit Fathers lost two of their number through yellow fever, and one who fell a victim to his duty on the battle field, receiving a mortal wound whilst confessing the fallen.

Telegrams sent from here, and then published in foreign papers, pretended that this Jesuit Father, Louis Espagna, was a general in disguise, who, fully armed, fought at the head of the Government forces. This is a shameless lie; he was only a poor priest who never turned before the enemy and faced every danger, in order to be by the side of the fallen, no matter what party they belonged to. But I am wandering from the point.

An important step—Imposing scene—Hope for the future.

In the first months of this year the revolution, for reasons which need not be discussed here, had made rapid strides; certain of eventually triumphing, emboldened by some partial successes, the revolutionists had decided to attack the capital and either to take it by storm or starve it into submission. That such was really their intention is shown by the numerous and fierce encounters which took place, almost simultaneously, at various spots in the neighbourhood of Bogota, all of which were favourable to the revolutionists.

The Archbishop, a model of the true Shepherd who loves his flock, during these three years of murderous struggle, never ceased to labour for the cessation of hostilities; the key-note of all his pastoral letters during the past Lents was peace and harmony, but it was only a waste of time and energy; the booming of canons which resounded everywhere, drowned the gentle voices of love and peace which came from every pulpit and made the vaults of every church ring. In May last he had the happy inspiration of publicly announcing, by means of a special pastoral letter, a *National vow* by which he intended to consecrate, with the greatest possible pomp, the whole of the Republic of Colombia to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, for the ces-

sation of hostilities and also for the consolidation of the future peace, leaving to future generations, as a perpetual monument of this fact, a splendid church dedicated to the Sacred Heart: this church is to be erected at Bogota, which is the centre of this Republic.

What is truly wonderful is that in less than two months, things have taken such a turn that it may now be safely said that the war is practically over, although it is still the general topic.

The spectacle which this city presented yesterday, 22nd of June is indeed worthy of everlasting memory. The whole Government in a body, namely, the President of the Republic, Joseph Emmanuel Marroquin, surrounded by all his Ministers, the Governor with his Secretaries, the Mayor with all his Aldermen, the members of the Supreme Court, the Attorney General, the principal officers of the army, the representatives of all the religious orders, of all the institutions and an immense concourse of people filled the vast Cathedral to join their Pastor in making, before the Blessed Sacrament exposed amid hundreds of lights, a solemn and public act of homage and of consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

One of our great orators, Canon Raphael Carrasquilla, formerly Minister of Public Instruction, delivered to the assembled multitude a magnificent discourse on the qualities of the Charity which, like a never-failing torrent flows from the Sacred Heart of Jesus, seeking to infuse it in the hearts of all those present, as though to extinguish the flames of hatred, enmity and all those passions which give rise to civil wars. It was a never-to-be-forgotten function.

But the most beautiful part of the feast was reserved for the evening. At one o'clock precisely the Cathedral was unable to contain the crowds of people that had flocked there in order to take part in the solemn procession, a prominent feature of the programme of this great feast; all the Bolivar square was literally packed. The Statue of the Sacred Heart was about to be carried in triumph through the principal streets of the city to the site where a large church is to be built, the primary object of the *National Vow*. All the Ecclesiastical and Civil Authorities were present in grand style. The procession started at one and did not return till four o'clock. After all the schools, colleges and religious associations had filed by in double rows, each one carrying their respec-

tive banners, came the Seminarists followed by representatives of all the religious orders; then the statue of the Sacred Heart borne on the shoulders of robust soldiers *Zappadores* (Sappers).

Three canons were charged to carry a splendid banner all of silk and gold which the Government had had made as a souvenir of the solemnity; behind the statue came the Archbishop surrounded by his Canons, and immediately after the President of the Republic with all his Ministers and the dignitaries of the Nation, all of them with head uncovered in spite of the sun and also of the rain which during those hours came down occasionally in a drizzle. In this order the



Cavaliere Richard Cattaneo,  
Vice-president of the Committee of the Congress.

whole of the city was traversed amidst a population thrilling with enthusiasm, whilst the Clergy, divided into two choirs, sang the Litany of the Saints, just as it is done during the Rogation days.

The site where the new Church is to be, was reached amidst the clanging of all the military bands and the general commotion of all the people who were fully aware that a religious act of great importance was being accomplished; then as soon as silence to some extent had been obtained, a young Catholic gentleman read an eloquent discourse in the name of the Government, explaining the meaning of the *National Vow* which the Ecclesiastical and Civil Authorities were, with common and admirable accord, making at that moment.

Meanwhile Committees of ladies and gentlemen, expressly named, made the collection which was to serve in order to start the work of construction without delay. When the discourse ended the procession returned

to the Cathedral by another route to the strains of the National Anthem and in perfect order.

Here, according to the programme, the solemn consecration of the Nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus was to take place, and the *Te Deum* was to be chanted. This was accordingly done. Whilst the Blessed Sacrament was still exposed, the Archbishop ascended the pulpit, the authorities occupying the nave and the people the side aisles, whilst all the doors were flung open so that his voice might reach the square which was teeming with people. His Grace read word for word the formula of consecration (1) which all repeated with great fervour.

It was truly a National Feast; I said National because, on the same day, and perhaps at the same hour, what the Ecclesiastical and Civil Authorities were doing at Bogota, was being repeated in all the chief towns of the departments by the Bishops and the Governors.

