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THE SALESIAN BULLETIN



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Turin

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Italy

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

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

Organ of the Association of Salesian Co-operators.

“Oratorio Salesiano” TURIN, ITALY.

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When this issue is placed in the hands of our Co-operators, the month of December will be already well on its way towards the Christmas festival, and the dawn of another year.

At this time our Superior General, the Very **Rev. Don Rua**, sends his **Christmas greetings** to all the Co-operators and benefactors and wishes them a **happy New Year**.

He gladly takes this occasion of expressing his sentiments of gratitude for their support and assistance, and thanks them in the name of all those, who have been benefited through their means. The thought of having contributed to the happiness of less fortunate neighbours will assuredly add to the contentment of those benefactors during this season of holy mirth, and the prayers of thousands of children, who pray daily for them must assuredly bring their reward.

The Immaculate Conception

AND

its relation to the Salesian Society.

THE dawn of the 8th of December 1854 beheld the city of Rome in unwonted movement. Steady streams of people, both citizens and strangers, were wending their way from all directions to the Vatican Basilica, which in all its majesty seemed to give a ready welcome to the vast crowd, which the Romans themselves declare was never, on any festival surpassed in numbers. It was near the hour appointed in which the Successor of St Peter, and Bishop of the whole church, was to decree infallibly that which had always formed part of the faith of christians, and which all would now be obliged to believe—the Immaculate Conception of the Most Holy Mother of God.

At half past eight the papal procession began. As the whole world was there represented by its prelates, the unusual pomp and grandeur that characterised the ceremony may be well imagined. His Holiness Pius IX. commenced the Pontifical Mass, and after the Gospel, which was sung in Latin and Greek to signalise the concord of Churches, His Eminence Cardinal Macchi, Dean of the Sacred College, surrounded by other prelates, presented

themselves before the Pontifical throne, beseeching the Pope to listen to the common prayer of the faithful, and satisfy the ardent desire of all peoples, by proclaiming the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Lady.

When the Holy Father had signified his assent, the *Veni Creator* was intoned and instead of being continued by the choir of the Sistine Chapel, as was intended, the whole concourse of people took up the singing with great enthusiasm, and filled the vast edifice with the swell of one mighty chorus. At its conclusion the Holy Father, sitting on his pontifical throne, with great emotion pronounced the solemn dogmatic decree:—*To the glory of the Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and by the authority of Jesus Christ, of the holy Apostles, Saints Peter and Paul, and Our own, we declare, decree and define it to be a truth revealed by God, that through the merits of Jesus Christ the Redeemer of the human race, the Blessed Virgin Mary was by a singular privilege and special grace from God, preserved undefiled from any stain of original sin, from the first moment of her conception.*

No new article of belief was then created, but the faith of past ages was

explained and confirmed; for the mission of the church is not to transform human speculations into dogmas, but to keep intact the sacred deposit of truth committed to her by God. Dogmas have their source in Revelation and are brought down to all generations through the channel of Tradition.

This is not the place to set out at large the position of the belief in the Immaculate Conception in antique liturgy, or the arguments showing its entire consonance with human reason; nor is this the occasion to produce the innumerable statements of the fathers of the Church, or the testimonies of Holy Scripture; but as our own society is intimately associated with it, it is worth while to consider a few of the incidents in that connection.

On that memorable December day 1854, the Salesian Society could not yet count among its members celebrated champions of the glories of Mary Immaculate, as other great orders could; but it was rather an outcome of the special operation of the Mother of God under that title. On December 8th 1841 occurred the now familiar incident in our holy Founder's life, when he released the boy from the threatening clutch of the sacristan who wanted the lad to serve Don Bosco's Mass. It will be remembered that after some brief arrangements it was settled that the boy's instruction should commence that very day, and he proved to be the first attender at the Festive Oratory.

Three years after, on the 8th of December, Don Bosco opened and blessed the chapel of St Francis de Sales, where he gathered his flock together on Sun-

days and feast-days. Two years later, on that day the first bell of the church sounded, which called the boys in to their service and Oratory games.

On december 8th of the next year 1847 Don Bosco opened the new Oratory of St Aloysius. This was the first off-shoot from the House at Valdocco, and was commenced accordingly with befitting ceremony. The feast of the Immaculate Conception was a favourite day with Don Bosco for giving the clerical habit, receiving religious professions and blessing his departing missionaries. On the first anniversary of the declaration of the dogma, Our Superior General, the Very Rev. Don Rua made his first annual profession.

In 1884 on the vigil of this feast Don Bosco had the consolation of seeing the first Salesian bishop, Mgr. Cagliero, consecrated, and on the feast-day itself His Lordship pontificated for the first time.

The feast of December 1887 was the last one at which Don Bosco was able to assist. On that very day he decided on the first foundation in Belgium, that of Liege, and during the same novena he had come down to the Church of Mary Help of Christians for what proved to be the last time, to bless the first expedition to England. But it were long to relate all the occurrences that have made this date so memorable and so dear to us. Enough has been said to show that the devotion to Our Lady under the title of Immaculate, was and is one of the best assurances of the protection of the Queen of Heaven, over the work of her devout servant and client.

Our homage to Mary Immaculate

THE zest with which every pious association seems determined to celebrate the present jubilee of the Immaculate Conception is a pledge of the brightest hopes for the future. But in this holy rivalry, which will be among the most brilliant records in the history of Devotion to the Mother of God, those associations should appear in the foremost rank, which owe a deeper debt of gratitude to her. The association of Salesian Co-operators can be second to none in this.

A hundred ways and means may suggest themselves by which to carry out that article in the general programme, issued by the Commission of Cardinals, which recommends *some special work of christian beneficence according to the needs and opportunities of times and places*; it seems to us that to fix upon some work which would that affect some limited country or district, cannot be compared to the fulness of the homage alone worthy of the memorable occurrence, or of the world-wide extension of our association. Hence some work has been selected in which all can centre their sympathy and co-operation; and it is hoped this very jubilee year will see its complete realisation.

Born and educated as we are in settled and civilized countries, it requires more than ordinary powers of comprehension to bring home to ourselves the pitiable state of the savage tribes, who yet traverse immense forest plains, exterminating themselves by fratricidal revenge, ignorant of all eternal destiny and miserably bound in the slavery of the devil. The good tidings of great joy have never been announced to them, and so they know nothing of the Providence of God, of the love of His Divine Son, or the heavenly gifts bestowed on His blessed Mother. Why not hasten to their succour? It is twenty centuries almost, since the precious blood of Jesus Christ was shed for them, as for

all mankind, and they yet groan under the heavy yoke of Satan. What more appropriate or more worthy homage could be offered on this jubilee occasion, than the extension of the kingdom of God, and the conquering of that serpent whose head Our Lady was to crush, and who was to lie in wait for her heel.

It was with this intention that the Successor of Don Bosco, giving ear to the petitions of his sons spread throughout the missions of the East, of America and Africa, has called for a great increase in missionary labourers. Within a few weeks over a hundred have set out, some of whom will go as far as China, while others will establish another settlement among the Coroados Indians of Matto Grosso, which will be dedicated to the Immaculate Conception, as the other is to the Sacred Heart. If our Co-operators could be persuaded of the nobility and sacredness of this apostolate, and what merit they can gain by their alms, they would never be backward in enabling the missionary to extend the work of God in distant lands.

On the 11th of November 1875, when Don Bosco said farewell to his parting missionaries, he addressed to them these memorable words: "Who knows but this little band will prove the seed which shall become a mighty tree? Who knows but it may be the figurative mustard seed?"... It has indeed long since spread its branches out and become a noble tree. The tribes of Patagonia have come under its genial shade to receive civilization; the poor savages of Tierra del Fuego have been won over to a settled and christian life; the Jivaros of Ecuador are gradually putting off their ferocity, and the savages of Matto Grosso are coming back to the happy times of the flourishing christianity of Paraguay, when the gospel was preached there for the first time; without mentioning the work done among the children of both sexes in

all these places. The opportunity of extending this christianising influence both by prayer and alms lies in the hands of our Co-operators. The special help so earnestly sought from them on this occasion, will constitute that work of christian beneficence proposed by the Papal Commission as a remembrance of the Jubilee.

