



THE CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS.



ADVANTAGES OF MEMBERSHIP.

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

Approbation.

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

✠ L. M. PARROCCHI, Card. Vic

The Papal Blessing.

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

Given from the Vatican, June 30th, 1888.

ANGELO RINALDI, Chaplain, Sec.

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

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



THE SALESIAN BULLETIN

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

To your care I commend infancy and youth, zealously attend to their Christian education; place in their hands such books as may teach them to fly from vice and steadily walk in the path of virtue. (LUS 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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The Church of St. Francis de Sales

AT VALSALICE.

Don Bosco and the Catholic Press.

IN February 1888 the remains of Don Bosco were conveyed to Valsalice in the neighbourhood of Turin and there, in the Seminary of the Salesian Missions, were consigned to the grave. It was not without special design and disposition of Providence that it happened to be chosen as his last resting place that House which had shortly before been destined to receive those of his children who are preparing themselves for the Apostolate after his Spirit and example.

On his tomb was soon erected an elegant mausoleum which could be well

styled a monument of gratitude, since various artists worked at it with the ardour and disinterestedness of sons towards their Benefactor and Father. This however did not seem enough to the many friends and admirers of Don Bosco and they wished to see his memory honoured in a manner more adequate to his merits. The great need in which that important House was of a suitable place of worship suggested the idea of building a Church to be dedicated to St. Francis de Sales which should be at the same time a fitting tribute to the memory of Don Bosco. The proposal could not fail

to appeal as strikingly appropriate. What more befitting than that the great Bishop of Geneva, the Patron of the whole Salesian Family should be thus honoured with his faithful disciple and in that place too where their spirit was to be transfused and perpetuated? The Church of St. Francis de Sales and the tomb of Don Bosco are the school of the zeal which is to form Apostles after their model.

*

A distinguished journalist, the Editor of the *Italia Reale* who so staunchly and bravely defends the cause of Religion, thought the project of this church an excellent opportunity for catholic journalists and writers of doing homage to two who can rightly be styled leaders and models in what might be called the *Apostolate of the Press*.

The great Doctor and Bishop of Geneva soon recognised the power of the press and turned it into good use against the heresies that infested Chablais. He wrote to Pope Clement VIII: "*Our replies to the enemies of the faith should be ready to hand to meet their attacks without delay. On these conditions only can we enter the lists with hope of success. But for that purpose a printing press is needed.*"—Hence with the blessing of the Vicar of Christ he established there in Thonon the first catholic press. From that press were issued thousands of pamphlets and leaflets containing pure catholic doctrine and written with the most winning gentleness of language. Pius IX in 1877, in answer to a petition from Catholic journalists and writers, assigned St. Francis de Sales as patron of the catholic press.

Don Bosco in his turn, from the very outset of his mission, with penetrating insight into the evils and dangers of the coming age, foresaw how this invention of human ingenuity was going to be more than ever before wrested by the



The Salesian printing-office—Turin.

perversity of the wicked to evil purposes, and made to serve for the diffusion of irreligious and pernicious literature chiefly among youth and the masses. Accordingly he devoted himself with prodigious activity to counteract that evil influence by opposing press to press, by the diffusion of sound and wholesome literature among those that were more exposed to the danger of corruption. He became writer and editor at the same time; he made this useful art his own, and developed it in every department from the manufacturing of the paper to the printing and editing of books. He made ample provision for elementary and secondary education by editing school-manuals, text-books and periodical publications of classics both pagan and christian carefully chosen, revised and adapted for school purpose. For the instruction and education of the masses

he edited numbers of pamphlets of various nature written in attractive and popular style either by himself or others, all tending to instil sound, moral and religious principles. He moreover bequeathed this work to his spiritual children when he wrote: *"they shall likewise apply themselves to the diffusion of good books among the people making use of all those means that christian charity suggests."* And this work of diffusion is at the present continued by about thirty printing and editing establishments in Europe, America and Africa.

It would be impossible to give even a rough estimate of the output and consequent circulation thus attained. To give some idea of it we single out two instances. The manual which Don Bosco has written for the instruction and guidance of boys has now reached *the 500th edition which gives an average circulation of 10,000,000 copies.* And that without

counting the several versions and the many editions of the same. Next the monthly publication *"Letture cattoliche,"* or catholic pamphlets, veritable tracts for the million are now in the 49th year of existence and this April number is the 580th. This gives an average of 8,120,000 copies not counting that many of those pamphlets have been reprinted over and over again. Truly Don Bosco could write in the letter that was to be

his last will to our dear Cooperators, in thanking them for the generous support they had given to the good works entrusted to him by Providence: *"Printing establishments have, by your charity, been founded in several towns in different lands, whereby many millions of books and publications of various kinds, all of them consecrated to the work of*

defending truth, of kindling a spirit of piety and of encouraging the practice of virtue have been circulated among the population."

*

The proposal of Mr. Scala, the Editor of the *Italia Reale*, was found not only appropriate but met with warm approval and encouragement from all who appreciated Don Bosco's efforts and have at heart the interests of Religion and the well-being of society.

A church was accordingly started on the plans drawn by a Salesian Father which combined elegance and usefulness. It is now finished and is to be opened in the course of April. The nature of the soil however and the position of the building entailed a heavy outlay. The Committee which had been formed to promote this homage has worked and still works with admirable zeal, nevertheless a considerable portion of the ex-



Some of those engaged in the printing department—Turin.

penses remains to be defrayed. It is hoped that the many clients of St. Francis de Sales and admirers of Don Bosco will come forward and help to complete this work which is to be a lasting tribute to their memory.



A Sad Anniversary

We reproduce here, translated, the article, which His Excellency Louis Cordero, formerly president of the Republic of Ecuador, has written on the anniversary of the death of Father Louis Calcagno, who died at St. Tecla, in San. Salvador, in April 1899.

It is a touching tribute that the distinguished statesman pays to the memory of our beloved confrere, who for years had been the Superior of the flourishing industrial school at Quito, before the storm of revolution and religious persecution broke out in that unhappy country.

My present state is indeed a pitiable one: but trying to set aside for a short time the overwhelming sorrow that is inwardly harrowing my soul, I will go back in spirit to the noble city of Quito, where I first experienced that happiness, which for me has since been changed into adversity. There, in that beloved capital, lived most courteous, refined and generous persons, and in their midst, as a welcome relief to the heavy cares of my official duties, I found real pleasures, intense and pure joys, that were like drops of honey sweetening the bitter cup of the afflictions of my public life.

