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SPONSOR  
CIRCOLANTE



# Salesian Bulletin



## 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 in 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, although 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,"—VALDOCCO, TURIN, ITALY.

To your care I commend infancy and youth, zealously attend to their Christian education; place in their hands such books as may teach them to fly from vice and steadily walk in the path of virtue. (PIUS IX.)

A tender love of our fellow-creatures is one of the great and excellent gifts that Divine Goodness grants to man.

(St. FRANCIS de Sales.)

Redouble your energies and talents in the rescue of infancy and youth from the snares of corruption and infidelity, and thus prepare a new generation.

(LEO XIII.)

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

Dear Friends and Co-operators,

**N**OTWITHSTANDING the somewhat unsettled condition of the world, the year which has just now ended,—the last of the nineteenth century—has been fraught with much consolation for every good Christian. Solemn tributes of praise have been offered up from every quarter of the globe to Our Divine Saviour; symbols of our redemption and statues both of our loving Redeemer and of our Blessed Lady have been set up on the summits of mountains, as a homage of grateful hearts to Jesus, who, 1900 years ago, deigned to descend as King of Peace and bring salvation to the human race. The Salesians also, during this time, joined the chorus of world-wide thanksgiving, and by God's help and your co-operation, have accomplished a great deal for his greater glory and the salvation of souls.

In these first moments of the new century therefore, I wish to address some words to you, and manifest my deep gratitude, re-echoing the voice of Don Bosco who used to attribute to you the merit of all the works which he was wont to undertake.

Setting aside other thoughts, I wish to draw your attention to two principal points, namely, the work accomplished during the past year, and that, which by the assistance of Divine Providence, is to be undertaken in the course of the coming one.

**The Great Jubilee of the Church and  
the Jubilees of our Society.**

During the past year, which will remain a date in history on account of the numerous pilgrimages to the eternal city, we had many reasons for rejoicing. Numerous crowds of pilgrims have been drawn to Rome, to gain the great indulgences, and to fill with consolation the paternal heart of His Holiness. It was a source of great edification, to see what great numbers flocked to the Sanctuary of the Sacred Heart, erected by our Society in Rome. That vast building was almost filled day after day with pilgrims, most of

whom were our Co-operators. This afforded me much pleasure, and shows how desirous they were of seeing that great work, which was established by their help, and was, so to speak, the fruit of their devotion to the Sacred Heart.

I believe that our beloved founder must have looked down from Heaven with joy, on those manifestations of your piety, and will no doubt have used his intercession on your behalf. The pleasure was greatly enhanced on hearing that venerable bishops and chiefly those from the farthest part of America, had visited the church.

My children in Rome had been charged to do all in their power, to entertain those who honoured them with a visit. I am sure they tried their very utmost to do so, but if they failed to do it to the satisfaction of everyone, I now tender an apology on their behalf.

But besides the solemnities of the Holy Year, we have also celebrated the Jubilee of our Missions in America. Just twenty five years ago in November last, Don Bosco blessed the first band of Salesian Missionaries in the Sanctuary of Our Lady Help of Christians, who were about to set out for the Argentine Republic. How many wondrous events, have been brought about through Divine Providence during that period! Great preparations have been made in order to show forth their joy and gratitude to God. A special exhibition of works executed in the various industrial schools, had also been organized, and, as a fitting crown to all that had been thus prepared, conferences and meetings have been held, and above all the Congress of Salesian Co-operators in America. This was to be an echo of the first congress held in Bologna, in the year 1895, for the Co-operators of Europe, and it was taken up with equal enthusiasm.

There were present, along with the Archbishop of Buenos Ayres Mgr. Espinosa, who had formerly been the courageous companion and guide to Mgr. Costamagna, in the missions of Patagonia, several bishops of the Argentine Republic, the two Salesian bishops Mgr. Cagliero, and Mgr. Costamagna and the Prefect Apostolic of Southern Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, Mgr. Fagnano. The congress was attended by many distinguished

laymen, and a great number of Co-operators of every rank as you will see from a report that the Salesian Bulletin will give later on.

For this reason we may well say, that this great assembly held in the new world, was a most signal and precious favour of Almighty God to our Society. I must single out one of the principal resolutions, of the Congress, that of erecting in Buenos Ayres a great sanctuary in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as an act of thanksgiving to God for the prosperous development of the Salesian Missions. This proposal met with general favour, and was carried with such enthusiasm by the Archbishop of Buenos Ayres and all the members of the Congress, that there and then, a subscription was opened. The Bishops who had taken part in the Congress, wished to lay the foundation stone before their separation. The function was of the most solemn character, and, perhaps without parallel, for it was honoured by a special blessing from the Holy Father and the presence of General Roca, President of the Republic.

In the same year that our missionaries first sailed for America, Our bountiful Lord introduced the Salesians into France. It was the first reward that was in store for Don Bosco, for the many sacrifices he had made on behalf of the missions. It is true, and we more than anyone else feel it, that all these successes are due to God alone; nevertheless we may be allowed to rejoice, that he has deigned to make use of our Society for bestowing so many benefits on poor and destitute children. For from Nice it soon spread to Marseilles, and then to other parts of France.

#### **Foundations and enlargements effected during the year 1900.**

It was intended, that this year should be truly a jubilee for us, namely a year of rest, inasmuch as no new houses were to be opened, and I had to make a great effort, in order to abide by this decision. I was forced however to make a few exceptions. Some houses were to be opened in '99, according to promises given but for various reasons their opening had to be postponed. For instance the college of Alvito in the province of Caserta, which though ready for some time could

only be opened last year. In the little village of Ardena near Rome, we undertook the charge of the public schools and opened a festive Oratory at the request of eminent personages, who had made applications in the year 1892. At Spezia the church dedicated to Our Lady of the Snow, is nearly completed. It will prove of great service, both for our house and especially for the numerous population of the neighbourhood, which in a few years had greatly increased, and was still without a Church. I have well grounded hopes that it will be solemnly consecrated during the year 1901.

At Savona, on the western side of the Riviera, a Salesian festive oratory has been already some years in existence, but a great need was felt for a boarding school, for the many who flock there for their studies. In a short time a suitable edifice was erected and has been in use for some time past. I feel that I am under an obligation towards the Co-operators of Savona, of thanking them publicly for their interest and zeal, and I beg to assure them, that I will not fail to pray that Almighty God may reward them, by prospering their affairs and consoling and blessing them in their children.

At Chioggia, a festive oratory with an orphanage and schools was started in the year 1899. In the course of last year the works, have been actively pushed on, to enlarge it and fit it to receive a greater number of boys.

At Ancona, the foundation stone of a large festive oratory was laid in the year 1899. It is situated near the railway station in a low part of the town, which of late had become densely populated, and was still without a church. It is hoped that this oratory, the need of which has been so long felt, may soon exercise a good influence.

Thanks to the generosity of a good christian family, an agricultural colony has been started at Corigliano d'Otranto. This institution cannot fail to prove of extreme usefulness to that province.

In compliance with the request of a fervent catholic, the lamented Cav. Domenico son of General Rossi former tutor of Humbert and Amedeus Princes of Savoy, we undertook at Buttigliera d'Asti, the direction of the festive oratory which he himself had commenced

with the aid of the Rev. W. Seraphino. This institution will thus continue to produce the good intended by its charitable founder.

In Belgium, I was obliged to yield to the demands of the Bishop of Liege, to make a foundation at Verviers which also should have been made last year.

In Spain, an orphanage was begun not far from Santander, where the Salesians had been awaited for some years, to look after the poor children, who had been made orphans by the disastrous explosion of dynamite which took place in that city.

In America, also we had to make a few new foundations, as I shall presently explain. On the whole, as you see, I adhered to the resolution formed as much as possible. It was indeed, most necessary to do so, in order to strengthen the rather limited personnel of several of the existing houses.

