

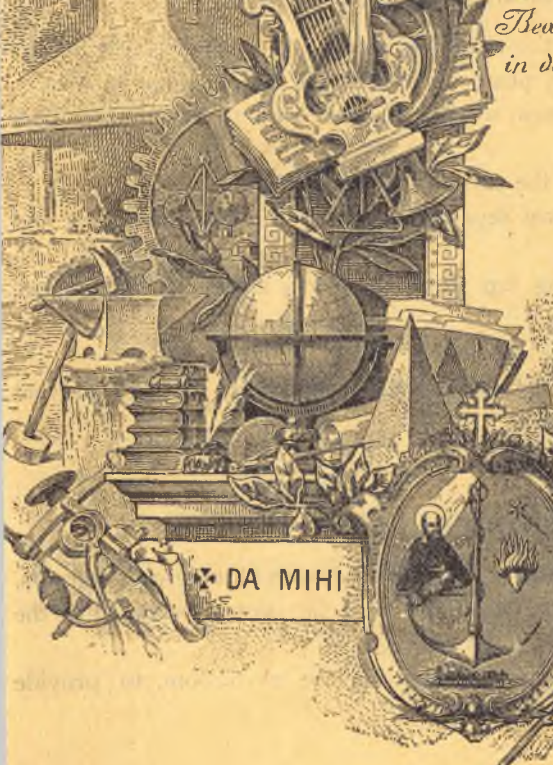
# Salesian Bulletin

No. 36 - DECEMBER - 1905

♣ Vol. IV. ♣

*Beatus qui intelligit super egenum et pauperem:  
in die mala liberabit eum Dominus. [Ps. XL.]*

*Sanctus Dominus*



✠ DA MIHI



ANIMAS CÆTERA TOLLE





# To All Co-operators and Readers.

## Sacred Heart Schools, Battersea, London, S. W.

*The above are the parish schools attached to the mission directed by the Salesians at Battersea, London—quite distinct from the Salesian Schools with which readers are familiar. In common with other Non-Provided Schools, they have been found to be seriously defective in the survey ordered by the London County Council, on its taking over the Schools. This authority has accordingly given formal notice, that within a certain time, specified alterations and improvements must be carried out, if the schools are to be considered suitable for the purpose of elementary education.*

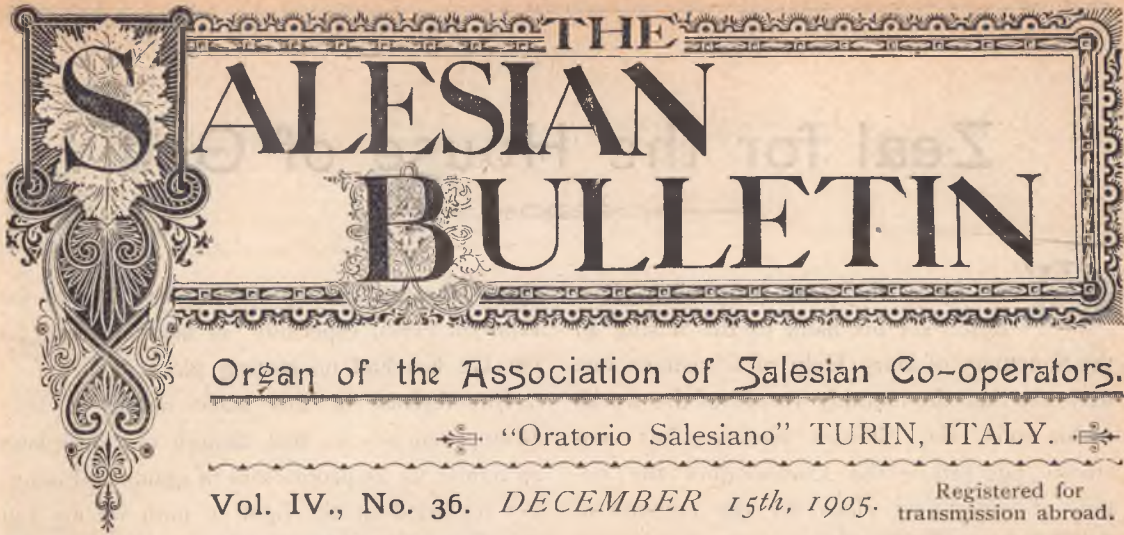
*At the cost of great outlay, the managers had, only during the present year, been compelled to enlarge the boys' and infants' departments; but a much larger outlay will be entailed in the carrying out of the alterations and repairs required by the Education Authority, an outlay estimated roughly at £1200. These requirements are officially stated as follows:—*

### Boys' department.

- I. To increase the size of the skylights in the small classroom, to fix the electric fittings in a more permanent manner, or to provide gas pendants fitted with incandescent burners.
- II. To renovate the old lobby, to form a new window in same and to fit up three tiers of rails and pegs on the walls.
- III. To provide a range of two basins for the lavatory accommodation.
- IV. To fence off the playground and to form separate entrances for boys and girls and infants.
- V. To provide in the playground a drinking tap with slate back, zinc cups and basin, and to lay on water from the main service-pipe.
- VI. To put a vent space at the back of the offices.
- VII. To carry the vent from the drain up the gable walls sufficiently high to prevent any possibility of drain air entering the windows.
- VIII. To put an automatic-flush to the urinal.

### Girls' department.

- IX. To provide additional two arm gas pendants, and to fit all with incandescent burners.
- X. To remove the lavatory and cupboard to mezzanine floor (at present occupied by the water-closets), and to provide a range of three lavatory basins.
- XI. To take down and to clean the two lavatory basins in the cloakroom, to provide new fittings and waste for same and to re-use for boys.



# THE SALESIAN BULLETIN

Organ of the Association of Salesian Co-operators.

“Oratorio Salesiano” TURIN, ITALY.

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## OUR BEST WISHES



Amid the throng of well-wishers, dear Co-operators, who may press around in the Christmas season, amid those who would desire for your families and for your interests the loving and special regard of heaven, there is one who would not willingly miss the occasion of presenting his assurances of esteem and gratitude.

Our Superior General, the head of the Association of Salesian Co-operators, sends to every member his most cordial good wishes for Christmas and the New Year. It is a message from all those whom you have aided both far and near, from the little ones of both sexes of your own nation whom you have helped to provide for, from the children of the forest and plain to whom you have been the means of giving both christianity and civilization.

At a time when the utter helplessness of the Divine Infant appeals to every heart, do not forget, dear Co-operators, that we are surrounded by thousands of little ones, for whom your charity should help to provide a manger—a home, that is, and the necessities of life.

The pleasures of the Christmas festival will be the more real, and its joys the more lasting, if accompanied by the thought, that we have done something to enable others to partake in the time-honoured and world-wide Christmas rejoicings.



# Zeal for the House of God

**VER** since the year 1865 when Don Bosco set his hand to the raising of the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians, one may say that the monthly record of the works of his sons, the *Salesian Bulletin*, has constantly put before the Co-operators the details of some new plans for the erection of Sanctuaries and Churches.

But coming to their notice one after another, and in reference to places as diverse as are the ends of the earth, it is barely possible that even assiduous readers would realise that the number of Salesian Churches actually in course of erection at present is over twenty—twenty-five to be exact.

The Co-operators of course are the main supporters of these extensive and laborious undertakings. But few there are who regard these projects in their true light. Almighty God, though creator of heaven and earth, and as such Lord and Master of all things, is content nevertheless with a few spots here and there, chosen at will by man, and after certain preliminary rites of purification and consecration they become His habitations. He fills them with His infinite majesty. They are the refuges offered to Our Lord on earth, the places in which he makes good His promise of remaining in our midst, new fountains of spiritual life, schools of christian virtue, centres for the dispensation of His gifts in the ministration of the Sacraments.

The inhabitants of Bethlehem made no preparation for the reception of the God made man. It is true they could plead ignorance which we cannot; and yet He deigned to be born in their city. How lovingly then will He take possession of these Sanctuaries and bless

those who are busy preparing new homes for Him on earth, especially in lands wherein as yet He has had no resting place.

In reference to this same matter a holy Bishop reminds us that though our own laws recognise us as proprietors of goods and lands, yet regarded in the light of faith we are but the stewards of the Lord and He does but claim His own, for the Father has said: *I will give thee the utmost parts of the earth for thy possession* (1). We should therefore be ever ready to give back somewhat of the share He has bestowed upon us.

We often dwell upon the happiness of those who were privileged to receive Our Divine Lord into their houses while He stayed on earth: we would fain have been a companion in His wanderings and witness the wonders He wrought. But what will that signify if by our generous charity we can say: "Our Lord is here in his tabernacle; once He was not here, He had here no home or habitation, but I helped to provide one for him."

You can realise this in your own case, dear Co-operators, by listening to the appeal made by the Very Rev. Don Rua, our Superior General, addressing you in his circular letter of the present year. Among the four great objects that he urgently recommends to you is just this one the completion of the new churches which have been commenced in various centres, that were badly in need of them.

\* \* \*

But where are these buildings mentioned in the above paragraphs? They are in many countries and many parts of the world. Though

(1) Psalm II. 8.



hardly the most important in the light of structural proportions, we may well give the first place to our own in **LONDON** that of *St. Mary Magdalen* at **WANDSWORTH**. The foundation stone was laid on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, and the month of Our Lady 1906 may possibly see it opened for public worship.

Crossing the channel to the continent we find the French Salesians in **GUERNESEY** directing two parishes in the island, only one of which is provided with a church, while the other must be content with a temporary chapel.

In **Italy** at **MILAN** the church of *St. Augustine* is being built, attached to the Salesian Institute of that name. At **FLORENCE** under the auspices of His Eminence Cardinal Svampa, the Church of the Holy Family is being completed. At Testaccio in **ROME** a church in course of erection has been confided to us by the Holy Father. *The Church of the Sacred Heart* at **BOLOGNA** is also nearing completion.

In **Switzerland** a new Church, dedicated to *Our Lady Help of Christians*, is about to be opened at **ZURICH**. In **Austro-Hungary**, under the direction of the same architect three churches are in course of erection, one at **LUBIANA**, one at **OŚWIĘCIM** and one at **Daszawa**, the two former being dedicated to Our Lady Help of Christians.