Of all my pleasures, chief and foremost, was to see myself surrounded by the children, who—like flowers in a well-kept garden—lived and were educated under the kindly influences of Religion and Science. Colleges, schools, and workshops were for me, amidst the cares of political life, as oases in a parched desert. I was fond of all such institutions; but there was one, which became the object of my special predilection. In this one there were two or three hundred young apprentices, who were taught the most useful trades. It bore the name of *The Salesian School of Arts and Trades*, but I, in my frequent visits delighted to call it *The Social Beehive*, since they might well have been compared to industrious bees. What astonishing activity! What a variety of occupations! What a ceaseless movement of limbs, machines and engines! What an interesting sight those young labourers presented! enough to put many grown up workmen to shame.

The principal feast-days of that establishment were commemorations of some achievement of modern industry developed under the fostering care of Catholicism. The specimens of their skill formed a large and splendid col-



Fr. L. Calcagno.

lection, which even the enemies of the Religious were compelled to admire. And yet, Religious had the direction of that institute—most able and beneficent—true fathers to the crowd of boys, whom they taught, both by word and example, how to earn for themselves an honourable livelihood.

And who was there the Superior?..... You

ought to have seen him, active, zealous, indefatigable, nimbly moving about, cheerful, open, passing from hall to hall, from group to group, giving counsel and encouragement, among his spiritual children. It was charming to see him surrounded by the little Indians, whom he made the chief objects of his care, in order to restore them one day to their country, to be the good seeds of religion and civilization.

Those who had not the good fortune of knowing the distinguished priest Father Louis Calcagno, need only open the work entitled "*Ecuador at Chicago*" at page 99, and they will see there the eulogistic terms, in which writers, by no means his friends, were compelled to speak of him. The History of Ecuador must hand his name down to posterity as that of a great benefactor.

O my dear and venerated friend, emulator of Las Casas, and follower of St. Vincent de Paul, thou wilt return no more to my dear country.... The hospitable land of San Salvador has received thee with honour, and is also privileged in giving thee a last resting place... I have deeply lamented thy death, and I do still grieve over it. Had I not already shed a flood of tears over thy tomb, I ought to do so now on this the anniversary of thy death. May thy mortal remains rest in the peace of God. May He amply reward thy great merits, and do thou, a priest of the Most High, pray for those who are still wandering in this land of exile, in the midst of sorrows, and surrounded by graves.

Cuenca (Ecuador), April 23rd, 1900.

LOUIS CORDERO

Ex-president of the Republic.

Don Rua's Representative IN AMERICA

(Extracts from his Secretary's Correspondence.)

HIS unbroken succession of visits, receptions etc. give Fr. Albera golden opportunities of sowing good seed—opportunities which he scrupulously turns into good account and with the best results. But it taxes his physical strength heavily and compels him from time to time to take some rest. He however makes this forced rest consist in a change of occupation. He gives then familiar interviews to the confrères who invariably leave him consoled and ready to face difficulties with renewed courage and zeal.

* * *

During one of those intervals he paid a visit to Fr. Gherra's schools. There are there three hundred day scholars, and the three hundred were to be found in the chapel on the morning when Fr. Albera was to say Mass, devout and recollected, preparing to receive Holy Communion. Poor chapel! They

had tried to make it look as bright and as elegant as possible with whatever drapery they could lay hand on, and clusters of candles, nevertheless they could not conceal its dilapidated state and the great need of replacing it with a more suitable building. This however I am told is out of the question—for the present at least since the poor Superior can hardly make the two ends meet. The festive Oratory also claims to be enlarged. The ground is not very spacious, yet the boys that flock to it at times reach two thousand. How comforting is the thought that two thousand boys are withdrawn for one day of the week at least from the influence of evil surroundings and placed under the paternal watchfulness of true friends from whom they receive good instruction and salutary impressions. Two thousand boys who in the course of the week, though scattered in sundry directions, yet carry in their hearts a greater horror of evil, a deeper sense of their duty towards God and their

fellow-creatures and have been made stronger against the allurements of vice. They will grow up and alas! many perhaps may not be proof against the violence of passion or the force of dangerous occasions, but at some time or other, when the storm has calmed and disappointment and reflection set in, then the remembrance of those days of purer joy will be changed into remorse, and the salutary impressions received in former days will once more revive and invariably lead them back to the path of duty and to the practices of religion which they had for a time abandoned.

* *

THIS Festive Oratory is unquestionably the most flourishing of all. Still I would be slow to ascribe this prosperous state to any advantage in point of amusements, games, etc. The playground is decidedly too small for such a number and games are necessarily very limited. The personnel moreover is altogether inadequate. Fancy seven only for all that crowd.... But they are most unsparring of themselves and work with the devotedness of apostles. Their trust in God does not desert them in their most trying circumstances and even in their straitened circumstances they are always cheerful. That which, as some one said, renders military life not only bearable but even charming in the midst of hardships is even more true of the life of a missionary. It is a secret that gives strength and vigour in the midst of toils, constancy in self-sacrifice, daring in facing dangers and a firm and serene calm in the presence of death itself. It is that their heart is in it—they love it. Truly, I said to myself, these good confrères of ours do love intensely the souls of those poor children and wish ardently to win them to God.

* *

We are now at *La Boca*. It is an out-and-out Genoese quarter transplanted to Buenos Aires. The Salesians have charge of the parish church which numbers 44,000 souls and of the parochial schools which are attended by 270 pupils. Fr. Albera visited the schools and in the second standard he had an agreeable surprise. Those little mites had learned by heart a whole Gregorian Mass

and there and then they sang the *Kyrie* not only well for their age but faultlessly. It would have pleased Don Rua who loves so much to hear liturgical music well rendered.

Another reason why Fr. Albera has come to *La Boca* was to comply with the desire of Fr. Bourlot. It was new life to Fr. Bourlot to spend a short time with him who, in school-days had been his intimate friend—to recall memories of days gone for ever. Poor Fr. Bourlot! To what a state has he been reduced by that stroke of paralysis! Nevertheless he still manages to move about and to look after his populous district. In the course of the year he had the consolation of having 1,300 baptisms and 51,000 communions. He regrets that he can no longer occupy himself so much with the poor workmen of that neighbourhood and feels sadly the want of a priest to help him to give religious instruction in the Government Schools. They have also to attend to the schools and festive Oratory conducted by the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians. The girls attend in great numbers. Fr. Albera paid an unexpected visit on a week-day and distributed nearly four hundred medals. A good lady wished one Sunday to count those attending that Oratory and she charged a fruiterer to stay at the door and give an orange to them as they came out. She had to pay for over a thousand.

(To be continued.)

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.