### **The Nuns of Our Lady Help of Christians.**

The Daughters of Our Lady Help of Christians, have also been called upon to open boarding schools, day schools, infant schools and festive oratories. In Sicily, they were in great need of a large church, since their chapel had become altogether insufficient. It is due to the liberality of a benefactress, that the works have been started and pushed on so energetically, that the building is almost ready for public use. God grant that so many pious desires may soon be fulfilled and that that place resound with His praises.

A new building is also in course of erection at Crusinallo near Novara, an industrial centre near the Simplon Railway line. For some years the good sisters had been living there in unsuitable premises, which they had rented. This year however, thanks to local co-operators, and chiefly to the zealous parish priest, suitable ground was provided and festive oratories and day schools are now being built. This work will prove a great blessing to the girls that are employed in the numerous manufactories of that valley, and be a safeguard for their moral and religious education.

In France, they opened also a new house dedicated to Mary Help of Christians at Fouquières, not far from Calais.

Every year a number of Sisters leaves for America, to share the work of those who have preceded them, and where they have been working for years with great self-sacrifice and success. It is true that even there, religious vocations are not wanting. In several places they render already considerable help, nevertheless, owing to the great increase of institutions and missions, they stand in great need of the aid that is sent to them from Europe.

In Patagonia, as soon as they recovered from the terrible inundation of 1899, they set to work again with renewed energy to rebuild their ruined houses, and to attend to the moral education of the Indians and other inhabitants.

In the Pampas, an orphanage has been opened in the town called *General Acha*, the capital of the Patagonian pampas. Needless to say, this latter news afforded us great pleasure, considering the good they produce. If all these various works so useful to society, and the progress of religion, I owe it to you dear Co-operators who never fail to come to my assistance each time that I appeal to your charity.

#### **Works accomplished in the Missions.**

The missions were the first and the last thought of Don Bosco, and such they must be of him, to whom he left them as a sacred inheritance. Hence both with my mind and heart, I am often in their midst, I share their joys and sufferings, I strive to further them by every means in my power. God knows the anxiety and anguish I endured on account of the hardships of our missionaries of Quito, when exiled from that Republic. I have now the consolation of announcing, that they have been permitted by the authorities of the town to return and to re-open the houses, that had been closed. Only the house of Sangolqui for the training of the members could not be opened yet, through scarcity of personnel. Let us hope that everything may soon be established on the same footing as before, to the great advantage of the children of those places.

Passing to Peru, the native country of St. Rose of Lima, I must announce that a great sanctuary is being erected in the town

of Arequipa. They have been working at it for the last two years and it is approaching completion. The reason of that is, that when our missionaries were driven from Quito, and found themselves in the midst of the forest and in danger of their lives, they promised that if they could reach a place of safety, they would build a church of thanksgiving wherever they would be hospitably received and sheltered. I well remember, how the brave Fr. Calcagno the Superior, urged my consent. How could I refuse it? The grace they had asked had been obtained in spite of numberless dangers and hardships. This Sanctuary will be, to posterity a token of the maternal goodness of Mary towards those poor Salesians, exiled from Ecuador, from the land they had chosen as their adopted country.

At La-Serena, in Chili, a house which had been promised for some time past was opened in the course of the year. There will be day schools as well as industrial schools.

The Missions of Southern Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego which have had to pass through so many hardships are now steadily improving and give a well grounded hope of even a better future.

On the extreme shores of South America, on the east side, at Gallegos, the mission has been re-opened, and those of Candelara and Porvenir in the great island of Tierra del Fuego, have been considerably developed. These missions which were so dear to the heart of Don Bosco, and brightened his later days are extremely poor, and depend entirely on the help that is sent to them by our Co-operators. It would be difficult to find a mission in such distressing circumstances and with greater claims on Christian charity.

This year marked a signal progress in the missions of the Falkland Islands. A new church, and new and larger schools were opened, to meet the increase, both of the faithful and the pupils. Thus they succeeded in checking the advance of non-catholic missions, and in withdrawing children from the pernicious influence of non-catholic education.

At La Plata, the capital of the province of Buenos Ayres, there was already a house with a chapel for boarders; but the need of a public church was severely felt. Trusting

in Divine Providence, a church has been erected, dedicated to Mary Help of Christians and will prove a blessing to that population. The letters I receive from there from time to time bear witness to this, full as they are of expressions of heartfelt gratitude. Above all, it is of great service to emigrants who are in urgent need of assistance. This was also the reason that prompted us to open a festive oratory at Ensenada, the port of Buenos Ayres. It was at the request of that most zealous Archbishop Mgr. Espinosa that this new foundation was started, with the intention of having as soon as possible, day schools for boys and girls and an orphanage to receive those who stand in greater need of assistance.

I invite you all dear Co-operators of Europe to join with me in thanking those of Buenos Ayres, and the neighbouring towns, for the manner in which they came forward to establish and extend the industrial school of Bernal, a little town not far from Buenos Ayres. This house at Bernal, will be for America what S. Benigno has been for us in Europe, namely, the place where the technical training, to the crafts masters, teachers and surveillants of our industrial establishments is imparted. It had a small beginning, but soon attained such proportions, that we could not help recognising in it, the finger of God. The premises were considerably enlarged, and machinery of various descriptions and with the latest improvements, have been provided. I must however also thank some of our Co-operators of Europe for this, who, in their goodness, have sent offerings for this very object.

Crossing the River Plate, we come to the land of Paraguay, which was once the field of labour of our lamented Mgr. Lasagna. He himself had greatly desired to open a house at Villa Concepcion, but he died before he could carry out his cherished project. In 1899 some of the Salesians, who had left Europe for America were destined for that mission, and last year all difficulties were successfully overcome and the house was established.

Proceeding now southward towards Matto Grosso, the missions have been very much blessed by God. The Bishop of that vast diocese destitute, as he is of local clergy,

entrusted to the Salesians the spiritual welfare of several districts. Our missionaries visit these places from time to time, for owing to scarcity of personnel they cannot yet have fixed residences.

In the town of Bahia in Brazil, an industrial school has been opened; it is as yet on a small scale but bids soon to acquire considerable proportions through the energy of the Salesians and Co-operators of that important state. I am confident that their zeal and the interest they take on behalf of the young will soon put this house on a footing of comparison with other similar institutions in Brazil.

Leaving South America and passing to the North we must halt a moment at New York in the United States. For years the Archbishop of that city had invited the children of Don Bosco to that large centre, where over two hundred thousand Italian emigrants were sadly in need of religious instruction. Don Bosco himself, when this request was made to him was compelled to put it off owing to lack of personnel. Now for the last two years some Salesians have been settled there and their work, thank God, has been steadily developing. In the course of last year a new chapel for the use of the emigrants has been entrusted to our confrères.

In Africa, I am glad to say that the house handed over to the Salesians in 1894 has been making considerable progress. The parish church of the Holy Rosary has since become inadequate for the growing population, and the necessary works for its enlargement have been accordingly undertaken. Ere long, let us hope, it will be re-opened and be more commodious and befitting divine worship. In consequence of these works now in course of erection, the orphanage which was attached, had to be temporarily removed to La Marsa. It seems that Divine Providence wishes to prepare for those poor orphans a more ample and more suitable shelter in Tunis itself. At Oran, having weathered a severe storm, the New Year seems to have brought brighter days. But alas the orphanage of Oran-Eckmühl stands in need of much assistance to make good the losses it has sustained.

### Works proposed for the New Year.

There are many things that I would fain set before you, and commend to the unfailing charity, of which you have given so many proofs, but I must limit myself to the most necessary ones. Among the first that occur to my mind are the dear lepers of Columbia. You may have read in the newspapers and in the Bulletin, how that unhappy country is under the scourge of revolution. Whilst I exhort you to pray that peace may soon be restored to it, and commerce flourish again, I am deeply distressed at the thought that they are in want of the bare necessities of life. The missionaries also have to impose on themselves untold privations in order to provide food for those unhappy lepers. Uncommon efforts are required to lessen the dreadful effects of such extreme destitution. Our confrère Fr. Ev. Rabagliati, the Superior of those missions, assisted by the Bishop of Socorro in whose diocese the Lazaretto of Contratacion is situated, is doing his utmost, yet cannot satisfy such pressing needs.