This is the Government which for three years the Colombian rioters, with the assistance of European and American sectaries, have been trying to overthrow. Its great crime is not bad administration, as the adversaries of the present institutions keep repeating; it is not the want of popularity, as others pretend; the only crime of the present Government, which the enemies of the welfare of this unfortunate Republic will never overlook, is its frank profession of Religion; the open protection it affords to the Church, to the Clergy, to the Religious Congregations, its love for the Pope... *inde irae*.

Now if at the time when, for reasons which

(1) This formula of consecration ran as follows: *O Jesus, King of kings and Lord of Lords, behold Thy people assembled here before Thee, the object of Thy predilection and paternal solicitude. Full of gratitude for Thy goodness and the special protection Thou hast shown them, they render Thee, on this solemn occasion the homage of their adoration and love which for so many motives they owe Thee.*

*Animated with the christian spirit of our constitution, which recognises the Catholic religion as the essential element of social order, in the name of all the Colombian people, we consecrate ourselves by an explicit Vow to Thy Adorable Heart.*

*Deign to receive, o Sacred Heart, this National Vow as a homage of love and gratitude from the Colombian Nation; take it under Thy special protection, inspire its laws, direct its politics, sustain its Christian institutions, so that we may enjoy the inestimable gift of peace. Never allow it to be separated from Thee, or to cease to recognise Thee publicly before the rest of the world so that it may have the right of being recognised by Thee before Thy Heavenly Father.*

*Bless our people, our Republic and its Representatives, our Church and its Pastors, the universal Church and its Supreme Head and hasten the day of Thy triumph over all nations for the glory of Thy Divine Heart. Amen.*

I do not wish to discuss, people did not wish or dare to take the great step, although they were urged to do so by another most zealous Prelate, Archbishop Velasco, if, I repeat, every effort then made to overthrow this Catholic Nation was unavailing,—now that one half at least of Colombia, trampling on human respect, is kneeling before him who is truly *Dominus Dominantium*, the true Father and Lord of the people, or, to speak more correctly, now that Colombia has sought for protection and refuge in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, thus giving to the present generation so indifferent and incredulous, an example of religion which is rather unique than rare—now it may remain tranquil and safe and in



Count Olivieri,  
General Secretary of the Committee of the Congress.

good company. The barque which leads this Republic on to prosperity, has Jesus with it; let its enemies raise up storms around it, multiply the rocks in its way and strain every nerve to submerge it; in that barque is Jesus, that Jesus who of old *imperavit ventis et mari et facta est tranquillitas magna*. The church consecrated to the Sacred Heart by National Vow, may be styled the temple of peace; and from its tabernacles which will contain the *Deus fortis, patiens, Pater futuri saeculi, Princeps pacis*, will come forth a spirit of love, concord and peace which will breathe over the length and breadth of this nation, so christian and yet so unfortunate on account of its so frequent intestine struggles, and it will bring to it days of real prosperity and everlasting glory. *Sedebit populus in pulcritudine pacis*.

Yours most affectionately in Corde Jesu

(Fr.) E. RABAGLIATI.



## PATAGONIA (Territory of Neuquen)

### Pastoral Visit and Mission of Mgr. Cagliero Vicar Apostolic of Patagonia.

FROM the Secretary of Mgr. Cagliero we have received an interesting account of a long and difficult missionary excursion in the extensive territory of Neuquen at the foot of the Andes. By way of introduction and illustration of the narrative he has sent also the following geographical details concerning that remote part of Patagonia.

#### The Territory of Neuquen—Rivers —Natural riches—Population.

The Argentine Republic is politically divided into fourteen Provinces and ten Territories: of these that of *Neuquen* is certainly one of the most important and promising.

It is divided into six departments and measures 43,681 square miles. It extends from the 35th to the 40° 30' degree of Southern latitude and it has an excellent geographical position. In the West the highest summits of the Andes form its boundary and separate it from Chili.

The Territory is well supplied with water; large rivers traverse it from end to end; picturesque lakes, extensive valleys and fertile plains render it very pleasant.

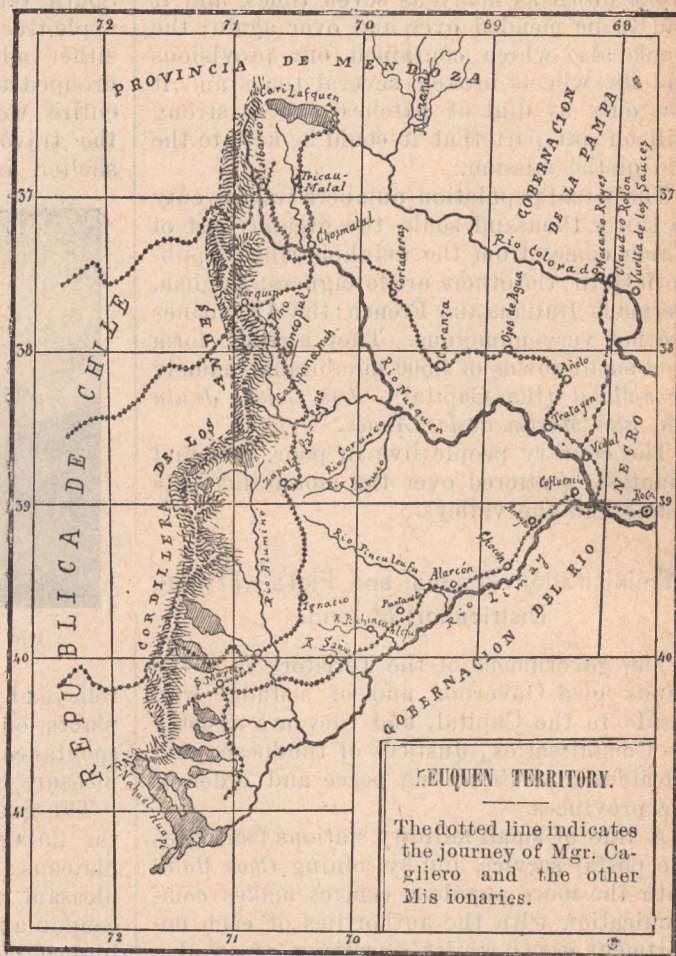
Its configuration resembles that of a delta, two sides of which are formed by large rivers—the *Limay* and the *Neuquen*, these by flowing together form the *Rio Negro* which after a course of 120 leagues throws itself into the Atlantic.

