

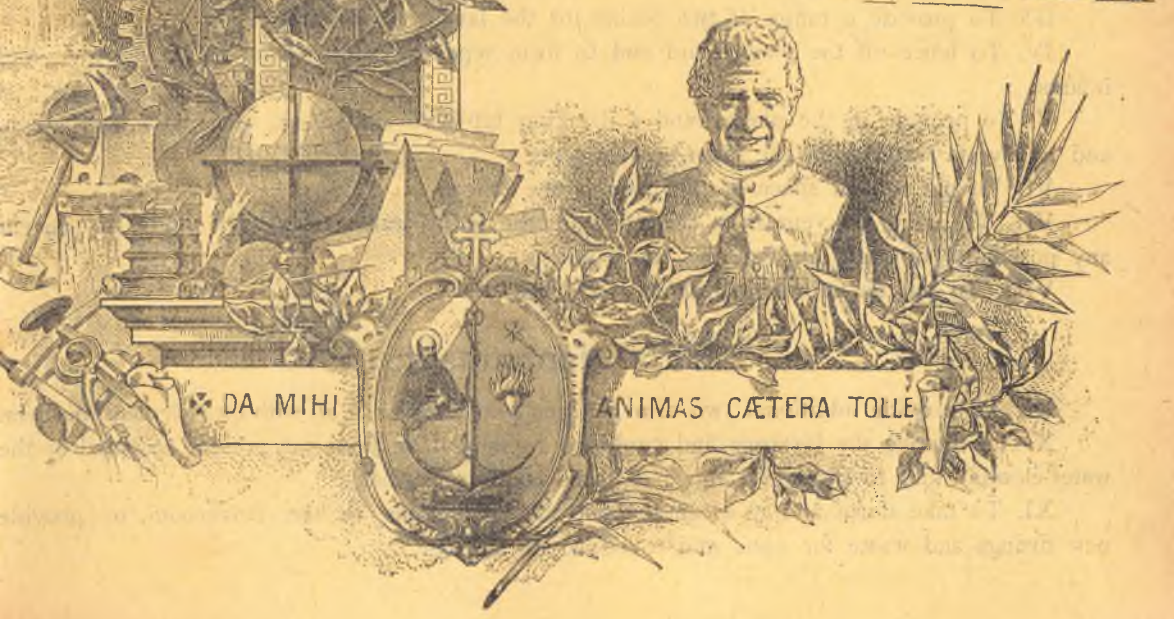
Salesian Bulletin

No. 1 — JANUARY — 1906

♣ Vol. V. ♣

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

Sanctus



♣ DA MIHI

ANIMAS CAETERA 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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Annual Letter of Our Superior General Don Rua To the Salesian Co-operators.

My dear Co-operators:



WHENEVER circumstances present an opportunity of making a general announcement to you, I not only welcome it with pleasure but with eagerness, knowing as I do, how much your zeal is increased by the presentation of what has been accomplished, and what it is proposed to do by your aid. And it is only natural that I should feel greater satisfaction on this occasion, since I am addressing not merely a select assembly of Co-

operators, but each and every one of you in particular in whatever part of the world you may be.

And yet, indeed, there have been few times when I have taken up my pen more readily than I do now. It is not only my intention to comply with that part of the regulations, which arranges for an annual report of what has been accomplished, and what plans will be carried out in the new year; but also to speak to you a little more intimately of our affairs, so that by the help of God and your co-operation, the Salesian Society may be able to perfect

those good works which are expected from it by the Church and by Society.

And in order that each part may be easily grasped by all, I shall lay it before you in three sections.

The 1st part will make you acquainted with some things which have been a source of consolation to us in the past year.

The 2nd will lay briefly before you what undertakings have been brought to completion, or are now in progress.

In the 3rd I shall lay before you, in all sincerity and confidence, the plans upon which we must concentrate all our efforts during the year 1906, to which Divine Providence has brought us.

And firstly it has been truly a

Source of comfort

which, in the affection I bear towards Don Bosco, gives me the greater consolation, that the infallible authority of the Holy See has sanctioned many things, which years ago our Holy Founder, by his gift of discernment of the needs of the age, and his faithful interpretation of the spirit of the Church, inculcated with inflexible constancy.

DON BOSCO AND GREGORIAN CHANT.