The missions of Tierra del Fuego and Matto Grosso, want prompt help not to lose the fruit of so many years of labour on behalf of those poor Indians. I wish that God in answer to our prayers may in his goodness have pity on those countries and inspire some generous souls to befriend those poor missions and enable them to spread more and more the benefits of Christian civilization.

There are however other houses nearer to us, nay attached to the Mother House, such as those of S. Benigno, Foglizzo, Ivrea, Valsalice and the Oratory itself where I am writing these lines, that deserve special attention. They supply the greatest number of missionaries, teachers and craftsmasters; consequently the expenses entailed by their management are uncommonly heavy. With the object of securing for them some regular source of help, I have devised a work which is to form an extension of that international homage, which is to have its centre near the tomb of our beloved Founder, but of this I intend to give details in the Bulletin during the course of this year.

I must not conclude this letter without apologising for its length, although if I were to consult only my desire of soliciting your

friendly help and of pleading on behalf of the works that Divine Providence entrusts to our Congregation, I would not end so soon.

I cannot refrain from recalling to your mind, that the last night of the year when by special favour of the Sovereign Pontiff, Holy Mass was said and the faithful received Holy Communion, the whole of our Society was solemnly consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. You also in your turn have answered the invitation, made to you in the last Bulletin and have united with me, when consecrating to the Sacred Heart the whole association of our Co-operators. May this Divine Heart lavish on you the treasures of his graces and favours. May He bless your spiritual interests and prosper your temporal affairs, give this holy peace to you and pour His choicest blessings on your families for the rest of the life that Almighty God may please to grant you, and make us all ever ready for His call.

If every day of our lives, in the words of St. Bernard, is *semen æternitatis*, think how many fruits we can gather in the course of a year, or in many years, spent in promoting the glory of God, supporting His holy cause and procuring salvation to our brethren, and may Don Boseo from Heaven obtain for us and for you all, dear Co-operators, to have our lamps burning, our loins girt with works of holiness, that each one may hear in his turn from the King [of ages: "Well done, faithful servant, thou who hast provided for me raiment, food, shelter, instruction, come to enjoy the fruit of all these good works in blissful eternity."

Commending myself to your charitable prayers, I remain,

Your devoted Servant in Christ

MICHAEL RUA,

*Superior-General of the Salesian Society.*

THE fruit of success does not grow on the tree of idleness.

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THE more each one works for all, the more advantageous is his work to his own self.

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KEEP yourself faithfully in the presence of God; avoid hurry and anxiety, for there are no greater obstacles to progress in perfection.



## DON RUA'S REPRESENTATIVE IN AMERICA.

(Extracts from his Secretary Correspondence.)



announced in the November Bulletin, Fr. Albera and his secretary arrived safely in Montevideo. Fr. Vespignani Provincial in the Argentine Republic and Fr. Gamba arranged, that the distinguished visitors should take a few days rest at Villa Colon, the Salesian College there, before proceeding to Buenos Aires. We gather from the secretary's first letter, that they had an enthusiastic reception. Monsignor Lasagna resided here for nineteen years, and the newspapers joyfully announced the arrival of the biographer (1) of him whom they loved so well.

Fr. Albera received an immense number of telegrams, from the Directors of the different houses in Uruguay etc. congratulating him on his arrival. Among others was one from Bishop Cagliari inviting him to come immediately to Patagonia.

During their stay at Villa Colon they paid a short visit to the Noviciate House at Las Piedras. Fr. Albera was very pleased, and said it was another Foglizzo.

We take the liberty of inserting the following extract from a letter, which is of a rather intimate character, from Fr. Albera's secretary to Don Rua, giving news of their stay in Buenos Aires:

Very Rev. and Dear Father RUA,

In deference to your wishes I have tried to give, from time to time, a short account of Fr. Albera's visit to this country. In order not to add to your already too numerous occupations and trespass on your valuable time, I have hitherto written to Fr. Barberis. Now, however—since both the circumstances and the nature of this communication seem to demand it—I take the liberty of addressing yourself directly. Moreover, if I am not mistaken, your stay at Valsalice, San Benigno, Ivrea and Foglizzo is at an end, and you might perhaps find a few moments leisure to peruse this letter.

To convey an adequate idea of this coun-

(1) See the review of the Life of Mgr Lasagna given in this number.

try—of our work here and the dire necessity still for many new missions—would be quite impossible for me by word of mouth, much less by writing. Oh! what a vast field of labour has Divine Providence entrusted to the Salesians here! The houses we have visited so far, are overcrowded with children. The Associations of past pupils of the Salesians and of our Nuns, are flourishing and have regulations specially drawn up for them. Your children in S. America, Dear Father, follow closely in the footsteps of our beloved Founder Don Bosco whose great work is steadily progressing, though in the meantime debts are necessarily being incurred. Trusting to Divine Providence the existing institutions are being enlarged; the urgent need in which so many boys stand, both of spiritual and temporal assistance, renders this step a necessity. At Monte Video, Las Piedras, San Carlos, Santa Catalina, Mater Misericordia, La Plata etc., churches are in course of erection. As soon as the new houses are fit for habitation, they are filled with boys who had long before applied for admission. In Buenos Aires alone the number of Children who frequent our institutions exceeds six thousand, yet this, notwithstanding is far from coping with the wants of this great city.

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Both the Salesians and the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians have been requested to open a mission in a suburb of this city called Palermo, situated about an hour's distance from San Carlos. That part of the city seems almost destitute of Catholic Schools, though non-Catholic ones are to be found to the number of eight or nine. Thus parents in that neighbourhood—and some of them much against their will—are under the necessity of sending their children to schools such as these. There is not even a Catholic Church in this district. The Vicar Capitular on receiving a visit from Fr. Albera, entreated him to use all his authority to have a festive oratory established there as soon as possible, remarking that that part of the city has more urgent need of missionaries than even Patagonia. Mons. Cagliari himself seems to be of the same opinion who happening to pay a visit there some two months ago said afterwards that the utmost endeavours should be made to establish a mission there with as little delay as possible.

Fr. Provincial's efforts are to a great extent paralysed owing to lack of personnel.

The Sisters too are in the same difficulty. Their Superior could only answer to the pressing demand of the Provincial, by offering to send three sick sisters who by order of the physician had to abstain from active duties. I was rather amused to hear that they agreed to decide by lot who should go, trusting to Providence for the rest. It is painful to see how these dear Confreres are overburdened with work. Take for instance, San Carlos the Catechist of the artisans has at the same time a regular class of students; he has also to do Sunday duties in preaching etc. to look after the meteorological observatory and help the Prefect of studies in sundry other things. All without exception, have their full share in the surveillance, in recreation, dormitories etc., not even excepting Fr. Superior himself at times. I need not say, how much Fr. Provincial is occupied. To his other occupations must now be added the organization of the Congress of Salesian Cooperators, which rests almost entirely on him. This Congress is fixed for the 12th, 13th and 14th of November and it promises to be a success equal to that of Bologna. Yet they assure me they are now in much easier circumstances than some years ago. They begin already to feel the benefit of the Noviciate House at Bernal. But you Rev. Father are not unaware how difficult it is to bring vocations to maturity under the peculiar circumstances of the place. Many parents wholly taken up by worldly interests prove the greatest obstacle to many vocations. Hence how many disappointments and sacrifices one must be prepared for. I am glad to say that in spite of their manifold duties the health of our confreres is in general very good. Fr. Albera grieves very much to see them so overburdened with work, and also at not being able even to give them promise of forthcoming assistance. How he blesses the resolution that you have taken, not to open any other houses, during the Jubilee year at least, in order to strengthen the existing ones.