In **Spain** first and foremost is the monumental Sanctuary of the Sacred Heart on Mt. *Tibi Dabo* in the suburbs of **BARCELONA**. Every effort is being made to have a part of it ready for opening next June, as a commemoration of the twenty-fifth year of the Salesian Institutions in Spain. **MADRID** and **SAN-**

**TANDER** in the same country are both providing new churches dedicated to Our Lady Help of Christians.

In **South America**, in the province of **Brazil** two churches are nearing completion both under the title of our heavenly patroness, one close to **PERNAMBUCO** and the other the famous



New Church attached to the Salesian Institute at Milan.

sanctuary at **NICTHEROY**. In the **Argentine Republic** we find a new church to St. Charles at **BUENOS AYRES**, another at **BAHIA BLANCA**, and the church of Our Lady Help of Christians at **VIEDMA** in Patagonia. In aid of this church, whose foundation was laid by Mgr. Cagliero in 1903, a grand bazaar was held last September to which presents were sent by His Holiness the Pope, by Cardinal Merry del Val and by Cardinal Rampolla, protector of

our society. In the pampas of Patagonia a church is being built and dedicated to our Lady Help of Christians. In Peru, two other churches are being erected under the same patronage one at AREQUIPA and one at LIMA. Two others also dedicated to the Help of Christians are being built In Ecuador, at QUITO and RIOBAMBA. In Colombia, notwithstanding civil wars and the sacrifices for the leper colonies the walls of a new sanctuary are rising at MOSQUERA and at BARRANQUILLA. Both of these are dedicated to Our Lady Help of Christians. CARACAS In Venezuela and the

district of St. JULIA in Mexico are both providing new churches and under the same dedication.

This list, long though it seems, is exclusive of some ten or fifteen chapels and sanctuaries being built in connexion with Institutes in other parts. Many of these churches have already entailed heavy expenses and much sacrifice, and our Co-operators are urged, especially at this Christmas season, to lend their aid in the furtherance of these good works, which have been commenced through their means and with their support.



## To harbour the harbourless. The Orphan children of Calabria



**T**HE cry of distress from stricken Calabria made itself so universally heard, that it is not surprising that all parts of Italy should have been roused to one combined effort on behalf of their unfortunate compatriots. We have already seen that Our Superior General, at the first receipt of the news, arranged for many of the most destitute boys to be provided for in the Salesian Houses of different districts; but when the widespread nature of the calamity, and the large numbers involved in the total wreck came home, to all, his fatherly heart could not stop there.

The first one that he sent down to arrange matters on the spot wrote soon afterwards saying: "I have visited many districts within the region of the disaster, and lamentable though the condition of the people is at present, I may say that as far as I can judge, even before the calamity, no place ever stood more in need of an Institute for boys and girls. A Salesian House would be a blessing."

As a matter of fact Don Rua had long thought of doing something for the little ones of Calabria, and a House would have been opened in September last, if the earthquake had not made the church and neighbouring buildings a heap of ruins. Yet the needs of the case made some remedy imperative. He sent several Salesian priests to the scene of action to see what could be arranged with the local committees, and their efforts soon found homes for some forty or fifty homeless children.

Thanks to the generosity of benefactors eighty boys have now been provided for. But beyond this provision of the needs of the moment, Don Rua wished to carry out his former plan of settling something permanent in the district, and an Institute will be immediately opened at Borgia. This will cope with the needs of other cases of which there are only too many, for Her Royal Highness Princess Laetitia of Savoy, writing to Don Rua, said that the ladies of her committee had not been twenty four



hours in the place before they had eighteen children already on their hands.

The boys whom the Salesian priests had decided to bring away, together with eighty-two girls in the charge of the ladies' committee of Turin, and fourteen boys under the care of another Turin committee, all left Monteleone together, in carriages supplied by the government.

The party stayed three days at Rome, where the Holy Father had arranged for them to stay at the Hospice of St. Martha for Pilgrims, and where they had every want supplied by the good Sisters of Charity. They even had an audience of the Pope, and though it was fixed for the next day at four in the afternoon, the ladies had all they could do, to get so many children ready in time. When all in order for the reception they were photographed by special permission, and His Holiness appeared immediately afterwards. He was of course received with acclamations from all sides, and spent some time passing from group to group, while he gave each child a silver medal as a souvenir.

After seeing the children The Holy Father received in special audience the ladies and gentlemen of the committee and the Salesian Priests. He spoke for a good while on the work in hand in which no one is more deeply interested than the common Father of the Faithful.

On the following day the children all left Rome for Turin. Her Royal Highness Princess Laetitia had ample refreshments prepared at the station and a great crowd welcomed the little strangers. Nearly a thousand boys were waiting for them at the Oratory. On their arrival Don Rua received them in the name of Don Bosco, rejoicing that the work was happily accomplished.

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### Indulgences for the Month of January.

The following plenary indulgences may be gained by all the Co-operators, who, having confessed and communicated, shall make a visit to a Church or public chapel, or in the

case of communities a private chapel, and pray for the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff.

1. The Circumcision, Jan. 1st.
2. The Epiphany, Jan. 6th.
3. On any one particular day chosen by the individual.
4. On the day the monthly exercise for a good death is made.

5. Wherever the Co-operators shall say five times the *Our Father*, *Hail Mary*, and *Glory be to the Father* for the welfare of Christendom, and once the same prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father they may gain the indulgences of the stations in Rome, of the Portiuncula, of Jerusalem and of St. James of Compostella; these indulgences moreover are all applicable to the Holy Souls in Purgatory and can be gained by the Co-operators as often as the prayers are said, as long as they are in the grace of God.

*The complete list of indulgences and privileges may be found in the issue of January 1905 or in the Co-operators manual. It must be remembered that the present Holy Father in granting these spiritual favours laid it down as an obligation that Co-operators should never omit their daily Our Father, Hail Mary and invocation to St. Francis of Sales.*

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### The Association of Salesian Co-operators.

It has already been notified to the Co-operators that a new edition of their manual has now gone through the press. It contains much that is new and interesting to the members of the association beyond their rules and spiritual favours and privileges; much care in arrangement and printing, new binding and illustrations have made the re-editing a costly matter, especially when large numbers have to be supplied.

Members who are sending in their offering to the Society should enclose a small sum to cover the cost of printing and postage.

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# Don Rua's Representative in America

(Extracts from his Secretary's Correspondence)

(Continued)

## Sad recollections.

**V**enezuela is specially interesting to us. We cannot forget that it is one of the countries discovered by the great Christopher Columbus, who reached its shores on the 1st August 1498, during his third voyage. But for the sons of Don Bosco there is an additional attraction. In one of the pleasant villages which surround the chief port of Venezuela rest the mortal remains of our dear confrère, the Cleric Joseph Eterno, who, on his way to Colombia, was struck down by a mortal illness during the voyage, had barely time to land and expired a few hours later, a victim to his faithful correspondence with his vocation. Out of a number of missionaries sent out during fifteen years he was the first to die before reaching his destined post. The good Venezuelans, though sympathising in our grief took the event as a fortunate sign saying the good seed had been sown in their land. And this was indeed the result, owing to the zeal and activity of several ecclesiastics, now occupying the chief posts in the archdiocese. The funeral was celebrated with great solemnity; the archdeacon of the Cathedral, Dr Arteaga came from the capital and several parish priests from the neighbouring towns; they paid all the funeral expenses, thus showing their esteem for the Salesians who as yet were almost strangers. When later we were ascending towards Caracas in the train, we could scarcely turn our eyes away from the hospital of Maiquetia which received our good confrère's last sigh, and from the cemetery where he lies.

## The revolution in Venezuela.

The inhabitants of Venezuela scarcely exceed two and a half millions, scattered over an area of more than 500,000 square miles towards the north of South America; though situated in the torrid zone it enjoys a varied climate, so that the North is given up to agriculture, the centre to pasturage, while in the South dense woods and virgin forests abound.

If it were not matter of history, one could scarcely believe that we found even Venezuela in a state of revolution, the country devastated by a fratricidal war. On leaving Colombia, to save useless journeys, we had taken our tickets to *Porto Cabello*, intending to continue our way by train as far as our house at Valencia and from there to Caracas; then to sail from the fort of Guayra to visit the Institute of S. Raphael at Maracaibo, stopping on the way at the island of Curaçoa, where some of our brethren reside. But we were not aware that the trains were liable to be attacked and stopped by the revolutionists, not indeed for the sake of injuring the passengers, but in order to procure food, appropriating whatever they could find. So, having reached *Porto Cabello* we were obliged to change our plans and proceed to Guayra; but what difficulties we experienced in obtaining the necessary permissions to descend, buy our tickets and telegraph to our brethren giving them notice of our change of route!

## At Caracas.

On the 16th November we reached Guayra; we spent the night at an hotel and the next morning took our seats in the train which, puffing and whistling, went on its zig-zag route. In many places the view was magnificent.

In less than four hours we were at Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, containing about 80,000 inhabitants. It is situated on a height crowned with its white towers and lowly cottages, contrasting with the verdure of the numerous trees which surround it, a sign of the perpetual spring-tide it enjoys, a spring somewhat warm it is true. To Europeans accustomed to the changes of the seasons and the varying length of the day, the sameness and monotony is somewhat wearisome.

Before reaching Caracas Dr. Arteaga, director of the Salesian Co-operators, with a number of youths from the School, came to meet us. At the station we found many of the Co-operators ready to welcome us; whilst at the School two



hundred boys awaited Fr. Albera, whose arrival was greeted by the singing of the National Anthem, followed by our own Royal March. In a most successful accademical display the boarders manifested their appreciation of Fr. Albera's visit, and the Co-operators showed their sincere attachment to the work of Don Bosco. Even in this time of revolution much has been done: a wing of the House capable of accommodating one hundred boarders, has been constructed, and the adjoining Church, an elegant edifice, to supply the needs of the locality, successfully completed. Our brethren have many other useful works in view, which they will, doubtless, be able to carry out when, at the restoration of peace, the national industries and commerce attain their full development.

#### At Valencia.

On the 21st November we were on our way to Valencia, a journey of seven hours by train. Fr. Foglino, Superior of those houses, who accompanied us, showed us the place where during his last journey the train was stopped to avoid a possible disaster. Valencia was rejoicing at the advent of the Salesian Visitor; many carriages followed that of Fr. Albera and the Co-operators were present in force. The Church, in which the *Te Deum* was sung, was crammed. This demonstration of affection was repeated in the occasion of the Academy given in honour of Don Rua's representative. Nearly the whole of the clergy including the canons, the Rector of the Seminary, the parish priests, etc., surrounded Fr. Albera in a fraternal feast which they themselves, one might say, had prepared in the Salesian house. This was the first time we had assisted at a meeting of the clergy alone and it gave Fr. Albera the best hopes for the foundation, hitherto paralysed in its development by the war.

In addition to the charge of the College the Salesians assist the parish priest P. Atocha, a true friend to the Sons of Don Bosco, visit the sick in the adjacent hospital, attend to the spiritual wants of various religious Communities and sometimes go out to give Missions. They hope soon to finish the building of their little Church. May the blessing of God descend upon

these our brethren and the pious desires of the Co-operators!

At Valencia, notwithstanding the suffocating heat, Fr. Albera's days were fully occupied in speaking to each of the Community in private, in receiving and paying visits and in advising many. A good priest owing to interior trials, had not dared to approach the altar for more than six months; all the means employed had been unsuccessful; nothing could shake his conviction of unworthiness and in the meantime his health was failing. This consolation was reserved by Divine Providence for Fr. Albera; after many private conferences, on the



School of Arts and Trades at Caracas (Venezuela).