Note — (1) A souvenir of the Jubilee will be sent in acknowledgment of all offerings.

(2) If any Co-operators might wish to have their name, or that of any one dear to them, given in Baptism to

one of the newly converted Indians, they can make the request while sending their offering.

(3) On Easter Sunday 1905 a solemn service will be held, in all the missionary centres at which the newly baptised christians will assist. The intentions of all who send an offering will be especially recommended during these services.

Letters to be addressed to

The Very Rev. Don RUA

Salesian Oratory

Turin. Italy.

Don Rua's Representative in America

(Extracts from his Secretary's Correspondence)

(Continued)

Peru and Bolivia.

Gratitude.

At Arequipa the numbers desiring to see Fr. Albera were very great. A most successful dramatic entertainment was given by the students in his honour. Our Superior was surrounded by the city authorities, the Bishop, the Mayor, the Rector of the University, etc. The director of the house opened the proceedings with an address to Fr. Albera: "During these days, Reverend Father Superior, whilst narrating the history of the foundation of this House, which provides a shelter for so many poor boys, it has been a pleasure for me to give you the names of the individuals and also of the Societies who, since our first entrance into this illustrious and Catholic city, have been so generous in their assistance and support. Our gratitude would be incomplete did I not present to you those to whom we owe all that you have seen. This House, this Sanctuary, nearly completed, are the work of the gentlemen who honour us with their presence to-day. The Salesians came here in poverty; these gentlemen provided for

all their wants. To the Provincial government in great part is due the foundation of the Agricultural School with the Meteorological Observatory and the necessary instruments, and of the agricultural museum, providing all that is necessary for theoretical and practical study." Then, presenting the 260 boys studying in the House, divided between boarders and externs and subdivided again as students, artisans and agriculturists, he continued; "If these boys are receiving a good education in a suitable institution, and if above all, whilst learning a profession they receive that training of the mind and the heart which will make them both good Christians and worthy citizens, to whom do they owe it? In this festival of gratitude it is right, that I should thank you publicly and that these boys should recognize their benefactors. The Archangel Raphael by his presence had filled with blessings the house of the aged Tobias who, when taking leave of the Angel, as yet unknown, asked his son: What shall we give him in return for so many benefits? and his son replied: We will gladly give him the half of our goods... Well, dear Co-operators, we also gratefully beg of you, who have

laboured with us for the salvation of these youths, to accept in return the half of those souls who, by the Divine assistance and your co-operation, we have been able to save.

At the conclusion of the entertainment the Bishop of the diocese, rising, said "Gentlemen, how can I do otherwise than cherish and support a Congregation of whose fruitful labours you are eye-witnesses? and thank God for sending me this band of Apostles, giving at the same time a public and solemn attestation of my sentiments to the representative of the Successor of the immortal Don Bosco. If I did not gratefully acknowledge the benefits conferred on my flock I should be no true shepherd. Continue then to regard this Institute as the apple of your eye and to support it by your generous help both moral and substantial."

All awaited Fr. Albera's reply, — a few simple words of thanks, promising that the Sons of Don Bosco would ever respond to the fatherly kindness of the Angel of the diocese, to the confidence of so many good Co-operators and to the needs of the young.

Journey to Lake Titicaca.

From Mollendo, the port where we landed, to Arequipa we had in a few hours reached a height of nearly 7,000 feet; the railway continues to ascend to an altitude of 14,666 feet traversing a truly romantic region. From the carriage-door we contemplated the barren mountains, our attention being especially fixed on the lofty summit we had to reach and the engine puffed, groaned and shrieked, traversing the thousand curves of the line, every now and then crossing dizzy galleries cut in the rock, then scaling still further heights.

We had attained a height of 13,200 feet, where through the rarefaction of the air, the so-called "*Soroche*" is so common, of which the symptoms are nasal hemorrhage from which Mgr Costamagna suffered in his last journey to La Paz, or a kind of sea-sickness and violent head-ache, but with this difference that sea-sickness disappears as soon as you set foot on land, whereas the *Soroche* torments a poor wretch through the night also. We soon reached the end of the

railway journey, the rain still falling in torrents so that we had to close the windows to avoid being drenched. Leaving the train we embarked straightway on the steamer, for we had reached Puno the chief port on Lake Titicaca situated on much the same level as that of the loftiest summits of the Alps; if I mistake not, this is the highest lake in the world, being nearly 13,000 feet above the sea level, and for its height it is very large covering an area of 3,883 square miles. Puno did not seem to smile on us, and we had no inclination to speak or to take any food. We went out to visit a house which is awaiting the Salesians, but our steps faltered, our voice failed us and we had great difficulty in breathing; the fact is, that at this great height, one must have strong lungs and be acclimatized; our brethren will, doubtless, have much to suffer at the beginning. Earnest solicitations, accompanied by good reasons, were pressed upon us and it is hoped that one day the Sons of Don Bosco will be established there. Our steamer is ready to take us back again; the crossing of a lake generally promises a calm passage, but this lake usually torments its passengers by a ground swell and rough water, so that rarely does any novice fail to be sea-sick. We were told that some months ago an old captain, in retirement after forty years of service on every sea, began too soon to protest that he would not suffer. When the steamer had left the shore and the waters of Titicaca were sole masters, the boasting of the old captain was amply avenged and the poor man, a good Catholic, could not resign himself to the thought that there was no priest on board to assist him in his last hour, which he thought had come, so great were his sufferings. It is fortunate that the crossing only takes twelve hours, but to many it is so alarming that they prefer to travel many days on horseback or in a horrible car, rather than trust themselves on this terrible lake.

The name of Lake Titicaca is intimately connected with the history of the *Incas*, who reigned for five centuries. It contains the famous island of the Sun, from which, as I have related, came forth Manco and Manna Capac to found the empire of the Incas. During the passage we recalled the ancient legends; and the hours soon

slipped away. At seven o'clock in the evening we had reached Chililaya a Bolivian port, and were glad to hear some familiar voices. They were those of the Superior of La Paz and the Sisters who had come to meet Fr. Albera.

Towards La Paz.

From Chililaya to La Paz is a whole day's journey by omnibus. On the way our confrères called our attention to the majestic mountains which, like a crown, surround the city of La Paz, giving it an enchanting appearance; the heights of Illimani, Potosi and Sorata attain an altitude of 22,000 feet and with others are crowned with perpetual snow. Innumerable are the places of historical interest, scarcely a foot of ground which does not recall some battle. It suffices to state that in a short time more than twenty Presidents have succeeded one another; and under the presidency of two of these, sixty rebellions had to be quelled!

Already we saw carriages coming to meet us, but as yet we did not see the town although we had strong field-glasses. Its situation is very curious. The extensive plateau, encircled by the mountains above-mentioned, which we had been traversing for a whole day, ends abruptly and descends into a profound abyss of over a thousand feet; there, as in a shell, sits the town of La Paz, an enchanting spectacle to whoever sees it for the first time. *La Paz!* how greatly does it stand in need of peace! Our brethren, during their few years of residence, have witnessed many revolutions; but in justice we must state that whichever party gained the day, our houses have always been secure from molestation, and the School of Arts and Crafts established at La Paz, thanks to the tranquillity

it has enjoyed, even in the midst of the most violent storms, has prospered wonderfully.

The Salesian Institute.