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The day schools and the festive oratories are in a most flourishing condition. Some houses are for day scholars only. Each numbers at least two or three hundred pupils. Great is the advantage derived from these schools not only by the pupils but also by their families. Many of their pupils exercise a kind of apostolate, and a number of people have been induced to lead more christian

lives by their exertions. Fr. Albera very often says both in public and private:—"What a great satisfaction it would have been for our venerated Superior Don Rua to see so many boys frequenting the festive oratories and the day schools! What a triumph for the Congregation."

What a consolation indeed would be in store for you, dear Father General could you come and see with your own eyes all the good that is done by your children and the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians in the 200 houses now established in America.

It would be difficult to express what efforts are here made to honour your representative Fr. Albera. Wherever he goes, the principal authorities of the place meet him and esteem it a great pleasure to make his acquaintance. Magistrates as well as editors of newspapers solicit interviews. Even bishops visit him and ask him to bless their flocks for they say Fr. Albera is the representative of Don Rua and Don Rua has inherited all the spirit of Don Bosco. His Lordship the Archbishop of Buenos Aires being unavoidably absent on a mission sent to Fr. Albera the following message:—"Monsignor Mariano Antonio Espinosa presents his respects to Rev. Father Albera and places himself at his disposal hoping immediately on his return to have the pleasure of seeing him." In short he receives everywhere tokens of the greatest respect and esteem. These honours are conferred on him, as he says, because he is the representative of Fr. General. I may add however that the affability and saintly life of Fr. Albera have endeared him to all in a singular degree. More than once I heard distinguished persons both secular and ecclesiastic after a short interview exclaim:—"What a man of God!" It is wonderful in what esteem Don Bosco and his successor are held here. Their portraits occupy always the place of honour and it is not in the Salesian houses alone that their names are coupled together. At Monte Video I have even seen shops bearing the name of Don Bosco. Forgive Dear Father this rather long digression; my only excuse is the love I bear our Congregation.

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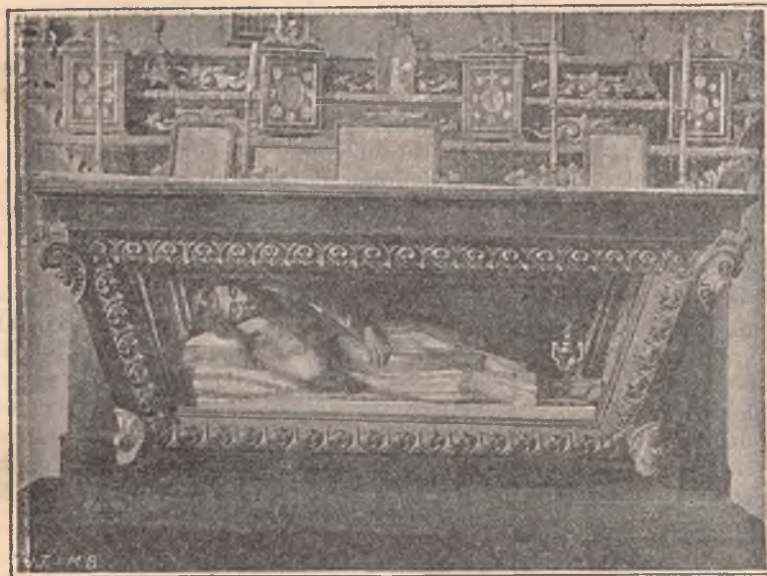
I now come to the main object of this letter namely the account of the Feast of St. Michael which was kept at Bernal. The novices here were long desirous of seeing Father Albera. When they heard that he

had started on this journey the eighteen novices and sixty five aspirants of Bernal began a fervent novena and evidently with fruit, if I may judge from the excellent passage we had, and from the attentions we received from every body on board. On the afternoon of the 28th Sept. Fr. Albera was accompanied to the station by Archbishop Espinosa. Arriving at Bernal an hour afterwards he was at once surrounded by a crowd of clerics and boys beaming with joy to which they gave full expression. At the station gates he was met by the altar boys who accompanied him to the Church and a solemn Te

addressing the assemblage, brought back to them, memories of the past. He related that 33 years before he had been received at the Oratory of Turin, the great kindness and charity he had experienced at the hands of Fr. Albera, and the many ties of affection that had bound them together. Some one else in a touching way described the scene of the departure of the Missionaries when he bade adieu to Fr. Albera in the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians, and expressed his joy at seeing him there in their midst. Another repeated the words he had heard from Fr. Albera at Foglizzo when addressing the novices he said:

“My children prepare yourselves. Religious life is a beautiful and saintly life but do not believe for a moment that your path will always be strewn with roses. By taking the holy vows you join a crucified Lord with whom you must expect also to feel the sting of the thorns with which His Head was encircled.” I need not mention the many compositions, prose and poetry, all teeming with the most enthusiastic feelings towards the Holy Father, Don Bosco and Don Rua. Everybody would have liked to say something

but this was impossible. They had instead written a few words each, expressing their feelings, in an album which was presented to their welcome visitor. On the following day Fr. Albera said Community Mass and assisted at the solemn Mass and Vespers sung in Gregorian chant. The novices showed however later on, that they were not neglecting figured music and rendered a portion of Perosi's Oratorio “The passion of Christ” with the skill of artists. Fr. Albera was also well pleased to see one of Don Bosco's plays performed in the majestic and harmonious language of Castille. The whole of the feast was well summed up in the two inscriptions in the centre of the stage *Viva Don Bosco who lives again in Don Rua and Viva Fr. Albera Don Rua's representative.* Old traditional songs were sung, that carried




ARGENTINE—Saint Faust martyr, entombed under the Altar of Bernal.

Deum was sung. During the evening service and at Mass the following day, some Gregorian chant was excellently rendered in compliance with the expressed wish of Fr. General, who very much prefers to have the music proper of the Church, and not that of the opera rendered during Divine Service. Since they had been deprived of the visit of Don Rua they wished to have in their midst his representative for that great occasion—the feast day of our Superior General. Fr. Albera well aware how Don Rua, notwithstanding all other invitations, spends the feast of St Michael with the novices at Foglizzo, wished also to give the preference to the Bernal Noviciate while in America. Shortly after the Solemn Benediction we were invited to a musical and literary entertainment. The Superior of the House, in



minds back to the primitive days of the Oratory. Everyone of course took advantage of Fr. Albera's visit to hold at least a few minutes conversation with him. His days are truly *Dies pleni*.

(To be continued).



## Notes from London.

**FR. SUPERIOR'S FEAST:**— On the 4th of November, the Feast of the Superior Very Rev. Fr. Macey was kept at Battersea. As Sunday is a rather busy time the addresses etc. were presented on the preceding evening. The Hall within which the presentations were to take place, was gaily decorated with flags Chinese lamps etc. At one end a platform was erected and over it a canopy from which ample folds of ornamented crimson draperies hung gracefully. The Community and boys were seated on either side, and at the other end a band stand had been erected. A band, by-the-way, had been started early last summer, and this evening it was to perform for the first time in public.

Proceedings commenced at six o'clock when, Fr. Superior having made his appearance and received a hearty ovation, the choir burst forth with a chorus from Rip Van Winkle. Illuminated addresses were then read and presented by the different classes and between each, piano and violin duets and selections either from the choir or band were rendered in excellent style. After the presentation of the address from the 3rd form there was an ominous pause and everybody listened with bated breath,—for the band was about to make its debut. It was a trying moment for the indefatigable band-master, but his suspense was shortlived, as the harmonious strains of a German waltz—powerfully executed—soon filled the Hall with melody, producing great effect.

The first part of the programme having been got through, a very fine bronze statue of the Sacred Heart of Our Blessed Lord was presented to and much admired by Fr. Superior. He expressed a wish that this statue should be placed in the niche over the main entrance to the Parish Church, which later on was accordingly done.