You will remember for example how the Supreme Pontiff, gloriously reigning, in his design to restore the beauty and decorum of sacred music, and above all to reconstitute Gregorian Chant in its former place of honour, published his *motu proprio* dealing with the subject. Now many, even yet, of Don Bosco's sons will easily call to mind his constant preference for Gregorian Chant, and

whilst elsewhere it was almost a by-word at the time, he established a class at the Oratory, which all the students attended before being allowed to devote any attention to other music. Some of them had to prepare the antiphons, psalms, canticles and other singing which accompanied divine service. Don Bosco's zeal in this respect made him even desire to see every parish supplied with able cantors, and therefore he not only had the chants taught to the students but also to his young workmen.

You will readily see therefore, that it was an exceptional pleasure to me to be able to offer a hearty welcome to the members of the *Turin Congress of Sacred Music*, which was held in June last, though I was unable to take an active part in the conferences. Several Salesian priests however held important positions in it, and one was elected a member of the committee charged to arrange throughout Italy a federation of *Cecilian Associations*, or associations for the promotion of religious chant.

I have written this in the hope that the Salesian Co-operators will endeavour to assist the Holy Father to promote this good end, within the limits possible to each. Ah! if those times could return, in which the chants of the Church had a peculiar attraction even to those in whom faith was dead, as in St. Augustine who exclaimed: "When I call to mind O Lord the tears I shed in the beginning of my conversion at the sound of the psalmody of the Church and which yet call up within me those early sentiments of devotion, I marvel at the utility of that institution"

DON BOSCO AND THE TEACHING OF
THE CATECHISM.

But Don Bosco's first and foremost recommendation and one on which he continually insisted was the teaching of christian doctrine. And it could hardly have been otherwise. The catechism lesson given to young Bartholomew Garelli proved to be the corner stone of our pious society. Catechism in the churches, in the piazzas, in the fields was Don Bosco's principal work; it was the means by which he transformed so many poor youths into good christians and honourable citizens. In his constitutions he laid down that one of the priests in each house should have the title and carry out the duties of catechist, and he gave the place of honour to religion in his teaching programmes.

At the same time he knew how to make the post of catechist a most honourable one, by enlisting the services of zealous priests and of some of the first gentlemen of Turin. According to Don Bosco's idea, the Oratories in which the teaching of the catechism was neglected, degenerated into mere places of recreation, and failed to attain their object.

It is now a matter of common knowledge that the Supreme Pontiff Pius X. on the 16th of April last, published an admirable encyclical on religious instruction. Ignorance of christian doctrine the Holy Father makes entirely responsible *for the modern lassitude and well nigh insensibility of soul, and other grave evils*, among which is the most deplorable of all, the eternal damnation

of innumerable souls. No one will now be surprised if while listening to the sorrowful remonstrance of the Holy Father, it seemed to me that I was listening to the words of Don Bosco on his favourite subject. Let us then treasure up the counsels of Our Holy Founder, now especially, that they have become the commands of the Supreme Pontiff. For my own part I assure you that I have nothing more at heart than to see your zeal increase for the work of the Festive Oratories and schools of religion, which give a finish to our early catechism classes.

THE FESTIVE ORATORIES
AND ADVANCED CLASSES OF RELIGION.

"Amid the widespread perversion of morals", Don Bosco used to say, "the one security for youth lies in the teaching of the catechism, and that especially at the Festive Oratories. The parish priests, although very zealous cannot be everywhere; they need the help of others in the exercise of this ministry towards the young; others should aid in bringing them to the church, and in exhorting the parents to send them; some are wanted to look after the children, or even to take different classes, so that the greatest profit may be drawn from them. See here a fertile field ready for the planting, with promise of an abundant harvest."

In regard to these recommendations I am glad to be able to say that during the visitation I made in Italy last June, I was greatly consoled to find many of our Festive Oratories in a high degree of perfection, with regular and

well conducted instruction in religion. For many reasons, I cannot now speak of what I saw in the advanced schools of religion, in order to give you a full idea of the good work accomplished; but nothing forbids my saying that there are some among the regular attenders who had already abandoned the practices of the Catholic faith, but have now taken them up again with renewed fervour, and without any human respect. In view of such results you will not be surprised that I so much insist on these classes for older scholars as well as the Festive Oratories. I am sure that you will do what is possible to gain this end, and confiding in this I have already assured the Holy Father that we shall be second to none in the religious instruction of youth.

