

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

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT of the Association.

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

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

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

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

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES.

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



THE
SALESIAN
BULLETIN

PUBLISHED AT THE "ORATORIO SALESIANO,"—VALDOGGO, 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.)

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SPECIAL BENEDICTION OF THE
Holy Father

TO THE
SALESIAN BULLETIN

ON the occasion of the 25th year of the publication of the *Salesian Bulletin* (Italian edition) H. E. Cardinal Rampolla addressed the following letter to our Superior-General Don Rua.

"Rome 13 Nov. 1900.

VERY REV. FATHER,

His Holiness has learned with much pleasure from the letter which you respectfully addressed to him, the great circulation attained by the Salesian Bulletin which has now reached the 25th anniversary of its foundation. On this occasion the Holy Father heartily gives a special benediction to all those who are employed in bringing out this review, and expresses a wish that the very commendable object of this periodical may be fully attained, and above all, that it may promote effectually the Christian education of youth.

At the same time I take this occasion of subscribing myself with feelings of particular esteem

Your affectionate servant

M. Cardinal RAMPOLLA.

The second Congress of Salesian Co-operators.

IT was announced in a former issue that a Congress of the Salesian Co-operators was to be held in Buenos Aires, to commemorate the Jubilee year of our Missions in South America. This, happily, is now an accomplished fact, and was successful beyond expectation, as may be gathered from the detailed account which we insert below, from the Rev. Father Albera, who, as Don Rua's representative, occupied a prominent position in it.

The importance of such an event cannot be over-estimated; it helps to promote, in an effectual manner, the good of society and the advancement of the Christian Religion and civilisation.

The following is a letter from the Rev. P. Albera to our Superior General giving an account of the proceedings:—

Buenos Aires, 28 November. 1900.

VERY REV. AND DEAR DON RUA,

We have finished our celebrations and the Salesian Congress, and I think I should be wanting in a strict duty, if I did not give you some little account of an event, which will undoubtedly turn to the glory of God and the good of souls, and prove also a source of great consolation to you.

It was certainly an inspiration from God, which prompted us to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Salesian Missions of America, not with noisy and sterile feasts, but with solemn thanksgivings to Our Blessed Lord for the benefits he has deigned to bestow on us during these 25 years, and also with meetings, which by assembling many good people round the sons of Don Bosco, should animate them to co-operate in their apostolate. This idea, having been submitted to Cardinal Rampolla by some of the Salesian Inspectors, was blessed by His Holiness Leo XIII., who sent a beautiful letter to you, encouraging the Salesians in America to carry their design into effect. In your short message

to Mgr. Cagliero, you also made known how glad you would be to see this Congress held, which seemed to promise such abundant fruit. Nothing further was needed, and your children in America especially Fr. Vespignani set to work. They were all the more encouraged when they saw that, unable to come in person to the land of Columbus, you sent a representative to take part in the celebrations.

THE PREPARATIONS.

Accordingly preparations were begun without delay, from the beginning of the second half of September. It was indeed already very late, and to many it appeared impossible to carry out, in so short a time, a work which in Bologna was barely done in 4 months. But taking into account the feverish activity of these new countries, there was time to do everything and do it well, as later events proved. A committee, selected from the most competent in Buenos Aires, assembled and discussed the design of convoking the Salesian Co-operators in Congress, with the end of making them better understand how they might help the work of the Salesians. This assembly, although somewhat restricted in number, with Mgr. Alberti, Bishop of La Plata, as President, soon grasped the importance of what was to be done, and without useless discussions, for time was short, set about it.

A programme was drawn up on the lines of that memorable Congress celebrated at Bologna in 1895; the subjects for discourses were fixed upon, and orators were at once sought for. These could not have been better chosen, and as a proof of their great goodness and sympathy towards the Salesians, they at once accepted the invitation. Co-operators from the neighbouring Republic of Uruguay were also invited to speak, and this gave occasion to call the Congress an international one. The Co-operators of Brazil, Chili, and Bolivia, were likewise represented.

The programme was sent to all the Co-operators, and the undertaking received from

them much encouragement. The presence of almost all the Bishops was assured, and as it was intended to hold the Congress on the days immediately following the solemn imposition of the *pallium* on the new Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Mgr. Mariano Antonio Espinosa, His Grace not only blessed the project, but wished it to be considered a homage offered by his archdiocese to Our Divine Redeemer at the end of the nineteenth century. The ladies of Buenos Ayres also gave great help by collecting money to defray the expenses.



Mgr. Espinosa Archbishop of Buenos Ayres.

The Vicar Capitular and the whole metropolitan chapter generously helped to enhance the splendor of our festivity, by permitting the religious functions to be held in the Cathedral of Buenos Aires, which had recently been repaired and decorated for the imposition of the *pallium* on the Archbishop. This allowed a great number of Co-operators to assemble with us, to render thanks to God for all the benefits he has been pleased to bestow on us during the last 25 years. It was greatly feared that the snow would not allow Mgr. Costamagna to cross the Cordilleras, but we soon received the consoling

news, that in company with Fr. Tomatis and a good number of Co-operators, he had overcome every difficulty, though, if the truth must be known, at the risk of his own life.

* *

The time was meanwhile approaching when the Congress was to begin, and for three days, meetings of the Committee, charged to study the matters which were to be treated of, were held. It was edifying to see how many benevolent gentlemen and zealous priests, in spite of their pressing engagements, assembled every day in the hall of the Catholic Club to examine the proposals and formulate the resolutions. A committee was then established not only to direct the work of the Congress, but also to procure in the future the carrying out of the resolutions taken. It is hoped it will give a great impulse to seek for new Co-operators, and efficaciously promote the works which may be proposed to their zeal and charity.

THE RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES OF THE CONGRESS.

To inaugurate the Congress Mgr. Espinosa on the 19th of November celebrated in the Cathedral his first pontifical Mass as Archbishop of Buenos Aires. The intention was to thank Mary Help of Christians for her truly paternal protection of the Salesians in America. The discourse given by Mgr. J. Nepomucene Jerrero, stirred up the whole of the numerous Congregation to have recourse to our Heavenly Mother, and showed how efficacious this devotion is, in the formation of youths called by God to the sacred ministry. The boys from Las Piedras, Bernal and San Carlos sang the Mass. No less solemn were the two other pontifical Masses at which Mgr. Marcellino Benevente, Bishop of Cuyo, and Mgr. J. Cagliero preached. The latter in a magnificent discourse, showed how much good Don Bosco had done to the Church and Society by cultivating ecclesiastical and religious vocations. I am sorry I cannot treat more at length of these beautiful thanksgiving ceremonies, which were really splendid and in which all or almost all the Inspectors and Directors of America, and with them, representatives from their several houses took part. The splendour of the solemnity was emphasised by the bands of San Carlos, the Festive Oratory of St. Francis of Sales, Montevideo, Rosario, and Viedma, in which latter many young Indians figured. The religious celebrations were closed by a solemn

pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lujan, which recalls to my mind the imposing spectacle witnessed at the shrine of the Madonna di S. Luca at Bologna.

THE FIRST MEETING.

Of the three meetings of the Congress held on the 19th, 20th and 21st of November I have very many interesting things to tell you, but to avoid being prolix, I shall give you only the more salient facts. As at Bologna the sittings were commenced by the singing of the Congress hymn. The Bishops, having meanwhile entered the spacious hall of the Catholic Club, which had been courteously placed at our disposal, recited the prayers. Telegrams from well-wishers in Europe, etc. who could not attend were then read. One from Cardinal Rampolla announced that the Holy Father blessed with all his heart the members of the Congress and their undertaking. The despatch which you were good enough to send to Fr. Vespignani was also read amidst the most enthusiastic applause.