In the year 1899 so great was the volume of water that the two former discharged into the *Rio Negro* that this river overflowed and flooded a valley of fully 500 square leagues, carrying away houses and trees, destroying at least a million head of cattle and reducing to a heap of ruins the flourish-

ing populations of *Roca*, *Pringles* ad *Viedma*, the Capital of the Territory of *Rio Negro* and centre of the Salesian Missions of Patagonia.

The climate is healthy, somewhat damp in places high above the level of the sea, dry and mild in ordinary places. The highest mountains are perpetually snow-clad and the plains are fertilized by frequent rainfalls.

Fresh and copious springs water the hills and the valleys which are covered with abundant pasturage. The winds however are



frequent, troublesome and cold, chiefly when they blow from the Andes.

The Cordilleras hide many mineral springs, mines of gold, silver and coal, springs of petroleum and quarries of marble, granite and chalk. But all these natural riches still lie neglected, and up till now it is only from the auriferous quarry of the Vento Cordillera that strangers extract and export gold, the best of the Republic.

The roads practicable for vehicles number three all told. One in the North which runs parallel to the *Neuquen*, the second in the South alongside of the *Limay*, whilst the third called the *Zapala* road is the means of communication in the centre.

Don't think however that these roads are kept in anything like fair condition: they are extremely rugged and strewn with the wreckage of carts and trucks which have been abandoned in the middle of the road by unfortunate travellers.

Our own van did not fare much better: it broke down as many as seven times and it had to be mended over and over again; the truck also which contained our provisions had its wheels broken several times and it was only by dint of patches and a strong will on our part that it could be kept to the end of the mission.

The actual population numbers from twenty to thirty thousand souls, the greater part of which comes from the neighbouring Republic of Chili; the others are foreigners: English, Germans, Italians and French; the Argentines are not very numerous. They already form four small towns of 1,500 inhabitants, namely *Chos-Malal* (the Capital), *Las Lajas*, *Junin* and *San Martin de los Andes*.

The country people live in poor huts and shanties, scattered over the mountains, the plains and the valleys.

#### Administration—Fauna and Flora—Fertility Distribution of land.

The government of the Territory is in the hands of a Governor and of a Judge who reside in the Capital, and they are assisted by Commissaries, Justices of the peace and Alcaldes in maintaining peace and order in the provinces.

A line of small military stations facilitates the postal service, and by joining *Chos-Malal* with the more populous centres makes communication with the authorities of each department easy; whilst garrisons of cavalry and infantry are stationed at *Chos-Malal*, *Las Lajas* and *San Martin de Los Andes* to protect the frontiers between Patagonia and Chili.

Agriculture and the rearing of cattle are making headway; but industry is still in its infancy; the dairy produce however is not only satisfactory, but at times reaches the finest qualities.

The telegraph line which puts the Capital in communication with the places of greater importance in the Republic, the railway,

which is partly being now constructed and partly projected, will no doubt give a powerful impulse to commerce and forward the prosperity and colonization of this extensive and fertile territory.

The soil, which is still for the most part untilled, abounds in rich pasture lands, where droves of sheep, cattle and horses increase and multiply by the thousand. There are numerous woods of pine, oak, cypress trees from which the industrious inhabitants get large supplies of timber.

In the fertile and extensive region of the South West, commonly called *Manzanera*, the apple-tree (manzano) grows in a wild state, either adorning the banks of the river or grouped together in the valleys so as to form entire woods which draw the attention of the travellers to whom they afford both shelter and refreshment. The eye is also



Rio Neuquen seen from Chos-Malal.

relieved by miles of hedgerows with climbing plants of fine and luscious strawberries of spontaneous growth which one can pick at pleasure by merely bending over his horse.

The guanaco, the puma, the *vizcaccia* and the Patagonian *lancodón* roam over the vast plateaus, in the deep valleys and by the pleasant river banks, whilst the eagle the condor and other birds of prey perch on the highest mountain tops and on the inaccessible summits of the Cordilleras, always ready to pounce on the lambs that stray from the fold.

The progress and prosperous future of the Neuquen depend on the moderate and fair distribution of the land. This belongs for the most part to the Government, who tacitly allows the poor immigrant to live for the time being in his wretched hut, to tend to his little flock and to till his field which produces wheat, maize, vegetables, etc.