This elegant and well built house is situated at the further end of the city, near the favourite promenade of the inhabitants. Around it many eucalyptus trees perfume the air; the workshops are large and lofty in accordance with hygienic laws. The Rector, one of the Salesians



Second Salesian Exhibition.
Panels made in the Salesian Schools, London.

exiled from Ecuador under the Dictator Alfaro, has reproduced here what he learnt there, and the rational-progressive course compiled by him, and which is now being followed by the boys in the work-shops, is worthy of being especially noted. In the evening there are classes for foreign languages, book-keeping, and drawing for the trades which require it. The boy must pass an annual examination before a board of examiners, and for a certain number of years according to the trade he has chosen; at the end


of his apprenticeship he must undergo a general examination and receives, if judged worthy, a diploma signed by the Rector of the Salesian Institute. This method naturally kindles a great spirit of emulation amongst the boys who are most anxious to gain good marks at the end of each period. With great satisfaction Fr. Albera visited these model workshops.

As I said before, from the plateau which surrounds La Paz we had seen several carriages; these contained the Rector of the University and other worthy Co-operators. At the entrance we found a number of people who after the singing of the *Te Deum* and Benediction of the

Blessed Sacrament assembled in a spacious reception room; here the representatives of the Government, the city authorities and several members of the diplomatic body were presented to Fr. Albera. Then the boys from the different workshops and the boarding and day pupils, with the children of the festive Oratory passed in procession before him. To each boy Fr. Albera gave some souvenir and saluted affectionately all his brethren. For a year and a half we had been constantly in the midst of such scenes, but the impressions of this evening will never be effaced from our memory.

(To be continued).

The closing of the Exhibition

N Sunday October 16th, under the graceful folds of a spacious canopy especially erected for the purpose, was held the closing ceremony of the Exhibition of Don Bosco's professional schools. It seems to be out of place for us to pronounce any eulogium on this modest display of juvenile effort, but considering the unsuitability of the time during which it was inaugurated, no one would have ventured to predict such a successful issue, or any such frequent gatherings of illustrious personages.

In giving some preliminary notices in the preceding issue, two visits were mentioned one of Her Royal Highness Princess Laetitia of Savoy, and the other of the Mayor of Turin who is at the same time President of the committee of the exhibition. Other memorable visits must be here recorded, and some account of the closing ceremony which was in every way worthy of the successful character of the month's proceedings.

The visit of Her Majesty the Queen Dowager.

In the afternoon of October 4th the Dowager Queen of Italy arrived at the Oratory to visit

the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians and the exhibition.

At half-past three the Mayor of Turin and several distinguished members of the Committee came down, to be in readiness for the arrival of Her Majesty. The royal carriage drove up at twenty minutes past four, and the Queen was met at the entrance to the exhibition by the Very Rev. Don Rua and the members of the Superior Chapter. She was attended on by her Mistress of the palace, Duchess Massimo, and by Count Zeno. The boys of the Oratory had been placed in two long rows and had their best musicians in attendance.

On the entry of the Queen into the exhibition room, a young artisan presented her with the homage of his companions, reading a short address of welcome, and offering as a souvenir of the occasion a framed piece of artistic bas-relief, executed in the schools of Milan. Another lad in the name of all the students presented a souvenir of the Coronation of the image of Mary Help of Christians. Her Majesty was much pleased with the addresses and presents, and spoke to each of the boys who made the presentation. She then inspected every section and every article in the section, showing great in-

terest in the development of such work and giving it her hearty encouragement. Some specimens of the skill of the little Indians from Dawson Island, in Tierra del Fuego were especially to her liking, and she conversed for some time with the zealous apostle of those regions Mgr. Fagnano, who showed her some photos of the settlements, and mentioned the visit of His Highness the Duke of Abruzzi while at Punta Arenas.

drove off amidst renewed cheers and acclamations.

His Eminence Cardinal Richelmy.

A few days later, the Venerable Cardinal Archbishop of Turin made his formal visit to the exhibition. He was at once at home among his sons and children, and after a few words of welcome an appropriate souvenir was offered to him, consisting of an elegantly bound book



Second Salesian Exhibition — Section of Fine Arts.

After spending more than an hour in the exhibition the Queen said she must see the workshops where all these things were made, and as the boys were by this time in their places, there was a good opportunity for doing so. The review of the different departments took some time, but the visitors were agreeably surprised to see so many of the growing citizens getting their equipment for life, and pleased at the thought of the beneficial influence that some generations of them must needs have upon their surroundings.

After a short stay in the church Her Majesty

for use at solemn benedictions.

What he noted principally in the exhibition were the methods of instruction and training, regarding it not so much as presenting work of the highest merit, but as showing a classification of articles made by the apprentices according to their different years of learning. It is, in fact, one of the chief causes of sympathy and admiration, as well as making it almost unique, that whereas the great exhibitions purposely display the most perfect productions of the arts and trades, one can see here only the outcome of boys' work in the different stages of their

apprenticeship. The show-rooms were also visited by many representatives and even whole sections from different institutions connected with the various branches of skilled labour.

The closing ceremony.

In organising this exhibition, the Sons of Don Bosco never reckoned on so much sympathy and co-operation from far and wide, and from such distinguished persons, not excluding royalty. And this thought was naturally brought to the minds of all, when His Royal Highness, Prince Emmanuel, Duke of Aosta arrived at the Oratory to preside at the closing festivities.

The prince received a great ovation as the Very Rev. Don Rua accompanied him to his seat, where he was awaited by the Right Rev. Mgr. Costamagna, Mgr. Fagnano, and the Superior chapter, Colonel Recli his adjutant, and an immense gathering of the notable personages from the province; about 2,000 persons took their places under the grand canopy that had been fitted up.

The oratory choir, accompanied by the band, gave an opening chorus, of which both words and music had been set for the occasion and was appropriately termed *Fraternal concord and labour*. The manager of the well-known journal the *Osservatore Cattolico* had just arrived from Milan, but he was to make the opening speech. On ascending the platform he gave a brilliant discourse on the development of modern industry, and showed that far from becoming a mere machine which, it had been thought would be the lot of the artisan, he was forced to rise superior to them all, and make his methods keep apace with the times. He paid a splendid tribute to the memory of Don Bosco, of whose work he said, we now behold the early but marvellous developments, which were in all probability foreseen by their humble founder, but who left to others to chronicle their benefits to humanity and civilization.

After a selection from Mendelssohn, Fr. Bertello, who had so ably organised the exhibition, read a short account of the end they had had in view, and the chief advantages which would be derived from it.

Among other things he said:—

The second triennial exhibition of our Schools of Arts and Trades and agricultural colonies, was initiated with the object of drawing therefrom, a fresh impulse and encouragement, and to benefit by the experience and suggestions, as well as the censure, of a specially appointed committee of competent critics.

This end we believe to have been accomplished, both by the kind support and ready co-operation of the gentlemen composing the awarding body, who will furnish us with a very valuable report, and also by the presence of many important members of our own society, who will find this experience to be of great assistance in the organisation of their own institutes in other places. But what has been a great encouragement, and a reward for all the labour of the undertaking, is to witness the hearty concurrence and kindly solicitude displayed by so many distinguished personages toward the sons of Don Bosco. These Co-operators may be assured that the Salesians will find in it a new impulse, if one were needed, for pursuing constantly the furtherance of their holy founder's mission for the benefit of their fellow men.

He then read a telegram from Her Royal Highness, Princess Laetitia of Savoy, who while expressing regret at not being able to attend the closing ceremony, congratulated the committee on its splendid success, and augured a speedy attainment of yet greater results.

The awards.

After some explanation of the standards regarded by the jury in awarding the prizes, the list of successful schools and competitors was made public. But besides the usual awards there were at the disposal of the committee several medals, including a gold medal from the King of Italy and two silver ones from His Holiness Pius X. For the proper assignment of these the whole examining body met together, and after comparing their reports for each section, the medals were awarded to those schools which showed the highest efficiency in the greatest number of departments.

The King's gold medal was awarded to the Oratory at Turin; the gold medal from the Turin Municipality went to the Institute of San Be-

nigno; the gold medal awarded by the Chamber of Commerce was presented to the House of Milan; the two silver medals from the Pope were awarded to the School of Arts and Trades at Liege, and to the designing class at Valsalice; the two silver medals from the Municipality were given to the school at Barcellona (Spain) and that of Pius X. at Buenos Ayres; the silver medals from the chamber of Commerce were divided between Puebla (Mexico) and St. Vincent de Paul's school at San Pier d'Arena; the silver and bronze medals from the Chamber of agriculture went to the schools of Ivrea and Parma.