At the proposal of President Jarel, Emile Lamarca, who is a lawyer by profession, spoke of Don Bosco and his institutions. I doubt whether such an eloquent discourse, so full of sublime thought, so rich with marvellous facts, so apt to give a just idea of Don Bosco and his work, was ever given to an audience before. His delivery, the tone of his voice, the unction of his words, the profound conviction of being unable to tell all that the orator felt in his heart, electrified his listeners. I hope that when this speech is printed, it will show forth some of the eloquence it had in the orator's mouth, and if so it can be seen that I have not exaggerated in the least. The speeches delivered by Fr. Vespignani and Dr. Lengua—a former pupil of our College at Villa Colon—who began by giving a touching eulogium to the beloved memory of Mons. Lasagna, were likewise listened to with great relish. The first day's proceedings were then closed by some appropriate words from the Internuncio, who recited the customary prayers and imparted the papal blessing.

THE SECOND MEETING.

On the 20th the hall of the Catholic Club was again crowded with people, anxious to hear more about Don Bosco and his institutions. The first to speak was Doctor Pons of the Republic Uruguay who, treating of

schools where religious instruction is imparted, showed their advantages especially in these times when the Government schools often were either indifferent or openly opposed to religious teaching. He was followed by Count Casa di Segovia who gave a discourse on the education of the working classes, setting forth clearly the immense advantage to be derived from workshops formed according to the spirit of Don Bosco, and he gave the Co-operators practical advice as to the means by which they can help the Salesians effectually, in a work so fruitful both morally and materially.

Mr. Bordieu, President of the Council of the Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul, was the next speaker. He took for his subject the workshops of arts and trades and the agricultural colonies. It was an interesting speech, full of valuable lessons, and rendered very pleasing by the happy and at times somewhat satirical style of the orator. His discourse was pretty long and yet one felt sorry when he had finished. In reading it you will experience great pleasure, and you will thank God for having sent us such fine speakers. Needless to say, the resolutions proposed after each discourse were applauded, and appeared to all, the legitimate consequence of the arguments set forth; hence they were unanimously approved of.

* *

After the second solemn meeting, Mgr. Soler, Archbishop of Montevideo, addressed the assembly; he was well pleased with the manner in which the Congress was proceeding, and spoke of the work of Don Bosco which he called the most important of the nineteenth century. So lavish was he in his eulogium of Don Bosco, that no such words, to my knowledge, were ever uttered concerning him by an Archbishop before. He spoke with such persuasive and enthusiastic eloquence that he communicated his own sentiments of his hearers. This is not the first time that this learned prelate expressed himself in such terms when speaking of the Salesians, but this was perhaps the most solemn occasion, and his words were full of fire and their effect most certain.

THE THIRD MEETING.

On the 21st of November the Salesian Co-operators, with the masterly discourse of Mgr. Cagliari still fresh in their memories,

were even more numerous than on the preceding days in the Congress hall. It was a pity that on this occasion there was not more room to accommodate all those who had assembled; many had to remain in the corridors, thus losing the words of the speakers. They were especially anxious to hear the fine speech of the *Cantore del Iabaré*, Mr. Zorilla de San Martin, editor of the "*Bien*," the catholic newspaper of Montevideo. He had been requested to speak on the Missions, and on entering the Hall he excused himself to Mgr. Cagliari and me for not having had time to study up so vast a subject. But his audience were unable to believe his excuses, for he spoke for three quarters of an hour with such richness of thought, such elegant language, and especially with such zeal and charity, that his speech appeared to be that of a father of the Church or a most zealous missionary. At times his hearers seemed scarcely to breathe, so enchanted were they with the fascinating language of this splendid orator. How luminously he portrayed the personality of Don Bosco, and eulogized the missionaries Mgrs. Cagliari and Costamagna, who were brought into greater evidence by their episcopal dignity, but more still by their labours and sacrifices!

Professor Carrasco then gave a speech on the emigrants, exposing ably their needs to the assembly, and giving an account of all Salesians had done for them. It will suffice to recall the incessant work of the sons of Don Bosco during 25 years in the Mater Misericordiae Church in the parish of La Boca. His projects will not perhaps all be realised, but they will show the injustice of those who believe and say that the Salesians cannot occupy themselves with the immigrants.

The last discourse was read by Professor Dura on *La prensa escolar*, namely the editing of suitable books for schools. He showed how much Don Bosco had done in this respect for other countries, how much his sons were striving to do in America, and also how the Co-operators could contribute to the realisation of their praiseworthy projects. Fr. Cerruti would have rejoiced exceedingly to find among laic professors, one who knew thus so thoroughly the spirit of Don Bosco in this all-important question of school manuals and suitable text-books, and of the need of rectifying the corrupt ideas drawn from atheistic and immoral journalism.

It was now again Mgr. Cagliari's turn to

speak, and recalling to mind facts of his own personal remembrance, brought back the interesting story of the Salesian Missions to the year 1852. He gave an account of his marvellous cure, of the prediction made by Don Bosco, of his elevation to the Episcopacy, of his destination to evangelise the Patagonians, and referred also to the first efforts of the Salesians and the results obtained. At every period his voice was drowned by the applause; he could not have been happier in the choice of his ideas, and his manner of expressing them. Then came Mgr. Costamagna, who spoke of his entrance into Patagonia in company with Mgr. Espinosa, the present Archbishop of Buenos Aires. He acknowledged himself indebted to Mary Help of Christians for all the good done in the missions, interweaving through his discourse the names of Our Most Blessed Mother and Don Bosco. He concluded by attributing to her also, the happy issue of the Congress which closed on the Feast of the Presentation.

Your humble servant had also to say a few words. He thought it his duty to let the assembly hear, though in a somewhat unworthy manner, the voice of Don Rua. In his name he thanked the Co-operators for all they had done for San Carlos, for the numerous Salesian houses in America, and for the wonderful success of the Congress from which he expected so much good. It would, he thought, help the Co-operators to become organised, to be ever more united, to propagate the Association, and to animate others to help on the good work. He recommended them always to receive Don Rua's letter to the Co-operators as their word of command and not to be astonished if, in accordance with their traditional custom—to make use of the well-known saying of Archbishop Riccardi,—he either personally or by means of others from time applies to them for help. Here again there was loud applause.

The Archbishop concluded the Congress with some truly apostolic words. He told how he had gone to welcome the Salesians when they arrived at Buenos Aires; he referred to the great good they have done and are doing in the city and the Missions; the perils undergone by them to enter Patagonia, and finally encouraged all the members of his flock to aid them by propagating the Association of the Co-operators, and by giving alms to support their works of charity, especially in favour of youth. He

then formally closed the Congress by giving his blessing to the whole assembly.

LITERARY SEANCE.