26th November with great joy he assisted at the altar this priest, who knew not how to express his gratitude and who seemed unable to tear himself away from the one who had restored peace to his heart. Even now he writes still testifying his gratitude.

#### From Maracaibo to S. Raphael.

On account of the revolution we were unable to go from Valencia to Porto Cabello, but were obliged to lengthen the journey, returning to Caracas and from there to Guayra, in order to take the first steamer touching at Maracaibo. In less than one day, we crossed to this the second city of the Republic in importance and population. The Capuchin and Augustinian Fathers were most hospitable; so far we have no establishment there, though several offers have been made to us; the small school, just begun, is in the neighbourhood at S. Raphael, the route thither being by the waters of Lake Maracaibo. There are no steamers and the



length of the voyage depends upon the wind ; many times vessels have to stop half-way. We had a contrary experience; we started about nine o'clock at night and a violent wind was the occasion of a bad fall to a good Capuchin lay-brother, Fr. Albera having just time to catch hold of his habit, and the boat tilted so much that we feared it would fill with water. Lying at the bottom of the boat the odour was unbearable, for how many times had it not been filled with fish ! however being tired, I fell asleep ; not so Fr. Albera, who without a rug, suffered from the cold and the rocking of the boat, so that the next morning he told me, he had spent one of his worst nights and we had some very bad ones.

With equal joy and surprise we saw coming to meet us our brethren of S. Raphael and the forty boys of their school ; the clergy and the Co-operators soon surrounded us. Here all is very poor, recalling the beginnings of Don Bosco's work ; we admired the spirit of self-sacrifice shown by our brethren, regretting that the position of the village gives little hope of a further development of this foundation.

On our return we were accompanied by our Father Soleri, appointed to preach, and spend the Feast of the Immaculate Conception at the Fort of St Charles and the neighbouring village. On leaving our boat we admired the construction of this the principal fortification of Venezuela, where several hundreds of political prisoners were detained, little thinking how soon it would be destroyed.

#### From Venezuela to Mexico.

Early the next morning we landed for the third time at Curaçao where the steamer fortunately remained nearly two days, instead of only a few hours, thus giving Fr. Albera time to speak to his brethren, to accept an invitation to dine with the Bishop, an illustrious son of St. Dominic, and to visit the parish priest *Pastor Frie* who is also a Dutch Dominican. He is much devoted to the Salesians ; at his request they took charge of the fine institute of Arts and Trades, situated outside the city, always full of boys, employed in six or seven workshops. Fr. Albera found them well advanced, docile, pious and fond of their Superiors, giving good promise for the future of the institute.

We were aware that Curaçao, a Dutch possession, on account of its proximity to Venezuela, was naturally a place of refuge for the rebels ; so we were surprised to see a fine large building, capable of accommodating several hundred boarders, as well regulated as the best

European Seminaries, owing to the care of Mgr. Silva, Bishop of Venezuela. May Our Lord grant that it be always filled with good and holy clerical students.

Curaçao, with the Surrounding islands, forms the principal Dutch colony. The capital Willemsstadt is beautiful, reproducing the Dutch characteristics in the regularity and cleanliness of the streets ; the white houses are built in a style new to us, but pleasing. A bridge of boats is floating on the inlet of the sea, which extends to the centre of the town ; it opens to allow steamers to pass ; we crossed it, paying ten centimes, to reach the old town on the opposite shore. On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception the good Dominican Fathers joined us at table and when dinner was over, hearing that the *Philadelphia*, was whistling, we made our way to the harbour.

#### Once more at Guayra.

##### Danger of a blockade — Departure.

The following day at six o'clock we were once more at Guayra, but for three hours it was impossible to land ; we feared that we might not even be able to see our brethren, or get our luggage, though our names had been telegraphed to the President at Caracas ; happily, however, after an anxious time, we received permission to land. Meanwhile we could speak of only one subject ; every telescope was directed to the warships stationed in these waters ; these were German and English and we also recognized our own Cruiser the *Bausan*. It was said that on the previous evening an *ultimatum* had been sent to the Venezuelan Government ; the reasons for which are well known. The continual revolutions in Venezuela were the occasion not only of personal danger to the foreign inhabitants but caused also serious injury to the trade and commercial interests principally of the numerous Germans, English, Italians and French, who suffered great losses chiefly in the late revolution of 1898, lasting three years and ending with the victory of General Castro. The various countries presented their claims for the indemnification of their subjects and in general were content to wait, knowing the state to which the Republic's finances had been reduced by the long and fierce struggle. Germany, however, was not of the same mind, more especially as some of the answers from the Venezuelan Government did not please her ; hence the *ultimatum*. It was said that the revolutionary vessel *Libertador*, carrying soldiers and ammunition sailed from London, and the Venezuelans retaliated by damaging the property



of several Englishmen, owners of some of the railway lines in the country; for this reason England joined Germany. Italy, fearing for her own interests, associated herself with them. The Ministers of these three nations with the diplomatic staff had already embarked in their respective war ships. The Italian Minister, Riva, had promised to preside at the Distribution of Prizes at our School, but this did not take place soon enough. A few hours before we landed, the first shots from the enemies' guns were heard; at Caracas many German subjects were arrested; all the foreign houses of business were closed, the streets were filled with excited people, meetings succeeded each other throughout the day and night and we certainly could not rest quietly knowing that an exasperated mob is sure to be unreasonable. From the Royal Mail office we had taken tickets for Trinità and from there to Jamaica; but the enemies' ships anchored outside the harbour would not allow it to enter; we decided therefore to take a French vessel although this would prolong the journey obliging us to stop again at Colon and from there proceed to Jamaica; but this vessel also was forbidden to receive passengers and was only allowed to land those who had tickets for Guayra. So the days passed and things went from bad to worse. The fortress of Porto Cabello was bombarded and later on that of S. Carlos di Maracaibo was destroyed. On account of their country's imminent peril, the political prisoners had fortunately all been previously released.

We had been a month in Venezuela and Fr. Albera had finished his visitation. If we were caught in the blockade what would happen to us and when should we get free? It was decided therefore that we should go to Guayra and wait in the house of the parish priest, Dr Armand Luronyet, for the next vessel sailing for any port. On the second day of the Christmas Novena the Infant Jesus came to our rescue and with passports and letters of recommendation we embarked on the Spanish Mail steamer the *Montserrat*, which sailed on the 11th flying from the blockade which overtook so many others.

#### In quarantine.

We were travelling at hazard, or rather in a contrary direction to that we wished to take, but thus we escaped the blockade, our sole object in this extremity. The steamer was going direct to the Island of *Porto Rico*, one of the Greater Antilles, renowned in Europe for its delicious coffee, and until lately one of the possessions of Spain; but after the war of 1898

it was ceded it to the United States, as a war indemnity. At the first port the North American official came on board and we underwent a searching sanitary inspection; at the second and chief port of the island, San Juan, we hoped to land and seek for a vessel to take us to Jamaica, but were, instead, civilly requested to go on board a small steamer and, together with our baggage, we were taken to a tiny island, in the midst of the sea, to complete our quarantine of five days, as we had come from Guayra, a port infected with yellow fever. As companions in misfortune we had our confrère Fr. Montanari, proceeding from Venezuela to Mexico, and a lady returning to New York. The island was a sweet-smelling garden, the rooms large and airy, the food satisfactory, all the more so that it was supplied *gratis*, unlike the other Republics where we had to pay fifteen francs a day during our enforced stay. In this the Americans are more logical. We thus spent the time there with less regret and had no fear that our exile would be indefinitely prolonged, as if we had been on an isolated rock, bereft of all comfort. Our baggage was carefully disinfected, but we were allowed the use of the portable altar for the daily celebration of Mass, which gave us consolation for the rest of the day. Fortunately science has discovered that if the microbes do not develop in five days, all danger is over... If in these days of progress and feverish excitement the bacilli were as slow as in former days, the Americans would not have had neither the time nor the money for such a journey!

The telephone enabled us to communicate with the town, but only to extinguish our last hopes of visiting our dear brethren in Jamaica. They had suffered so much from hurricanes, unsuitable accommodation and the climate, that Fr. Albera was anxious to console them by his presence. On receiving the first news of the proposed visit, these confrères sent such an enthusiastic reply, that on reading again their letter we realized the bitterness of their disappointment.

#### At Porto Rico — The journey to Jamaica given up — A Sad Christmas!

So after ten long days spent in an hotel facing the sea, we had to telegraph to Jamaica that we were unable to keep our promise, and to our confrères in Mexico, that we should arrive before the time fixed. Waiting is always tedious, still more so for religious in an hotel, after quarantine, with Fr. Albera scarcely able to take any food; added to this it was Christmas tide, usually spent amongst domestic hearths;



and here it was all we could do to bear the suffocating heat. So passed the ten days at Porto Rico; our one alleviation was to visit the Church of the Lazarist Fathers and say Mass there. At night sleep being impossible from the heat, we watched the manœuvres and flashlights of the American Squadron, anchored off the port at this time. The admiral, on landing, had a grand reception, the spacious harbour was thronged not only with the civil authorities but with the children from the schools, even the tiny ones in charge of the Sisters of Charity. The crowd

out towards the steamer. The meeting with the Bishop of the diocese was a touching spectacle, but the procession to the nearest church, where they were to vest for the solemn entrance into the Cathedral, was greatly impeded by the enthusiastic crowds assembled to welcome the Pope's representative. We were not present at the whole of the service; we had caught sight of certain clerics and Sisters whose habits resembled those of Don Bosco's Institute and we were anxious to make sure we were not mistaken. Entering the first little boat we went on board



The port of La Guayra (Venezuela).

was enormous, the weather brilliant and we enjoyed it all, with the help of glasses, from our balcony.

The presence of the Squadron, however, deprived us of a greater privilege; the sailors who had landed in orderly ranks found the return more difficult. It was the first time I had perceived that too much beer drinking had a worse effect than excess in the consumption of wine: so we were unable to assist at the Midnight service, the Bishop having wisely forbidden it.

#### A happy meeting on the vessel "Leo XIII."

On the 27th we received notice that the Spanish Steamer "Leo XIII." was bringing Mgr. Chapelle, Visitor Apostolic of this island. Almost all the clergy, to whom timely notice had been sent, were assembled to meet him; large crowds lined the shore; the bells rang a joyous peal and many little boats, gaily decorated, rowed

and found about thirty of our brethren, sent to increase the number of missionaries in Mexico, Ecuador and Central America and several Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. Words fail me to describe our feelings at that moment; when one has been many years absent from a beloved country, passing through many dangers in inhospitable regions, the meeting with a compatriot, whoever he be, gives great pleasure and at once one is on friendly terms. Imagine then the joy of meeting brethren educated in the same school, travelling on this vessel for the same object, that of spreading the kingdom of Christ! These dear Missionaries, in the flower of their youth, had left their country and all they held most dear, just when a promising future lay before them. Seeing Fr. Albera so suffering and wasted with the fatigues of travelling they surrounded him with greater demonstrations of affection. One of them, calling me aside, said "Do you think our Superior can possibly con-



tinue his journey in such a state?" Our trust was not in any human help, but solely in God. Doubtless for this reason, Providence had arranged that we should not find any means of transport to Jamaica, where we should have had to bear a still higher temperature and, once there, we should have been forced to return again to Colon and Panama, unhealthy spots, and to reach Central America in the fiercest summer heats, most trying to any one used to other climes.