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.



IT would be well-nigh impossible to give even a bare list of the places where the Feast of our Patron St. Francis de Sales is not only kept solemnly but is also the occasion of singular manifestation of faith and active co-operation. Not only where Salesian Institutions are in existence, but wherever Co-operators are in any considerable number, this Feast is solemnised and the prescribed conference given. These assemblies serve powerfully to bring to the notice of many good catholics the great needs of the day, to band them together, to collect their energies, and to give fresh impulse to many good works. They stimulate zeal and suggest the practical means by which, every one, no matter what his capacity or condition of life may be, can co-operate in furthering the interests of religion and the good of society, both in their own places and in the world at large, by working in union with the whole Salesian family of which they form a considerable part. We must thank many distinguished ecclesiastics and laymen who act as local directors for the zeal which they display in promoting and guiding such assemblies, and the ecclesiastical authorities also for the valuable support they give in honouring them with their presence and in often consenting to address them and to unfold the many sides and means of the Salesian Co-operation.



At the Mother House, the Oratory of St. Francis of Sales at Turin the Feast of our Patron was kept with the customary solemnity and concourse of people. Mgr. Spandre, Auxiliary Bishop to His Eminence Cardinal Richelmy, said the Community Mass, and the Pontifical High Mass was sung by the Bishop of Asti, Mgr. Arcangeli. In the afternoon, after the Vespers, the Very Rev. Canon

Amadeus Bonnet, Professor, *Commendatore*, and Prefect of the Royal Basilica of Superga, preached the panegyric of the Saint. It was a masterly discourse in which the names of Our Blessed Lady, St. Francis de Sales and Don Bosco were most happily linked together. The Orator felt deeply on his subject and was most successful in communicating his feelings to his audience.



Two days after occurs the anniversary of our beloved Father, Don Bosco, and once more the Sanctuary of Our Lady Help of Christians was filled. The *Requiem* Mass for the occasion was that composed by our missionary Father Rota for the lamented Mgr. Lasagna.

In the evening the Conference of the Salesian Co-operators was held in the Church of St. John the Evangelist and was given by Father Rocca who had arrived but a few days previously from Ecuador. He summed up the events that preceded and accompanied the revolution and persecution which has since desolated that country. He could not fail to be interesting in relating the hardships and dangers that they had to encounter when driven in exile through impracticable forests,—hardships and sufferings which cost the lives of some of them—since he himself was one of that band.



FROM Portugal a correspondent of the "*Italia Reale*" writes:—Don Bosco's Institutions meet with general favour and it is but natural they should enlist the sympathies of a nation so generous and benevolent. The *Officinas de S. Jose* in Lisbon are an example. The fruits of this Institution are great already and increase every day more and more as the number of boys there sheltered in-

creases. In order to find means to start a new building on a much larger scale, a conference was organized. It was to be given by the Rev. Fr. Sebastian de Vasconcelles, the Don Bosco of Portugal. He had learnt this great art at Don Bosco's school and has, some twenty years ago, founded in Oporto an institution of a similar nature. The assembly was held in one of the principal churches of Lisbon and was honoured by the presence of Her Majesty Queen Amelia, of the representative of His Holiness, Mgr. Ajuti, by the Archbishops of Algarol and Mytilene, the Bishop of Port Alegre, the Civil Governor of the District and several distinguished members of the aristocracy. The discourse was brilliant and inspiring and went home to the hearts of his hearers. Her Majesty the Queen on the following day received the Speaker and the Fr. Superior of the Salesian House who had gone to thank her for her gracious condescension. Her Majesty spoke in warm terms of the conference and of the work, and expressed the hope of seeing the project soon realised.



AFTER the Feast of their Patron, St. Francis de Sales, that of their Superior was another red-letter day for the members of the Salesian Novitiate, Burwash, Sussex. Poets and musicians vied with each other in showing their gratitude towards him whose solicitude for their welfare and progress knows no bounds. With united efforts they tried to give tangible proof of their grateful feelings by presenting the Superior with some useful articles, for the sanctuary among which were a gothic remonstrance and sacred vestments. These were thoughtfully brought into use for the first time at the devout service held on the First Friday of March, on which day also occurred the fourth anniversary of the opening of the Novitiate House.

To the kind persons who helped to make it a success, the Community feels indebted and would like here to give expression to their gratitude.



WE have just to hand the report of the religious examination of the Salesian day-schools at Battersea, London, for 1901. It runs as follows:—

Infants' School:—*"The Infants displayed a very full knowledge of the life of Our Lord, and are well-grounded in the fundamental truths of religion."*

Girls' School:—*"The prayers were well known, the repetition very accurate in all the classes. The instruction was thorough and the answering, which was fairly even, showed that care is taken to give the children a good practical knowledge of their religion."*

Boys' Schools:—*"The boys passed a very creditable examination. The prayers were said reverently and accurately; the instruction was full and intelligent and the evenness of numbers in the various divisions showed how conscientiously the children were graded year after year. The managers provide an ample and efficient staff."*

This report speaks eloquently enough of the efficiency and devotedness of the good Sisters of Notre Dame who are conducting the Infants' and girls' schools, and of those of our Confreres also who have charge of the Boys' department.



ON Sunday, Jan. 20th. H. E. M. le Baron Surmond de Volsberge, Minister of the Cabinet, paid a visit to the Salesian Institute at Liege. He arrived in time for the 9 o'clock Mass accompanied by other distinguished persons. After the service he was conducted to a hall where all the personnel of the House had met to receive him. On his entrance he was loudly cheered and cries of:—*"Vive Monsieur le Ministre!"* were heard in every direction. One of the pupils then came forward and delivered an address to which His Excellency responded in the following terms:—

"I am deeply moved, my dear children, by the reception you have accorded me and the good wishes to which you have given expression and I thank you all very much for it.

"You have wished me a long life. This life, my children, belongs to God; and a long ministerial life! *that* we leave in the hands of Providence and..... to the votes of the electors. The great thing is that we one day get to Heaven. We have not been placed here on earth to occupy ourselves with the things of the world; we have a much grander work to accomplish; we have to ensure our

salvation by a christian life, and this is our paramount duty. Though Minister in a constitutional state, nevertheless I, being a Christian myself may be permitted to recall this great truth to Christians.

"You have the happiness, my children, of being pupils in a House where everything leads to the attainment of this great object of our life. Your masters do all in their power to make you good christians, by educating your heart, by fortifying your will, in a word, by forming your character. But after this there is the training which enables young people to become useful men who will prove the strength and the glory of their country. It is for this you are here now learning to work—for work is the inheritance of all men, and no matter where we are or whatever our condition in life, we ought always to work. I have often heard people speak of the eight hour's day but for me eight hours never suffice for my daily work."