On the 22nd of November a pilgrimage was to have been made to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lujan, but for various reasons it was postponed to the 26th. On Friday a great literary and musical entertainment was held. Five Salesian bands were present, and both at the beginning and the end struck up the same march. There were present many Directors and *confrères* from every part of America, so that I seemed to be at Turin on the occasion of a great feast, or the meeting of a General Chapter. United one and all by the bond of brotherly love, they rejoiced exceedingly at the visible protection of Mary Help of Christians on the Congress of the Co-operators, so similar in every respect to that of Bologna. In this circumstance I was able to admire the union which reigns in general between our *confrères* in America and those of Europe. They spoke with enthusiasm of Our Divine Mother, of Don Bosco, and Don Rua. The arrival of M. Dogliani contributed not a little to cement more and more the hearts of all in divine charity. Nothing was wanting but the presence of Don Rua!. How we regretted this!

Some dialogues were then recited on the Salesian Co-operation, and its nature was thus very well explained to the audience. Perosi's oratorio "*The Passion of Christ*" was rendered with all possible precision and artistic ability. Then followed the "*Battle of Lepanto*" by Mgr. Cagliero which received well-deserved applause. The meeting was honoured by the presence of four bishops, and of His Excellency the Minister of the Argentine Navy, and an immense number of Co-operators. The artisans' play ground which, for the occasion, was transformed into an immense hall adorned with festoons and banners, was crowded with people, who all showed marked sympathy for the Salesian works. May God be praised for it!

The entertainment over we went into the students' playground which had been converted into an immense refectory. Upwards of 1,200 covers had been laid for the *confrères* and guests, and for the boys of San Carlos and the other American houses present at the festivities. It was a spectacle never witnessed here before. The boys having taken their places, were not slow to do justice to the good things which the charity of bene-

factors had provided for them, in order to close in a cheerful manner the jubilee celebrations. A furious tempest arose which proved somewhat detrimental to the dinner, and the guests had to seek shelter, plate in hand, under the adjoining porticoes. This however did not prevent us from finishing the dinner although it gave to it the appearance of a pic-nic party, where each one receives his share in a plate and eats it sitting on a rock or by the side of a stream. Mgr. Jerrero, Bishop-elect of La Plata, presided at our table, and chatted with us till late in the evening. Notwithstanding the sudden change from a very hot to a somewhat cold temperature there were no evil after-effects, not even among the boys.

PILGRIMAGE TO LUJAN.

There remained yet a sacred duty to fulfil, that of thanksgiving to Our Blessed Lord and Our Lady Help of Christians for the benefits received, and especially for the unexpected result of the Congress. This duty was fulfilled on the 26th of November by a pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lujan, towards whom the inhabitants of the Argentine Republic profess the liveliest devotion. More than a thousand boys from the Salesian houses in the city, the clerics from Bernal and Las Piedras, and a great number of people, set out by special train at 5.30 a. m. for Lujan. One can hardly describe the joy of the boys, when to the sound of music, headed by the two Salesian Bishops, they first entered the village and then the Church in which is kept the small statue of Our Lady, surrounded by countless *ex-votos*. As the chapel could not accommodate all the pilgrims together, two Masses were said consecutively by Mgrs. Cagliero and Costamagna. They wished to have the Masses sung but this, owing to the excessive heat and the fatigue of the singers, was out of the question. At 8.30 o'clock an *Ave Maria* was sung. It was expressly composed for the occasion by Mgr. Costamagna, who also delivered a sermon on Our Blessed Lady. A solemn *Te Deum* and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament concluded the ceremonies. The same train which brought us in the morning conveyed us back to Buenos Aires as the shades of evening were falling.

* * *

It appears that in remembrance of this solemn Congress, two Salesian houses and one for the Nuns are to be opened at Palermo.

This place has wholly fallen into the hands of non-catholics who have many schools and places of worship there. This demands a heroic effort on the part of the Salesians here but they cannot act otherwise. Everyone expects this of them as a protest against the National Congress which has granted 200 pesos monthly in aid of the non-Catholic schools. We went with Mgr. Cagliero to visit the sites, where it appears they will be able to erect two festive oratories for boys. For the girls they are still in search of a suitable place. May God bless this good project and send workmen into his harvest.

I now close this rapid sketch of an event which would require volumes to describe in

all its particulars. I am more than persuaded that the faint and feeble idea I have given of the 2nd Salesian Congress, will excite all to esteem more and more the Salesian Society to which they have the honour of belonging, and will encourage them to live yet more united in the bond of brotherly love, since in union is our strength. Woe to the one who separates himself from the body; he becomes good for nothing!

Recommending myself to your prayers and asking your blessing

I remain

Your humble servant

PAUL ALBERA.

Don Rua's representative IN AMERICA

(Extracts from his Secretary's Correspondence.)

On the 3rd of Oct. Fr. Albera left Bernal for Ensenada, and was received at the station by the Director Fr. Farinati and upwards of eighty boys. The population of this parish is over 7000, mostly immigrants, and the need of religious instruction is sadly felt. The scanty personnel is fully occupied with several classes. The mistresses also, who were former pupils of our schools prove a real blessing. The house is experiencing the difficulties of all new foundations, chiefly the lack of accommodation. Even their refectory has to be turned to sundry uses. Before leaving, Fr. Albera addressed the people and the pupils in the Church, and remarked that out of the numerous applications for new foundations, Don Rua had consented to open only that of Ensenada in deference to the pressing invitations of Mgr. Espinosa. They hope soon to enlarge the present building, and Providence will not fail to assist them in such good work. Mgr. Alberti, in his generosity has even given them the chalice with which he had said his

first Mass—a souvenir which was very dear to him.

The same evening Fr. Albera was anxiously expected at the College of San Carlos for a distribution of prizes. They had made grand preparations and Fr. Albera presided. In his address, he exhorted the students to make good use of their intellectual gifts and told the artizans they were right in claiming for themselves the largest share of his sympathy. When, a simple brother, he had been charged to teach a class of artizans, and later on when as a Superior at San Pier, d'Arena and at Marseilles, he had always a great deal to do with them. He explained also that Don Bosco always looked forward for a great deal of good from Christian artizans.

A good Salesian cannot, must not let an occasion pass without speaking of and propagating the devotion to Our Blessed Lady. So Fr. Albera when speaking, whether in

public or private, always finds an opportunity of saying a few words on Our Lady Help of Christians. Whenever he gives a keepsake, it is generally a medal of Our Lady Help of Christians. His first sermon in America was to be on Our Blessed Lady in the Church of Mater Misericordiae—the very church where the missionaries had begun their apostolate 25 years ago. They were keeping the Feast of the Holy Rosary. It had been preceded by a solemn Novena, during which the concourse of people at the services and at the Sacraments had been most edifying. The Church was gorgeously decorated for the occasion. In the morning Mgr Echague officiated. A very imposing procession took place; the statue was borne aloft on the shoulders of four stalwart men with a holy pride, through the principal thoroughfares. The vast crowd that lined the streets were most reverent, and even devotional in their behaviour. Carriages and tramways stopped for the space of half an hour, to allow the long line of faithful to pass, all of whom were carrying lighted candles in their hands and praying devoutly. The Church was ablaze with lights. On returning Fr. Albera unable to get to the sacristy, took of the cope in the Sanctuary and then with difficulty reached the pulpit. The sight of that vast edifice, literally packed with devout christians, touched him deeply. He began by saying that the great St. Augustine wished to have lived at a time, when he could have witnessed the triumphal entrance of a Roman Emperor as he returned from victory. That Doctor pictured to himself the grandeur of that spectacle, which used to be enhanced by all the charms that nature and art could contribute. "But," he added, "if St. Augustine could have witnessed the sight that was offered to-day by the city of Buenos Aires, he would never certainly have longed for other triumphs." He then enlarged on the devotion of the Holy Rosary, and the necessity of making it the family prayer, and the benefits accruing from such practice.