#### Pious celebration on the high seas.

The steamer "Leon XIII." remained only twenty-four hours and we left in it for Cuba with all our brethren. These four days were spent in pleasant conversations and recollections recounting our various adventures. Fr. Albera was much gratified by the excellent report of the Delegate Apostolic, Mgr. Chapelle, who praised greatly the behaviour of our brethren on board.

For three days the ship had pursued its way and the new year of grace 1903 was only a few hours old when powerful glasses descried land on the horizon; at Cuba we were to part with several confrères who would continue their journey *via* Colon, those only remaining with us who were travelling to Vera Cruz. One of them had been unable to make his religious profession before leaving Italy; but he had the necessary papers with him and, as soon as he saw Fr. Albera, begged him to grant this favour. Fr. Albera consented. After renewing the fervour of the retreat previously made, there in the Sea of the Antilles, near the island where three years previously a cruel war had made so many victims, our confrère offered himself as an agreeable sacrifice to God. We should never have expected such a consoling function in these circumstances. But God arranges all things for the best.

#### At Havana.

The peace concluded on the 21st August 1898 between Spain and the United States rendered Cuba independent of Spain, who renounced her dominion over the island. Later on the United States constituted it a free Republic, on condition that the Cubans should not make a treaty with any other power that might interfere with its independence and should concede to the United States the right of intervention and that of establishing naval stations.

In this magnificent harbour our vessel stopped three days and we were allowed to land several times. Cuba is nearly half the size of Italy, but it numbers less than two million inhabitants. Havana, the Capital has a population of 300,000; it is traversed in all directions by electric tramways which take you from one end to the other

at a small cost. Public gardens have been placed here and there. The city quite surpassed our expectations. We visited several religious houses, amongst others that of the Lazarist Fathers who received us most kindly and were loud in the praises of the good dispositions of the Cubans. The following day on the *Ciudad de Cadiz* where we had transferred ourselves, the President of the Conference of St Vincent of Paul came to see Fr. Albera, imploring him to found a house of Arts and Trades in the Capital, saying that all was ready. Fr. Albera expressed his regret, but he could only hold out hopes for the future, assuring him that not good-will, but the subjects, were wanting.

#### On board the "Ciudad de Cadiz" — A painful Sacrifice before landing in Mexico.

The "*Ciudad de Cadiz*" is a steamer belonging to the same Transatlantic Company, but of an older type and wanting in the conveniences and cleanliness of the "Leo XIII."; still it is a good ship and proved itself such in our stormy passage. On the Feast of the Epiphany we rose with the hope of being able to say Mass; the Chaplain of the vessel, perceiving this, told us that the Captain had sent word we must not think of it; nevertheless, hoping against hope, we flattered ourselves we might be able to say Mass in private and so remained fasting until 11.30 a. m. but it was useless. It was the first time in twenty-nine months that we had not offered the Holy Sacrifice on a Feast! What a melancholy day it was, in which we felt that something was wanting!

The next morning, before sighting Vera Cruz, we had said Mass and immediately after, we had to make a great sacrifice. In England, the United States and other Protestant countries, the clerical soutane is not respected and we were advised to change ours in order to avoid possible inconvenience, the population not being used to the costume; in Mexico it is expressly prohibited under severe penalties by the law, not to priests, but to religious of both sexes, so that even the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians had to leave off the distinctive garb of their Institute. We had also to change our cherished habit, for the first time in our journey. Even when the great heat made it advisable to wear white we had refrained from doing so; but here, for the medical inspection, we had to put on the old man. We looked at one another with a feeling of pity; but the sight of the Superior of our Mexican houses, and other confrères who had come to meet us, made us forget everything else; we had been travelling for twenty-two days to enjoy the pleasure of seeing them.





## Patagonia after the conquest

The labours of Mgr. Cagliero and of the Salesians in Northern and Central Patagonia.

### II.

After the geographical notes previously given, one may ask: what have the Salesians, under the guidance of Mgr. Cagliero, accomplished?

To this question I will now reply.

The years between 1879 and 1888 were spent in missionary journeys through the country committed to their care along the principal routes, at one time following the course of the greater rivers, at another traversing the valleys, the hills and the mountains. Here they halted to visit the *toldos* of the poor Indians or the farm settlements of the civilized inhabitants; there, to minister to the colonists already establishing themselves in various parts.

This was the period of long journeys, of great sacrifices and of generous efforts to prepare the ground and arrange the scheme of evangelization.

This period lasted ten years, during which only two foundations were made, that of Patagonia opened in 1879, and that of Viedma the following year.

Having explored the country and selected the centres where Missionary houses might be established, the second period, that of the foundations began; it lasted from 1888 to 1892 and witnessed the opening of the houses of *Chos-Malal*, Neuquen (1888); *Pringles* (1889), *Rocas* (1889), *Conesa* (1891), in the Territory of Rio Negro; *Rawson* (1892) in Chubut; and *Bahia Blanca* in 1890 in the Southern part of the Province of Buenos Ayres.

Then followed three years of fresh explorations in the neighbourhood of inhabited regions,

extending our labours at the same time to a new Territory, that of the Pampas.

After these journeys, during which were brought to light fresh wants both of the natives and of the colonists increasing daily in the new territories, another period of foundations began, lasting from 1895 to 1897.

At this time were established the houses of *Fortin Mercedes* (1895) in Rio Colorado; of *Junin de los Andes* (1895) on the *Chimehuin* of Neuquen; of *General Acha* and *Santa Rosa* (1896) in the same territory. In *Bahia Blanca* two new houses were founded in 1895.

From that time to the present (1904) the foundations have ceased, but not the apostolic journeys through the desert, or the newly inhabited regions. Undoubtedly, these last demand resident Missionaries, so that these new settlements may enjoy the benefits of religion.

All this, however, relates to the North, from *Chubut* to the *Pampas*; for in the South the periods were different, though the work was conducted on similar lines.

In 1895 the first mission of *Santa Cruz* was founded, in the Colony of that name, situated at the mouth of the river Santa Cruz; in 1887 that of *Punta Arenas* in the Straits of Magellan, through which fresh Missionaries soon passed on their way to found the Mission of *St. Raphael* (1889) at *Bahia Harris*, in the centre of the Southern coast of the wooded and mountainous Dawson Island.

At the same time the Missionaries, passing through the eastern outlet of the Straits of Magellan, went to establish themselves at Port Stanley, in the *Falkland Islands* (1888).

The Fuegian Indians in their turn made a touching appeal for their share in the blessing of Redemption, and for this purpose it was necessary to re-cross the Straits, penetrate into their frozen regions and lay the foundations of a large Mission on the left shore of the mouth of the River *Jorr-Chaurshiquen*, called Rio Grande. Here was established the Mission of *Candelaria*, which in 1895 was moved two leagues further North and one mile to the South of *Cape Sunday* or *Domingo*.

As the population continued to increase even in these cold regions, it was necessary to found the new residence of *Buon Pastor* (1898) at the



eastern extremity of Dawson Island, and that of Port *Porvenir* (1898) in the Bay of the, same name on the Southern coast of the Straits, thirty-six miles to the S. W. of Punta Arenas.

Their first foundations in this Southern portion, of which Mgr. Fagnano now has the charge, were due to Mgr. Cagliari's exertions, and the later ones were undertaken by his advice.

Thus, amidst Missionary journeys in the sparsely inhabited regions, and the laying of solid foundations in the more populous centres, twenty-five years rolled by, a *quarter of a century* remarkable not only in the Salesian Annals, but also in the history of all these nations who, by the Sons of Don Bosco, have been won to religion and civilization.

#### Missionary plans — Numerous difficulties.

Having traced the chronological outlines of missionary progress, we must now enter into some details.

I have already related how Patagonia was peopled and how the first savage inhabitants lost their dominion; now I must give some idea of the state of religion and civilization amongst the few colonists, living in constant fear in the midst of the native tribes.

To speak accurately there was no real provision for religious worship. Even in the more populous centres, Patagones and Viedma, there was only a wretched chapel, more like a hut than a church. The chaplains were sent thither from Buenos Ayres, and none of them remained more than two or three years, the chaplaincy often remaining vacant for the same space of time. As these countries were looked upon as a land of exile and soldiers' quarters, those who had to resign themselves to this Mission were certainly not the most eminent ecclesiastics. Our first Missionaries still remember many of these chaplains who, with few exceptions, were not distinguished for their apostolic zeal, nor did they apply themselves diligently to understand the moral and religious needs of the people. Besides these two, no other Catholic chaplaincies existed either in the North, the South, the East, or the West of Patagonia. It was only in 1888 that there was a slight improvement at *Bahia Blanca* and *Rawson*. So one may say there was little good done and that very inefficiently.

Nevertheless it was of the first importance, after the conquest, to inculcate a well-disciplined Christian spirit, building Churches and teaching the elements of Christian Doctrine, to the colonists as well as to the natives.

Three objects were thus presented to the eyes of Mgr. Cagliari who, as Vicar Apostolic, had to undertake, with the means at his disposal, this fresh conquest.

A Vicariate Apostolic had been confided to him in which, one may say, absolutely nothing had been done; there were neither Churches, parishes, schools nor missionaries, and above all no pecuniary resources.

He had therefore to establish parishes and provide the more populous centres with suitable pastors; for the natives and scattered inhabitants he had to find zealous Missionaries: it was necessary also to found Colleges with a competent staff for the education of youth, homes for infants and for the aged, hospitals for the sick, in a word to develop all works of charity, of social life and of zeal, in the interests of our holy religion.

All these were necessary and Mgr Cagliari, aided by his brethren, undertook at once the Mission confided to him by the Church.

Then began the Apostolic life of boundless activity, of this founder of Catholic worship in these Southern regions.

The means at his disposal were small, one might almost say non-existent, for such an undertaking: his staff were unprepared, having no experience of the country's needs, he must himself fashion and train them for the work. But God came to his help, guiding his first steps, and Divine Providence placed in his hands the means necessary for attaining the end in view.