The medals were presented by the Duke of Aosta to the representative of the schools, and he congratulated each amid enthusiastic applause.

The Very Rev. Don Rua in offering his thanks recalled the words of the first speaker who expressed the probability of Don Bosco's foreseeing the development of his humble starting. He said: "I do not know whether Don Bosco foresaw such an undertaking as this exhibition or the wonderful growth of his work, but on one occasion while he had but a few boys who went into the city every day to work, he said to us: 'I want you to make a little exhibition of the things you are learning to make, to show us what you are able to do.' Hardly any of the poor lads had the opportunity of making something to show to Don Bosco. The exhibition consisted of some commentated pages of the Greek Testament, and a little saucepan made by a boy who worked with a blacksmith. What a change these two exhibitions have shown us, and how many times that couple has been multiplied. I am sure that Don Bosco will reward those who on this occasion have given such proofs of gener-

osity and of good-will toward his work."

* * *

As a close to the whole proceeding, thanks and salutations were despatched to the donors of the gold medals, His Holiness Pius X. and His Majesty King Victor Emmanuel III. and to the Mayor of Turin.

The Cardinal secretary replied soon after:—
Congratulations on the success of the Exhibition.
The Holy Father blesses the promoters and visitors.



Second Salesian Exhibition.
Furniture made at the Salesian School, Liège (Belgium).

His Majesty replied through one of his ministers:—

The king, who had before expressed his hearty co-operation in the undertaking, thanks the committee and yourself for the expressions of your homage and loyal sentiments.

P. VAGLIA
(Minister)

Thus ended the second Salesian exhibition. It had received the sanction and support of the highest authorities and surpassed all expectations in its results. May it rival its predecessor in the advantages gained by our Institutes all over the world.



CÓLOMBIA

Mission at the Lazaretto of Contratacion — Pathetic details.

It will be remembered that at the time of writing his last letter, Fr. Rabaglatti had just arrived after a most perilous journey at Contractacion, and was about to commence a mission among the lepers.—ED.

Very Rev. and dear Father,

THE mission at the Lazaretto is ended, and thanks to God, it has ended well, in spite of the unfavourable beginning. I will explain.

Before undertaking the Mission we were in great anxiety on account of the difficulty of finding the helpers necessary to insure its success. Some time ago poor Fr. Garbari wrote "If you seriously think of giving a Mission to these lepers, it will be necessary to provide confessors, for we two are in such a state of health, as to be utterly unfit for any thing, including the hearing of Confessions; against our will we are on the retired list!" The Bishop of the diocese was aware of this, and as soon as I reached Contractación wrote me a note, saying he would send two of his priests, who, for obvious reasons, never arrived. There is a natural and invincible repugnance, there are fears which even a lofty sacerdotal virtue cannot conquer; a special

vocation is necessary to enter a lazaretto, and still more to hear the long confessions of the lepers during a mission. Just ten years ago, when I was giving the first mission in this Lazaretto, a threat of suspension from the Bishop was necessary to induce two or three priests to assist me in the Confessional; and even then they only arrived when the singing of the *Te Deum* was nearly over, that is, when the Mission was finished.

Therefore if I did not reckon much on the co-operation of the priests promised by the venerable Bishop of the diocese; I was certain that those at the mission though invalidated, would do all they could to help me, and this would suffice to insure the success of the Mission. But from the first, one of them was completely laid up; Fr. Garbari was unable to move during the Mission and was only just able to say Mass on the closing day. Nevertheless, the Communions during the Mission numbered *eighteen hundred and fifty*, without counting the Sisters who communicated in their own chapel. These fruits, after the grace of God, the first principle of any moral or material success, were due in part to the distribution made to the sick of the forty thousand *pesos*, before the mission began, and also in part to the gramophone. A few months previously I had bought it in Turin, precisely to cheer the poor lepers; and after taking it to Agua de Dios (where it did good work during the Mission); I could not refuse it to Contractación. I brought it therefore, notwithstanding my fears that it would be injured during the eight days' journey over almost impassable roads, in the depth of winter. It would be impossible to describe the effect produced by this singing and talking machine. Every day, when the evening sermon and the confessions were ended, there was a demand for the gramophone

in the public square, and it was impossible to refuse. One evening it was raining heavily and I thought that all had gone to bed, and consequently reckoned upon a few hours' rest, when happening to open the street door, I saw the square crammed with people, patiently awaiting the appearance of the instrument. As they were already wet through, it seemed useless to beg them to go home to avoid getting wet, and their endurance deserved a sacrifice on our part, so this evening also the singers of the gramophone sang away enthusiastically. The fame of this instrument which sang and spoke was soon carried far and wide; not only the inhabitants of the surrounding country came to see and hear it, but even those living in villages a day's journey from Contratación; so that every evening we had a fresh addition to the audience. It would be impossible to give an idea of the exclamations of wonder and pleasure. "Were it not that you are a priest who have brought and work this instrument," said an intelligent leper to me, "all these people would run away shrieking, certain that a company of little devils from hell are inside that instrument." Now you can see how the gramophone cheered the lepers and put them in a pleasant frame of mind, which naturally had its effects on the results of the mission; and as many of the poor peasants, who came to see the wonders of the talking machine, had perhaps not even heard of the mission, they were easily caught in its saving net; and I believe that for this reason the draught was so abundant. Thus all human inventions can be turned into an instrument of good.

The gramophone was also useful for another function during the days of the Mission. Here it is the custom to recite the Rosary in each household; I know of some who neglect Sunday Mass, but would never omit the recital of the Rosary. Whether this is a result of their ignorance I will not now discuss, I simply state the fact. There were, therefore, many begging for Rosaries. But though I had brought pictures, medals and scapulars for all, unfortunately I had forgotten the Rosary beads. What could I do? Fortunately I remembered that I had with me twenty Rosaries brought lately from Rome, touched and blessed by His Holiness Pius X.

Here was a good idea. I would give notice of a general lottery. I had all the names of the lepers written out and at the hour fixed beforehand, all were assembled in the square before our house to learn the result of the lottery. The drawings were made in series of twenty names, the twentieth ticket being solemnly proclaimed as the winner of a Rosary from the Pope; the announcement was immediately followed by a lively tune from the gramophone. Thus two hours of pious amusement were happily spent. It takes so little to cheer these poor lepers, whose life is one of continual sadness.

The Bishop of the Diocese would also contribute to the joy of his flock during this Mission. The day before the closure, I received from Socorro (the episcopal residence) a note signed by His Lordship to the following effect: "I send you two cows and one ox, with several cases containing food and other things for distribution amongst the lepers, so that they may have a feast on the last day of the mission, which I am sure has done them all much good." The intentions of the good Bishop were faithfully carried out and the same day each invalid received a kilogramme of good meat, with other things; this rejoiced their hearts and encouraged them to make the best resolutions, as the Lord had shown Himself so good and generous towards them. One of the immediate results of this Mission was the re-founding of the Association of *Perpetual Adoration*, previously erected in this lazaretto, but which by little had since fallen into disuse.

The day of departure has now arrived and consequently there is a scene of universal weeping. From the little room where I am writing, I see in front of the Sister's House five beasts ready saddled. Five Sisters of Mary Help of Christians are leaving the lazaretto to return to Bogotá. Five others, of whom three have recently arrived from the Capital of the Republic, the others from Europe, remain in place of the first who after six years of toil and privation, need a change of air and scene... This separation, between those who are leaving and those who remain, will cost many tears. It is indeed wonderful how the human heart becomes attached even to suffering! Of the five who came

six years ago to live with these lepers, and to bury themselves in the Lazaretto, none wish to leave though their health is now shattered; but religious obedience moves them and the hope that when they have regained their health, they may perhaps return to offer further sacrifices... But I am certain that all five would willingly remain at the post of honour, even with the certainty of perishing under the weight of the cross they have freely embraced.