From another letter we make the following extracts:—

In speaking of the cursory visit to Montevideo, I did not mention a feast held there

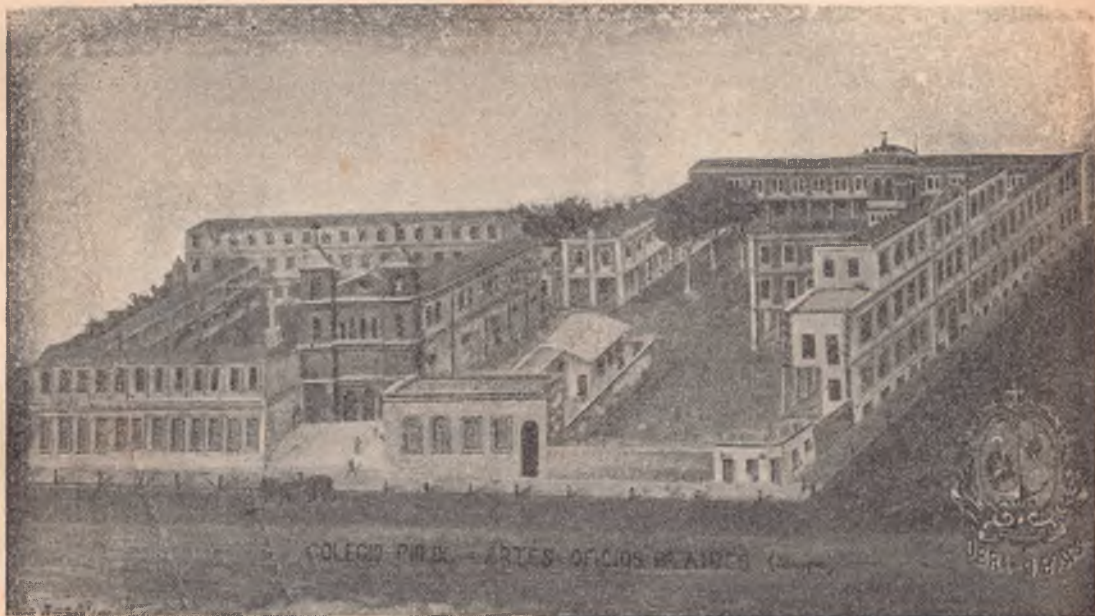
of a somewhat familiar character, in honour of a great friend and benefactor, Señor Toribio. On the Sunday during our short stay there, Fr. Provincial had sent an invitation to our principal benefactors. At the end of dinner several of the guests welcomed Fr. Albera in eloquent terms. Among others the distinguished Dr. Zorilla, who is member of the Spanish Academy, Editor of "*El pueblo*," first poet of Uruguay and a most eloquent orator. In the course of his address he pointed out how well the Salesians had deserved of the Republic, and how the work of Don Bosco is an institution raised by God to meet the needs of the age, and said:—"We no longer live in the times when the aristocracy could fashion the masses as they pleased. Not unfrequently the example is given by the lower spheres of Society to the higher ones. It is then a matter of paramount importance to give a Christian training to the working classes. This object is successfully obtained by aiding and furthering the works of the Salesians, who with all their energies, devote themselves to the education of the working classes. The Salesians in their turn, feel the deepest gratitude to all those who become benefactors of their adopted children, and at the proper time they know how to manifest their grateful feelings." Saying these words he quitted his place and approached Señor Toribio, and embracing him placed on his breast the Cross of the knights of St. Gregory the Great, which Fr. Provincial had obtained from Rome for him. It was a charming scene. The newly created knight as soon as he overcame his emotion, said to Fr. Provincial that he would try to do even more than he had hitherto done for our poor children

* * *

Among the visitors that called at San Carlos one of the most welcome was the Captain of the "*Perseo*," who had treated us with so much kindness during our voyage to this country. He accepted the invitation to spend a few hours with us, and was treated as an acquaintance of old standing: He visited the house and, with special interest, the meteorological observatory which is being fitted up and occupies an important place among the meteorological stations, which our confrères are carrying on in the interests of science.

He regretted that he was forced to leave so soon. It fell to my lot to accompany him on his return to his vessel. He manifested again and again how well pleased he was with his visit and said:—"Please tell your Superior that I am at his disposal. If he knows that I can be of any use to him, he will do me a favour by commanding me." Then he continued: "Do you know what struck me most during my visit? It was to see that crowd of boys with healthy and candid faces, happy and contented with their common life, dealing

Don Rua and their visitor. On thanking them at the close of the entertainment, Fr. Albera expressed himself highly satisfied with it, because everything spoke of Don Bosco. Then with warmth and emphasis, added:—"So long as you love Don Bosco, so long as you cling to the spirit of him and of his successor who has inherited all from him, your institute will make rapid progress. Speak often of Don Bosco bear aloft the banner which he has given you, on which is large writ, "*Gratitude and Love*"—gratitude and love



College of Pious IX—Buenos Aires.

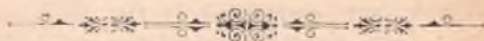
with their superiors with so much confidence and yet so much respect." And it is indeed a striking sight for anyone not accustomed to it. This good captain has proved, and will, I am sure, prove a valuable friend.

* * *

The Nuns of Our Lady Help of Christians claim a good share of Fr. Albera's time. Their Superior had been told that Fr. Albera was not only the visitor of the Salesians but also for the nuns as well. They have here a boarding school facing the College of San Carlos. There Fr. Albera was sometime ago present at a dramatic entertainment, interspersed with recitations. The subjects principally were—needless to say—Don Bosco

towards God, Mary, your Institute. Don Rua who untiringly continues the life of self sacrifice, of work, of charity, of Don Bosco. Don Bosco! Oh how dear this name resounds on the lips, and to the hearts of us his children,—and to you also who perhaps owe to him all the good you have received." These words were listened to with religious attention by more than five hundred girls there assembled.

(To be continued).



Notes from London.

THE Salesians at London most earnestly beg their kind Co-operators to help them to enlarge their present Institution. This enlargement—which is to accommodate over 100 boys—has become an imperative necessity, as day after day numerous applications for admission have to be refused through want of room.

prizes. Miss Florence Whiting was also present. Afterwards they repaired to the school-room which was gaily decorated and did justice to the nice things provided. A musical comedy was then performed for them in the Hall by the boys of the Salesian School and this delighted the little multitude very much.

On the following day the boys went through a similar programme, and needless to say enjoyed it thoroughly.

The performances of the children on both days, reflected the highest credit on the good Nuns and Brothers who teach them. The following summary of the reports of Her



Salesian school Surrey House, Surrey Lane Battersea, London, S. W.

Prayers are said twice every day for the intentions of all benefactors, and Holy Mass is offered up for them every Friday throughout the year.

Offerings may be sent to the Superior:—Very Rev. C. B. Macey, 64 Orbel St., Battersea London S. W.

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On the 10th and 11th of January, the Annual Tea Party for the girls and boys of the Salesian day-schools at Battersea, London, was given by Mrs and Miss Whiting. The first day was set apart for the girls. At 3 o'clock they assembled in the Hall, and gave a very pleasing entertainment before their benefactress, who then distributed the

Majesty's Inspectors for the year 1900 may here be given:—

Boy's school:—"The order is good and the work is earnestly and methodically done"

Girl's school:—"This school maintains its high character both for excellent discipline and efficient teaching."