It is the custom yearly on Fr. Superior's Feast-day, for the Community to make him a presentation. This year it was to have been a statue of St. Charles Borromeo his patron. It did not however arrive in time for the occasion, causing thereby somewhat of a disappointment. It came safely some days afterwards, and now occupies a place in the Church opposite the statue of St. Francis of Sales. It was designed by Raffl of Paris, and is much admired—deservedly so indeed as it is a very finished piece of workmanship.

Fr. Superior then delivered an address of some length, in the course of which, he expressed his great pleasure in being able to spend yet another feast day with them; impressed on the boys the great importance of studying hard and of acquiring virtuous habits, and ended by thanking all for their good wishes and presents.

In the midst of the enthusiastic applause which followed the address, the band gave forth the majestic strains of God Save the Queen, and this concluded the proceedings for the evening.

On the following day—Sunday—High Mass was sung by Rev. Fr. Superior, with Rev. A. Hawarden deacon and Br. John sub-deacon. The Altar was tastefully decorated with chrysanthemums etc. and in the Sanctuary were exotics and native plants in profusion. The choir under the able management of Rev. E. Rabagliati gave Cherubini's No 4 Mass very creditably.

Dinner was announced at 2 o'clock. As the boy's new refectory adjoins that of the Community, the time-honoured custom of having all together for dinner on this Feast-day was observed. The folding doors were thrown open and both refectories, now made into one, looked extremely well. When the good things had been partaken of, short congratulatory poems in Latin and English, were read by some members of the Community. Rev. A. Hawarden's framed address, was very daintily got up. A border, about two inches wide, was artistically painted, round the address and in regular intervals the photographs of six of the priests, who form the Chapter of the house were reproduced, including Fr. Superior's which occupied the place of honour.

In the evening there was an entertainment. Having secured the services of Signor Josselli, the celebrated conjurer, he kept us for the space of an hour lost in amazement at the mysterious and unaccountable things he performed. That he has not communication

with the lower world, is not at all clear to some minds even yet. Then followed some selections from a grammophone, which had been presented to Fr. Superior for his Feast day by Mr. Leslie Stuart. Some of these, especially the band pieces, and a couple of recitations were heartily applauded and enjoyed.

This finished the entertainment, and having

quite as mild as in late spring. Yet whether in the midst of howling snow-storms or genial sunny days, the beautiful feast of Christmas, the season of hospitality, merriment and open-heartedness is always welcome.

In preparation for this great Feast a Novena of special services, was held in the Church, commencing on the 16th of December. The touching words of the 'Regem Venturum



Group of Chamacoos.

said night prayers, each one betook his weary limbs to bed, and sought in gentle slumber the renewal of his energies for the morrow.

Among the presents made to Fr. Superior, was a handsome set of white vestments, beautifully embroidered, which were made at the Convent of the Good Shepherd Nuns in Limerick and given by Mrs. Gannon,

**X**MAS AT BATTERSEA:—People are accustomed, in these islands, to associate the idea of Christmas with that of snowed-up stage coaches, and frosty and cold weather. This year, none of these elements were present; the weather for weeks before being

'Dominum' with the Prophecies, Psalms etc. were chanted each evening. These beautiful services, to one who can follow them in Latin, excite feelings of devotion and form a most fitting preparation for Christmas.

The Church was profusely decorated. Festoons of holly were suspended tastefully from pillar to pillar, whilst capital and base were ornamented with evergreens, bordered with crimson. The High Altar—the reredos of which had lately been decorated—looked very beautiful, though its own artistic loveliness was somewhat obscured by a too great abundance of flowers. The crib occupied the whole of the Lady Sanctuary, and was, perhaps, one of the best in London. It was

designed by Br. Austen, and showed in every detail the master-hand. It consisted of two caves a large and a small one, made of artificial rock. In the background could be seen the plains of Bethlehem, with the angels appearing to the shepherds, whilst a brilliant star, whose rays came from an electric light, shone above. In the smaller cave was represented the Infant Jesus in the manger with Mary and Joseph standing by.

Midnight Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Fr. Macey, Rev. M. McCarthy being deacon and Bro. Francis sub-deacon. The music was Murat's beautiful *Messe des Anges*, which, owing to the absence of the proper organist was rendered very indifferently indeed. In the Community chapel Holy Communion was given to the clerics and boys. What an inexpressibly happy moment it is for one, who receives not into his arms but to his heart the Infant Jesus, the loving Redeemer, the Almighty Creator of countless worlds in the early Christmas morning, whilst yet the sweet strains of the 'Adeste' and 'Gloria in Excelsis' are lingering on the ear.

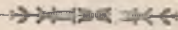
On Christmas Day at 11 o'clock the Rev. R. Biebuyck had the great happiness of singing his First Mass. He was ordained on the preceding Saturday by Bishop Bourne at St. John's Seminary Guilford. Very Rev. Fr. Macey acted as deacon and Br. John as sub-deacon. The choir performed in a brilliant manner this time Murat's Mass, and reflected great credit on the energetic manager Rev. E. Rabagliati. Solemn Benediction was given immediately after the Mass by the Rev. Fr. Bonavia.

The Xmas dinner this year was also the dinner given in honour of the newly ordained priest Rev. B. Biebuyck. On this occasion too, the Community and boys dined together and, in accordance with the good old English custom, religiously ate roast beef turkey and plum-pudding,—the usual Christmas fare. Towards the close of dinner compositions in prose and poetry were read, to which the Rev. R. Biebuyck fittingly responded.

In the evening a dramatic entertainment, —a musical comedy—was given by the boys. The dresses and acting left little to be desired and the music was exceedingly pretty. The band was in attendance under the foot-lights and filled the intervals with sweet and powerful harmony. The latter adjective is, by the way, used purposely. Then the bell struck the hour for retiring, and everybody in the highest spirits having spent a holy and

joyous Feast forthwith retired, leaving the Christmas of 1900 for all practical purposes a thing of the past.

What a happy time is Xmas, and to whom does it not bring a brief season of happiness and enjoyment. How many people, who have been dispersed and scattered far and wide in the restless struggles of life are then re-united, and meet once again in that happy state of companionship and mutual good will, which is a source of such pure and unalloyed delight, and one so incompatible with the cares and sorrows of the world, that the religious belief of the most civilised nations, and the rude traditions of the roughest savages, alike number it among the first joys of a future condition of existence, provided for the blest. Happy happy Christmas time that can win us back to the delusions of our childish days; that can recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth; that can transport the sailor and the traveller thousands of miles away back to his own fireside and his quiet home!



### POINTS.

IN whatever you engage, pursue it with a steadiness of purpose, as though you were determined to succeed.

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A vacillating mind never accomplishes anything worth naming. There is nothing like a fixed steady aim; it dignifies nature and insures your success.

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To live contentedly in our exile, we must keep before our eyes, the hope of our arrival in the country, where we shall live for ever.

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HAVE no care for to-morrow; think only of doing well to-day, and when to-morrow shall have become to-day, think about it.

\*\*\*

AVOID uncharitable speaking; it has deformed many a soul otherwise good and pious.

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REVERIE is a species of mental dissipation which is very prejudicial to the development of intellectual power and each one should habitually strive to conquer it.

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IN truth the gravest misfortune that can befall a man in this life, will be much alleviated by the reflection, that the mere passing of time, will take away all or nearly all its bitterness.



ON Dec. 8th the Feast of the Immaculate Conception was kept with much solemnity at Burwash, Sussex, our Novitiate and House of Studies in England.

The Very Rev. Fr. Macey Superior at Battersea travelled from London for the occasion, and gave the religious habit to eight postulants, having previously delivered a discourse on the religious life. High Mass was sung at 10 o'clock by the Rev. E. Tozzi, Rev. Fr. Macey deacon and Br. Gilbert sub-deacon.