Having set to work, difficulties arose on all sides. The dense mists of ignorance opposed the rays of light, seeking to disperse them; the unruly passions of those who came in pursuit of wealth were aroused against the Gospel teaching; the vices fostered by avarice and licentiousness were opposed to the practice of virtue; the arrogance of those who had got the upper hand, with weapons still reeking with the blood of the poor savages, seemed to bar the way to the work of pacification; fraudulent traders, fearing detection from clear-sighted observers, invented calumnies; the deficiency of pecuniary means caused many difficulties, the mistakes due to inexperience awakened distrust and the want of efficacious support paralysed initiative.

And what shall I say of the murmurs, the lies, the insidious criticism, the infamous libels, the violence, the base calumnies poisoned with deadly hatred?

But these were not the only obstacles to the realization of the Missionaries' generous schemes; for nature itself seemed to be in league with the wicked to hinder the benevolent work of Chris-



tian civilization. How were these pathless deserts to be traversed, these swollen rivers and lofty mountains to be crossed? How could these untamed savages, who had so long been rebellious to law and order, be induced to lead a civilized life?

But nothing could change the plans or restrain the ardent charity which animated those generous Missionaries, guided, enlightened and sustained by Mgr Cagliero. Undoubtedly this was one of the most difficult works of the Vicar Apostolic.

### First undertakings — Apostolic journey — Consoling results.

But so far we have not begun to consider what the Salesians have really accomplished. This I will now relate.

The foundation of the houses of Patagones and Viedma were due to the intrepid Missionary, Mgr Fagnano, to whom the Patagonian Missions were first confided in 1879, when the Republican armies were striving to conquer the warlike tribes. He himself accompanied a brigade of the division engaged in Rio Negro, reaching the lake *Nahuel-Huapi* in time to chant the *Te Deum*, with which the victorious soldiers concluded their first campaign against barbarism.

Mgr Fagnano had to encounter all the first difficulties inseparable from the opening of new Missions.

His labours, which ended with 1885, left on the Mission a lasting impression. During these years he built the Church of Patagones and established the Chaplaincy of Viedma where, later on, a day school for boys was founded.

With him went the first Salesian Sisters or Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, who opened a school in Patagones and were of great assistance in infusing a Christian spirit into the members of their own sex.

With the arrival of Mgr. Cagliero as Vicar Apostolic, towards the middle of 1885, the Missions made fresh progress and greater efforts towards perfection.

Wishing to form an exact estimate of his Vicariate he undertook a journey on horseback towards the Cordilleras, a journey both long and fatiguing, in which he nearly lost his life by a fall at *Malal Cawallu*, at the foot of the Cordillera of Chocoy-Mahuida, thirty miles to the North East of Chos-Malal (1).

(\*) In my last scientific expedition through the southern territories, I saw this spot and I can affirm that it is one of the most dangerous and at the same time one of the most imposing grandeurs to be found in the Pre-Cordilleras.

It is a mountain over 7,500 feet high, which, detaching itself from the lofty summit of *Domingo* nearly 12,000

feet in height, turns towards the South in a direct line for fifty miles, dividing the waters of the Higher Neuquen from those of River Curileo and comes to an end at Neuquen near Chos-Malal.

But when scarcely recovered from his injuries and from the fracture of a rib, Mgr. Cagliero pursued his journey up the Higher Neuquen on the left bank, as far as the torrent Rio Varvarco (boiling water) flowing at the foot of Domuyo; then he turned to the last crossing the Neuquen and other rivers, finally reaching the gorge of Chillán through which he passed to the Chilean Republic.

Before leaving Neuquen he arranged that the Mission of *Chos-Malal* should be commenced at once and, as I have related, it was founded towards the end of 1887.

After visiting the new foundations which were being established in Chili, he embarked for the Straits of Magellan, through which he passed, visiting the Mission of Punta Arenas newly founded according to his advice by Mgr. Fagnano.

From Punta Arenas he returned to Buenos Ayres, where he waited some time for a Steamer to take him to Europe with the purpose of seeking in Italy the necessary funds and a fresh staff of Missionaries and to make known to the Holy Father the immense field of Apostolic labour then opening in Patagonia. He re-

feet in height, turns towards the South in a direct line for fifty miles, dividing the waters of the Higher Neuquen from those of River Curileo and comes to an end at Neuquen near Chos-Malal.

In the Southern portion of the chain before it declines to undulating hills, is situated a gorge through which there is a perpetual and violent wind which gives the mountain the name of *Cordillera del Vento*. — Through this gorge, all travelling westwards who wish to reach Rio Neuquen, must pass. At this point the Cordillera rises to a peak, the base of which is composed of carboniferous schist and the summit of porphyritic rock; whilst on its eastern flank there are masses of granitic basalt with bold crags and fearful precipices.

The gorge formed by the falls of the *Cudio*, does not follow a direct line east, but once past the central block of the mountain, which at this point is nearly two miles in length and a thousand metres in height, it turns to the north through reddish boulders piled up in extraordinary shapes, sometimes resembling gigantic monsters, at others mysterious caverns, where the stormy winds howl through the openings in the rocks.

A foaming torrent leaps down through the scattered crags which intercept its progress until it reaches a point where it turns abruptly to the east, to continue its course under another name. Opposite this angle, towards the North, rises a green valley between the Cordilleras and a line of hills parallel with the mountain. This valley, which is less than two miles at its widest point and nearly five in length, is called *Malal Cawallu* or *Corral (Stables) de los Caballos*.

Mgr. Cagliero, however, did not visit this valley, but following the course of the *Milla Micchy-Có* (where large quantities of gold, have been found) he reached the river Neuquen after crossing a chain of hills, full of scattered boulders and volcanic rocks which, as I said, form the western border of the *Malal Cawallu* valley. Here the river Neuquen, one hundred and forty feet in width flows between the lofty walls of Andean rock. Its current is incredibly swift, forming awe-inspiring cataracts and waterfalls. On the opposite side of the Neuquen, that is on the right bank, is seen a range of hills gradually rising for a distance of ten leagues until it joins the first chain of the Cordilleras de los Andes.



mained in Italy no longer than was absolutely necessary to collect what he most urgently needed, and he had the satisfaction of being present at the death of our beloved Father Don Bosco. He then returned to his Vicariate to make the foundations judged indispensable.

Immediately, therefore, after his arrival, he began to found churches, houses and schools: at *Pringles, Conesa, Roca* and *Bahia Blanca*, and he sent out into the wilderness a band of Missionaries, who were successful in civilizing the conquered Indians, and converting them to the Christian Faith.

and orphans who, having now come to man's estate, are competent to earn their own living.

After another journey to Europe, once more seeking additional means and workers, the Bishop was able to widen the field of Salesian activity by opening the Schools and Missions of Rawson in Chubut, the School and Church of *La Piedad* in Bahia Blanca; of Fortin Mercedes in Colorado; of Junin de los Andes in the territory of Neuquen; and the three houses of General Acha, of Santa Rosa and of Victorica in the territory of the Pampas, to which he made a long fatiguing journey.



#### Catechising the Patagonians.

(1) Fr. (now Bishop) Costamagna (2) Mgr. Espinosa (3) Ch. Luigi Botta.

#### In quest of means — A charitable Institution — New Colleges and enlargements — A Seminary.

In continual pecuniary straits and called hither and thither by his Salesian brethren in America over whom he had been appointed Vicar by Don Bosco's Successor, Mgr. Cagliero spent the next three years travelling in all directions, here giving advice for the good order of existing houses, there giving his approbation to new foundations, especially in Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil; everywhere seeking alms for his Missions and the support and protection of the authorities.

Thus, in the centre of his own Vicariate, Mgr. Cagliero had the consolation of beholding the establishment of one of the most useful institutions for any Mission, the erection of the Salesian Hospital of Viedma which has already alleviated so much suffering of mind and body. The boys' School of Viedma became a School of Arts and Trades, and was soon filled with poor children

In Viedma the buildings were of a rudimentary character, mostly constructed of mud, overthrown more than once by the wind. It was therefore necessary to erect larger and more solid buildings, to receive a greater number of children of both sexes, in their respective schools. This work of rebuilding began towards the end of 1896 with a large School for boys, an episcopal residence with its Lombard towers suitable for an Observatory and a better arrangement of the hospital and adjacent pharmacy.

In the separate grounds of the Sisters, besides the *Infant School*, a *Refuge of the Good Shepherd* was erected to receive girls who had been led astray.

In *Patagones* also improvements were made in the boys' College and in the Church where side-chapels were added; the meteorological observatory was almost entirely rebuilt and furnished with good instruments; and the Sisters' house and school also benefited by some necessary repairs.

In 1898 the Bishop started for Italy, taking with him a rich collection of natural curiosities



and native manufactures for the great Exhibition of Sacred Art in Turin of that year.

At his return he undertook a fresh expedition to the Cordilleras, traversing the region of the Pre-Cordilleras as far as Junin de los Andes, from Chos-Malal for over 300 miles to the South, returning along the *Limay* and the *Rio Negro* ending by the Pampas to Buenos Ayres.

During this journey better arrangements were made for the Missionary Residences and the parishes were marked out.

The great floods of 1899 destroyed many of the Mission houses and the newly established villages, but these misfortunes served only to stimulate the zeal of the Vicar Apostolic to labour more indefatigably in repairing them. For this end he went to Buenos Ayres, begging alms from door to door, and succeeded in interesting the authorities; and thus was able to some extent to make good the losses incurred.

A great local want now made itself felt; the lack of subjects formed on the spot awakened hopes that vocations inspired by God would be found in this land. This idea, a favourite one with the Bishop, was happily realized in the erection of the Salesian Seminary for the Missions of Patagonia a work which owes much to the labours of Fr. Bernard Vacchina, destined to produce the most consoling results for the good of the country. Besides this Institute for Clerics, a School for female religious vocations was likewise founded at Patagones. At *Choel-Choel* another parish and Mission was opened.

The inundation of 1889 had destroyed the Church of Viedma and His Lordship intended to build another; but whilst the works were in progress and the walls were already three metres above ground, he was unexpectedly raised to the dignity of Titular Archbishop of Sebaste, after which he returned to Italy.

The foundations made during the above-mentioned three last years did not remain stationary, but continued to improve and develop. For instance, that of Roca was increased by a large Agricultural School and the same may be said of Fortin Mercedes. At Bahia Blanca a magnificent College was built and chaplaincies were founded in the neighbouring villages: in Rawson a new hospital was erected and everywhere the establishments were enlarged, whilst the Missions in the wilderness were prosecuted with such vigour, that almost all the Indians were converted.

Thus passed Mgr. Cagliero's twenty years of Missionary life in Patagonia, labouring always to establish and promote the Catholic Religion in these vast regions, which to-day can exclaim proudly "*We are Christian!*"

## News from Dawson Island.

(From a letter to the Very Rev. Don Rua).