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There are times in everybody's life—even the most cynical—when this world seems good and happy and beautiful—as really it is—and certainly this occasion was such an one for these school-children, many of whom live in great poverty, and at times have perhaps to suffer cold and hunger. To give these 600 children even two days of

unalloyed happiness, is a most praiseworthy action and Our Blessed Lord who loves especially the little ones, will not fail to reward bountifully their generous benefactress.

* * *

On Feb. 3rd, the Feast of St. Francis of Sales was kept with much solemnity at the Salesian Church, Battersea. It was preceded by a Novena, during which time the Rosary was recited publicly and Benediction imparted each evening. The Church was—as usual on great feast-days—tastefully decorated.

At 11 o'clock High Mass was celebrated by V. Rev. Fr. Macey, with Rev. A. Hawarden as deacon, and Rev. W. Goy, subdeacon. The

Music was Beethoven in C with Stuarts "*O Salutaris*" at the offertory, and under the management of Rev. E. Rabagliati, left little to be desired.

After the Gospel, Rev. M. Mc Carthy occupied the pulpit, and made a forcible appeal on behalf of the schools of the Mission.

In the evening Rev. W. Kelly preached an eloquent panegyric on the life of St. Francis of Sales. Solemn Benediction was afterwards given by the V. Rev. Fr. Macey.

On the following day the Solemn Mass for the deceased Co-operators was sung by Rev. Fr. F. Goy. The music was Mons. Cagliero's beautiful Requiem.

Salesian Notes and News

THE proposed celebrations of the Jubilee year of the Salesians in France, to which we referred in our last issue, were held at Nice on the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th of February. Details will appear in the next number.

The first Salesian house established in France, was in this city in 1875. It had a most humble beginning. In Rue Victor two or three small rooms were engaged on a ground floor—it might be better described as a cave,—and the Society of St. Vincent of Paul paid the rent for them. A number of children flocked to the new institute, and soon those in charge had to look out for a larger and more convenient establishment. Don Bosco, having about this time come to Nice, was asked to inspect a house at the "*place d'Armes*," which was for sale. He went into the first court yard, and one of the rooms on the ground-floor and without otherwise examining the house said:—"This will just suit us."

The house was immediately bought for 90,000 francs. M. Michel the lawyer, knowing that Don Bosco had no money, exclaimed—"How can you do it? You have not even the money to pay the expenses of the sale." It was true, Don Bosco had nothing, but he said that when the costs of the sale were paid, he would have 12,000 francs over!

Meanwhile Mgr. Mermillod came to Nice,

and gave a charity sermon in favour of the new institute. Crowds came to hear him. It is reported, that while the illustrious prelate was enumerating, with glowing eloquence, all the Salesians had already accomplished in Italy, Don Bosco fell asleep. But he woke up at the proper moment and made the collection himself, which amounted to 5,000 francs. Other subscriptions came to hand afterwards and soon not only the cost of the sale were paid but on examination it was found that there were 12,000 francs to his credit.

This house has increased steadily ever since, and at present, contains about 300 boys who receive a thoroughly sound Christian education.

* * *

ONE day, shortly after the opening of this house, a boy came and asked to be admitted. He was brought to Don Bosco who had just arrived the preceding day. He was a little street musician of a very lively appearance, and Don Bosco examined him with tender interest. He had under his arm a violin in very bad condition which was all his fortune.

"Where were you born my friend?" asked Don Bosco.

"I dont know" was the answer

"Where do you come from?"

"I dont know"

"And your parents, where are they?"

"I dont know; I never knew them"

"And where are you going?"

"I dont know"

"Ah, well, my little friend, I know that you have all that is required to enter Don Bosco's house" and he gave orders that he was to be received immediately. That child

Salesians in Brazil, he obtained an audience with the Emperor. This wise and energetic monarch entered into a long conversation with him about the origin of the Society, its end, and the means employed for the education of youth and the conversion of souls. Astonished and completely satisfied by the explanations of Don Lasagna, he requested that the Salesians should be established as



Patronage St. Pierre—Nice.

is now a good and honest artizan.—From D'Espiney's "*Don Bosco*."

* * *

AMONG the pilgrims who came to the Eternal City last year, there were some who also visited the Salesian Oratory of Turin. These included the Countess d'Eu, daughter of Don Pedro II, the late Emperor of Brazil and Count d'Eu, her husband. These distinguished visitors have been, for a number of years admirers and co-operators of the Salesian work. It was, indeed, His Majesty Don Pedro II, who received the Salesians into his vast empire.

When Don Lasagna of regretted memory (he was not yet bishop) came to Rio Janeiro to arrange about the establishment of the

soon as possible in Rio. He then presented the missionary to the Princess Imperial, Dona Isabella, and her husband the Count d'Eu, presumptive heirs to the crown. The Count and Countess had nothing but words of the highest praise for our missionaries, and wished they would do the same good in Brazil, that they had accomplished in the other countries of South America.

It was at this time they became Co-operators, and our work has often since experienced the effect of their generous charity.

* * *

THE occurrence which has given occasion to the solemn festivities of the Salesians and their Co-operators in America, could not be allowed to pass without fitting commemoration

at the mother House, the Salesian Oratory at Turin, since it is from that place the first band of missionaries started in 1875, under the leadership of Fr. Cagliero, the present Vicar Apostolic of Patagonia. From that time more than 30 groups have, in the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians, bid adieu to their Superiors and friends in Europe, and have gone to share the labours and hardships of their confrères in those distant regions.

A Solemn High Mass was sung by the successor of Don Bosco in the presence of a numerous congregation on the 8th of Dec.



Montemagno.

the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The following day the Conference for the Salesian Co-operators took place. The speaker for the occasion was the Rev. Prof. Simonetti, who in a masterly resumé of the history of the missions, drew a vivid picture of their difficulties and at the same time their marvellous progress. He dwelt with great effect on some of the more striking episodes.

On the 13th. there was a dramatic entertainment: "The Future of Patagonia," interspersed with tableaux illustrating the work of the missionaries. Mr. Scala B. L. and Editor of the *Italia Reale*, in a congratulatory address, gave interesting personal reminiscences of the day when he with Don Bosco, accompanied the first band of missionaries to their steamer at Genoa.

* *

AT Montemagno, the native place of Mons. Lasagna, a festive Oratory has been opened, bearing the name of that illustrious Bishop.

He himself had suggested this work when on a visit to his native country. His proposal was then taken up, but the death of the parish priest, who undertook the building of the house, caused a delay. It has recently been solemnly opened, and is well attended. It is managed by one of the Fathers of the Salesian College of the neighbouring town of Alessandria.

* *

IN December last, we read in the *Vera Roma*, the Holy Father received in private audience, the Superiors and some 40 boys representing the pupils of the Leonine Col-

lege of Orvieto. He graciously admitted the boys into his private study and allowed them to kiss his sacred ring. He spoke kind and encouraging words of the Salesians employed in that Institution, and of Don Rua their Superior General. Of the College itself which bears his august name, and owes its foundation to his generosity he said:—"It is an Institution of which the town of Orvieto may well be satisfied. The reports which we have hitherto received of it are most consoling. May it continue and flourish every day more and more." Turning to the boys he warmly exhorted them to have great attachment for our holy religion, in order to withstand the spread of *indifferentism* "which," he said "is the greatest evil of modern society." He then, with paternal benevolence, blessed his young visitors and wished them a safe journey. We heartily congratulate both the Superiors and pupils of the Leonine College, and wish that the blessing of the Holy Father may bring on them great benefits.