His Excellency insisted strongly on the duty which all men are under of labouring. Then having exhorted the boys to make the most of their time while under the care of the Salesians he continued:—

"The Christian education which you receive here, my children, is an inestimable blessing for you, and one for which you ought to be most thankful. There are two classes of people to whom you owe this gratitude most especially. One is the founder and benefactors of this House, and the other your masters. You can show your gratitude by being very gentle, very obedient, and very docile. Be docile and obedient, that is to say, be attentive to the lessons which are given you, reflect on what you are told, do your work carefully and put your heart in it. If you are docile you will acquire knowledge, for one can do nothing with a disobedient and insubordinate boy."



HAVING pointed out the troubles of Superiors and the difficulties those engaged in education have to encounter he concluded:—

"Your masters are occupied with you from morning to night and often even from night

to morning. It is the lot of those who give themselves up to the education of youth. I often have occasion of perceiving this whilst visiting different establishments for boys and girls over which I am Inspector. It is for you then, my dear children, to recompense them for all their troubles and care on your behalf by showing your gratitude in the manner I have indicated."

The Director in a short address then thanked His Excellency for his christian and fatherly words. Knowing well his boys he assured him that the seed of his good words had not fallen on dry and sterile soil but on the contrary would produce salutary fruits for the present, and above all for that time when these young plants confided to his care should have attained their full development,—salutary fruits for their own individual good and that of their country in general.



On leaving the hall he was invited to sign the Visitor's Book. During this time the boys went to their various workshops which His Excellency then visited. He was particularly interested in the mechanical department. There he admired the mechanism of a beautiful clock which had been purchased for Louvain, also an ingenious apparatus for blowing the harmonium, and some artistic iron-work. He then visited successively the carpentering, printing, book-binding, tailoring and shoe-making departments and finally spent some time in the drawing class. In each workshop His Excellency examined carefully specimens of the work, encouraging and giving advice to the boys.

Having visited the dormitories he descended to the court-yard where the personnel of the House had assembled to give him a parting salute. Here he gave another short address and left, promising to pay another visit next year.

Whilst thanking His Excellency for his kindly interest, we hope that the promised visit may take place for many years to come and always with increasing satisfaction.





NORTHERN PATAGONIA

Fortin Mercedes.

VERY REV. FATHER,



OR some years past, when reading the *Bulletin*, I have always looked for news of the labours of your Missionaries in this country but always in vain. They do not know, I thought to myself, what the Salesians are doing on the banks of Rio Colorado. Should the Salesian Co-operators be left in ignorance of the good that is being done by them in this desert? Many a time have I made the remark to the two priests at the head of this House and told them that to publish the marvels wrought by God through his servants seemed to me a duty, as well as a powerful means of propaganda. Well now, since both of them persist in their silence I shall become their spokesman and shall relate as best I can to all Don Bosco's zealous Co-operators, the marvels wrought in this new Salesian Mission which is already doing so much good and will ever continue to do more.

The Salesian Mission at Fortin Mercedes is known here under the name of St. Peter's College. This establishment has I believe, been five years in existence. It began with little or nothing and every year it makes rapid progress. One would take it at the present time for a small village well stocked with every thing that the place and customs may demand. All the ground belonging to this house is divided into three large parts by a fence which separates the garden from the two fields reserved for the cattle.

NB. We insert with pleasure this letter which we have received from a good Co-operator of ours and we thank him for his interesting communication hoping at the same time it may be followed by others.

The College towers above the neighbouring district and is situated on the culminating point of the banks of Rio Colorado, so that one sees it on all sides defying the furious winds and braving the tempests by which it is sometimes beset. It stands out as a lighthouse to guide the wayfarer in the midst of boundless pampas. The traveller on his way from Bahia Blanca or Patagones, exhausted with fatigue after a painful journey of 18 or 20 hours through this dreary waste feels his energy revive when he perceives it looming in the distance. Whether it be an illusion I know not, but I seem to feel a sensation of pleasure and happiness when, after leaving my work I wend my way towards Fortin Mercedes. It is not the country that attracts me, it is not my family, no, nothing of all that, but the College of St. Peter where dwell the Salesians, attentive to their duty, and that is enough for me as it is also enough for many others. For do we not find in them the friend who has a few kind words for us, the father who gives us good advice, the doctor who takes care of us in the diseases of body and soul, the master who teaches, consoles, strengthens and helps us?

I shall not give you an exact description of the house, because I do not know it in all its details. I may nevertheless tell you, the play-grounds are large and conveniently situated. In the one belonging to the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians there is a charming little garden displaying great taste in its cultivation and rich in beautiful flowers and variegated plants. In the boys' play-ground, surrounded on three sides by buildings and on the other, which overlooks the river, by a hedge of tamarisk cut and shaped so as to make a regular wall of green, are to be found eucalyptus trees and *alguarigudy*, still young it is true, but giving promise of salutary and agreeable shade in the future. In the centre the windmill rears its majestic height. It is on the *Aermotor* system and

supplies both buildings with water. This was the gift of a generous Co-operator. There is plenty of room however in spite of this for games such as bowls, hand-ball, etc.

All that is very little when compared with the great works undertaken on this apparently sterile and unproductive soil. A few years back this hill presented a most desolate aspect and in summer the heat of the sun was lost on a dust-strewn and stony ground where only vipers and lizards took refuge. To-day it is a garden in full bloom, about 30 acres in extent, intercepted by avenues and alleys, some straight others more or less winding, all lined with a double hedge of tamarisk and other plants, forming a real park.

From the play-grounds starts Don Bosco avenue, five yards in width, leading by gentle slopes to the river level and then returning by the hill side to the middle of the garden. In a certain spot which an endless variety of plants adorns, the boy who accompanied me, said:—"This place, sir, is called Paradise."—"Paradise! Why? Because on very hot days the Director assembles us under these shadows and tells us nice stories. Now one day a very young boy, Demetrius by name, greatly touched by the story he had heard, suddenly exclaimed: "I feel as though I were in Paradise."

The place is truly charming and picturesque. There is still to be seen a huge oak, a souvenir of by-gone days which will stand forth as a witness to attest the value of a healthy and continuous training, whether it be for the cultivation of plants or to accustom youthful hearts to a christian, laborious and honest spirit.