The rest of the land belongs to rich land-

lords of which they possess ten, twenty or even sixty leagues. They let out part of this land and the rest they manage themselves by means of metayers. This is the reason why so few of the inhabitants own the land they live on, and also the reason why no one thinks of raising more solid buildings, of opening canals for irrigation purposes, of making plantations or bringing about any notable improvement.

Few also are those who can afford to tenant farms on account of the high rents demanded by the landlords. As long as these large properties are not divided into smaller ones there is no chance for the formation of proper colonies, and the immigration into the Neuquen, and consequently its progress will become more and more difficult and doubtful.

#### Native population—Religion—Missions.

Among the inhabitants of this Territory there are many Indians who live scattered here and there along the banks of the rivers, in the valleys, on the plateaus or in the gorges of the pre-Cordilleras. On the banks of *Rio-Aluminé* lives the Cacique *Namincurá* with many of his tribe all engaged in cultivating the eight leagues of land granted them by the Government of the Republic.

So also on the heights of San Martin de los Andes dwells the Cacique *Caruhuinca* with many Indian families, several others are stationed in the gorges of the Andes and along the delightful banks of the lake Nahuel-Huapi.

The *Tehuelches* live more towards the South in the Territory of Rio Negro and especially in Chubut. There are also to be found in the neighbouring plains various tribes and wandering groups of *Araucanos* who trade with Chili.

The character of the Indians of Patagonia is tame and patient. Overcoming their natural sloth, they are beginning to like work; they till the soil, tend to their flocks and build their huts (*ranchos*): they also wish to have their children educated and almost all become christians, loving and practising the Religion which has civilized them.

It would be therefore an error to say that in Patagonia there are no more Indians; it is more correct to say that there are no more

savages, for the Salesian Missionaries have been labouring for their conversion for the last twenty years. Notwithstanding all this it is necessary to keep instructing them in the truths of faith, inculcating on them the principles of Christian morality from which proceeds true happiness temporal and eternal.

With the exception of a few German families, all the inhabitants of this Territory are Catholics, and it is for this reason that in the principal centres churches and chapels are being built even at the cost of great sacrifices.

The Missionaries cross the Territory in every direction preaching the Gospel everywhere and spreading the germs of civilization.

Three priests and a catechist reside in Chos-Malal. At Junin de los Andes there are two flourishing boarding schools; one is under the direction of the Missionaries and the other is entrusted to the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

His Lordship, Mgr. Cagliero, visited this Territory in 1887 accompanied by Fr. D. Milanesio, Fr. B. Panaro and the Catechist Zanchetta. It was precisely on this occasion that owing to the horse being badly saddled, when in the Vento Cordillera, the Bishop fell sustaining severe injuries in the ribs. He had to lie for more than a month in a poor hut a prey to fever and to excruciating pains, until having become convalescent, he was able to cross over to Chili to complete the cure.

In the Mission and pastoral visit of this year (1902) he was assisted by Fr. D. Milanesio, Fr. M. Gavotto, Fr. J. Franchini, Fr. Z. Genghini, Fr. J. Beraldi and the Catechist Sanbernardo.

It was the most important, the longest and the most perilous mission during which Almighty God lavished upon us his blessings, as it will be seen from the account which is to be published for the edification of our good Co-operators who by means of their offerings help to sustain and extend the Salesian Missions in Patagonia.

(To be continued).



# Salesian



## In preparation for the Congress.

**I**N the beginning of February last, an important meeting was held in Turin at the Archbishop's palace. H. E. Cardinal Richelmy, presided, supported by the Right. Rev. Mgr. Spandre, Auxiliary Bishop, and the Right, Rev. Mgr. O'Callaghan, O. P., Bishop of Cork, who happened to be staying in Turin at that time. There were present also our Superior General Don Rua and a considerable number of the most illustrious members of the clergy and laity.

The object of the meeting was to consider the project of the future Congress of Salesian Co-operators and take the first steps necessary for the organization of an undertaking of such proportions and importance. After some preliminary remarks of H. E. the Cardinal and of Don Rua, the discussion assumed a very practical tone and turned on fixing the principal lines on which the plan should be carried into execution. The principal Commission was there and then formed which took upon itself the drawing up of the programme and to regulate the proceedings. To this five others were added later on for the various departments, such as journeys, receptions, hospitality; means, participations, etc.; selection and fitting up of the suitable *locale*; religious festivities, appeals, announcements, circulars, etc.

The members that compose these Commissions and the earnest and practical manner in which they have taken up their task gives every assurance of successful results.

The Lady-Co-operators—those most valuable helpers in all good undertakings— assembled in their turn on the 14th of March in the Church of the *Instituto Sociale*, graciously placed at their disposal by the Jesuit Fathers. The Right Rev. Mgr. Spandre

presided and his excellency Baron A. Manno, Vice-president of the Congress, spoke of the coming event, dwelling chiefly on the Coronation of Our Lady Help of Christians; a fact, he remarked, that may well be looked upon as a token of predilection from the Holy Father. He called upon them to lend all the co-operation in their power so that the ceremony may be surrounded by all becoming splendour.

The Very Rev. Don Rua in his turn, in simple and fascinating language, explained how this idea had originated and spoke of his conversation on the subject with the Pope; lastly he called upon Mgr. Spandre to impart the special blessing that the Holy Father has sent especially for those who would take part in this work.