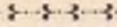


THE

Work of the Salesian Co-operators

Briefly Sketched Out, and Its Spiritual Advantages

Explained.



THAT which those who are enrolled amongst the Co-operators of the Salesian Congregation—instituted by Don Bosco, and approved by the Holy See—set before themselves as their fundamental object, is to aim at their own perfection by means of a mode of life which approaches as nearly as possible to that of a religious community.

How many there are who would gladly leave the world for the cloister, were they not prevented by reasons of age, of health, or of state of life; and, not unfrequently, also, by the want of sufficient means, or of available opportunity. These, by becoming Co-operators in the Salesian confraternity, can continue to live in the bosom of their own family and in the midst of their daily avocations, and yet form a constituent part of that holy congregation. It is indeed with this express intention that our Holy Father, the Supreme Pontiff, the Pope, has assimilated this association to the Third Orders, of ancient date, with the difference that, while they purpose to aim at Christian perfection by the exercise of works of piety in general, the principal means whereby the Salesian co-operators have to aim thereat, consist in the active exercise of charity towards our neighbour, and more especially towards those who are more than ordinarily exposed in the days of their youth to the dangerous circumstances and the corrupting influences of the world.

Any one of either sex, the sixteenth year of whose age has been completed, who sincerely intends to act in conformity with the Rules, and to assist in promoting the good works of the association, is eligible to be enrolled as one of its co-operators amongst the members of the Salesian family: and, in that quality, is expected, as far as opportunities may allow, to encourage the observance of devotional exercises and the spread of catechetical instruction; to give counsel and assistance to those, in whom are apparent

any signs of an ecclesiastical vocation, by endeavouring to put them into the way of pursuing their studies, and of obtaining admission into some Diocesan seminary or collegiate institution for the purpose; to promote the production and circulation of a sound and wholesome literature in opposition to the infidel and vicious publications of the day, and thus, by active measures, where these are possible, and in other cases, by prayers and alms, to follow the example of the primitive Christians, in succouring with both spiritual and temporal help those who, like poor widows or orphans, are manifestly in a state of need.

There is no fixed amount which these co-operators ought to contribute in aid of the works of the association, but they are naturally expected to make an offering, from time to time, of such an alms as the charity of their own hearts shall suggest; nor again, is there any exterior practice prescribed as binding upon them; but that their life may be in some points conformable to that of the religious orders, they are recommended to observe a modest sobriety in their personal attire, a frugal moderation in what they eat and drink, an inexpensive simplicity in their household furniture; to be, moreover, themselves, reserved in speech, exact in the performance of the duties of their state, and careful that, on Sundays and other Festivals of obligation, the rest and sanctification enjoined, be duly observed by those over whom their authority extends. They are counselled also annually to devote some days to the making of a Spiritual Retreat; and on any day that may be convenient to themselves in the course of every month, to perform the exercises for a holy death, going to confession and communion, as though it were really for the last time in their life. One "Pater Noster," and one "Ave Maria," in honour of St. Francis of Sales, and in union with the intention of our Holy Father, the Pope, is the short form of prayer appointed to be said every day by each of the co-operators, who are earnestly exhorted frequently to approach to the Sacraments of Penance and of the Holy Eucharist, whereby they can gain, on each occasion, a Plenary Indulgence on the usual conditions.

The Indulgences with which this Association has been enriched by the Sovereign Pontiff, the Supreme Head upon earth of the Holy Catholic Church, are indeed exceptionally great, as a reference to the list, which is to be found in the Instructions

bound up with the certificate of admission, will readily serve to shew: and they comprise:—

- 1.—A plenary Indulgence for each co-operator on the day of his reception as such.
- 2.—All the Indulgences, both plenary and partial, which have been granted to the Tertiaries of St. Francis of Assisi.
- 3.—A Plenary Indulgence, once a day, for the recital of the Rosary before the Most Holy Sacrament; or, if that be not possible, before a crucifix.
- 4.—A Plenary Indulgence for every personal attendance at the conferences prescribed.
- 5.—A Plenary Indulgence at the moment of death.

Each of the co-operators has likewise a share in all the Masses, devotions, and works of charity, which, in the exercise of their sacred ministry, the Fathers of the Salesian congregation may offer up and perform in any part of the world; and it is, furthermore, incumbent on all priests, who are either professed Salesians themselves, or co-operators in the association, to offer up the Holy Sacrifice annually, on the morrow of the Feast of St. Francis of Sales, for the souls of their fellow co-operators, deceased.

Thus, then, will those who exercise their charity in the manner aforesaid, striving to promote the glory of God through the salvation of souls, secure also for themselves the possession of an immense amount of spiritual treasures, by means of these Indulgences; and, as St. Augustine says, "By having saved even a single soul, they will have predestinated their own."

N.B.—It is in no wise intended that these Rules in themselves should be binding upon any, under pain of even the slightest venial sin.

Applicants will at all times receive the attention they desire by addressing themselves on the subject to the

Very Rev. SUPERIOR OF THE
SALESIAN FATHERS,
64, Orbel Street,
Battersea, S. W.



THE STORY OF THE ORATORY

OR

DON BOSCO'S OPENING APOSTOLATE.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

Attack on the Lazaretto—One of the first cholera-stricken—Strange discovery of a sick person—Only one case of cholera—Thanksgiving—The orphans of the victims—Letter from the Mayor.

IT is not out of place, here, to single out some other facts, worthy of mention, that happened during this epidemic of cholera.

First of all, it must not be imagined, that the young infirmarians, of whom I have spoken, needed not a great effort to master their fear and overcome themselves. There is now living, one of those fourteen, who first gave their names and courageously visited the victims of the cholera, whose evidence would suffice of itself, to make us understand, the self-sacrifice which was necessary in order to apply themselves to this work and persevere at it. The first time he set foot in the lazaretto, seeing the ravages left by the disease, the livid and corpse-like faces, the sunken eyes, and above all to see them gasp in a most distressing manner, he was seized with such fear, that he became pale like them, his sight left him, his strength failed and he fainted away. Fortunately Don Bosco was with him, and prevented him from falling. He then took him to the open air and restored him, otherwise the poor young man might have been taken for one afflicted with cholera and put in with the sick persons.

Truly one needed to be provided with a great courage to visit constantly these haunts of suffering and death. Besides the terrible pains to which so many victims were a prey, it was heart-rending to see these poor people, almost the very moment they breathed their last, hurried to a neighbouring mortuary, and immediately afterwards carried to the cemetery and buried. Sometimes they seemed



still to possess life, when they were placed with the dead. In one hospital where the boys from the Oratory were serving the following incident occurred. They had just brought to an adjoining mortuary a body, when a nurse came from the Infirmary and said to the doctor:—"Doctor that man still moves; the proper thing to do is to bring him back again." "Leave him there" replied the doctor roughly "only mind he does not escape." Hence it may be imagined, what mental courage was needed to assist at such scenes.