Near our own house, a crowd has assembled; no one speaks; there is a general silence, interrupted only by irrepressible sobs. But why do we see so many gathered together here at this time? Their good friend, Father Garbari is leaving for Bogotà in a deplorable state of health. The same thought is in all hearts but no one dares to express it: "*Perhaps we shall never see him again!*" and all crowd round the door as if to see him better and get a last look from him..... But it is growing late and Fr. Garbari does not appear. Going to his room to induce him to make haste, I found him in an excited state, his

eyes filled with tears, and so absorbed was he that he seemed unable to understand what I was saying and did not respond. Walking backwards and forwards, though previously he had been almost paralysed with rheumatism, after a short and mysterious silence he said "Father, I cannot leave to-day; No, it is impossible!... I will start in a few days, but to-day I cannot!... and tears interrupted his speech. The mystery was solved; it was not physical pain, but mental suffering that made him weep. When the hour came for abandoning, perhaps for ever, his poor lepers with whom he had lived seven years, this good missionary's strength failed him, and he

begged for a delay, which I had not the heart to refuse, So I left him, to start a few days later, secretly no doubt, accompanied by one of our brothers and another good friend, who will conduct him safely to his brethren at Bogotà, or where obedience shall send him.

My mission here is ended, at least for the present, and I am about to start for Bucara-



Second Salesian Exhibition.
Section of Fine Arts.—Wooden Altar and railing made at the Salesian School, London.

manga, the capital of this department of Santander, to defend the cause of this unhappy people.

Bless us all, dear Father, the lepers and those in health, the Salesians and Sisters of Mary Help of Christians, and give a special blessing to

Yours affectionately in Our Lord

Fr. EVASIUS RABAGLIATI
(Salesian Missionary)





The Missionary expeditions.

Elsewhere in this issue, reference has been made to the recent missionary departures. The calls for so many extra helpers from all directions had placed our Superior General in the necessity of sending a far larger number than in preceding years. In fact in this respect the occasion has proved to be a striking record. In former years seventy or eighty had seemed a numerous party, and had entailed heavy outlays, but nearly double that total have set out this year. In honour of the Jubilee of the Immaculate Conception a special impetus is being given to the missions, and chiefly those among the tribes of South America. Our Superior General recommends the needs of these missionaries to the prayers of the Co-operators, that a safe and happy voyage may be the commencement of a successful career in the service of God and their neighbour.

Cape Town.—A South African correspondent says:—

On Sunday Oct. 15th the first Conference of Salesian Co-operators in South Africa was held in the Chapel of the Institute. During the past eight years many have proved themselves constant and generous benefactors towards the work of Don Bosco in this city, and occasional meetings have been held for the purpose of reporting progress and giving an account of the works in operation, as well as to consider future developments; but none of these had been convened under the form of a *Salesian Conference*. The month of October, corresponding to the month

of May in northern climes, could not have been a more suitable period for bringing the arrangements to a head, and thus to place the undertaking under the immediate protection of her who is eminently the Patroness of Don Bosco's works.

At the close of the afternoon a numerous gathering of ladies and gentlemen were assembled in the chapel. The Superior, Fr. Tozzi, in a brief preliminary address, welcomed them to their first regular conference in the name of our Superior General, and of all those who are working with himself in the accomplishment of the Mission entrusted to the Salesians in South Africa. He explained the object of the assembly and referred to the improvement just completed in the Institute.

A few lines from His Lordship the Bishop Mgr. Rooney, were then read:—

St. Mary's

Cape Town

My dear Fr. Tozzi,

I regret that I am unable to be present with you on the auspicious occasion of your first meeting of Salesian Co-operators. However, I am convinced that you do not need to be assured that I am heartily in sympathy with you, and I hope and pray that you may be successful in the object you have at heart, of procuring a suitable place where you can carry out fittingly the good work of your Holy Founder.

Believe me

Yours sincerely in Christ

✠ JOHN ROONEY.

The conference itself then followed. It was given by the Rev. J. J. O'Reilly, a long-standing friend of the Institute and a warm admirer of Don Bosco's works. He dwelt at some length on the origin, aim, progress and privileges of the Association of Salesian Co-operators. His very interesting and masterly discourse was closed by an exhortation to all of those present, who were not enrolled, to take that opportunity of joining an association, whose work appeals to all, and is nowhere more necessary and beneficial than in surroundings such as theirs. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament brought the religious part of the proceedings to a close. Many of the visitors passed into the workshops to see for themselves what was going on, and what was really being accomplished to further the ends explained to them just before. The band prevented any tedium and in fact showed to great advantage.

The Salesians in Cape Town owe a great debt of gratitude towards many benefactors and especially to the members of the Conference of St. Vincent de Paul. They would repeat here the hearty thanks expressed by their Superior on the occasion of the first Salesian Conference in South Africa.

* * *

In connection with this is an item which, in accordance with the order of events should have preceded the above; but it is not out of place, since it confirms the statement expressed there, with regard to the suitability and even the need of extensive enlargements or dependent branches:

During the month of August, owing to repeated applications on the one hand, and limited disposable space on the other, it was found imperative to rent a large house some minutes' walk from the Institute, which could afford sleeping accommodation for fifty boys. The full complement at the Institute itself was fifty-four, which was often reached; after this addition the total soon reached seventy-two, for whom workshop and class-room accommodation has been proportionately increased.

This temporary settlement of a continual unsatisfactory condition is but a make-shift, and has already proved inadequate. A building

fund has been started with a view to the creation of an Institute, that will be able to save the situation, and by the impulse of the late conference, it is hoped that the movement will be steadily urged onward.

Rome—The audience.

One of the items under the heading of *Notes and News* in the issue of last month referred to the reception of several of our leading mission-



Second Salesian Exhibition.
Fine Arts Section—Humbert Biancamano.

aries by the Holy Father. Opportunity had favoured them, for His Grace Archbishop Cagliero, who led the party, had only just retired from twenty-five years of zealous labour among the Patagonian tribes, and his associates were all from far-off lands and about to return to their respective missions. It could be regarded either as a return of the seventy-two, or as their setting out.

The Archbishop presented to the Pope his young protégé, the Indian prince Zefferino Na-

muncura, son of the chief cacique of Patagonia. The lad read an address to the Holy Father, thanking him for his solicitude in sending missionaries, and expressing the desire of becoming a priest to return among his own people, and enable them to share the blessings of the redemption.

The Holy Father was greatly moved by this unique and touching circumstance. He encouraged the young lad in his resolution and showed him what a sublime mission his would be, if, persevering to the end in his good intention he could, with the blessing of God become the

them many spiritual favours for themselves and their benefactors. The visit ended at half past eleven. As they left the Vatican halls, each shared the other's sentiments of profound gratitude and joy at the touching benevolence of the Holy Father.

Through the good offices of the Archbishop, the party was also received by His Eminence, the Cardinal Protector of our society at whose hands they experienced a similar hearty welcome. The impressions of their stay in Rome and those experienced at the tomb of Don Bosco and in the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians,



Panorama of Angra do Heroísmo (Azores).

apostle of his own nation. Then turning to the whole group Pius X. said: "I know that you are working hard and accomplishing great things for the good of souls. Nothing could be a clearer proof of the merciful hand of Divine Providence, and of the assistance of Don Bosco than the prodigious growth and multiplicity of your undertakings."

The little Indian then presented to the Holy Father a splendid rug made from a large guanaco skin. The Pope made him stretch it out on the steps of his throne and showed much pleasure in accepting it. He gave the boy a valuable medal commemorating the first year of his Pontificate, and then took all the missionaries into his private room talking and mixing freely with them like a father with his sons, and granting

will be a solace and an inspiration to the missionaries in the midst of their journeys and labours.

Angra do Heroísmo.