"But," added my young guide, "we have Purgatory also." So saying he led me along the avenue which runs by the river for a length of 260 yards. After getting beyond the little port constructed on a firm earth-work, we reached a spot where an esplanade with seats came in view. "There is Purgatory," continued my guide, "because during the holidays the little girls from the schools come here and as they are accustomed to ill-treat the plants, by breaking them or peeling off the bark, we boys have christened this place Purgatory."

We returned home, passing through an orchard and a vineyard which give great promise. I pass over in silence the numerous aromatic or ornamental plants just as I am leaving aside countless other things whose value is greatly increased when we consider

the short space of time in which they have been carried out and the modest resources at the disposal of the establishment. All this has been accomplished by hard and persevering work.

"With our children," said the Director to me, "we do just as we like." Don Bosco used to say that a good child should be as pliable as a handkerchief in our hands, and it is towards the attainment of this end that all our endeavours are directed. Just see now if this be not exact. Our community numbers more than a hundred persons. The Sisters, four in number, preside over the work of the girls, who attend to the kitchen, wash and mend the clothes, replacing them when necessary by new ones, without however interrupting their daily school work. The boys have also regular class given them by two priests and, besides that, some go to look for wood, others look after the cows or put the house in order. At recreation time we take the more diligent boys into the garden, and, varying the employment, they do more work in one hour than ten men in a day. Last year during the inundation 40 boys put up, within a few hours, with fagots and earth, a strong dyke which prevented the water from flooding our garden, and will remain as a convincing proof of the truth of the saying:—"Unity is strength."

But let us continue our rambles. The boot-makers shop stands all by itself on one of the mounds overlooking the river. It is a very humble workshop but is already well stocked with tools of good material and among other things with two machines of the latest pattern. It has only been working for the last year, but I am sure it will save a lot of expense besides being a source of profit, since work is executed there also for outsiders.

Next to the bootmaker's shop is the "Omnibus" workshop, so called by the boys because one finds there together the carpenter's, the blacksmith's, the locksmith's, the plumber's, the engineer's tools and many others. Lastly I cannot pass over in silence the famous *botichin* or school dispensary. In the whole district over an extent of 25 to 30 leagues, who does not know of this providential institution? A Salesian was wanted to adapt himself to everything and make himself all to all. He who falls sick in this country, might die ten times over before receiving from Patagones or Bahia Blanca the necessary remedies if St. Peter's College had not provided for the emergency.

Thus one finds here the physician both of soul and body, the more necessary remedies and what we appreciate most the good will and the readiness to help everyone rich and poor.

Amidst all this busy world, the need of a chapel is more strongly felt. I have suggested to several Co-operators the idea of opening a subscription to build a chapel capable of containing the whole population of the neighbourhood. But the favourable moment does not seem to have come just yet. Indeed the one in existence is suitable and large enough to contain 250 persons, but it is only temporary, being formed of two large rooms between which stands the altar: this allows of boys and girls assisting at the same time at the sacred functions. Though poor, we are firmly disposed nevertheless always to aid this work which is that of divine Providence.

Since the Salesians have settled at Fortin Mercedes, the morality of the inhabitants of this district has greatly improved. Every year 50 boys at least and as many girls go back to their families after spending some time in this establishment. These young hearts imbued with christian principles and accustomed to fulfil their duty towards God, their family, and society, carry back with them to their homes christian maxims, good example and the practice of virtue. These regions, formerly in a state of barbarity and sunk to the lowest depth of ignorance and immorality, now spread abroad the sweet perfumes exhaled from these flowers. Everywhere St. Peter's College is spoken of; both the good and the bad respect it, help it and all have recourse to it in their needs, certain that, if they do not find money there, they will at least find good advice, a kind word, a remedy for all their evils.

I should have many other things to tell you about this house but, not to be tiresome, I shall conclude for the present. I only hope my description, though badly arranged, may serve at least to make known more and more the marvels wrought by divine Providence through the sons of Don Bosco, who are justly entitled to be called the pioneers, or better still the evangelizers of Patagonia. The destruction of slavery, the civilisation of barbarous tribes, the true moral and material progress of the people, have been brought about in this land of Patagonia thanks to Don Bosco's method which is summed up in the two words *work and prayer*.

I should be thankful to you and should consider my efforts rewarded, if you would give some news of this Mission in your *Bulletin*. I subscribe myself with esteem and veneration,

Your most devoted servant,

SECONDIN BRASSETTI.



VENEZUELA

Valencia.

VERY REV. AND DEAR FATHER.

MY only object in writing to you is to obtain help in the way of personnel, although a voice seems to warn me that it is mere loss of time and that my importunity is unavailing. But at the risk of being as troublesome as the flies that continually beset the unfortunate inhabitants of Venezuela, I come to knock at the door of your heart and repeat with sorrow that the harvest is abundant but the reapers are few, that there is urgent need of good Missionaries because the field is very vast and the good to be done, immense. War and the epidemic above all have brought during these latter times increasing hardships on the unfortunate town of Valencia. Great then was our surprise to see that our Director, Father Bergeretti, following Don Bosco's example, was induced by the misfortunes of his neighbours to have greater confidence in divine Providence, and to enlarge the Salesian work at our House in Valencia. He bought a printing press, and in order not to be hampered by the want of room, he acquired an adjoining and dilapidated house of which nothing now remains.

Meanwhile, his Lordship Mgr. Sandrea, Bishop of Calabozzo, and some Co-operators of San Fernando de Apure, urged our Director to go and visit those countries and to choose there a suitable site for a new foundation, which with your consent dear Father, is to be begun as soon as possible. Being unable to respond in person to their

sollicitations, owing to his numberless occupations Father Bergeretti decided to send me in his place, charging me especially to spread the Work of the Co-operators still so little known in this Republic, and to collect alms for our orphans.

Immediately after the Feast of the Immaculate Conception I made my preparations and set out for San Fernando, in company with a young *factotum*, who took charge of the horses. After travelling the whole day, part of the way with the Curé of Tociuto, part with General Gordido, I arrived in the

on the way. Often a little raw meat or Indian corn was all I had to appease the former and a concoction bearing only the name of water to satisfy the latter.