The new wing, which had been in course of erection for a couple of years, was opened in October last and completes the house. The number there at present doing their novitiate or pursuing their studies is twenty seven.

FR. Bottignolli the companion of Fr. Tau-regui in the Indian Missions scattered on the frontiers of Paraguay, Brazil and Bolivia sends us the following news:—

“Since the 4th of Dec. we have been travelling to Forte Olimpo and Bahia Negra, fortresses of Paraguay—round which the Indian tribes and their families collect in great numbers. Two years ago Don Folia had already visited this mission but returned with little fruit. This year the inhabitants are more numerous and seem better prepared to receive the missionaries.

“The best-known tribe in this country is that of the *Chamacocos* who are very docile and give promise of excellent results. Hardly was our boat anchored than we were surrounded by about sixty of those Indians, who asked us, not with the ferocity of the *Corados*, but with gentleness, for something to eat and especially for clothes to cover themselves. Their chief was distinguished by a beautiful feather which he wore on the top of his head. I exchanged a few words with him in Spanish. He told me he believed in God and loved Him, then suddenly said to me:—“Father, give me a shirt.” “When I return” I replied. “All right” said he “but dont forget it.”

“I assure you that if I had followed my desire I would have commenced immediately to evangelise these poor people. I hope soon we may be able to do so.”

IN the Church of our Oratory of the Holy Family at Bernal—the novitiate house of the Argentine Republic—the solemn dedication of a new altar to Saint Faust Martyr, whose body had been obtained by the Provincial when in Rome, took place in the month of March last.

“It is impossible” the Director of this House writes to us “to describe the joy of all the inhabitants on this happy day. Monsignor Francis Alberti honoured us by his presence and performed the holy ceremonies. It was a scene that will live long in the memories of those who were present. In the body of St. Faust we possess a treasure to which the inhabitants have great devotion and have already obtained a number of favours through the intercession of this saint.

On the 25th of May the students of our college at Almagro made a pilgrimage to Bernal, to venerate the holy relics. God grant that we may always merit the protection of this holy martyr.”

FOR some time past we have been receiving disquieting news from our Mission in Mendez and Gualaquiza in the Republic of Ecuador. The savage Jivaros are still at war among themselves. There have been already numerous deaths. The Missionaries have tried, but in vain, to establish peace. In response to their offers of mediation for peace a horde of savages planted boldly their lances in the ground an action which signified their firm resolution of continuing the war. In one of the last skirmishes thirty of these infuriated people invaded the house and took possession of it for several days, consuming whatever provisions they could find there. It required all the prudence of the Missionaries to get rid of them. All the spiritual and material fruits of this Mission have thus been destroyed by this fratricidal war. We recommend with earnestness this mission to the prayers of our Co-operators.

ALTHOUGH opened so recently as 1898 the schools of Arts and Trades and Agriculture of San Salvador have already distinguished themselves. Here is an extract from a letter of the Director Don Misieri:—

“For us these exhibitions have been a great event. Not only did the members of the Commission of the Government attend, but the Chief of the State himself, assisted by several ministers, presided... On Dec. 8th we are to have an academical séance in honour of the President of the Republic. His generous wife is enthusiastic about our work and wishes to have erected in Salvador a church in honour of our Lady Help of Christians. A society has been formed for that purpose and has already a large amount of funds on hand. A bazaar has been organised and with the aid of the President we hope soon to see this monument in course of erection. We pray God and his Virgin Mother to hasten the realization of these projects.”

DON Angelo Veneroni of Viedma sends us the following consoling news from the midst of the disasters there:—

“Above all we ought to thank the good God and His Holy Mother for having preserved us from the contagious epidemic which the Doctors foretold would inevitably visit us. All our pupils, boys and girls of the schools of Viedma and Patagones have passed their examinations successfully. We did not by any means expect such a good result.

“Poor Viedma is becoming populated again. Little by little the houses are being rebuilt though on a smaller scale yet sufficient for the present needs. We are working hard but it will require yet a long time before we can repair the damages caused by the inundation.

Our beloved Vicar-Apostolic is journeying through the principal towns of the Argentine and Uruguay collecting for us and our poor people of Viedma.”

“At an exhibition held recently at Ivrea Piedmont” we read in a local paper “Don



Jivaro Indian.

Bosco's Industrial School of S. Benigno Canavese received special distinctions. In all six departments in which they were represented they were awarded diploma and gold medal; also special diploma of honour for



cabinet work. A first class diploma and silver medal from the Board of Commerce was awarded to the Industrial School itself. The President, in communicating the news to the Superior of the house, warmly congratulated him on the success of the Institution and requested him to send the band of the

solemn. Generally a bishop said Mass in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. The Church was crowded and the communicants were very numerous. The choir composed of 400 boys of the adjoining orphanage rendered devotional music and the whole service was ended by the Litanies of the Sacred Heart and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Several of the pilgrims chose this church for a renewal of their consecration to the Sacred Heart. A good many availed themselves of the opportunity to give their names to the Confraternity and share in the spiritual advantages of the six Masses that are daily said and will be said in perpetuity for the members. This revival of devotion is a good omen for the future and, we may add, reason of consolation for many of our Cooperators who have generously assisted



SAN SALVADOR—The little agriculturists.

Institute to attend the distribution of prizes. Their band had on several occasions received honourable distinctions. The Industrial School of San Benigno, we must add, is also the principal novitiate of the Lay Brothers. It supplies the crafts masters or foremen, for the different trades in our Industrial Schools in Europe and other Countries.

CONSOLING news reaches us of the increase of devotion witnessed at the Sanctuary of the Sacred Heart at Castro Pretorio in Rome. Our readers are not wholly unacquainted with the origin and the vicissitudes of the Church and the Institution attached to it; how it was undertaken at the request of the Holy See and for years had formed the object of Don Bosco's zeal. He had the consolation of seeing it consecrated before his death. Chiefly since his Holiness consecrated the whole world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus this hallowed spot has become the centre of devotion and the number of devout visitors has considerably increased. In the course of this Jubilee year above all, people of every condition of life might be seen at all times kneeling in fervent prayer before the Sacred Image. The services of the First Fridays of the Month were particularly

Don Bosco and his successor in erecting that Sanctuary to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the centre of the Catholic World.

Among the awards of the Paris exhibition a gold medal was given to the Don Bosco's Institutions in general and a silver one to the Patronage St. Pierre of Menilmontant. We gladly communicate to our readers these distinctions gained by our confrères in France since it shows that their efforts in behalf of



SAN SALVADOR—Children of the Salesian Oratory.

poor youth were thus publicly recognized. Although it is not for a temporary gain that they spend their lives, it must, nevertheless, be to them an encouragement to continue with renewed energy, and to our Cooperators also, who have during so many years generously helped them, to see the beneficial results of their Charity.

ON November last the 25th anniversary of our first foundation in France was celebrated. It was at the request of Mons. Sola Bishop of Nice and the exhortation of the local Society of St. Vincent of Paul that the Patronage St. Pierre was opened in 1875. That foundation, can indeed be compared to the mustard seed of the Gospel not only for its humble beginning but also for its prodigious development. More than 25 similar Institutions of Don Bosco's work have been established on French soil. We have reason to admire in this fact an evident token of God's blessing and the protection of Divine Providence. We feel also a debt of deep gratitude to the many generous souls, who have become the docile instruments of this same loving Providence, since it is to their support and benevolence that this marvellous growth is due.

Our confrères in France intend and with good reason not to let this occasion pass without an act of solemn thanksgiving to God for His many and signal favours during this time.

"ON the 24th of June at Almagro," we read in the '*Mesajero del Corazón de Jesús*' Mons. Sabatucci Pontifical Internuncio, assisted by the Prefect Apostolic of Tierra del Fuego and accompanied by H. E. the President of the Republic, laid the foundation stone of the new Parish Church of San Carlos, in honour of our Most Holy Redeemer. The students from Bernal formed the choir and rendered in excellent style the majestic music of our Liturgy. They afterwards gave an original dramatic entertainment, representing the different arts and trades, with which Monsignor Sabatucci and St. E. the President were very much pleased.