## Another Illustration.

**F**OLLOWING, as we do, with keen interest and sympathy all that is done on behalf of youth in order to preserve them or withdraw them from evil influences and train them up as good christians, we were reading with eagerness what a distinguished and most zealous catholic wrote not long ago on this subject in one of the principal monthlies. When we came across this remark of his, viz. that it is much to be regretted that at times little is known in one place of what is being done in another, we could not but exclaim: lo! here is another illustration, if one more were needed, of the advantages to be derived from the Congress of Salesian Co-operators.

It would have been welcome news and information, we think, to have seen the programme, the reports and the resolutions of the first general Congress, or even those of

the more modest and local one about the Festive Oratories—that work so comprehensive, so adaptable to different places and circumstances. Various questions bearing on this matter will be treated of in the coming Congress as may be gathered from the following list of points of the programme: 1st. Don Bosco and the Salesian Co-operators. 2nd. Students: day schools, colleges, boarding schools. 3rd. Artisans: schools and technical institutes, agricultural colonies, societies for working lads and adults. 4th. The Nuns, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and their institutions for school-girls and working girls. Similar works of Lady-Co-operators. 5th. Oratories and recreation grounds for externs on feast days and on week days, evening classes. 6th. Advanced courses of religious instruction, clubs and societies for students. 7th. The press both scholastic and popular. 8th. Work on behalf of emigrants in Europe and in America. 9th. The Salesian Missions among the Indians and means of furthering them. 10th. Organization of Salesian Co-operators. 11th. Devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians. 12th. Various proposals.

*At the Sacred Heart Club, Battersea.*

**I**N the *Catholic Times* of March 30th, a long report is given of a concert which took place at the Sacred Heart Club, Battersea, London.

On this occasion a testimonial was presented to one of its oldest members in the form of an illuminated address, signed on behalf of the members by the Very Rev. C. B. Macey, President, Rev. E. Babagliati, Vice-President, Rev. W. Kelly, and Mr. J. C. J. Murray, Secretary.

We gladly notice this fact in these columns as the recipient thus honoured, Mr. W. J. J. Sullivan, has been for years a zealous Salesian Co-operator, and in congratulating him we pray that he may be one for many years to come.

Leaving aside the details of the proceedings and the motives which prompted this well-deserved recognition, we quote the words of the President, which say more than any expression of ours would convey.

On rising the Very Rev. C. B. Macey was received with loud applause and said:

I was thinking just now, that it is a long time since I have been present at any of these periodical gatherings; but my present occupations not only take up all my time,



Hut in Fortin Vidal.

but very often oblige me to absent myself from the Mission, as you all know. In spite of my many duties, I could not possibly absent myself to-night—(cheers)—because you are assembled here to honour one whom I have always held in the highest possible esteem—(loud cheers)—one whom I have always looked upon as my dear and devoted friend—(cheers). From the very first day we Salesians came to Battersea until now, we have had no friend more faithful, constant and true; and I think you will all agree with me that if our club has been spared the fate of so many others, if it has been able to weather the storms which threatened it from time to time, it has been due in a great measure to the wisdom and prudence of Mr. Sullivan. (Applause).

I have great pleasure in presenting the address, and I hope it will be, as Mr. Murray has said, an incentive to his children and his children's children to imitate his example (loud applause).

*At the Salesian Institute, Cape Town.*

ON Sunday Feb. 8th, the martial strains of the band, instead of the usual clanging of the bell, aroused the inmates of the Institute at Cape Town, and made them realise that the day had dawned—the longed-for day of the feast of their Superior.

During the short time in which he, the Very Rev. Fr. Tozzi, has been at the head of that House, he has linked his name to it with many ties, and endeared himself to all in many ways.

During the morning, religious services were held and fervent prayers raised, imploring God's blessing on many a firm resolve, and for the realization of earnest wishes.

At five o'clock in the afternoon a literary and musical entertainment was given in his honour, which several Co-operators and benefactors deigned to grace with their presence. The set poem for the occasion, under a telling allegory, revealed how much was due to his self-sacrifice and unceasing toil. The printers on their part, we must add, had applied themselves with all their skill to make of it an artistic production. The members of the House are under an obligation to some friends who enabled them to enhance the occasion with a useful present.

The Very Rev. Fr. Tozzi, at the close of the entertainment, availed himself of the opportunity for expressing how much the Institute owes to so many kind persons who had lent valuable assistance in the course of that year and how they will be gratefully remembered. He thanked the pupils for their prayers, referring all else that had been said to the body to which he has the happiness to belong.

*The mount "Tibidabo" and Don Bosco.*

THE *Diario Catalan* contained an extensive account of an imposing ceremony which took place at the close of last year on the summit of the picturesque mount Tibidabo which overlooks the town of Barcelona. It was the laying of the foundation stone of a Sanctuary to be dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus; and this is how the plan originated.

For several years past the charming slopes, and above all the enchanting views to be enjoyed from the top of that mountain, some 1750 feet high, had attracted visitors, so that it was gradually becoming a resort for health and pleasure. Some religious and thoughtful persons conceived the noble plan of securing in time a plot of ground in a favourable position where a church might be raised for the need of the future population.