One is astonished, Dear Father, at witnessing, the change that the teachings of our Holy Faith has wrought in the poor inhabitants of this far-off land! But a few years ago, miserable savages, they wandered half naked through the woods and on the sea-shore of these islands, ignorant even of the reason of their existence. And now, what a change! Instructed a few at a time in the principal mysteries of the Catholic Faith, and regenerated in the saving waters of Baptism, they assist devoutly at Holy Mass and, on the more solemn Festivals of the year, they also approach the Holy Sacraments.

During these last years, death has been a frequent visitor, and under the shadow of the Cross in the Mission Cemetery rest the mortal remains of a Salesian, of a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians, and about *seven hundred* new Christians; but we are consoled by the thought that they died in peace, fortified with the rites of our Holy Religion.

Many of those who formerly, in their Indian life, had such a great fear of death, now, on the contrary, in their last days of their own accord ask for the Last Sacraments! And thus, we frequently behold death beds to be truly envied. A short time ago, an Indian youth of fifteen, Tobias Pane, died the death of the just. In his last hours he repeated frequently. "I am happy, I bear my sufferings with patience for the love of God," and he kissed devoutly the medals he wore round his neck and the Crucifix. One had only to speak to him of Mary Help of Christians, of our good Father, Don Bosco, and of Paradise to fill him with such joy that (seated in his bed, he smilingly raised his arms on high as if he wished to take flight! At half past six one morning, in the full possession of his senses, as one falling asleep, with a smile on his lips, he gave up his soul to his Creator. Not all, however, have such a beautiful death. Some (and they are really very few) who obstinately refused to correspond with God's grace, have by disposition, or rather by the permission, of Divine Providence, not ended their days here in the Mission. Last April we had an instance of this kind. The Indian Torquato, although he had lived here many years with us, one night fled from the Mission without leave; and after two or three days, far from his *Father's house*, in almost complete destitution, he ended his days miserably....

2 July, 1905.

PETER ROSSI, Salesian Missionary.





London. The Salesian School.

The inconvenient date at which our manuscripts had to be forwarded compelled us to hold over an interesting item, dealing with an event which occurred early last month. November 4th has come to be regarded as quite the most important day in the school-year at the provincial House at Battersea; the day on which the whole province turns to its centre and fountain-head, the feast of the patron saint of him, who, in the building up and direction of the provincial house and its dependencies, has borne the burden and heats of the day.

Each yearly gathering moreover is almost a surprise in its ever-increasing magnitude, and one wonders at the silent growth of the seed, and how deep its roots have struck. This year's assembly was notable also for the home-coming from other lands of some who had known the feast-day of yore, but not as they then saw it or perhaps ever thought of seeing it.

Such a day provides the pupils with an opportunity of expressing in the fullest terms the sentiments of gratitude, respect and affection towards Superiors, which are cultivated in every good school and which are in fact an important part of the sound training of the young.

On the eve of the feast-day the whole school took part in a homely gathering at which addresses and vocal and instrumental music were happily blended. The choruses from the choir and selections by the band were specially arranged for the occasion. At the close the Very Rev. Fr. Provincial spoke to the large gathering, and while thanking all for their good wishes and addresses, very deftly ascribed the merit of whatever had been accomplished to the devoted aid of his community, and the generosity of benefactors.

On the following day a well-appreciated entertainment was given by the students.

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But the community will, in the course of a few days, be occupied with the affairs of the parish schools, which form no insignificant part of the little world which makes up the Salesian Institute. We have in former numbers given notice of the Christmas fête which is to be held in aid of these schools. Those of our readers who may not have had the opportunity to co-operate in rendering this effort as successful as possible, need not think that it is too late. By no means. A New Year's gift is as welcome as a Christmas one, if the delay does not make it even more welcome.

\* \*

In another page, while giving the list of our churches now in course of erection, that at East Hill Wandsworth had a special place. The works have been going on apace since our last report of proceeding, and the shell of the building may now be regarded as complete. But the Rector of the parish tells us, that as the works go on apace the expenses do likewise, and he is sometimes at a loss to keep up with them. The supply of church furniture also demands additional outlay and before long this will form the principal need. The Rev. Fr. Hawarden will gladly welcome any co-operation in this direction. The thoughts suggested in the preceding pages referring to the building of churches are quite applicable here, and especially at Christmas time. The Church is almost ready for the coming of Our Divine Lord. Will you aid in making him welcome?

Berlin. A colonial Congress.

It is not often that the capital of the German Empire provides us with an interesting item concerning the works of Don Bosco, although for several years past other towns in her neighbouring empire have become enthusiastic centres of Salesian activity.



Committees at Berlin have been considering the state of the German emigrants in different parts of the world and with a view to promote their interests morally and intellectually a colonial conference was held in the capital. Knowing that the sons of Don Bosco in many lands have constantly made it a special aim to promote the interests of emigrants, the secretary to the

the missions in different lands, and discourses were held in twenty different churches. Dr. Zaffery made good use of his opportunity to give a clear exposition of our missionary work, and the local papers gave him much support by their complete and highly favourable notices. Many zealous Catholics added their names to the list of Salesian Co-operators during his stay in the German Capital.

In connexion with the missionary work, the Buenos Ayres' Educational Review contains a long report from the Government Inspector, who has recently made a tour of inspection among the educational establishments in the Southern Argentine States. After the years of laborious work our missionaries have undergone in Patagonia, it is consoling to read his words concerning their efforts on behalf of the native populations. He says: "The Institutes of Don Bosco, which in these localities have rendered incalculable benefit to Society, are also conducted quite on modern lines, and are eminently practical and intellectual in the best sense.

Above all I was particularly impressed by the superior character of the institutes directed by the nuns of Mary Help of Christians, and while in their schools I could scarcely believe that I was down in Patagonia, except for the presence of the little native Indians who displayed their juvenile efforts at sewing and handiwork and gravely responded to my questions.

If all this is not what people generally call (really) good work, and some progressives tell me it is not, I for my part must frankly confess that what I have lately seen has given me the highest possible opinion of the Institutes of Don Bosco. The School of Arts and Trades at Viedma in Patagonia, to take another example, is an excellent specimen of the methods and many sided activity of the Salesian missionaries who have worked wonders amid such a primitive people."

#### Venezuela.

Passing from one extremity of South America to the other, we find President Castro's name, which has so long been associated with internal and external strife, at last connected with the Arts of Peace. In his capital, Caracas, the Salesian Institute has long been battling with the elements of civil war, and always managed to keep onward in its successful career. The Minister of Public Instruction distributed the prizes to the students at the close of the scholastic year, and after inspecting the work of the agricultural school in connexion with the College, and which is doing a most useful work



**The statue crowned in the Church at Nizza Monferrato.**

(The Mother House of the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians).

conference invited the Salesians to take part in it. The Very Rev. Don Rua was accordingly represented by a Salesian priest, the Rev. Dr. Zaffery, who has already made successful tours in his native country, Hungary, spreading the knowledge of Don Bosco's work.

At the end of the Congress several meetings were held for the special purpose of considering



among the children of the poor, it was deemed worthy of the *Medal of honour*, which the state awards for public merit.

A few days later the Director received the medal and the accompanying diploma :

*The President of the United States of Venezuela, testifying to the eminent services rendered to the cause of public instruction by the Rev. E. Riva, Director of the Salesian Institute in this Capital, grants to the same the medal of honour, created for the purpose of attesting gratitude for public service.*

CYPRIAN CASTRO.

A memorable occasion.

The Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, of whose work a brief account was given last month have had further proofs of the wonderful extension and development of their institute. A short time back representatives from their Houses in all parts of the world were at the Mother House of Nizza Monferrato for their sixth general chapter. By a happy inspiration it was determined to mark the occasion by the coronation of the Image of their heavenly Patroness, Our Lady Help of Christians, in the church attached to the Institute.

The ceremony was performed by His Lordship the Bishop of Acqui assisted by the Very Rev. Don Rua and a large gathering of the clergy ; while the church itself was packed with a unique assembly of nuns from Europe, Asia, Africa and America, with hundreds of their pupils accompanied by parents and friends.

At an early hour, after the Mass of General Communion, the Bishop had clothed a large number of novices in the religious habit, and addressed them briefly, but in terms to which the occasion itself lent an unwonted impressiveness. At ten o'clock the rite of the blessing of the crowns was performed. This was followed by solemn High Mass sung by our Superior General at which the bishop assisted pontifically. After the Mass a procession of clergy preceded His Lordship to the altar, where he received the crowns from two pages and placed them on the head of the statue of the Divine Child and His Blessed Mother. The *Regina Cæli* was then immediately commenced by the choir.

This solemn act was a most befitting close to the week's services, and formed a united testimony from the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians to her who has so wonderfully befriended their congregation in many lands and many vicissitudes.

A new catholic athletic Association.

It is of course not new to us to hear of associations and committees in connexion with the innumerable departments of the *science* of sport ; but we have not until now been able to record the doings of the first Catholic Sports Association with which our schools in Italy are connected. Distinguished patronage as usual presides over it, for in the early morning of the day on which a recent tournament was held in Rome the juvenile members of the association went to the Church of St. Ignatius to hear Mass, which was celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Cavagnis.

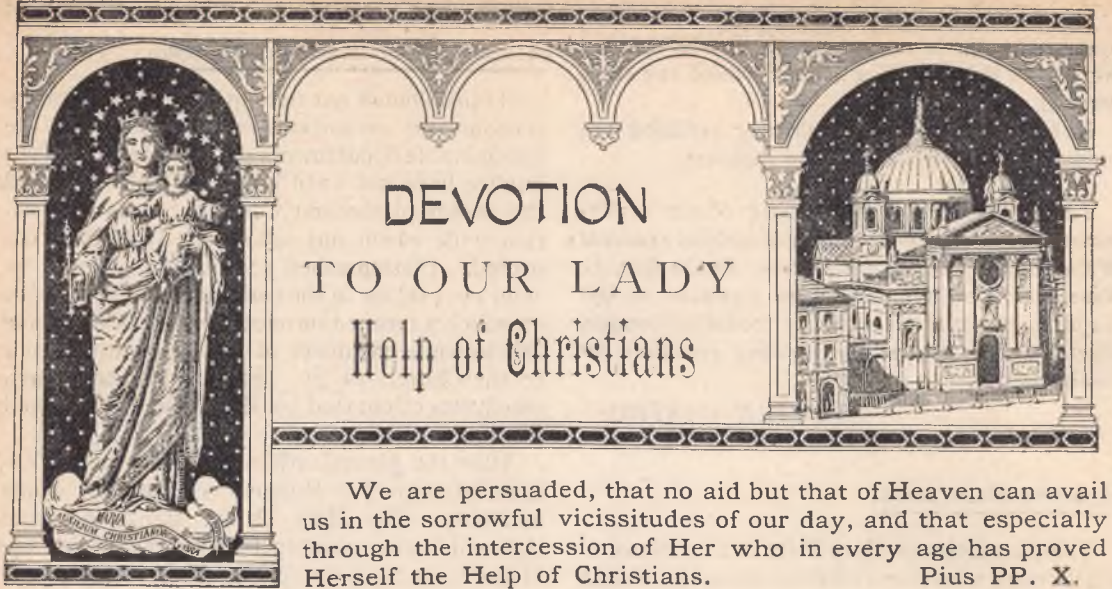
After the general athletic display in the Vatican grounds His Holiness received the whole assembly. The Holy Father thinks no time lost which can possibly turn to the advantage of the young generations, and his words to the crowd of the youths clearly display his fatherly solicitude. "It is a pleasure to me," said the Pope, "to be in the midst of you who represent the age of noble deeds, of generous dispositions and brilliant promise ; and as Our Divine Master, though conversing with the angels in heaven, yet found his delight among the young as the Gospel says : *Looking on him He loved him, intuitus eum dilexit eum* ; so I, while beholding this crowd of youths must avow that I feel towards you as a father, a brother, a friend. And therefore I not only approve of whatever you do in support of Catholic action, but I heartily admire and applaud your sports and games for the healthy exercise of the body has a powerful influence on the spirit, freeing it from idleness, which is the source of so many evils, and arousing it to a corresponding enthusiasm in the pursuit of christian virtues." The whole place resounded with cheers for His Holiness.