WE take the following from the "*Sussex Express*" of the 28th of December 1900:—

"**S**T JOSEPH'S, BURWASH.—The night of Christmas eve, witnessed a great ceremony at the above-mentioned church. It was the celebration of a solemn High Mass, sung by the rector of the mission, the Rev. E. Tozzi assisted by the Rev. V. Campana and Br. A. Mulholland, as deacon and sub-deacon respectively. Bordese's "Messe Solennelle" was finely rendered by the Choir of Community. Low Mass was also said at eight o'clock, several children of the school receiving Holy Communion. At 10.30 o'clock another solemn High Mass was celebrated by the

Rev. G. Domanski, at which the Rector gave a few words appropriate to the occasion, thanking all those who had so kindly helped him to prepare for the feast. The church was very artistically decorated with festoons of laurel and holly, the high altar and sanctuary being exceedingly pretty. At the Lady altar was placed a crib, a beautiful piece of work, representing a stable on the side of a mountain, with the newly-born babe in the manger, while angels descend to adore Him. The church was specially prepared for a great ceremony—namely the consecration of all Christendom to the Sacred Heart of our Divine Lord, which is to take place during the midnight service on New Year's eve, preceded by a triduum of prayers and instructions."



THE LIFE  
OF

MONS. LUIGI LASAGNA

By Rev. P. Albera.

**T**HE name of Bishop Lasagna is not unfamiliar to our readers, as letters of absorbing interest from his brilliant pen have appeared from time to time, in our columns during his arduous missionary career. We intend, at an early date to publish in serial form, this very interesting work, and with this idea we give the following brief review of its contents.

Mons. Luigi Lasagna, Salesian Missionary and titular Bishop of Tripoli, having spent many years in the Republic of Uruguay, fell a victim to a lamentable railway accident which occurred on the 6th of November 1895 at Juiz de Fora in Brazil. Father Albera in his very able work, gives us the life of this untiring Apostle.

What an irreparable loss the Salesian Congregation of Don Bosco has suffered by the death of this good Bishop! What an immense void, difficult to refill has he left behind him! Such is the impression one feels in turning the last page of Father Albera's book.

The life of this missionary bishop presents itself to us as a beautiful picture, through which we follow step by step, the work of

Don Bosco, even from its commencement in 1860 to its admirable development.

We admire, through every page, the spirit of Don Bosco, in the education of youth (ch. 3-5), in the training of his teachers and of his religious (ch. 8-14), in fine we admire it in the missions of South America since their



Don L. Lasagna as a young missionary.

very commencement. It is especially there that the figure of Mgr Lasagna stands forth in all its brilliant personality, with that strong attraction which everybody who approached him has experienced.

The narration of the author brings forth that sympathy, which possessed in such a lively manner, the hero of this history, to such a point that we follow the story with the greatest interest. At one time we mourn, at another we rejoice with him, in all these incessant movements of ideas and of action in which the tireless activity of Mgr. Lasagna expended itself without limit of time, spite of difficulties of space.

We see him first at the College of Villa Colon, whence soon after he became well-known throughout the Republic of Uruguay which was for him the country of his adoption. He established schools and workshops, —the foundation of the Salesian work; he opened missions notwithstanding irreligious opposition and reaped abundant fruits for the eternal harvest. Forced to return to his native country, Italy, to undergo a painful operation, he made arrangements with Father Denza to establish in South America, those meteorological observatories which have acquired, particularly that of Villa Colon, great renown. About the same time he inaugu-

rated a Natural History Museum (Cap. 16-22). Returning to Uruguay, he was appointed by Don Bosco, Provincial of the Houses of that Republic. Then it was, he proved himself a splendid controversialist. He published, in the journal "*El bien publico*" in a series of fifteen articles, a terrible but triumphant polemic against materialistic and atheistic theories with regard to education, forcing his adversary to quit the confines of the city of Montevideo. He did not cease then to lend his aid to this journal, which in giving his panegyric on the day of his death, styled him its constant helper (Cap. 23). His great intellect perceived what an immense advantage could be conferred on Uruguay, from an economical point of view, by developing agriculture and especially by the culture of the vine. Aided by the great powers as an organizer which he possessed in a singular degree, he soon had the satisfaction of seeing the outcome of his industry, rewarded at different exhibitions, and his representatives named members of the jury for judging in these affairs (Cap. 25-27).

But his great desire was to open new fields for action and gain as many souls as possible to God. In 1882 he made his first journey into Brazil. The following year he opened the first Salesian house in that country at Nichteroy, and soon after, another at St Paul



Mgr. L. Lasagna bishop of Tripoli.

(Cap. 24-26). He then went to Europe to seek aid and personnel. His conferences were well attended and enlisted in his favour much warm sympathy (Cap. 29-30). Leaving Don Bosco with a presentiment that he would never again see him in this life, he

returned to his missions. The houses now multiplied. He introduced into Brazil the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians, started the *Lectures Catholiques* in the Portuguese language, and opposed strenuously the bad press which was demoralizing the country (Cap. 31-32).

In the midst of all these occupations a letter from the successor of Don Bosco recalled him to his native country, where elevation to the episcopate awaited him. It was an occasion of splendid celebrations which showed what great esteem and affection Mgr Lasagna's rare qualities of mind and heart had procured for him. Immediately after he hastened back to his children in America who in happy expectation were awaiting him, (Cap. 34-35). His zeal now knew no bounds. It was a devouring fire which burned the more fiercely as its object was more difficult of accomplishment. On his return to Brazil, he organized an expedition to Matto Grosso, an expedition which, by the wonderful variety of its adventures; by the attraction which far distant and almost unknown regions exercised upon him, by the admirable zeal he had occasion to manifest; by the immense spiritual harvest he opened up— suffice it to name the Coroados mission— forms perhaps the most attracting part of this altogether attractive book. It is impossible for us in a few words to give even a feeble idea of this period; the book itself must be referred to (Cap. 38-43). At this time he travelled through a great part of Brazil and visited the different Salesian houses there. Arriving back to the capital of Uruguay he consecrated a bishop whom he had obtained from the Holy Father for this city, which had for a long time been deprived of a pastor.

His health now imposed on him a period of rest for about six months. But what a rest! One day it was a mission, another a congress, now a celebration again a visit to some church or a new foundation; the Bishop was continually going from one place to another (Cap. 45-47). On the 15th of August 1895, he went to Brazil: it was his last journey. Leaving his dear college at Villa Colon he felt that he would never return, but this was for him but a new motive for redoubling his zeal and activity. His apostolic works now succeeded each other with such rapidity that it is almost impossible to follow. Here is described the brilliant fêtes he organised at Rio Janeiro in honour of Christopher Columbus; and also the fruitful mission which

he gave in the parish of Guarantigueta, where he exposed a grave scandal and so brought on himself the hatred of sectaries who swore to avenge themselves (Cap. 48).

They alas kept their oath, and what a too terrible vengeance! For while Mgr Lasagna with his secretary and four Nuns of Mary Help of Christians were travelling to Ouro Preto and Ponte Nova to make new foundations they met their deaths in a railway collision, diabolically prepared, on the night of the 5th of November 1895. It was the crowning of a saintly and splendid career. (Cap. 49 etc.).

This in a few lines is a brief review of Father Alhera's work. Added to the charm that pervades this story, there is the fascination of a narrative which transports us into distant and varied regions, in the midst of strange events often rich with adventures so dear to youth. There is an attraction in following the work of colonization of a genius rich in qualities of all sorts; of an organiser who accomplished in an age so prone to enterprise, with his own private resources lasting works of true social utility, and not capricious projects which but too often entail the tears and blood of poor unhappy victims. In reading this book we are filled with enthusiasm in spite of ourselves at the sight of the generous detachment and heroic sacrifice of which the catholic missionary in the person of Mgr Lasagna is the living incarnation, a sacrifice which materialistic irreligious people cannot understand.