Works accomplished in 1905.

In approaching the second part of my letter which consists in detailing to you what has been done in the past year, I always prefer to begin with the Festive Oratories. One of these institutions, which are invariably the means of doing much good, has been established in the populous district of **Aragona** in Sicily, and elementary school work is carried out in connexion with it. Another has been opened at **Bari** close to the Orphanage Leo XIII., which should have been commenced in 1904, but was unfortunately delayed till last September; another was opened at **S. Severo** where it had been long needed and desired.

And here I am glad to single out two advanced schools of religious instruction, one for the elder scholars at

the schools, and one for university students opened at the Missionary College next to our Church of St. John the Evangelist at **Turin**.

An undertaking of special importance has been entrusted to us in **Rome**, for which we have to offer our thanks to the Holy Father; it is a large church to be constructed in the Testaccio district, whose foundations were laid more than twenty years ago. The works were immediately recommenced according to new designs. Providentially a considerable offering has been already made for the building of this Church, by a noble family in the city of Rome, but further aid will still be required. For special reasons of which I will speak later I could not allow other foundations to be opened in Italy beyond the stricken provinces of Calabria. For a good time I had thought of commencing some work in aid of the poor children in those unsettled parts. And indeed since the month of March we had begun arrangements for a house at **Monteleone**, where a few weeks back, owing to the good influence of a Co-operator, and the assistance of His Lordship Mgr. Morabito, the indefatigable bishop of Mileto, the Salesians have made a permanent dwelling, to devote themselves to the needs of the people and open schools and Festive Oratories.

At **Borgia**, an important town in the province of Catanzaro which also suffered heavily by the late disaster, another house has with great difficulty been established with evening schools and a Festive Oratory. From that place Salesians go every Sunday and

feast-day to attend to the spiritual wants of the people in the neighbouring districts, and to direct the festive oratories. Besides these foundations the pitiable condition of so many ruined families forced me to make provision for many of the worst cases of poor boys, and I therefore received into various Houses **eighty** little Calabrians some being apprenticed to a trade, others joining the elementary schools. At the Apostolic school at Martinetto, just outside **Turin** we have commenced an Illyrican school for youths who speak the Croatian language, which is widely diffused on the Adriatic shores and in the Balkan States. This will prove a useful training centre for priests to open Houses which are being constantly asked for in those parts.

In a similar manner in order to benefit in some degree the catholics of France, a college for adult aspirants to the ecclesiastical state has been opened at **Oulx** not far from the French frontier.

The Agricultural school at **Ivrea** is being provided with a special agrarian section which will enable many young men to complete their course of higher agricultural training.

In my last letter I forgot to mention one new foundation at **Vianna do Castello** in Portugal. The *Bulletin* has already made you acquainted with the opening of an agricultural school at **Cuzco** in Peru, and schools at **Cordoba** in the Argentine. To these I should add the opening of a House at **Ambato** and a Festive Oratory at **Guayaquil** in Ecuador.

At **Guadalajara** in Mexico a School

has at last been opened after long waiting; at **Valencia** in Venezuela and at **St. Tecla** in San Salvador, churches have been opened both dedicated to Our Lady Help of Christians, and at **San Salvador**, in the Republic of the same name, as well at **Corumba** in Matto Grosso, considerable extensions have been made to the existing premises. The new buildings to which the school at San Salvador has been removed are the munificent gift of the Bishop of the diocese.

You will of course remember the *special homage* of the Salesian Society on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. From that record expedition of missionaries there not only resulted a fresh impulse to existing missions but new centres were also developed. A House was opened at **Trelew**, extensions were made at the *Coroados Mission* in **Matto Grosso** (Brazil) where a second Indian settlement was founded under the title of the *Immaculate Conception*. The telegram which informed me of the inauguration arrived on the eve of the feast of St. John the Baptist, adding, if possible, to the joyful commemoration of that feast-day.