In the *Cortile di S. Damaso* a final gymnastic display took place in the presence of the Pope, and in the evening His Eminence the Cardinal Secretary of State distributed the prizes to the winners. Our school at Sampierdarena won no less than five medals, and had already carried off prizes at a contest at Savona a short time previously.

Once the idea had been launched and the initiative taken, the popularity of the movement was undoubted. The second assembly is to be held at Milan, and for the year 1908, when the Holy Father will celebrate his sacerdotal jubilee, a great national competitive assembly is proposed as one of the commemorative items.







## DEVOTION TO OUR LADY Help of Christians

We are persuaded, that no aid but that of Heaven can avail us in the sorrowful vicissitudes of our day, and that especially through the intercession of Her who in every age has proved Herself the Help of Christians.  
Pius PP. X.

### The duty of gratitude.

**S**T Bernard, speaking of ingratitude in one of his sermons, says that it is above all things displeasing to God, especially in those who have been particularly favoured; it closes up the fountain of divine favours, and prevents our further reception of the gifts of piety or the outpourings of mercy and grace. On the other hand gratitude towards God and to Our Blessed Lady for favours obtained, is one of the easiest and surest means of drawing down future graces and blessings; as gratitude is ever pleasing and welcome amongst men so is it one of the virtues most dear to God.

“No one,” said Don Bosco, “should dispense himself from the obligation of gratitude after having obtained some favour through the intercession of Mary Help of Christians. This duty can be fulfilled in two ways: by making known the grace that has been granted, or by promoting in some other way devotion to Our Lady.” But all are seriously recommended not to let their promised good works slip by: let the prayers, the mortifications, the confessions or communions or good works be faithfully accomplished, for God is displeased with a faithless and foolish promise.

“It sometimes happens,” continues D. Bosco, “that want of fidelity to the promise made pre-

vents the obtaining of the whole of one's petition, or even sometimes brings about the recall of favours already granted. Two good families had besought God to give them a child to be their joy, and inherit their name and property. Almighty God heard their prayers; but in the fulness of their joy they forgot the promised religious exercises and works of charity. It was fearfully brought home to them that God is displeased with a foolish promise. Both children died before they were twelve months old, leaving the parents in consternation. The same misfortunes and even worse have overtaken others; the cause being inquired into it was found that obligations had remained unfulfilled.

It would also be well to remember that God grants our requests in varying degrees. Sometimes our prayers have to be long continued and very persevering. At one time He grants a favour in its entirety at another only in part. Sometimes He gives us resignation to the Divine Will, or changes a temporal into a spiritual favour, which may be for our greater good. In all these cases, our petitions, carried before the throne of God by His Blessed Mother, have not remained unheard, and we are not at liberty to dispense with the promised good works simply because our arrangements did not fall out exactly as we had



thought; the promise in the Gospel, "Ask and you shall receive," has been fulfilled; our prayers are never without effect.

In the second place the publishing of the favour as a pledge of gratitude, is at the same time an act of religion, pleasing to God and His Blessed Mother; as well as being an encouragement and an example to others. The more widely her powerful advocacy is made known, the more do confidence and piety increase. Ninety-nine out of a hundred letters sent in to us as thanksgivings contain the news of having obtained the entire request and often much more.

\*  
\* \*

Those of our readers who have perused the first article a few pages in front, will have easily noticed the large proportion of the churches being dedicated to Mary Help of Christians. That at Mosquera in Colombia seems to be the latest, and the President of the Republic and the Apostolic Delegate were both present at the laying of the foundation stone.

## GRACES and FAVOURS

**Boscombe (ENGLAND).**—We had recommended several urgent temporal needs to the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians, one of them being on behalf of a dear relative though unhappily not a Catholic. These favours were speedily granted and a thank-offering is now sent, together with a little offering for the poor lepers whose sad lot is described in the *Bulletin*.

F. M.

Oct. 1905.

**Kildare (IRELAND).**—I offer my most heartfelt thanks to Our Lady Help of Christians for favours received through her gracious intercession.

G. J.

Oct. 1905.

**Kinsale (IRELAND).** Kindly accept the enclosed offering in thanksgiving to Our Lady Help of Christians and the Sacred Heart for a much needed favour. I promised an offering and publication if I obtained the favour and now hasten to fulfil my promise.

M. C.

Dec. 1905.

**Atocha (ECUADOR).** One Sunday last July I was called to see a dying man in the hospital at Ambato. He was almost at the point of death and tormented by a cruel malady; yet he was by no means resigned to God's Will and had made no preparation for death nor wanted to make any.

My exhortations availed nothing. I therefore collected my thoughts a moment and recited one *Hail Mary* to Our Lady Help of Christians. It was but a moment's prayer; but it sufficed. I approached the bed again and found the man quite willing to listen and prepare himself to die. He expired a few hours afterwards in good dispositions.

About the same time a noble family fell into very reduced circumstances, and their position in society made the matter all the more awkward and pitiful. One of the daughters, gifted with unwonted confidence, entrusted the family wants to Mary Help of Christians, asking her to inspire two certain persons, whom she named, to come to their assistance. Only a few hours after, these two persons actually sent generous help to the unfortunate family. Although the name of the family cannot be disclosed I am ready to confirm this by oath if necessary, as I received it from the very persons concerned.

Rev. P. VALLE.

Oct. 1905.

**Sligo (IRELAND).** Enclosed please find postal money order value three shillings for a Mass in thanksgiving to Our Lady Help of Christians for a favour partly received through her powerful intercession.

M. H.

December 1st, 1905.





## A Son of Don Bosco.

1850 — 1895

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

#### CHAPTER XXVI.

(Continued).

But his difficulty was about the little girls. He would have liked to have called in the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians, and had even set about preparing a house for them; but he was destined to be disappointed in this. The Salesian House was blessed by God and prospered abundantly, but the sisters planted their tents in other parts of Brazil where the need was even greater and more urgent.

Fr. Lasagna thought that it would be but right and fitting for him to acquaint the Emperor Dom Pedro II. with the arrival of the Salesians in his country. He was received with every mark of esteem at the palace and the Emperor presented him to the princess Isabella the presumptive heiress to the throne, and to her husband Gaston d'Orléans, Conte d'Eu, who hoped that Brazil would soon witness the good works already accomplished in other parts of South America.

Meanwhile some account of the enthusiastic welcome tendered to Don Bosco in Paris, Lille and other important towns of France had reached America. Men were slow to divine what could be the hidden charm that drew such crowds around a simple priest possessed of no special gift of oratory, preaching in simple French, yet captivating multitudes. Various explanations were offered but all agreed that it was due in great measure to the sanctity which seemed to emanate from his person and inspired his every word and act.

The fame of the personal holiness of the father had increased the desire of the young nations of America to have some of his sons working in their midst, and Fr. Lasagna writing thence to his former Director on 6th Sept. 1883, stated that he had received twenty-five petitions from various persons, from seculars as well as religious authorities,

beseeching him to provide missionaries for the foundation of Houses for the care of youth. The most pressing need of such a place was in San Paolo, the chief town of a large and fertile region, whose working population had doubled in the last ten years.

The Bishop of San Paolo, Mgr. Rodriguez de Carvalho, had invited Fr. Lasagna thither more than a year before in order that he might see for himself how necessary for the people was some such institute as a school of arts and trades. When at last he was able to go, on 1st. Sept. 1883, he received a most hearty welcome. Admirers of the Salesian work were ready to place in his hands at once the funds raised by a self-denying people for the erection of an Oratory and schools, and though he could not under the circumstances accept these offerings, he exhorted them to patience and constancy assuring them that he would do his best to have some missionaries sent to San Paolo during the following year.

While at San Paolo he visited several sites within and without the city with a view to selecting one suitable for a new foundation. Finally it was decided to build it alongside the fine Church of the Sacred Heart then in course of erection. The Bishop intended that the Salesians should take the responsibility of completing the church, which he hoped would become the centre of the devotion to the Sacred Heart throughout his large diocese. Herein he but followed the example of Pope Leo XIII. who a few years before had entrusted to Don Bosco the construction of the Church of the Sacred Heart in Rome, and though these two undertakings imposed on Don Bosco and his sons great sacrifices, both were, with the help of God, carried through and the confidence reposed in Don Bosco and his sons was not in vain.

And while in these parts Fr. Lasagna lost no opportunity of doing good. One morning after he had celebrated Mass, two other priests engaged a carriage and took him to a spot outside the city whence a hill was visible surmounted by a belfry, and round about this were a few cottages with here and there in the sugar plantations some white houses. "Who are these people," asked Fr. Lasagna, "These are the foundation of an agricultural colony," was the reply, "which was commenced some six years ago and is only now beginning to



make any real progress after innumerable difficulties.

"Are there very many?"

"Some hundreds of families, and they enjoy a good reputation, in fact they are the best we know of"

When the carriage had got near enough, Fr. Lasagna leaped to the ground and went to the nearest house. The children playing about fled inside, and the women stared at him through the windows but said never a word, little dreaming that their unexpected visitor was a fellow-countryman. But when he addressed them in their own dialect the latter came outside at once and the children losing their fear gathered round the missionary who soon had a crowd about him impeding his steps. "A priest from our own country" was the cry, "can we not keep him with us a little while."

All retired to the little chapel of St. Anne, where Fr. Lasagna after a few short prayers thanked the villagers for their kind greeting and urged them to remain steadfast in their faith. Although there was but one catechist in the place, and that an old lady, the children as well as their elders could answer the questions of Fr. Lasagna without a single mistake. This was the only religious teaching ever given in the village itself, but some more fortunate members of the community occasionally visited distant churches on horseback to assist at Holy Mass, but these could not receive the sacraments, being ignorant of Portuguese. The others had lived for six years without a priest, without the sacraments, without a sermon. Their pitiable state moved the missionary to tears, who after distributing medals and pictures and exhorting them to persevere promised to return soon or send others to provide for their spiritual welfare.