The Bishop of Calabozzo welcomed me like a father; he showed me over his seminary of which he is both director and professor, and conjured me to ask you, dear Father, to send only two Salesians, to whom he might entrust the direction of it, convinced that with the help of the seminarists and of a few priests, he would soon be able to erect a magnificent college beside the present



Laying foundation-stone of Church of Mary Ausiliatrice—Valencia.

evening at Tinaquillo. I stayed there for a few days to help the parish priest our kind friend, to prepare his children for their first Communion and to organise a meeting of Co-operators to whom I gave a conference. For the same purpose I next directed my steps towards Tinaco, San Carlos, Pao, San Jose de Tiznado, Rastro and arrived at last at Calabozzo. The arrival of a Salesian in these far away countries was considered as a great event, but the revolution then threatening, did not allow the inhabitants to do for us what they would wish to have done. I was nevertheless careful to sow the good seed, leaving to Mary Help of Christians the care of making it grow and fructify. Numberless adventures and hardships, hunger and thirst included, were my companions

building. The good bishop was quite enthusiastic at the idea and said to me: "Here is a field all ready for the Salesians. The few vocations that now become extinct almost at their very birth from the want of sufficient cultivation, will find in the hearts of the sons of Don Bosco the warmth needed to make them quickly develop, and my poor diocese, destitute of labourers will soon be converted into a beautiful vine-yard." I promised to write to you, dear Father, and I now perform my promise. Will his lordship's desires be realized? It remains for you to decide; I trust they will meet your favour.

At Calabozzo I passed an agreeable time thanks to his Lordship's kindness, but I nevertheless had an attack of fever. I was no sooner on my legs again than I started

for San Fernando. There I had long been awaited and I was received with great pomp; the more so from the fact that some thought I was coming to settle among them. To tell the truth, I would have willingly done so, had obedience thus disposed, for the education of abandoned children demands immediate attention. I firmly trust, dear Father, that there also you will soon open a House destined to become, in time, a most important centre, especially for the Missions among the Indians. San Fernando is quite a poetical town and on account of its position it is agreeable. It is situated on the smiling banks of the Apure the second largest river in Venezuela, which connects it with Columbia and the port of Barcelona. It is the centre of commerce of the vast Apurean plains, inhabited in the south by numerous savage tribes, living in the grossest ignorance, still awaiting the hour of their redemption Providence has perhaps decreed that it should be brought about through the sons of Don Bosco.

The civilised population is devoted to the rearing of cattle and to the commerce of *garsa* feathers, but they take very little concern of education or instruction. It is needless to describe the state to which the children are reduced. On the day of my arrival, more than two hundred young people came and begged me to open a school at once. At the sight of so much misery I was deeply touched, and at their sollicitation promised to intercede in their behalf, in order that a few confrères may be sent here for them. Many rich persons have formally pledged themselves to give a suitable house for this purpose, and to take upon themselves all the expenses of the first year.

We may say that the field is untouched, and if we are prompt in taking care of it we shall be able to cultivate it with fruit, before protestantism has sown the cockle in it. A college at San Fernando would be a great God-send, as it is in a most favourable position in the centre of a future mission among the savages. I cannot speak of those poor Indians and of their moral and material misery, because I have seen but little of them. However, from what I have heard I can assure you they live in a state of complete destitution in the midst of their forests and far from every dwelling place. I have been

told of facts of almost unheard-of cruelty on the part of civilised people towards these poor savages, whom they pursue like wild beasts. Naturally on this account the latter have their revenge on the caravans which pass through their country.

Do hearken to us, dear Father, and be prevailed upon to begin with the [new century this Mission which is to save so many unfortunate people. Cast a glance, dear Father, on our Noviciate House, and at the sight of so many young people anxious to carry far and wide the good news of the Gospel, give a favourable answer. Three only would suffice for the present to gather in a very short space of time, abundant' fruits.

Pardon me, dear Father Superior, the liberty I have taken but I felt in duty bound to do so to carry out my promises; and give your blessing to your affectionate and most obedient child in Jesus and Mary

INNOCENT MONTANARI, Priest.



Mr. Rand Bailey R. I. P.

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. Rand Bailey who died at Eimly on February 10th. 1901. He and his late wife were great benefactors of the Salesian Society, and we earnestly recommend them to the prayers of our Co-operators.

We also recommend the following deceased to the charitable prayers of our Co-operators:—

Madame M. E. Aldebert, Hereford (England); The Rev. F. J. Goety, Dayton (America); Mrs. C. Kayes, Belfast (Ireland); The Rev. M. Power, P. P., Cahir (Ireland); The Rev. J. O'Connor, P. P., Kilmacthomas, Waterford (Ireland); The Very Rev. P. F. Dean Pettit, Madison (U. S. of America).



GRACES AND FAVOURS OBTAINED
through the intercession of
MARY HELP of CHRISTIANS

Restored to health.

“Campinas, Brazil, 8 Sept. 1900.

“A mother of a family whose husband was very dangerously ill promised Our Lady Help of Christians that if she granted him perfect health she would have an account of it inserted in the *Salesian Bulletin* in thanksgiving to this good Mother. She promised moreover to give a sum of 500 francs towards the maintenance of the poor children in the Salesian House here.

The Holy Virgin obtained the desired favour and to-day this lady fulfilled her promise by sending the money and asking to have this grace inserted in the *Bulletin*.”

PETER LAMBERTI, Priest.

In Thanksgiving.

„Grostenquin, Lorraine, 6 Nov. 1900.

“Please accept the enclosed cheque which I send you for your works in thanksgiving for a favour that the good Virgin of Don Bosco, Our Lady Help of Christians obtained for me on All Saint’s Day.

I recommend myself more than ever to your prayers.”

Father R.

Chicoutimi, Canada, 12 Nov. 1900:—“Would you be good enough to publish in the *Salesian Bulletin* the following in thanksgiving to Our Lady Help of Christians. Some time ago I had a dangerous fall and was very seriously injured. In the midst of my sufferings, I made a novena and communion in my prayers recommended myself to the intercession of Our Blessed Lady who obtained my request. I am now out of danger and quite well.”

I. F., Seminarist.

* *

Nazareth, 7 Oct. 1900:—“To-day, the Feast of the Holy Rosary abot 9 o’c. a.m. a temporary roof, which had been put up to

shelter the orphans from the furious winds and rain of the winter season, fell into the dormitory. One of the props on which the ceiling rested broke in the middle and thirty heavy planks with other material crashed into the dormitory with great noise. Oh! if this had happened in the night-time or even in the day at a time when the children were in the dormitory, in all probability several, if not killed on the spot would have been severely injured.

We all see in this, the protecting hand of the Blessed Virgin whom our children honour during this month by the daily recitation of the Rosary followed by Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament.

On the same night we sang the *Te Deum* in thanksgiving and we ask you to insert this in the *Bulletin* as a proof of our gratitude towards our good Mother, Mary Help of Christians.”

CH. VERCAUTEREN, Priest.
Vice-Director.