Among the many manifestations of religious faith and proofs of love and admiration towards Don Bosco witnessed during his stay at Barcelona, there is also the following. Before departing from that city, Don Bosco went to visit the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Ransom, to thank Our Lady for the many favours received during his stay. There he was received with great honour by the clergy and several other distinguished persons and led up to the Sanctuary. After the singing of the *Salve Regina* by a choir of boys, the President of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul with eleven other gentlemen presented Don Bosco with that property as a record they said, of his visit to their city, so that the place, which was threatening to become a centre of vice and irreligion, should instead be made sacred by having raised on it a Sanctuary in honour of the Sacred Heart, and serve to keep alive and vigorous that religion which he was preaching and which constituted the most precious heirloom they had received from their forefathers. Then the President handed on to him a document signed by all the proprietors.

Don Bosco was deeply moved, and thanked them in a few words concluding with the promise that on that spot would one day rise a Sanctuary dedicated to the Sacred Heart where the people would have every opportunity of receiving the Sacraments and which would also be a lasting record of their charity and of their attachment to the Catholic Religion, of which they had given him so many beautiful proofs.

*The laying of the foundation stone of a new Sanctuary.*

THE promise of Don Bosco could not be forgotten; but for years all the attention had to be given to works of more pressing necessity.

Now, however, it seems that the time for carrying it into execution has arrived. That neighbourhood is becoming more and more

frequented and populated chiefly since railway communication has been established.

A Committee of zealous Co-operators has taken in hand the project, and their first care was to lay it before the Bishop of Barcelona, M. E. Cardinal Casañas, for approval. His Eminence not only approved it, but graciously took it under his patronage, and wishing that the laying of the foundation stone should fit in with the solemn celebrations for the Pontifical Jubilee of the Holy Father, he fixed the 28th of December for the ceremony.

The members of the Committee applied themselves with great energy to make the necessary preparations and arrangements. The Clergy secular and regular and various societies willingly lent their assistance, and the managers of the railway to the amount offered their co-operation for that day.

Early on that Sunday morning people of every class began to assemble on the summit. At eleven o'clock the Cardinal Bishop of Barcelona and the Bishops of Lerida and Solmona with other distinguished persons arrived and were received amidst the strains of the royal march played by three bands. His Lordship the Bishop of Lerida celebrated the Holy Sacrifice, then H. E. the Cardinal proceeded to bless the foundation stone with all the solemnity of the ritual, while some music was rendered by 400 boys from the *Talleres Salesianos* of Sarrià.

When the ceremony was over the Prelates and the principal benefactors partook of some refreshments at the Hotel Tibidabo. The Chairman of the Committee, D. M. M. Pascual de Bofarull, thanked the Cardinal and the Bishops in the name of the Salesians, of the members of the Committee and of all the catholics of Barcelona, and expressed his confidence that the project may soon become an accomplished fact. His Eminence in reply said among other things that he hoped this work would prove a bond of union for all the catholics of Barcelona and that he would do all in his power to advance this undertaking so dear to his heart.

The new church is gothic in style: the plans have been drawn by a well-known architect, Mr. Enrique Saguier, who has given once more a proof of uncommon skill and an example of rare generosity and disinterestedness.



*A new institute at Santiago, Chili.*

SEVERAL newspapers of Santiago, Chili, such as *El Diario Ilustrado*, *El Porvenir*,

*El Chileno*, *Los Lunes de el Chileno* of January last contained lengthy reports and various illustrations of the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of a new institution performed by Mgr. Costamagna, Vicar Apostolic of Mendez and Gualaquiza. This new foundation is destined to be mainly a school of technical instruction for girls and it will be conducted by the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

"Persons of every rank and condition," says *El Porvenir*, "assembled there in extraordinary numbers fully realizing the advantages that will redound to the people by an institution of this nature. Hence the ceremony assumed proportions and a splendour that was not anticipated."

After the customary document had been signed by the Bishop and the principal benefactors there present, Mgr. Costamagna addressed the audience on the necessity of taking active part in stemming so many growing evils and how that institute was an important measure for that effect. Lastly, amidst enthusiastic applause, the Very Rev. Miguel Leon Prado, a most popular parish priest and excellent Co-operator, through whose exertion the work was undertaken, made a vigorous speech frequently interrupted by loud applause.

"The immortal Don Bosco," he remarked in concluding, "will look down with complacency on the fruits that will be borne from the seed we are casting to-day and for which he will obtain the fertilizing dew of heaven."

#### TO THE READER.

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

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

The Very Rev. MICHAEL RUA,  
Salesian Oratory, Turin, Italy.

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# RACES AND FAVOURS OBTAINED

through the intercession of

# MARY HELP of CHRISTIANS

**Rome (ITALY).** The death of my brother, who was very dear to me, has left me in great grief; but in the midst of my sorrow I cannot repress the feeling of lively gratitude for the great favour received at Our Lady's hands.

The deceased was young, strong, full of life, and felt within him all the vigour of early manhood for he was but thirty years old. He had enjoyed all the pleasures of health forgetful of God and the calm gentle religious feelings instilled into his heart by a pious mother.

You may imagine the anguish that seized me when, called suddenly to his bedside, I saw him helpless, pale and suffering. But a deeper sorrow came upon me when I learnt that faith had quite died out in him, and on hearing him exclaim, when the priest who had been called to his bedside had left: *Take care not to bring that priest to me again.*

I left Turin with an aching heart, but with hope in our heavenly Advocate Mary Help of Christians. Some days had elapsed and no change appeared in the sick man's dispositions towards the one who so often visited him; but the fervent prayers of his afflicted parents and sister continued and the conversion was not long delayed. One afternoon he turned to the one by his bed and asked for the priest, as he had something to say to him. The minister of God hastened to his side, and found the young unbeliever entirely changed and humbly asking to go to confession.