About 800 miles west of Portugal, that kingdom has dominion over a group of nine islands known as the Azores. A harbour and coastal population, such as naturally predominates in such situations, feels the need of Festive Oratories and a central industrial institute, which can cope with the wants of the whole group. The Salesians in Portugal had accordingly arranged to find the personnel for an establishment, and the new House may be regarded as an offshoot from the the mother country.

Most of the islands are exceedingly picturesque with interior elevations sloping their wooded flanks down to the sea. The small town of *Angra do Heroismo*, which is now to be the centre of the Salesian work in the Azores, stands on a beautiful harbour and is only one night's sail from the island of St Michael, the richest and most thickly peopled of the group.

The Salesians were met by some gentlemen who constituted the committee of a small orphanage, which was about to be handed over to them. Thirteen boys were already in residence, but very few calculations were necessary to see that the House was inadequate for the work to be accomplished. The Co-operators had since then come to the determination of acquiring a large building, which was well suited for a school of Arts and Trades, and with the aid of the Vicar Capitular of the Diocese, who issued a circular dealing with the matter, subscriptions were not backward. The transfer of the place has been already agreed on, and the cost will soon be paid, as the Co-operators are making this their memorial work as an homage to Our Lady Help of Christians in honour of her Immaculate Conception. They could hardly have chosen one more appropriate, or better calculated to repay in good measure the sacrifices of its foundation.

Oratory of St. Mary Magdalen. Wandsworth.

The provincial House at Battersea, though itself but a mere mustard seed twelve years ago, has long since become a great tree, and is shooting forth its branches in all directions. The Institutes at Burwarsh, Farnborough, Chertsey and Cape Town are all flourishing off-shoots from Battersea, and despite the increasing demands they make on it for personnel, it has been able to establish a Community of four priests and associates in the neighbouring district of Wandsworth.

Considering the growth of the Catholic population in the neighbourhood and the considerable distance from a Catholic church, the Archbishop of Westminster, while yet administering the diocese of Southwark, thought it necessary to make East Hill the centre of a new mission. A

house in which services are now held, and the working of the mission was entrusted to the Salesians. A year amongst their new parishioners has already shown them how necessary a catholic church was in that district, and that the chapel opened in the house is altogether inadequate to the needs.

The clergy enjoy the generous and zealous co-operation of their people in the efforts they are making to commence the erection of a suitable church, but beg to lay their needs before the Salesian Co-operators and friends, and to appeal to them for the means to bring their hopes to a speedy realisation.

Donations will be gratefully acknowledged by the

Rev. A. Hawarden, S. C.

96, North Side

Wandsworth Common, S. W.

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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The Salesian Bulletin

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This Magazine is sent 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.



DEVOTION
TO OUR LADY
Help of Christians

During the past month or two, whilst many of our missionaries were staying at the Mother House and in the vicinity, it was but natural that they should once more take their place in the functions of that Sanctuary, where they had many years before received the missionary's cross, and whence they had set out on the labours of a missionary's life.

They had returned to kneel again at the feet of Her, whose devotion they had spread among uncivilised peoples, and whose temples they had set up amid the vast prairies and beneath the shades of the forest. The Right Rev. Mgr. Costamagna, Vicar Apostolic of Mendez and Gualaquiza had the happiness of offering the Holy Sacrifice, in thanksgiving for his miraculous recovery from a severe illness brought on during his last missionary journey. On the feast of the Nativity of Our Lady, by the delegation of the Cardinal Archbishop of Turin, he conferred the subdiaconate on a Franciscan religious in the presence of a large congregation. Fr. Malan, whose name is now familiar to our readers, as the pioneer in the settlement of the **Bororos Colony** of the Sacred Heart in Matto Grosso, also had the opportunity of recommending his savage Coroados to the Queen of Heaven, and begging a blessing on those whose aid had rendered this Indian settlement possible, and helped to bring it into its flourishing condition.

At **Rio Grande in Brasil**, the capital of the state of the same name, a new chapel has been dedicated to Our Lady Help of Christians. It is attached to the College of Leo XIII, but will serve also to supply the spiritual needs of the large catholic population.

At **Guatemala in Central America**, though the sons of Don Bosco have not yet opened the wished-for institute, the devotion to Our Lady under this title has long since taken possession, principally through zealous Co-operators; and the influence of neighboring Salesian Houses. The procession is an annual solemnity and the feast day with its novena has become an occasion of religious revival.

At **Lima in Peru**, at Sucre in Bolivia and Pernambuco in Brazil, accounts show that the celebration of this year's festival manifested an ever increasing devotion to the Help of Christians, which necessarily brings with it a new growth in the virtues of a good christian life.

GRACES and FAVOURS

Belfast (IRELAND).—A client of Our Lady writes:—I would ask you to publish in the *Salesian Bulletin* the following favour obtained. A person was dangerously ill. A novena to Our Lady Help of Christians was commenced and a thank offering promised if the petition was granted. The requested cure was given

and I now fulfil the promise made and enclose the thank-offering.

Sept. 1904.

Puntarenas (PATAGONIA).—A certain lady had for many years been the victim of asthma and complications brought on by it. She had spent without any stint large sums of money on doctors and medicine, made long journeys to consult experts, changing climates and abodes, but all to no avail. Having finally visited a medical man of great talents and fame, she submitted to a painful operation, which cost her a thousand pesos, and left her rather worse than before. Being in a very critical condition, a good sister of the convent of Mary Help of Christians counselled her to seek aid from above, and commence a novena. She promised to go to confession and communion and began to recite daily the three *Paters* in honour of the Most Holy Sacrament, and the *Salve Regina* to Our Lady, promising publication and a thank-offering.

I had been called in to assist the dying lady. Seeing her state of prostration, I almost began to feel that she was beyond even Our Lady's power; but the novena was persevered in, though the sick woman seemed to be sinking. She rallied however, and with the close of the novena drawing on, life seemed to lengthen out as well, and the end of the nine days saw her out of danger.

From the brink of the grave she had been restored to health and strength and now fulfils the promise made.

M. B. (Priest).

April, 1904.

Smyrna (ASIA MINOR).—A member of the Greek Church at Smyrna had been for some time in great anxiety over the gradual ruin of his business, and with it the loss of his means of livelihood. Passing one day by the Catholic Church he caught the sounds of the organ and choir, and entered. He stayed awhile and waited for the sermon. It turned on the wonderful favours obtained through the intercession of Mary Help of Christians.

The poor Greek immediately bethought

himself of the sad state of his affairs and at once took the priest's advice and commenced a novena. It was not yet half way through, when his business took a most promising turn and his anxiety vanished. He has made an offering to the church in thanksgiving and is about to enter the one true fold of Christ.

A Co-operator.

Sept. 1904.

Belfast (Ireland).—Enclosed please find contribution as a thanksgiving offering to Mary Help of Christians for a great favour obtained through her powerful intercession.

J. L.

October, 1904.

Clonakilty (Ireland).—A Co-operator begs to return public thanks to Our Lady Help of Christians for two special favours received through her powerful intercession.

N. E. N.

October, 1904.

Clonakilty (Ireland).—Will you kindly have a holy Mass said at the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians in thanksgiving for favours received through the intercession of Our Lady.

M. D.

October, 1904.

Cologne (GERMANY).—I had written to you to ask for prayers in the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians, to obtain a special favour for one of my relations. Through the intercession of Our Lady the answer to our prayer was not long deferred. We obtained more than was expected, though for some time there had seemed no ground for hope.

A. L.

August, 1904.

Vercelli (ITALY).—In the course of last year, a canon of the cathedral of Vercelli was taken ill with such a violent attack of pleurisy that he was evidently on his bed of death. The best available doctors expended all their skill and care, but finally declared that there was no human remedy; on hearing this news the parishioners' grief and sorrow was extreme, and they determined to win his restoration

from heaven. A novena was commenced and many fervent prayers were offered, and they had promised publication in the *Salesian Bulletin*. It is for that purpose that I am now writing to you. With the commencement of the novena, the good priest, who had received the last Sacraments and resigned himself to the will of God, grew slowly better, and, through the prayers of his parishioners, was soon out of danger. Now, well and strong again, he has returned to the manifold duties of his ministry.