* *

Quito (Ecuador).—One day a woman came to me with a little girl in her arms who was suffering excruciating pains in her eyes. The doctors were of opinion that it was question of malignant disease which would soon prove fatal. The good woman asked me for a medal of Mary Help of Christians which she applied to the affected part and promised to go to hear Mass at the chapel dedicated to Our Blessed Lady and also of doing something in her honour if she could see her little one restored to health. A few days after she came to fulfil her promise and said to me:—“Father, Our Lady has obtained the cure of my daughter.” I think it my duty to ask you to publish this grace in honour of our Blessed Lady and for the encouragement of those in affliction.”

Febr. 1900.

GUIDO ROCCA.



NEW YORK (UNITED STATES).—*The Salesian Mission in New York.*—The following is taken from a letter addressed to Don Rua from the Rev. Ernest Coppo, Superior of the above mission:—

“I take advantage of a few moment’s leisure to give you a short account of the progress of our Mission here since our arrival.

We landed in New York on the 28th of November, 1898. The Archbishop gave us a paternal reception. As you know our work lies among the poor immigrants and, as our field of labour, a large and very populous quarter in the centre of the city has been assigned to us. There are here about ten thousand souls which nominally belonged to the parishes of St. Anne, the Immaculate Conception, and St. Bridget. With the aid of these good priests we easily found lodgings at 315 East 12th Street. To serve as church we were given the use of the basement of the church of St. Bridget, situated at the corner of B Avenue and 8th Street, about half a mile from our house. It affords accommodation for about 1200 persons and serves at times as a little theatre for the children of the parish schools. There is a portable altar on the stage before the scene and we use the dressing room as sacristy. On one side there is a statue of the Sacred Heart before which a number of candles are always burning and on the other, one of Our Lady Help of Christians. All have to be removed every time there is a dramatic entertainment.

After our arrival we sent round printed notices to the parishioners announcing the opening of the Church. Our first feast was that of Christmas. During the following Lent we gave a mission which produced good results, and several hundreds received Holy Communion at Easter. Since then the number has increased. Great numbers of people attend Holy Mass and the sermons which are given at least three times on feast-days. Often the Church cannot hold all who come. This year (1900) immediately after

Lent, during which time there were three sermons every week, another mission was given, and, thank God, not without fruit, since over a thousand persons approached the Communion rails at the end of the paschal time. With the aid of the personnel you sent us we have been able, when requested, to give some help to other parishes so much so indeed that during Lent and the paschal time missions were preached in four different places and everywhere with fruit. You see, Rev. Father, we are progressing slowly but surely. Ah if you would but give us a church of what great advantage would it not prove?

During May the children were prepared for confirmation, and catechism given every day. We find many in the most complete ignorance of the Christian Doctrine.

The hospitals—mostly non-catholic—which are numerous in this city, form another part of our mission. It often happens that we are called to attend some of our parishioners and I must say that no matter at what hour we went we were always well-received. Whilst administering the Sacraments we have a movable screen placed round the sick person’s bed in order to guard against possible disrespect from non-catholic invalids.

An association of mutual help has been established and it is called *Don Bosco’s Society*. It already numbers one hundred and forty associates. There are also the Confraternity of St. Anne for the women, that of the Children of Mary for the girls, and of St. Aloysius for the boys.

Sunday is a particularly busy day for us. Each priest celebrates two Masses, preaches twice and also hears confessions and gives instruction. At 2 o’c. catechism is given followed by a meeting of one or other of the confraternities after which baptisms are given and marriages blessed. In the evening the Rosary is recited at our own Church followed by a sermon and Benediction.

Our parishioners are continually asking us to build a church but they do not supply us with the means. For these, we await the wise disposition of Providence."

PARAGUAY.—*The Salesian Work at Villa Conception.*—Fr. Ambrose Turricia writes:—"We are at last free from the attacks of bubonic plague and have surmounted the difficulties which prevented us hitherto from re-opening our College. As soon as we had done this, our first care was to fulfil the promise we had made to Our Lady Help of Christians. For the last two months we have placed her statue in a more prominent position in our chapel, and we do not intend to return it to its proper niche till the dark cloud which obscures the horizon of this poor country has disappeared.

We held thanksgiving services on the 18th of March to which all our friends and benefactors were invited and the liveliest devotion and affection were manifested towards our good Mother.

I shall now give you some news of the confrères whom I have sent to Villa Conception. They arrived there at a very gloomy time and were almost on the point of abandoning the enterprise. Confiding, however, in the help of Our Lady and assisted by some ladies, who were fully alive to the necessity of having a Catholic college in this town, the work was undertaken. The two priests with some lay-brothers who had gone to Assumption laid the foundation of the house. A year afterwards by means of help from Turin one wing was ready for habitation and was immediately occupied. On the 3rd of March another part of the house by the aid of the Government was completed. We then opened the College and had the humble temporary chapel blessed.

There was a large number of people present at the ceremony. Some admired the work already accomplished whilst others thought of the means by which another wing could be added. The house does not yet meet the needs of the population. One Co-operator offered us, on the spot, a sum large enough to commence building a chapel.

We have experience already of the service which this college is destined to render to Religion. Although only two months in existence we have received forty children who all attend to the practices of piety with great devotion.

Our untiring Co-operators are pleased with the results of the generous efforts and have prepared a place for the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians. I think I have not yet told you that they are here. They came at a time when I had almost lost hope and when the state of the country was altogether op-



First group of artisans—Villa Conception.

posed to their coming. But they are the beloved of God who is their joy and their desire and they surmounted all the difficulties which they encountered. Their House is situated in one of the most populous quarters of the capital where they feel keenly the want of a church and school. Their present place is a small one and they have to pay rent for it but I hope soon to be able to cope with the inconveniences inseparable from beginnings of this kind by acquiring a suitable house with ground for the education of the large number of young girls in this part of the city.

Our blessed Lady has proved herself a good mother to us and we attribute our success so far to her intercession. Through it also we hope to do a great deal of good in Paraguay for there is a lively devotion here towards Our Lady Help of Christians."

COLUMBIA.—*New from the Lazarettos.*—

Father Evasio Rabagliati sends the following from Bogota:—

"At last, after nine month's silence and an almost entire lack of means of communication, I received the day before yesterday some letters from our confrères of Contratacion.

From my last letter, you have been informed of the endless miseries which your children of Contratacion have had to endure up to the present time. To-day they write to express to me their gratitude for the help which we have been able to provide for them. Since then none of the sick have died of hunger, and I hope such a thing will never occur again. They write however to tell us they need clothes but that is, at the present, a mere accessory; the great thing is not to allow them to die of hunger. When the war is over then we shall think of providing for the rest.