But even that great expedition was not sufficient to cope with half the demands from different places. More missionaries are therefore setting out and among them, some bound for China and India where foundations will be commenced at **Macao** and at **Meliapor**. The many difficulties to be overcome in realising these initial steps give me good hope for the success

of this undertaking, by which the Salesians are entering into possession of a new empire which Divine Providence has appointed them in the far East. I recommend these missionaries specially to your prayers; at the time of writing they are on the high seas.

THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY HELP OF
CHRISTIANS.

The past year has been likewise propitious towards the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. I will put before you a brief account of their new foundations just as I have received it from their Mother General, Sister Catherine Daghero.

"During the past year by the help of God and the blessing of our heavenly protectress we have been able to open at **Turin** a home for young business girls and for students; and at **Somma Lombarda, Angera** and **Germignana** in Lombardy three other boarding schools for girls employed during the day have been begun. At **Fenegro** in the province of Milan and at **Finero** in the province of Novara infant schools, girls' workshops and Festive Oratories have been opened. At **Naples**, at **Lomello** in the province of Pavia, at **Premosello** in the province of Novara and at **San Colombano** in the province of Milan schools and Festive Oratories have been opened.

We have also commenced a foundation at **Farnborough** in England, two at **Bogotá** and one at **Soacha** in Colombia; day schools and Festives Oratories at **La Paz** in Uruguay, at **Melipilla** in Chili, and we have accepted the charge of a hospital a **Ribeirao**

Preto in the State of St. Paul (Brazil) and a new missionary house at **Matto Grosso.**"

You will agree that Don Bosco's works have been rapidly extending during the year 1905

PROPOSALS FOR 1906.

According to Don Bosco's custom, and one which I have till now invariably followed, I shall devote a few words to the proposed line of action for 1906. There are many things very necessary and urgent, but which finally reduce themselves to one, As a favour I would ask your special attention to this part of my letter.

During the last few years our pious Society, at the cost of great sacrifices and heavy expense, has set itself seriously to systematise a most important department of its work; I refer to a more complete training for its own members. And this has been attempted not only on account of its necessity, but also in compliance with the constant demand for it, at the general chapters and other important meetings of the Salesians themselves.

You are quite aware of the advance of science and art during the times in which we live. As there is no department of trade which has not experienced a new impetus to higher ideals, so there is no branch of study which has not received a new impulse. Fully alive to their position as directors of workshops and schools, the Sons of Don Bosco could not be indifferent to this awakening going on all round them. It was therefore recognised as a necessary result, that our masters of trades should

be acquainted with the developments of modern practical science; and it was also incumbent on us to provide for our clerics that culture which is required in aspirants to the ecclesiastical state.

Now with the assistance of God, an arrangement has been made by which the Salesians, whether aspirants for the priesthood or masters of arts and trades will have every opportunity to complete their training. The latter, after due attention to the formation of the spirit of their vocation, will attend a three years practical course in their special department, so that they may be fully qualified to teach in the different shops; the former, when they have completed a year after their reception, will attend a three years philosophy course; they will then spend three years in the various houses for a course of practical teaching and at the same time pursue some complementary studies. After these three years they will go to one of the theological Houses to spend four years in the acquisition of sacred science.

I cannot tell you, dear Co-operators, how much I am thankful to God for this solution of a serious difficulty; but on the other hand no words can bring home to you sufficiently well the sacrifice and expense which it will entail. To the cost of maintaining such a number of clerics and masters during their training, and whom it is indispensable to provide to fill the places of those who are called away, and to begin new foundations, just add:

1st the necessary outlay to maintain so many Houses which have no permanent income whatever, such as our Orphanages in Palestine;

2nd The cost of keeping hundreds of children for whom we have to provide not only instruction, but food and clothing as well;

3rd The burden of our missions on behalf of the savage tribes;

4th the different works of repairing and enlarging which are now actually going on, and then reckon what a figure daily expenses reach. You have just heard in the *Bulletin* of the twenty five new churches we have in hand at present.

The Salesian Society, my dear Co-operators, has succeeded in fully organising its departments of study and of arts and trades, but it has not yet succeeded in putting its finances on a sound basis. In your conversations, when there are persons present who could come to our assistance, tell them: *The Successor of Don Bosco is burdened with debts, and is just now more in need of help than ever.*

For my own part I had determined not to make any further foundations until we had freed ourselves from this burden, as it was already difficult enough to comply with promises made long ago. Then, to you, dear Co-operators I have one proposal to make: During the year 1906 your ordinary offerings and any other donations besides will be entirely devoted to paying off our debts. Notwithstanding our ardent desire to open our doors to so many other children in need, and to send aid to the many missionary settlements, how can it be done while we have so many previous obligations?