It is not surprising that with these experiences of the condition of things, Fr. Lasagna wrote at once to Don Bosco giving an account which convinced him of the necessity of setting about the relief of these people immediately; and indeed Don Bosco, whose zeal had inspired that of his son, hastened to despatch several parties of missionaries; so that both ever shewed themselves mindful of their watchword: *Da mihi animas, caetera tolle*. "Souls and not gain."

## CHAPTER XXVII.

### The House at Paysandu—Sorrows—The Sects—The Bishop's impression—The Institute of the Sacred Heart at San Paolo.

Notwithstanding his many great difficulties and the scarcity of means, every year of Fr. Lasagna's life was marked by the completion of some work of zeal. In the year 1884 to which we have now arrived, he turned his attention to the parish of Paysandu, already known to the reader by the account of the hazardous life of the Salesian Institute when first founded there. To see so many youths wandering idly about the town, poor and exposed to every danger to body and soul, the ardent apostle was filled with profound sympathy and he could find no peace of mind till there had been

opened a refuge for those in need of the necessities of life, and a school for the Christian education of the young. Without calculating the cost in money, but relying solely on God's providence, the foundations of a large edifice were laid down next to the parochial Church which would suffice for a hundred boarders and two hundred day-scholars. And the work progressed so favorably that the beginning of the school-year found numerous boys already under the direction of the Sons of Don Bosco. The new institute was dedicated to "Our Lady of the Rosary" and this holy Patroness shewed in many ways how dear to her were the souls of the young. In the foundation of the public Oratory the sympathies of all were enlisted, and many Co-operators came forward with contributions to defray the expenses incurred.

The heart of Fr. Lasagna rejoiced greatly at these wonderful results but this joy was tempered by the consideration of the present distracted state of the House at Nictheroy, which had been founded a few years previously under the happiest auspices. The Sectarics would not suffer the Salesians to remain undisturbed when they saw the members of their re-unions deserting them for the Oratory.

They determined to leave nothing untried in order to effect the dispersion of the Catholic missionaries and the destruction of the new institute. False, even ridiculous assertions were made against the Salesians with the hope of intimidating them and some of the civil authorities were induced to depreciate those whom but a short time before they had welcomed with enthusiasm, and at last a confiscation of the property of the religions was decreed amid the rejoicings of their adversaries.

Fr. Lasagna could not rest while the community at Nictheroy were in such distress, and began his intercession in their behalf with counsels to patience and perseverance. Invoking the assistance of Mary Help of Christians he petitioned the Sacred Heart for protection in the difficulty, solemnising, a novena of the *Via Crucis* in commemoration of the sufferings of Christ. His efforts were actively seconded by the Director of the house, Fr. Borghino, through whose personal influence the authorities were brought to recognise the honesty of the Salesians and to resolve to do them justice. Mgr. Lacerda interposed in their behalf and suddenly all opposition ceased, the Institute sprang into active life again and the festival of Mary Help of Christians was celebrated in gratitude to that powerful Queen of Heaven who had stood by her subjects in their time of trial.

A Committee appointed by the Bishop to enquire into and report on the Salesians' work published a refutation of the charges brought against them by their opponents, which after exhorting the apathetic and confirming the doubtful ended in calling upon all classes to take part in the rescue of youth from the snares of evil. And the fervent words of their pastor stirred an echo in the hearts of the faithful whose co-operation manifested the sincerity of their feelings. Again the religious found themselves surrounded by well-wishers, who



this time did not change but became the principal helpers in the development of the Institute.

When the tempest had been stilled Fr. Lasagna returned to San Paolo to take part, at the request of the Bishop, in the solemn dedication of the Church of the Sacred Heart on 19th June 1884. He was surprised to see what progress the Co-operators had made in the preparation of the house for the Salesians alongside the Church. It was a building of ample proportions now only wanting a floor, to be able to receive a hundred inmates. It was the Bishop's intention to proclaim the donation of the Church and School to the Salesians on the morrow, but Fr. Lasagna could not consent to this, not having received the explicit approbation of Don Bosco. Although the good prelate desired to have two Salesians to serve the Church, this also was at present impossible; but the day was not far distant when not two only but many Salesian priests would be ministering in this sanctuary and directing hundreds of young people in the devotion which was to renew the face of the earth.

Fr. Lasagna left San Paolo confirmed in his judgment as to the need of the foundation, but before his departure he did not forget to acknowledge the assistance of those generous friends whose sympathy he valued, and at the cost of his own convenience made time for a careful report to Don Bosco, assuring him of a good harvest of souls if he would open this mission. And his ardent desire was to be soon granted. The Bishop had conceived a high estimation of his sincerity and worth, and regarded him as the Francis Xavier of Don Bosco. It was in these terms he spoke of him to Fr. Lorenzo Giordano, for many years the Director of the Sacred Heart School at San Paolo.

During this second journey in Brazil, he met with a laughable adventure, which he himself narrates, and which we repeat without comment, as it shows in a clearer light the clever and enterprising character of our Missionary. At the house of his intimate friends the family Celoria, he had had the good fortune, some time before, to meet and enter into friendly relations with the celebrated Astronomer of Milan, Professor G. Celoria; having made a profound study of that science he took great pleasure in discussing with the learned professor the more curious astronomical phenomena. Either from these scientific conversations, or in reading the *Astronomical Review*, he had learnt that a comet, visible only from certain places on the American Continent, would appear precisely during those days in which he would be on his way towards Rio Janeiro. Four days of sky and water (the length of the passage from Montevideo to Rio Janeiro) would give him a convenient opportunity for studying the new comet. Armed with his inseparable companion, a powerful telescope, he passed a great portion of those nights in scanning the starry heavens, to the great astonishment of the passengers, most of whom recognizing in him the Superior of the Salesian Missions eagerly enquired the motive of his extraordinary astronomical industry. Fr. Lasagna replied that at this time a comet would

appear, visible according to certain astronomical authorities, at various places on the American continent, and that he confidently expected to see it. The apparition of the comet became the favourite subject of conversation on board and the Missionary persisting every night in the contemplation of the starry firmament through his instrument, attracted general attention and sympathy. His labours were not in vain, for one morning he was able to assert that he had seen the expected comet, of which he gave a detailed description. The passengers vied with each other in congratulating him on his discovery and began to look upon him as a celebrated astronomer. But the best of the joke was, that on the arrival of the vessel at Rio Janeiro, the newspapers announced the arrival of a distinguished astronomer (giving his name in full) who, on his journey, had seen the new comet. This unexpected fame attracted a large crowd anxious to see Fr. Lasagna and question him about the comet and other marvels of the heavens. It was only with difficulty that he succeeded in withdrawing himself from the thoughtless curiosity of visitors and resumed his journey to visit the Salesian Institutes. Afterwards, it was delightful to hear from his own lips the account of his sudden celebrity as an astronomer. Under the charm of his description we found ourselves, as it were, on the high seas, in the same ship and with the other passengers talking of the comet, watching with them the priestly astronomer, taking his observations and sharing in the joy of all at the happy result of his investigations. And later, at Rio Janeiro, we seemed to hear the newspapers proclaiming to the four winds the great event; whilst on the other hand our imagination depicted the confusion of the Missionary surrounded by reporters, by men and women of all grades, begging the favour of an interview. We knew, moreover that he was greatly interested in astronomy, because when studied in a Christian spirit, it manifests better perhaps than any other science the infinite greatness and wisdom of the Creator.

Meanwhile he had received some agreeable news. The additions to the staff, so often asked for and so anxiously awaited, were to reach America at the beginning of 1885. It was on February 1st that a select company of evangelical labourers left the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians, fortified with the blessing of His Eminence Cardinal Alimonda, Archbishop of Turin. They were under the guidance of Mgr. Cagliari, Vicar Apostolic of Patagonia, who had received Episcopal Consecration on December 7th, 1884. The return to America of this courageous son of Don Bosco, his rare gifts both of mind and heart and still more the Episcopal character conferred on him, would give a most powerful impulse to the Salesian Missions of the new continent and contribute efficaciously to their development. Great, therefore, were the expectations of the Salesians in America and of all their friends and benefactors. (*To be continued.*)

PERMISSU SUPERIORUM

Gerent, GIUSEPPE GAMBINO—Salesian Press, Turin, 1901



- XII. To restrict the use of the small room off the landing (at present used as a cloakroom and lavatory) to cloak accommodation only.
- XIII. To remove the door from the mezzanine room (opening on to the half landing) and leave opening only.
- XIV. To provide an emergency staircase at the north-east end of the schoolroom and to form a passage-way where the infants' offices are to be removed.
- XV. To fence off the playground so as to separate the boys from the girls and infants; to provide in the playground a drinking tap with slate back, zinc cups and basin, and to lay on water from the main service pipe.
- XVI. To remove the bookstall from the corner of the playground.
- XVII. To build new offices in the playground.

### Infants' department.

- XVIII. To increase the size of the windows, to fix electric light fittings in a more permanent manner or to provide gas pendants fitted with incandescent burners.
- XIX. To utilise space under the girls' stair for cloak accommodation.
- XX. To fit a range of three basins at the side of the girls' stairs for the lavatory accommodation.
- XXI. To renovate the teachers' room, and to put same into proper order.
- XXII. To build new offices in the playground.

### All departments.

- XXIII. To provide 12 in. by 12 in. tobin fresh air inlets.
- XXIV. To form stone or concrete hearths, to build separate brick flues, and to provide approved pattern open fire stoves.
- XXV. To make all external doors and classroom doors to open outwards.
- XXVI. To divide each long room—boys', into two classrooms for 48 and 40 respectively; girls', into three classrooms for 40 each; infants', into three classrooms for 45, 35 and 45 respectively.
- XXVII. To make good the walls and stonework.
- XXVIII. To relay the defective flooring with new.
- XXIX. To paint and to distemper and to execute the minor repairs.
- XXX. To put the drains into a sound condition.

It will be evident to any reader that a great deal has to be done, and that the expense will be great in proportion. The Co-operators, who take upon themselves to give what aid they can in support of the works of the Salesian Society, cannot do better at present than help the Salesians at Battersea out of this difficulty.

In order to raise part of the sum required a bazaar will be arranged in the course of some months. Those who cannot send offerings of money, may be able to give articles of clothing or fancy work, or other things suitable for purchase. Any subscriptions or offering will be most welcome.

All communications concerning the above to be addressed to the

*Very Rev. C. B. Macey,*

*Surrey House, Surrey Lane,*

*Battersea, London, S. W.*



# THE "SALESIAN BULLETIN"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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DIRECTED AND TAUGHT BY THE SALESIAN FATHERS.

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

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