Fr. GIBELLI (Rector).

September, 1904.

Cape Town (SOUTH AFRICA).—A lady of Sea Point, Cape Town, wishes to return thanks to Our Lady Help of Christians for a signal favour received through her intercession. A serious trouble had arisen which threatened to separate a mother from her children, and in this trial, recourse was had to Our Heavenly Mother, promising publication of the grace if it were granted. She now joyfully fulfils her promise and makes the favour known, to the greater honour of Our Lady and the encouragement of all to have recourse to her.

per E. M. T.

November, 1904.

(ENGLAND).—A grateful client returns heartfelt thanks for favours received through Our Lady Help of Christians and on promise of publication; she would also ask prayers for a special intention.

ANON.

November, 1904.

Lissyegan (IRELAND).—I had promised an offering to the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians, if I obtained the recovery of my health. My request having been granted, I hasten to fulfil my obligation.

T. L.

Dewsbury (ENGLAND).—I enclose an offering in thanksgiving for favours granted me through the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians, and wish to return public thanks through the medium of your magazine.

Mrs. F.

Nov. 16th, 1904.

Westmeath (IRELAND).—I prayed to Our Lady Help of Christians for a special favour and promised at the same time an offering and publication in the *Salesian Bulletin*, were it received. Thanks to Mary Most Holy my request has been granted and in her honour I now send the offering to her Sanctuary.

A Salesian Co-operator.

November, 1904.

Galway (IRELAND).—Enclosed please find small offering in thanksgiving for the restoration of my daughter's eye sight through the intercession of Mary Help of Christians.

K. F.

November 26th, 1904.

Stratford (ENGLAND).—I enclose an offering for Mass in thanksgiving to Our Lady Help of Christians for favours received, both spiritual and temporal, through her intercession.

A Co-operator.

November 28th, 1904.

Cork (IRELAND).—Some time ago I promised a donation to the Oratory if I obtained a favour from Our Lady Help of Christians so now I fulfil my promise.

S. C.

December 1st 1904.

*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 works undertaken by the Salesians, or to the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians.*





CHAPTER XXI.

(Continued)

Such a spirit of zeal and self sacrifice gained the hearts of the well-disposed, but on the other hand, it irritated the enemies of religion: these were greatly excited against the missionaries, and seeing that by themselves their efforts were of no avail, they determined to make use of other means. During the *triduum* which preceded the feast of St. Joseph, several persons were seen in little groups going to the Church, to watch the movements of the priests. On the third evening just as the tabernacle was closed after Benediction, a commotion arose; cries were heard of "Down with the priests! Death to the Missionaries!", whilst most of the people made their way out into the square, where they kept up a shouting and whistling, and threats of every sort, until the place was a veritable pandemonium. The populace was aware that the priests had to cross the square to get to their house; the priests knew this also, and deemed it more prudent to await events in the church near the altar, disposing themselves to lay down their lives if such was the will of God. Finally however the police intervened and managed to scatter the hostile crowd. The missionaries owed this unexpected and fortunate liberation to Commandant Muro, who from that day kept watch over the Missionaries defending them at home and in public, and using his influence with the Governor, so that they should not again be exposed to the insults and outrages of the wicked.

But more than this, he accompanied the missionaries in an open carriage during their journeys

A Son of Don Bosco.

1850 — 1895

LIFE OF MONSIGNOR LASAGNA,
Salesian Missionary, Titular Bishop of Tripoli.

in the city, thus showing quite openly to all, in what esteem and reverence he held them. It was not therefore to be wondered at that the Feast of St Joseph was at last kept in all solemnity and tranquillity. The Salesians were glad of the opportunity to offer special thanks to their heavenly protector for delivering them from such dangers. The fury of the storm being now over, their apostolate at Paysandù was blessed by God, and commenced to give good results.

When there was no longer any fear of danger, and everything was placed on a firm footing, Fr. Lasagna bade adieu to his friends and benefactors and set out on his return to Villa Colon. The Commandant with some of his officers in the government boat, flying the national colours piloted Fr. Lasagna over to the *Cosmos* and saw him safe on board.

The Salesians being thus established in that extensive parish, immediately set to work to open catechism classes for the boys, whom they attracted by little presents, but more so by their kindly words and manner. By the splendid services and appropriate music they gradually drew the adult population also, and gave them every opportunity of approaching the holy Sacraments; thus from the very first year, many who had completely forsaken the Church were reclaimed, and made their Easter Communion at Paschal time.

The new parish-priest, Fr. Allavena, as soon as he possibly could, undertook the visitation of the immense district under his parochial jurisdiction. This took him several months, during which, whilst baptizing, preaching, blessing marriages, and fulfilling the other duties of his ministry he lived among the people, often among the poor wretches, who, occupied with the rearing of cattle, were living like savages in hovels of mud and straw, without ever seeing a catholic priest. Fr. Lasagna, who was regularly informed of the pro-

gress made, sent the confrères advice and encouragement even when right away at Montevideo, and shared their holy joy at the good being done.

About this time news reached the Salesians in America that the Holy Father, Leo XIII, had confided to the zeal of Don Bosco the colossal undertaking of building the Sanctuary of the Sacred Heart in Rome at the Castro Pretorio, with an Institute attached. It was the Pope's desire that this great work should be a fitting memorial, a monument of the magnanimity of his glorious predecessor Pius IX. It was natural that Fr. Lasagna, the Director of the first Salesian Institute under the name of Pius IX, should also strive to be among the first to aid the work by a substantial offering. This presentation was made to Don Bosco on his feast day June 24th, and this generous and thoughtful act, on the part of his far away sons, was a great consolation to him.

These many undertakings and continual labours would soon have been enough to pull down the most robust constitution. What must they then have cost Fr. Lasagna who was already suffering from serious complaints? Towards the end of May he had to give himself up to the doctor's orders, and take measures to regain his shattered health. He was told that an operation would be necessary, and was advised to return to Italy, where there would be more chance of effecting a lasting cure. Nothing was now wanted but the express orders of his Provincial, and when these came he embarked on the steamship Humbert Ist. on the 1st of May 1881. The voyage was not without noteworthy incidents. He soon perceived that being the only priest on board, his cassock was an eyesore to many of the passengers. Notwithstanding this he approached the captain with a view to obtaining permission to celebrate Mass in the first-class saloon. This was however refused, an indication of the kind of religious feeling which prevailed on board. But the priest was not to be discouraged and through some influential persons he afterwards obtained his request, and many passengers assisted frequently at the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice.

Fr. Lasagna reached Turin towards the end of June. His health was very much broken up, but this was lost sight of in the pleasure he had in meeting Don Bosco once again, and giving him an account of all that his sons were doing away in far off America. Don Bosco's words were to him ample reward and consolation for so many toils and sufferings.

He was soon settled down at the Oratory in the company of Superiors and friends, when some bad news reached him from America. Mgr. Vera, the good bishop who had so cordially welcomed him to Montevideo, and who had been a father to the Salesians there for over six years, was struck down by an apoplectic fit during one of his pastoral visitations, and in a few minutes had been snatched away from his flock, his church and country. Fr. Lasagna and all the Salesians felt this loss deeply and while praying for him, they begged God to give them a pastor like into him in zeal and virtue, and good-will towards the Sons of Don Bosco.

CHAPTER XXII.

A short stay at his birth-place—Te operation—A pleasant surprise—The meteorological observatories—The astronomer Fr. Denza—Seventh expedition of missionaries—Nominated Provincial.

It would have been quite unnatural of Fr. Lasagna, if after having visited the Oratory and his superiors, he were not to think of seeing his mother and former tutor. All his friends and acquaintances gave him a hearty welcome, though they could not help remarking at the same time that his health was indeed broken up, but they remembered too, that had it not been for that circumstance, he would still be away in his far off mission, and they would not have had him amongst them, even for a short time.