Of Agua de Dios I have no good news to tell you. At Contratacion it was the famine, at Agua de Dios it is the yellow fever which attacks, not the lepers, but those who take care of them. Since this scourge has come upon the country there have already been many victims. The Salesians themselves have had to pay tribute to the fatal disease, and yesterday I received a telegram from Tocaima telling me of the death of one of our clerics who had already made his perpetual vows. It was only fifteen days since the arrival of Alvaro Lombana at that leper settlement and after barely four days illness he passed into eternity. In March the first cleric I had sent there could not resist the heat, and was obliged to return in haste to Bogota, more dead than alive. In April another one went; eight days after he returned in a really deplorable condition. The first mentioned I sent off in May and a few days after his arrival he went to bed never to rise again. Our Lord will certainly have accepted the great sacrifice he made in setting out amid so many dangers and will have already rewarded him for it. Nevertheless I would ask you, dear Father, to recommend him to the prayers of all our confrères and Co-operators.

And now I am sure that many of our clerics would be only too willing to go to Agua de Dios, but our trials are already great, and to allow them to depart would be tempting God. I am therefore resolved to await the end of the epidemic. The two priests and the lay-brother who are there at the present time, are already sufficiently

acclimatised, so there is reason to believe they will overcome the danger. But how greatly they need our prayers not to give way under the strain of work that is more than doubled during the epidemic. Two priests alone for eleven hundred lepers and more than two thousand persons from the neighbourhood amongst whom the yellow fever is raging, are really not too many and it will truly be a miracle if they do not fall victims of fatigue and exhaustion. We would willingly go to help them, but being unaccustomed to the climate we should be almost certain to meet our death there; as it is we are none too numerous to reduce our numbers without urgent need. I have asked advice from persons capable of giving it and they have answered that it would be a culpable imprudence to set out or allow any of our confrères to set out in such circumstances.

In the other Salesian Houses of this Republic there is happily nothing new. As for the revolution it is having its run; it may even last right through the year. Last May took place in the neighbourhood of Nucaramanga, not far from Contratacion the greatest and most cruel battle which the history of the South American Republics has so far recorded. Twenty-five thousand soldiers were engaged in it and it lasted day and night without interruption from the 11th. to the 15th. of May and was prolonged at intervals, to the 25th. More than three thousand persons were killed, and nearly double the number wounded on either side; the victory was finally decided in favour of the government troops, but at the cost of how many tears! It was thought that the revolution was over, but now it has broken out in another province. As the distances are enormous and there are no railways very little progress is made. God only knows when it will all end.

May Our Lord deliver us from all these dangers! Ask him, dear Father, to keep us in his holy grace, and that we may do in all things his holy will."



The Life of Monsignor Lasagna

3

He married a pious young woman named Teresa Bianco of Castagnole d'Asti of whom he had two sons Louis and Joseph. The birth of their first child filled them with joy, as also their neighbours and relatives by whom they were much beloved. Next day he was baptised by Fr. Clement Clivio V. F. of St. Martin's. His god-parents were Francis Rinetti of Montemagno and Mariana Bianco of Castagnole, and he was christened Louis Francis Peter. How much more precious did he appear to his parents now that he had become by baptism, a child of God, a member of the Catholic Church, and an heir to the Kingdom of Heaven! The Holy Spirit infused into his soul, together with the gift of faith such a great zeal that when he became a man, he always had an irresistible desire of procuring, even at the cost of incredible sacrifices and of life itself, the ineffable benefits of baptism for the unhappy savages among whom he exercised his mission.



Montemagno.

He never allowed the anniversary of his baptism to pass, without offering his most lively thanks to Our Lord, and renewing with ever-increasing ardour the solemn promises then made. When he offered up his First Mass in the parish church of Montemagno, and especially when he was invested with the episcopal dignity, full of emotion and speaking with

inspired words to his beloved countrymen, he did not fail to recall his baptism, and proclaimed that that holy ceremony had been the first link of a very long chain of celestial favours, by which God had been pleased to bind him strongly to Himself.

The child was meanwhile growing up and formed the delight of his parents and those who approached him, for his intelligence by no means an ordinary one, his great goodness of heart and that energy which was characteristic of him during his whole life, grew with his advancing age. But our mortal pilgrimage is an alternation of joys and sorrows. Louis was only two years of age when an accident happened which greatly endangered his life. He was endowed with such a lively nature that it was impossible for him to remain quiet for any length of time. He might be seen at times jumping restlessly up and down the room, curious to see and touch everything, or anon playing in the yard at all kinds of games with his little companions, or wishing to know the why and wherefore of everything that happened to fall under his eyes, pestering with ceaseless questions, grown-up persons who were astonished at his precocious intelligence. His constant activity was extraordinary. Being checked by his mother, he would restrain himself somewhat, but a few minutes afterwards

he would be himself again, all life and motion. What fears and anxieties this restlessness of character caused his tender mother! Fearing at every moment some mishap for her little Louis, she took every precaution to keep him near her. But the best good will was unable to ward off a most sad accident.

One day when the good Teresa was engaged in washing, the child was running about the kitchen. Now it so happened that the mother having gone out for a moment for some reason or other, Louis ran against the caldron, which was standing close to the fire, and losing his balance, fell into the boiling water. The mother, hearing the cries of the poor little fellow, ran in at once and perceiving his danger nearly fainted with anguish. Sustained however by her maternal love, she immediately drew him out but he was terribly scalded from head to foot. She cried loudly for help and the neighbours seeing the piteous state of the child and the grief of the mother sent at once for the doctor. Fortunately he was not long in coming and having wrapped the child in cotton wool bestowed on him the most intelligent and solicitous care. But his little body was one large sore owing to the terribly deep burns. Being unable to keep from moving, gangrene seemed inevitable. To cure him his afflicted father had recourse to Our Blessed Lady and she did not turn a deaf ear to his supplications. When Mgr. Lasagna after his elevation to the episcopacy visited the house where he was born he told this fact to the people

there assembled, attributing his cure to the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin. Many present who had been eye-witnesses, affirmed the truth of what he said, recounting also various circumstances unknown to him.

He had barely recovered from the effects of his accident, when another malignant disease again placed his life in great danger. But this time also he was cured in a wonderful manner. Perhaps Satan foresaw that when he would become a minister of God, he would snatch innumerable souls from him and lead them to Jesus Christ

and therefore used all his power against him. But if this were so, it was useless, for Louis was protected by her, who is as terrible as an army in battle array, *terribilis ut castrorum acies ordinata*.



His Father's House

(To be continued.)

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

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT of the Association.

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

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

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

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

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES.

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

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