During the first days, it was not only necessary to overcome the fear of disease and death, but also of the threats of certain people. Here it is well to remark that the hospitals, although they were introduced into the suburbs, and were a wise provision, were nevertheless regarded with prejudice and even abhorred by the sick and those who lived near. Some believed that the sick in these places, died sooner than they otherwise would, or that their death was caused by poisonous draughts. Those who lived near feared, and not without reason, that the hospital would infect the surrounding air and place their lives in peril. Having been unable to prevent their opening, they resolved to have them closed or to render them useless, by means alike foul and unlawful. Accordingly in the suburb of S. Donato, as also elsewhere, bands of rascals from the neighbourhood, determined to frighten away all those who offered themselves for the service of the sick, so that no more sick people would be brought, when there was no one to care them. Acting on this plan, these ruffians began with threats, then came to use force and throw stones, so that to go to the hospital or leave it, especially at night time, it was necessary to be escorted by a public force. On one of the first evenings, two of our confrères, one of whom was Don Rua, fell in for a rather rough time of it. Returning from the hospital, on their way to the Oratory, they entered a dark passage, when immediately they heard wild shouts and hisses, mingled with cries of "Give it to them" etc. These scoundrels then attacked the two clerics with stones, and but for their swiftness and their fortunate meeting with two policemen, might have been caught and maltreated.

In spite of this violence, they continued to frequent the hospital as long as there was need for it. After a while the anger of the neighbours cooled down, and the admiration of the whole city alone remained.

The assistance rendered to one of the first victims of the cholera, seems deserving of special mention. On the morning of the 16th of August, the Feast of St. Rock, one of the patrons of Turin, a person came to the Oratory with the news that there was a poor man in great pain in a field close by, asking for help. Don Bosco at once called the young Charles Tomatis, and with him went to the spot. There he found a workman, who had been struck only a little time before, by this dread disease, whilst he was eating a melon, half of which was still near him. Some persons had gathered round him, and were observing him with looks of fear, but no one dared to help him, such was the horror with which they were filled. Don Bosco comforted him with encouraging words, and aided by the above-mentioned boy, set him on his legs. The poor man walked feebly for a few yards, but being seized with very violent pains had to stop. They lifted him up, and carried him to the hospital, where having restored him somewhat, Don Bosco administered the Sacraments to him, and by noon he was dead.

The following singular fact also occurred about this time. A poor but pious woman, had an occupation at a house in Cottolengo St. Every morning, she used to come to this house to her work, and in the evening, with rare exceptions, return to her home. For her convenience her employer left a small attic at the top of the house at her disposal, where she might take her food or leave some of her belongings. On the 8th of Sept, the Feast of the Nativity of Our Blessed Lady, a boy from the Oratory, came to this house and said to the landlord:—"Have you any one sick here with the cholera?" "No, thank God" replied he "there is no one here." "Yet I feel sure there is some one ill here" said the boy. "You must have mistaken the house, young man," concluded the landlord "for, on my word, we are all in good health here and out of bed." At this announcement the boy stepped out for a moment, glanced at the house and then returning said to the landlord:—"Do me the favour of looking carefully through the house, for there must be a sick woman here." Together with the boy he went from one room to another, till at last he came to this wretched garret. There, to his horror and astonishment, he found this poor woman huddled up in the corner and almost dead from the terrible disease. A priest was called at once, who, having heard her confession and administered

Extreme Unction, saw her die a holy death.

The landlord thought, that on the preceding evening, as was her wont, the poor woman had gone home, She had instead gone up stairs perhaps for a little rest and had been seized with the cholera, unknown to everyone.

I here pass over in silence many other facts, and come to one which, for us especially, has the greatest interest. At this time, the boys with Don Bosco and his Mother numbered about a hundred. Now although placed in a position where the cholera was raging so fiercely, that on all sides, every house had to mourn for one or more victims, yet after four months, when the scourge had passed away, the boys were counted and not one out of the whole number was missing! The disease had surrounded them, had advanced to the very doors of the Oratory, had even penetrated into Don Bosco's room but it seems that an invisible hand had commanded it to retire, and it obeyed, respecting the lives of all. The appearance of the boys, who at this time had devoted themselves untiringly to the service of the cholera-stricken, caused great surprise. They looked so vigorous and rosy with health that they seemed to have spent those days, not in the midst of the poisonous exhalations of hospitals and infected houses, but in the delightful and health-giving country, enjoying holidays and repose. Hence all those who knew this were filled with wonder; and it was impossible not to see in this fact, the merciful hand of God which had thus protected them.

Don Bosco himself as I mentioned above was also attacked by this disease. His Mother Margaret told me, that one evening having gone to bed after a very hard day's work, he felt seized with a sudden weakness, then with cold and cramp in his feet and legs, in fine with all the premonitory signs of the great enemy. Fearing that he might alarm the boys he said nothing about it but gave himself the usual treatment, for those suffering from cholera. Accordingly holding the blankets and sheets together, with both hands he began to rub his body, arms, feet and legs with such violence, that after a quarter of an hour, tired and worn out by the fatigue, consequent on the severe exertion, his whole body was bathed in perspiration,

In that state he fell asleep, and in the morning was perfectly well. His was the only case of cholera that occurred in the house.

When the evil had entirely ceased through-

the city, Don Bosco wished the boys to make a solemn thanksgiving to Our Lord, who had so lovingly preserved them. For this purpose, he fixed the 8th of December the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the very day on which the immortal Pontiff Pious IX, surrounded by 200 Cardinals, Patriarchs, Archbishops, and Bishops, who had flocked from all parts of the world solemnly proclaimed it a dogma of faith. On the morning of that memorable day, the boys from the orphanage and many from the Festive Oratory, devoutly approached the Sacraments of Confession and Communion in honour of Mary Immaculate who in her maternal goodness, had protected them. In the evening, Don Bosco by a suitable discourse prepared their minds for the thanksgiving. He spoke to them in a manner adapted to their capacity of the great mystery which on that day, so many years before, had been defined an article of faith. He then told to them of the power of Mary, her goodness towards her devout clients, and went on to say, that all danger of the cholera being now past, they ought to thank God for preserving them. He compared the passage of the cholera in their country, to the passage of the exterminating angel in Egypt; and to make them better understand the great benefit that had been conferred upon them, he described the numerous heart-rending scenes, which had taken place in many parts of Liguria, Piedmont, in Turin itself and even in houses in the neighbourhood. "Therefore" he added in conclusion "my dear children, thank God for having kept you alive in the midst of a thousand dangers. But that our thanksgiving may be more pleasing to him, let us unite in a cordial and sincere promise, to consecrate to him alone the rest of our days, loving Him with all our hearts, practising our religion like good christians, observing the commandments of God and His Church, and fleeing from mortal sin in which is a disease infinitely greater than the cholera and the pest." Having said this he intoned the *Te Deum* and the boys took up the hymn with the liveliest transports of thanksgiving love.

I cannot close this chapter without a word of praise to the Turin Municipality of that time. The committee took the greatest care to arrest the spread, and ameliorate the sad effects of the pestilence, by publishing wise rules of hygiene, by erecting hospitals here and there, by providing for the care of the sick and by helping so many poor orphans, who had been deprived of their parents. For

The latter, they opened a temporary orphanage near the Church of St. Dominic, where they provided lodging, food and clothing for a great number, who without this charitable assistance, would have remained abandoned, in their terrible misfortune, in the streets. Moreover, not content with supplying these poor boys with the necessaries of the body, they made arrangements for their religious and moral education and requested Don Bosco to be their teacher. With the greatest pleasure our good founder acceded to their praiseworthy desire. He, therefore, divided his time between the cholera-stricken and the orphans, and that the latter might receive the necessary instruction, he chose some of the cleverest boys from the Oratory to teach them, especially in Christian Doctrine.