But some will say! *You may be certain, the hand of Providence is ever open.* I am fully convinced of it and to my

mind I have given too many proofs of this conviction; it is also written, dear Co-operators, that we must not tempt the Lord Our God. It is not therefore that I have any doubt in Providence, but, after much deliberation with prudent persons, I do not wish to abuse it.

I therefore appeal to you, to each one of you in particular, to give serious thought to what I have put before you. As Co-operators in the Salesian Works, make their interests your own and do what you can to come to their aid. This year in order not to weary with appeals, and to get further into debt, I shall not send out any special circular in the *Bulletin*. The appeal which I would there make, **and which you would no doubt carefully consider** I make in this: I humbly beg you to listen to it.

Conclusion.

I would ask you as a parting word to aid us by your prayers. Pray that God may continue to bless the Salesian works and the good dispositions of those under our care; in return I assure you of a continual remembrance. Not a day passes without special prayers on your behalf. The boys at the Oratory unite daily in one great supplication in the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians; the other Houses of the Congregation have their chapels and

churches and offer daily prayers for this end.

I trust that the year 1906 will thus be a memorable one in the annals of the Charity of the Co-operators. *May God fulfil this fervent hope!*

Assuring you once more of a continual



The Holy Father among the Calabrian Children.

remembrance during your life and after death, I again recommend myself to your charity and remain :

Dear Co-operators,

Your obedient servant

MICHAEL RUA.

Jan. 1st, 1906.

THE SALESIANS IN CALABRIA.

The work of rescue and reconstruction.

It is not to be wondered at that the excitement caused by the catastrophe in Calabria should not yet have subsided. One of our priests, the Director of the School at Messina, was among the earliest on the scene of action carrying out Don Rua's directions concerning the homeless boys. His letter detailing the departure for Rome and the interview with the Holy Father is full of interest, but too long to give *in extenso* to one readers. The need of timely aid from all quarters will be easily recognised when one considers the numbers affected by the disaster. A trustworthy French journal gives them as 589 killed, 2021 hurt; 212 out of the 413 communal districts of Calabria were more or less damaged; 36 were completely razed.

Our School of the Sacred Heart in Rome would have liked to give a shelter to the little Calabrian pilgrims on their way to Turin; but the Holy Father would have them all at St. Martha's. The boys, accustomed of late to sleeping any where and every where, were overjoyed at the sight of the neat dormitories and beds prepared by the Sisters of Charity. The wonders of the streets of Rome prevented the procession to the Vatican from assuming too much of the appearance of a pilgrimage; and the little dark-skinned boys came in for a good share of observation as the heroes of the disaster.

The paternal reception of the Holy Father has been already described. His Holiness not content with providing for all their wants insisted on seeing each of the children and went among them giving a word and caress

to each. Many of the children left the following day in special trains for the Institutes which had arranged to receive them. All greatly appreciate the generosity that was lavished upon them and are well and happy in their new homes. Several have written letters from the different schools, contentedness and juvenile gratitude being the prevailing note.



At Borgia, in the stricken area some Salesians have rented a dwelling, while the building destined for a foundation is being put to rights. Schools and Festive Oratories have been already begun, and one priest goes to the neighbouring district of Soverato on Sundays and feast-days.

At Monteleone, the Pope has entrusted a large parish to the Salesians, where they will soon commence the work of catechising and teaching, which has been for some time among the cherished ideas of our Superior General. It is thus hoped that by degrees a new plan of instruction and training for the young will be set on foot throughout this part of Italy.

The Salesian Bulletin

Printed and Published at the
Salesian Oratory, Turin, Italy.

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

Departure of Salesian Missionaries.

First expedition to the East.

THE closing days of last November were made memorable by stirring scenes within the precincts of the Oratory at Turin.

On the evening of the 23rd a large gathering of the faithful, composed mainly of ladies and gentlemen (Salesian Co-operators) and the ecclesiastics of the town crowded the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians. Many of them had witnessed the ceremony in previous years, but there is always something unique in such an event, and this year, was in some respects a new departure, the separation of the high-ways, the foundation of an eastern empire, now that the western was securely won.