He is now gone, but what a peaceful and even happy death is that of one under Our Lady's protection and who in the last few days of life feels in his heart the reawakening of the clear faith of former days.

December, 1902.

Sister A. C.

**Brescia (ITALY).** In the early days of May last I was stricken down with typhoid fever, and soon brought to death's door. The sight of my little ones was a source of intense grief to me, and I was distracted at the thought of leaving them orphans to a sorrowing mother without a relation to turn to.

In the torments of a burning fever the thought struck me to have recourse to Her who never yet was called upon in vain. All the symptoms which in the case of many others lead to certain death, were quite powerless against me, and the crisis was followed by a complete cure. I send the offering promised in honour of Mary Help of Christians and would ask you to publish the favour according to my vow.

January 1903.

J. Z.

(Salesian Co-operator)

**Belfast (IRELAND).** I wish to return thanks to Our Lady Help of Christians for many wonderful favours received through a novena to Her and promise of publication. Would you kindly say a Mass for another special intention.

March, 1903.

E. M.

*To obtain favours needed, Don Bosco recommended the frequent use of the Sacraments and the practice of a Novena consisting of the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father three times daily to Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament, with the Hail Holy Queen, making at the same time a formal promise of sending an alms according to one's means to the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians.*







## THE STORY OF THE ORATORY

OR

### DON BOSCO'S OPENING APOSTOLATE.

#### CHAPTER XLVIII.

**Second enquiry—A sad scene—Don Bosco reproves the inquisitors—The house searched—Visit to the schools—Cunning questions and candid answers—Seizure of copy books.**

**T**HE calumnies circulated by our enemies against us were so numerous, that the Minister of the Interior, Luis Farini, judged it necessary, for the safety of the Government, to prosecute his enquiries so as to discover the thread of the conspiracy and cut it off at one stroke. To most persons it seemed indeed a mystery that a few hundred poor boys could cause such terror to the Government, which had, at its disposal, so many soldiers and police, and yet it is an historical fact. Here one may indeed exclaim: *O tempora! O the times!*

To resume our story I will now relate the second inquisitorial visit, but deem it more prudent to let our successors express their opinion of this odious proceeding.

It was ten o'clock in the morning of the 9th of June, scarcely a fortnight after the first perquisition, that three gentlemen, with an escort of police, arrived at the Oratory. These were Mr. Masnardi, Secretary to the Minister Farini, Cavaliere Gatti, Inspector General of the Ministry of Public Instruction and Professor Petitti. The first was charged to examine the accounts and search the buildings, the second to visit the Schools and question the boys and the third was to take down the questions and answers in short hand.

Unfortunately, Don Bosco had just gone out into the town. Several boys, amongst others Joseph Buzzetti, were at once despatched in search of him, but fruitlessly. That morning he had to visit the house of a benefactor by appointment; but it so happened, or rather Divine Providence so arranged, that he should lose his way; so, seeing that he could not arrive at the hour fixed, he retraced his steps and re-entered the

Oratory just at the moment when his presence was desired as an angel of deliverance. For during his absence, we had been present at a most distressing scene. The prefect, Fr. Victor Alasonatti, taking Don Bosco's place, received the three inquisitors. When they had made themselves known and explained the objects of their visit, Mr. Masnardi began:

"Show us first the account book."

"Here," said the good priest, "is the ledger which gives the Christian and surname, the parentage and country of each pupil; here is the list of the daily expenditure and here are noted the conditions for admission."

The gentlemen taking the registers turned over several pages and in a few minutes the Secretary said:

"But we cannot understand these accounts."

"If you cannot understand them I do not know what to do," said Fr. Alasonatti, "but if you will have a little patience I will explain all."

"Yes, we wish everything explained and briefly. Tell us first how many boys live in this house."

"The number of externs frequenting the Oratory is over seven hundred. Of boarders we have three hundred, divided into two categories, Students and Artisans."

"What pension do they pay?"

"The greater number, being absolutely poor and destitute, pay nothing and we have besides to provide their clothing; the others pay a small sum in proportion to their means."

"How much does this small sum amount to?"

"Ten or twelve francs per month, or a cask of wine in the course of the year, a sack of rice, of maize, of chestnuts, or the like."

"This certainly would not be sufficient to maintain so many boys for a whole year; how then do you make ends meet?"

"The Municipality of Turin gives three hundred francs per annum; the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus five hundred, and the Archbishop's fund one thousand francs."

"All these gifts added together make only eighteen hundred francs and this sum will not cover the expenses of food and clothing. What other means of subsistence have you?"

"Whatever has been lacking hitherto has been provided partly by Don Bosco and his mother by the sale of their property and partly by the charity of pious persons. Henceforth we must depend entirely on the alms of benefactors."

"But who are these benefactors?"

"Many of them are unknown to us, and others do not wish their good works to be made public, consequently I am unable to satisfy you on this point."

"Where is the money kept?"

"We have no cash-box, for hardly is a sum paid in, than we have at once to use it for debts owing, or for current accounts."

These conscientious and truthful replies of our good prefect did not please the three inquisitors. Instructed by their chiefs, they were persuaded that Don Bosco possessed large sums of money sent him by the Pope and by the exiled Princes, under the pretext of providing for the wants of the boys, but in reality for the purpose of enlisting soldiers and making war on the Government.