The missions of South America, the labours of his confreres, their difficulties and dangers and the good already accomplished formed the one engrossing topic on which his friends never tired of hearing him. His own personality and enthusiasm lent an additional interest to these narrations, and his discourses on the great designs of Don Bosco on behalf of the yet fierce and savage tribes, were not only entertaining, but productive, also of spiritual good, awakening in the hearts of his listeners an echo of his own ardent zeal for the extension of the kingdom of God in the souls of men.

But his stay was necessarily a short one. His six years of almost continual suffering had made it imperative that he should undergo a course of proper medical treatment; it was in fact for that one reason that he had returned to Europe. After a consultation with the doctors an operation was considered inevitable. It was decided that it should take place at the hospital of the Knights of

St. Maurice and St. Lazarus, as it was famous for expert men, especially in effective operations. A little surprise awaited him at the hospital. When the doctors came in to see him, he noticed that one seemed familiar to him, and after exchanging a few words he recognised one of his old pupils at the college of Lanzo.

Though still young he was already high up in his profession. Fr. Lasagna was naturally pleased at this unexpected meeting, and felt assured that nothing would be wanting to make his treatment as careful and thorough as it could be. But in spite of this, while in conversation with his friend Fr. Louis Porta during the days preceding the operation, he expressed some misapprehension at the danger of the surgeon's knife and was fully prepared for the worst. But D. Bosco bade him cast away all anxiety, telling him that he had an important mission to entrust to him in America, and that he would soon be on his way out. Don Bosco's reassurances were well founded. The operation was most skilfully performed, and by the intercession of Our Lady, to whom many prayers had been offered on his behalf, health and strength came back so quickly, that in the December of that year, he re-embarked for Uruguay at the head of a little band of eight Salesians.

The preparations for this second journey had occupied much of the period of his convalescence, but he found time during it, to arrange for the establishment of a meteorological observatory at the College of Pius IX at Villa Colon. A man of lofty ideals, he was convinced that in order to have a powerful and beneficent influence on civil society, the clergy should attain a high degree of intellectual culture. He thought that the priest should be a standing refutation of the calumny that the Church has set her face against scientific progress, and he himself gave a splendid example of these attainments. He was familiar with every branch of knowledge, so that in whatever direction a conversation might turn he was perfectly at home, and thus helped to win esteem and respect for himself and his fellow clergy. The College at Villa Colon moreover, stood in a very advantageous position for astronomical and climatic observations, which were being encouraged by meteorological societies both in Europe and America, and statistics of atmospheric phenomena in South America were especially useful. To make more sure of working on correct lines he interviewed the famous Barnabite, Fr. Denza, Director of the royal observatory at Montcalieri.

The distinguished astronomer did all he could to encourage the project, and it was from this interview that the idea arose of establishing a complete network of Observatories at Salesian Institutes in South America, with the one at Monte Video

for a central station. But the astronomers own words, spoken at the third geographical congress held at Venice, and afterwards in later reports, give a clear idea of this project.

"It has been proposed," he said, "to erect observatories at different stations along the Rio Negro in Patagonia, and at suitable coastal localities in connection with the work of the Salesian missionaries, who will give their attention especially to magnetic observations. The desirability of establishing such meteorological stations had already been pointed out by the International Commission on Polar research, and, in the conference held at Berne in August 1880, it had been decided to erect without delay the first of these in South America. As I was acting as secretary to this commission of the Venetian Congress which formulated the vote, I was not prepared to state anything which might compromise the missionaries of the Salesian Congregation although I knew their activity and good will.

But on visiting Turin I spoke plainly to Don Bosco, the Founder of the Salesian Society, already known far and wide for his untiring energy in the promotion of every good work, and who sends out every year a number of zealous missionaries to labour for the welfare of the populations in South America. As I had expected, Don Bosco, was quite ready to accept the proposals, and thus without any preliminary difficulty or delay accomplished the desire of the scientific world to extend its domination in those less known, parts of the globe. A plan of operation was immediately settled, which by degrees is now being realised.

I might remark here, that even before the geographical congress, I had been visited by the Director of one of the first colleges of South America Fr. Lasagna, who spoke of his intention of opening an observatory in the college of Pius IX which had a most advantageous position. I did all I could to encourage the design and the observatory at Montevideo is now almost an accomplished fact. The apparatus has been secured and the staff of scientists is about to set out. This observatory will be equipped with the most modern appliances, not excluding a Denza anemograph, and a trustworthy instrument for measuring magnetic declination. This one has been fixed upon as the central station for the South American system.

(To be continued)

PERMISSU SUPERIORUM

Gerent, GIUSEPPE GAMBINO—Salesian Press, Turin, 1904

Jubilee of the Immaculate Conception.

Charitable Work proposed to the Association of Salesian Co-operators.

Some special work of Christian benevolence, adapted to the several places, should be proposed.
(General programme of the commission of Cardinals, Art. IX.)

To extend the Kingdom of Jesus Christ on earth by leading hundreds of thousands of poor children and heathens baptised to the **Immaculate Virgin** is the homage proposed for the Jubilee by the **Pious Salesian Society** which began to exist under the patronage of **Our Lady** on December 8th, 1841.

Only a few days ago a numerous expedition of Salesian Missionaries set out from the Sanctuary of **Mary Help of Christians** in Turin to give greater development to the Salesian Missions already founded in the East, in Africa and in America. In a short time others will leave for the distant shores of China; and amongst the savages of **Matto Grosso** a new Colony is going to be founded which will derive its name from the **Immaculate Conception**.

The **PIOUS UNION OF CO-OPERATORS**, pride and support of the **Salesian Society**, cannot find a more suitable means of manifesting their joy on this solemn occasion and of securing for themselves the choicest blessings of **Mary Immaculate** than by redoubling their zeal and generous aid in favour of the **MISSIONS** confided to the **Sons of DON BOSCO**.

Our Co-operators are, therefore, urgently invited to detach the subjoined formula and forward it to the Succesor of **Don Bosco**, the **Very Rev. Michael Rua** (**Salesian Oratory, Turin, Italy**), with the offering which their gratitude to **Mary Immaculate** may suggest.

Jubilee of the Immaculate Conception.

Charitable Work proposed to the Association of Salesian Co-operators.

In honour of **Mary Immaculate** I send an offering of £. _____ s. _____ d. _____

for the conversion of the poor heathens of _____

Signature _____

Address _____

Date _____

N. B. 1) A souvenir of the Jubilee will be sent to the donors as a token of gratitude.

2) Should Co-operators desire to have their own name given to some Indian in baptism they may make special mention of this when sending the offering.

3) In every missionary centre a solemn religious service will be held, the newly baptized Indians attending, on Easter Sunday (April 22rd 1905) according to the intention of the donors.

SALESIAN SCHOOLS

SURREY HOUSE, SURREY LANE
BATTERSEA, LONDON, S. W.



DIRECTED AND TAUGHT BY THE SALESIAN FATHERS.

The principal object of this School (which is distinct from the Orphanage) is to provide a classical education at a moderate charge for those boys who desire to study for the priesthood. The course is arranged to meet the requirements of the College of Preceptors and the London University Examinations. Boys who have no vocation for the Ecclesiastical state are prepared for any other career that they may wish to follow. The House is surrounded by a large garden and playground, and is situated in a most healthy locality, a few minutes' walk from the Park.

For particulars apply to the Superior, the Very Rev. Father Macey, Salesian Schools, Surrey Lane, Battersea, London S. W.

The Salesian Fathers have opened a school for boys at their House at Farnborough, Hants. A course similar to that at the above school is given. For particulars apply to:

*The Rev. E. Marsh
Salesian Institute
Queens Rd, Farnborough, Hants.*

A preparatory school for little boys has been opened by the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians, in a delightful situation at Chertsey on Thames. Communications to be addressed:

*The Rev. Mother
Eastworth House, Eastworth St.
Chertsey, Surrey.*

(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.