These arrangements continued till the end of November when the Municipality closed the orphanage and confided some of the children to our care, and others to that of another benevolent Institute. Twenty of the smaller boys were consigned to Don Bosco, and from that day, became his adopted children. In the course of time, some of them having learned a trade, left the Oratory; others remained and still remain, always devoted to him who had proved such a kind father to them.

The instruction imparted to the orphans at St. Dominic's and the reception of the greater part of them, into the orphanage of St. Francis of Sales, highly pleased the Committee established at that time in aid of the poor victims of the cholera, and the Mayor wrote the following letter to Don Bosco:

"Turin, 17th December 1854.

"The Mayor, in the name of the Committee of public benevolence, for the poor cholera-stricken and their families, begs to express his gratitude for the noble and generous help given by you in the instruction of these poor orphans, who had been temporarily housed in the Orphanage of St. Dominic, and who certainly will not fail to pray to God for their worthy teacher.

In fulfilling the duty imposed on him, the writer wishes to express his own feelings of marked esteem and consideration."

In another note, dated the 4th of the same month, requesting Don Bosco to receive an orphan named Andrew Fioecardi, the same gentleman adds:—"I seize this opportunity of

thanking you in the name of the Committee for your efforts on behalf of the poor orphans whose parents fell victims to the fatal disease, which for almost four months has afflicted our city and neighbourhood."

The facts related in this chapter, and the above letters from the Municipality of Turin, are an undoubted proof of the advantage then derived from the Oratory of St. Francis of Sales, an advantage which now after the lapse of 40 years, by the help of God and our Co-operators, continues to be derived not only from one institute, but from more than 250 throughout Europe and America.

(To be continued.)

FATHERS and mothers, if you wish your sons to be well educated, to prove a comfort and blessing in their manhood, instruct them in religion, particularly when very young. Watch and see if they go to church, and if they associate with bad companions. But show good example yourselves; truly it is folly for parents who make no scruple of speaking lightly of religion or morals in their children's presence, or who join parties of pleasure on church holidays at the time when they should be at the services of devotion, to expect their children to be the opposite viz., honourable and pious.

Fathers and mothers, do not deceive yourselves; certainly you must render a rigorous account before God's tribunal of the education given to your sons. Many children are lost owing to bad training; many parents are lost, too, for having taught their children irreligious principles. These truths merit attentive consideration. If children are well brought up, the coming generation will be orderly, industrious, and anxious to comfort their parents. Then we shall see better times, and have a population who will be an honour to the country, the prop of families, the glory and credit of religion.—DON BOSCO.





Favours and Graces

OBTAINED BY INVOKING

Mary Help of Christians

[Owing to the great number of communications we are continually receiving for insertion in this column, we are obliged to limit ourselves to the publication of a few extracts (as the expression, more or less, of the others) and the names of all those who desire to make public thanksgiving to their Celestial Benefactress. All manuscripts, however, are carefully deposited in the archives of the Sanctuary; and, perhaps, we shall one day be able to publish them in a separate volume in honour of our Heavenly Queen.—ED.]

Nicaragua.—"For a considerable time I was suffering from a disease which threatened to end fatally. Being unable to take nourishment my frame became wellnigh exhausted. I tried all human resources in my power but in vain. I then had recourse to Mary Help of Christians, asked to be enrolled as a co-operator and began a novena praying her most fervently to restore to me my former health. Thanks to this Heavenly Patroness I am now well again and gladly fulfil my promise by publicly acknowledging this favour and sending this small offering"

JOSEFA DOLORES CALLADO.

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Remarkable Conversion.

Holland.—"I send you, for God's greater glory, the following account of the conversion of a hardened sinner, through the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians. The year before Don Bosco's death I gave him an account of the pitiable condition of this man who was then showing more alarming symptoms, for he had even cast aside the scapular—the only symbol of his religion that he had hitherto retained out of regard for

his deceased mother. The only good effect of our prayers seemed to be his having left off the habit of blaspheming our holy religion. Don Bosco sent me the following reply:—"Tell Mother Angelo that what she asks from God through the intercession of Mary Help of Christians is nothing short of a miracle of grace. Nevertheless let her still hope and continue to pray with us. God's mercy is infinite."

There was not much comfort in this still I continued to hope against hope. I knew that in his youth before he frequented the University he had such great devotion to Our Lady that he would even reproach himself with missing the recital of the Rosary with the rest of the family. But alas! After obtaining his degree he returned to us without the faith, and for the space of 49 years did not set his foot in a church. This gave great grief to his wife and daughter who whilst bearing this cross with fortitude were continually asking for prayers for his conversion. To a young ecclesiastic—a relation of his own he said one day:—"I don't want to hear any more about conversion. I am not going to be pointed at, as one who changed his mind." This meant that he was leaving his conversion to his last moments.

Two years ago his wife a very pious lady died almost suddenly. She had had a stroke of paralysis and could not speak a word to him before dying. When Extreme Unction was being administered to her he quitted the room and would not afterwards even see the corpse. On the day of her burial he followed at a distance in a carriage and later on entered the Church near the cemetery! When he returned home strange to say he asked for his wife's rosary-beads. This was

for me a ray of hope. No visible change, however, was apparent in his conduct after these first emotions. In the course of the following Winter he had an attack of influenza. The Doctors told him he might not fear, that there was no danger what ever. His daughter nevertheless offered to remain with him and he consented to allow her. During the night the sick man grew restless and the watchful eye of his child soon perceived that there was immediate danger. She was afraid at first to speak to him about his spiritual condition but after a time ventured to say:—
—“Dear father you are dangerously ill. Do, I entreat you, let me send for a priest; he will comfort you.” To her great surprise he answered “yes, my child, do so and do it quickly. I think it is time.” On hearing these words she ran to inform her husband and a few minutes afterwards a priest arrived. He obtained from the sick man a reparation of the scandals and administered to him the Sacrament of Penance. The following day he expressed his desire to have a Jesuit Father who heard his confession and administered Extreme Unction which he received with the best dispositions. A stroke of paralysis prevented him from receiving Holy Communion and he died a short time afterwards, leaving his family in grief indeed for the loss of their dear Father but also greatly consoled at his good end.

When I heard the news of his happy death I hastened to the Church to thank God for His infinite mercy and Our Blessed Lady for her goodness in his behalf. I understood then how many times lately I felt drawn to pray for the conversion of this soul. During the last hour of the year '99 and the first of 1900 when before the Blessed Sacrament I prayed to Our Blessed Lord that he would not allow this soul, that had loved his Mother so much in his early life, perish, not to abandon it in punishment of his sins but to grant what we had been asking for years for God's greater glory through the intercession of Mary Help of Christians.

On the 19th of January I heard the good news of his conversion and happy death. His daughter wrote to me a few days afterwards:—“What happiness it would have been for us all had he been able to enjoy for some time the calm and peace of a good

conscience which he had not experienced for such a long period. I hope God will be merciful to him and it is for this reason that I commend his soul to your prayers. Help us to thank God for this triumph of his grace.”

No one need despair after this victory over the power of Hell. May we often repeat the beautiful prayer of your venerated founder Don Bosco:—“Give me souls” I thought it my duty Rev. Father to relate this to you for God's greater glory and that of His Holy Mother.”

MERE MARIE ANGELE R. U.

TO THE READER.

When applying for a copy of this periodical, please state whether you already receive our “Bulletin” (Italian, French, Spanish, German, 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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