The whole book is written with a truly scrupulous exactitude. The narrative follows offer word for word the letters of Mgr Lasagna himself or of eye-witnesses. At other times the author is guided by the secretary's journal or other authentic documents. Perhaps this scrupulous care to preserve the character most faithfully, gives sometimes to the story a certain coldness which contrast in general with such a brilliant work but these little faults can easily be overlooked. Above all one will find in this book a grand lesson, filled as it is with the spirit of Don Bosco and with a certain ascetic unction which the pious author insinuates into it, like a subtle and penetrating but withal agreeable perfume.





### Mrs. Bourne R. I. P.

**W**E deeply regret to have to announce the death of Mrs. Ellen Bourne, the mother of His Lordship the Right Rev. Mons. Bourne Bishop of Southwark. In her, the Salesian Congregation has lost a faithful friend, who on all occasions had taken great interest in its welfare. The Community in London in particular, had often experienced the effect of her delicate and unostentatious generosity.

We beg to offer to His Lordship on behalf of the Salesian Congregation an expression of condolence, and recommend the soul of the deceased to the suffrage of our Co-operators.

A Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of her soul, was sung on the 3rd of December, at the Church of the Sacred Heart Battersea by the Superior, Very Rev. Fr. Macey, with Rev. Fr. Bonavia as deacon and Rev. I. Goy sub-deacon.

The music was Bishop Cagliero's grand composition and was rendered in most touching style by the choir under the Rev. Fr. Rabagliati.

### Mrs. William Ussher R. I. P.

**W**E take the following account of the death of one of our co-operators from "*The Southern Cross*" of November 16th 1900—

It is our extremely sad duty to chronicle the death of a most worthy and exemplary Irish matron, Mrs. William Ussher, of Almagro. Mrs. Ussher, who until quite recently seemed to be in excellent health and happy in the happiness of her family, fell ill on the 8th inst. She was attended by her nephew Dr. J. Gannon, and by Drs. Peacan. Molina,

Bonazzola and Castro. All that science could do for her was done, but in vain; and after undergoing a severe operation (performed by Dr. Castro) for appendicitis, she sank rapidly and expired on the 12th inst.

She had the inestimable blessing of a most happy and edifying death, surrounded by her family. She received the consolations of religion in her last moments from her two priest-sons, Fathers James and Thomas Ussher. Father James Ussher was just finishing reading the prayers for the dying, and his brother had just given their mother the plenary indulgence for the dying, when she departed with a smile, and without a pain. Two of her daughters, nuns of the Salesian Order, were also at her bed-side. To few mothers is it given, to die so happily—to few mortals is vouchsafed in their death-hour so much of the fruition of the Christian's hope.

Mrs. William Ussher was the daughter of the late James Walsh, of Syonan, Horseleap. Co. Westmeath, and was only in her 58th year. She enjoyed the respect and affection of all who knew her. She had the great privilege, under God's blessing, of giving five children to the service of the Church, viz.: Father James M. Ussher, Secretary to the Bishopric of La Plata; Father Thomas Ussher of the Salesians, and three daughters who are Salesian nuns. She has also a nephew in the London house of the same congregation. Her coffin was carried by her six sons, headed by their sorrowing father, Mr. William Ussher who has the whole-hearted sympathy of all who know how keenly the greatest blow of his life has fallen upon him and with what manly fortitude and Christian resignation he bears it. Of Mrs. Ussher's children—11 in all—only one was absent from her bed of death—that one being a Salesian nun away in distant Patagonia, in one of the Houses which her Order has established there.

On Tuesday morning the coffin was taken from the family residence to the Church of San Carlos in Almagro, where a solemn mortuary service was held. Low Masses were celebrated at all the side altars, while at the high altar a Solemn Requiem Mass was sung, after the Office for the dead had been chanted by quite a large assemblage of priests. Arch-

bishop Espinosa went to the house to bless the corpse, and also assisted at the high Mass. Bishop Cagliari, of the Salesians and Bishop Alberti, of La Plata were also present—a high honour done both to the virtues of Catholic children, and also to the young priests and nuns whose bereavement the illustrious Prelates shared as their own. The band of San Carlos College was in attendance outside the Church, and, while the coffin was conveyed to the hearse, played the impressive strains of the funeral march.

A most cheerful, hospitable, amiable, sympathetic Irish woman was Mrs. Ussher. She was an Irish Catholic lady in the noblest sense of the word—patriotic, earnest, pious, unflinching. God rest her soul. Seldom, if ever, in Buenos Aires, and seldom indeed anywhere, has the shadow of death been made light by such honour given to and earned by the departed—honour higher than most that can be gathered on the earth, brighter than gems, more precious than hoarded wealth, dearer, yet also infinitely greater, than any which flows from the successes or conquests or transitory distinctions won in the mere sordid struggles of the world.

The interment took place at the Western Cemetry. Amongst the great numbers of people present were the following:—

Archbishop Espinosa, Bishop Cagliari Bishop Alberti, the parish priests of San Miguel, Barracas, Banfield, San Carlos, Fathers John Joseph and Martin, C. P.. Fr. Elyaurdi, Sec. of the Archbishopric, Frs. Etchvertz, D. Rodriguez, J. Imaz, Canon Lourtet, Fr. Vespignani, Provincial of the Salesian Frs. Dr. O'Farrell, Mr. Thomas Duggan Miss C. Royes, Dr. and Mrs. Gannon, the Salesian nuns and the boarders of the Salesian Convent, also the Boys of the San Carlos School. Here follows a list of names too numerous to insert.



J. B. FRANCESIA Sac. — *Brevis narratio de Joanne Bosco Sacerdote Taurinensi, S. Benigni in Salassis.*

This is a short life of Don Bosco, written in classical Latin by Professor Francesia. It is needless to dwell on the literary merit of the

work, for the very name of the author is a guarantee of its excellence. His other productions, such as the Latin plays — *De S. Aurelio Augustino* — *Ephesus* — *Leo I* — *Leo III* etc., have evoked the highest commendations for purity of diction and elegance of style, from the most competent judges, such as Mauro Ricci and the Holy Father.

The present work, like his *Epitome Historiae Ecclesiasticae*, is intended to supply first Latin classes in Schools and Seminaries with reading books, excellent both for matter and literary form.



### TO THE READER.

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

The Very Rev. MICHAEL RUA.

Salesian Oratory,—Turin, Italy.

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## The Salesian Bulletin

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

PERMISSU SUPERIORUM.

Gerent, GIUSEPPE GAMBINO.—Salesian Press.—Turin, 1901.

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## WHAT IS THE SALESIAN SOCIETY?

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The Salesian Society of Turin is a Congregation of Priests and Lay Brothers founded by Don Bosco for the care and education of destitute children in all parts of the world, and the propagation of the Gospel among heathen nations.

Its Colleges and Industrial Schools are established in almost every country of Europe, in Algeria, Palestine, Mexico, and all over the vast Continent of South America.

Its Missionary Priests are to be found preaching the Gospel in all those countries, especially in Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego, and the unreclaimed portions of the American Republics.

The whole Institution depends for its support upon the Alms of the Charitable.

In connection with the Salesian Congregation is the

### ASSOCIATION OF SALESIAN CO-OPERATORS,

a canonically-erected Society, also founded by Don Bosco to help in maintaining and furthering the Salesian Institutes and Missions.

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The conditions of Membership are very simple:

- (a) To profess the Catholic Religion, and be, at least, 16 years of age.
- (b) Be inscribed on the Register of the Association, kept at the Salesian Oratory, Turin.
- (c) Recite daily a Patèr and Ave in honour of St. Francis of Sales, for the intention of the Sovereign Pontiff; and lead a practical Christian life.

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