This foolish tale was spread by means of bad newspapers. At this very time several Jesuits residing in Turin having been searched and unjustly imprisoned, the publications of the sects circulated false reports that the police had found in their possession great riches and important documents, testifying to the existence of a vast conspiracy.

Don Bosco, said our enemies, was in correspondence with the Jesuits, consequently, in his house also, would be found the *corpus delicti*. Imbued with these prejudices the three inquisitors insisted that Fr. Alasonatti should point out the treasury; and Masnardi, in a loud and angry voice said:

"You are deceiving us; you have money which you wish to hide; you are a Jesuit; but you must reckon with us."

At this odious treatment, the man of God, always overworked and already in poor health, felt his strength giving way.

"But, gentlemen, I am doing you no wrong," he said and swooned away. This unexpected fainting fit shamed these *Illustrissimi*, who, seeing that they had acted not like honest officials, but like highway robbers, tried to repair the mischief raising up the patient and placing him on a chair.

Just at this moment our good God sent Don Bosco, who, entering the room and seeing the deplorable condition of his dear and worthy assistant, was greatly distressed. Approaching, he took his hand and called him by his name. At Don Bosco's voice, the good Alasonatti seemed to revive and in a feeble voice replied.

"Don Bosco..... help me..."

"Be not troubled," he answered, "now I am here and will see to everything: take courage."

"*Vim patior*," murmured the good prefect.

"I see only too plainly" continued Don Bosco, "that you have suffered violence, and I pity you from my heart; but remember that *regnum Coelorum vim patitur et violenti rapiunt illud*."

Having thus comforted the poor patient, Don Bosco turned to the inquisitors and justly indignant, he said:

"You are abusing your power; you ought to be judges and you act as executioners. By acting in this manner you will merit neither the blessing of God nor the esteem of men, but rather a note of infamy when the history of our time is written.

"You have been sent here to search for anything that might be obnoxious to the Government. Carry out the orders you have received, but be not oppressors of honest citizens in their peaceful home. I will carry my plaint against you to the Ministers and even to the King himself, and I trust they will not be indifferent to my wrongs."

To this vigorous speech Cavaliere Gatti, meekly and courteously replied:

"Forgive us, Don Bosco, we did not come here to harm any one; we have only been asking for explanations."

"Explanations should be asked of those who can give them. I am the responsible Superior of this Institute: it is from me you must ask explanations and not from my subordinates."

"Forgive us," said in their turn Mr. Masnardi and Professor Petitti, "and be assured that what has happened was quite contrary to our intentions."

Thus the incident closed.

Going in to the next room the inquisitors then explained to Don Bosco that they were charged to search the house and to visit the schools, but they wished all to be done in a friendly and courteous manner.

"If you were charged to do this in a friendly and courteous manner" observed Don Bosco, "you should not have brought a company of police to frighten my poor boys."

"Your household may rest assured that not a hair of their heads will be touched," said Mr. Masnardi, "the police are only here for show."

"Reviews of soldiers and police are held only on the parade ground," replied Don Bosco; "in private houses they show themselves only to arrest malefactors. To me it seems impossible that reasonable men learned in the law, like the Ministers, can maintain without any proof that there are evil-doers in this Refuge, thus treading under foot the articles of the Statute, which guarantee inviolability of domicile and personal freedom."

(To be continued).

PERMISSU SUPERIORUM

Gerent. GIUSEPPE GAMBINO.—Salesian Press.—Turin, 1903

(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, Via Porta S. Lorenzo, 42, Rome; or, The V. Rev. Michael Rua, Salesian Oratory, Turin, Italy.

#### APPROBATION.

Pium Opus adprobamus, eidemque largissimam fidelium opem ominamur,  
Ex Aed. Vic., die 27 Junii 1888.

L. M. PAROCCHI, Card. Vic.

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

#### THE PAPAL BLESSING.

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

1. Given from the Vatican, June 30th, 1888.

ANGELO RINALDI, Chaplain, Sec.

# THE "SALESIAN BULLETIN"

is the Organ of the Salesian Congregation and of the Association of the Salesian Co-operators.

It is edited monthly in seven languages, namely: English, Italian, French, Spanish, German, Portuguese and Polish.

It contains the communications of the Superior General, the successor of Don Bosco, to the Co-operators, friends and benefactors of the Salesian Institutions.

It gives a report of the progress of the works of the Society, of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, of the Salesian Co-operators; also interesting accounts from the Missions and various matters of edification and encouragement connected with the objects of the Association.

It is sent to all the Co-operators, friends and benefactors who desire to receive it.

All communications concerning change of address, or when the sending of it is to be discontinued through any cause whatsoever, should be addressed *To the Editor* of the Salesian Bulletin, *Salesian Oratory, Valdocco Turin, Italy*; or, when received from other Houses, to the Superior of the House from which it is sent.

There is no fixed charge or subscription for the Magazine, but the amount which anyone may wish to devote towards defraying the expenses in connection with its production and distribution should be addressed as above.

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To our friends and Co-operators, who would like to make Don Bosco's works more widely known, we strongly recommend the circulation of a pamphlet entitled: *Don Bosco's Apostolate and other Sketches*. As many copies as are requested will be forwarded in return for any offering. Apply to the *Editor* of the Salesian Bulletin, *Salesian Oratory, Turin, Italy*; or to the *Very Rev. C. B. Macey, Salesian Schools, Surrey Lane, Battersea, London, S. W.*

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