The ceremony was presided over by His Eminence Cardinal Richelmy, Archbishop of Turin. The pupils of our schools in Turin with an air of pious wonder and strange expectation were close up to the group of the new missionaries.

The band of chosen ministers had a reserved place in the Sanctuary. As they stood there, within an hour or two of the long farewell, glimpses of the far-off-lands present themselves to the view, lands not yet known to them by sight, but almost made familiar by accounts of confrères and the deeds of their predecessors in the like glorious vocation. Some indeed had their mind's eye fixed on regions even most remote, and a land as yet a *terra incognita* to the Salesian missionary. They were those who were about to open the new missions of Don Bosco's Sons in the far East.

The work of the Salesian Missions, initiated about thirty years ago, by the departure of ten Salesians to the Argentine, now, by this expedition eastwards, beholds its field of action doubled. On the 11th of November 1875, the memorable date on which the first missionaries stood in that same sanctuary, Don Bosco said these words: "Various fields of operation are presented to us in **China**, in **India**, in Australia, in America, but for various motives, and especially as our Society is but

in its infancy, the missions in South America have been preferred, commencing with those of the Argentine Republic."

But in a very short time, the finger of God pointed out the vast stretches of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, and from there the Sons of Don Bosco have been called into every part of South America. Considering the humble beginnings of this almost interminable network of missionary centres and schools, one could easily be led into reveries concerning the new establishments in the east.

Face to face with such results one is touched by that holy fear which the soul experiences in presence of the supernatural. Is it possible that a simple priest could raise up such a work, already renowned in the annals of the Church, if he were not directed and supported by God himself?

For the encouragement of our Co-operators one cannot help recalling here the words that came so naturally to Fr. Bonetti, one of Don Bosco's earliest priests, and an eye witness of his marvellous deeds, who when writing his reminiscences of the early days of the Oratory said:—*It would seem that God has made a like promise to Don Bosco that He made of old to Abraham*—namely to multiply His blessings upon those who should bless him: *Benedicam benedicientibus tibi.*

Many missionaries will go to reinforce those at work in different parts of America; the first party going to the East sailed from Genoa, bound for Meliapor near Madras in India; those going to China will follow almost immediately, their destination being Macao near Canton. The main object will be to open orphanages and schools of Arts and Trades in both places.

While wishing all of them a successful start, we recommend their arduous work to the prayers of our Co-operators.



Don Rua's Representative in America

(Extracts from his Secretary's Correspondence)

(Continued)

IN MEXICO.

An article in the "Nouvelle France."

Of all the American Republics colonized by the Latin races, Mexico had attained the highest degree of civilization at the time of its discovery, and still, undoubtedly, holds the first place amongst the Sister Republics. Divine Providence having ordained, that in a comparatively short space of time, the Salesians should open Schools and Homes for poor boys in all the Spanish-American Republics, I have in the accounts of Fr. Albera's visitation frequently had to point out the chief burden weighing upon these youthful nations, which paralyses their efforts, destroys and impoverishes them. In a recent article by Hadryen, published in the "Nouvelle France", I find a confirmation and clearer statement of my own ideas and I think it will give the readers of the *Bulletin* a more exact acquaintance with the places we shall soon leave, and to which owing to similarity of origin, of religion and continuous immigration, we are each day more closely bound.

The journey from *Vera Cruz* to the capital was enchanting; we had to ascend by rail a height of 7,000 feet in order to reach the lofty plain on which the city of Mexico is situated. We passed through fields of sugar-cane, coffee, and bananas, soaring above precepices, below which were seen lovely landscapes. How magnificent is the vegetation in these hot climates! The ascent took about eight hours during which we recalled the past history of Mexico. When as a youth in 1886 I read *Fernando Cortez* and the *Conquest of Mexico*, I did not assuredly guess that one day I should see with my own eyes the sites of the more important battles ending in the victory of the Spanish arms. Three centuries have elapsed since Mexico passed under the Spanish dominion and how diverse have been the judgments thereon! Too often these reflect the ideas of the writers, rather than historical veracity. In reading the history of the Spanish

American Republics during the last century, one is moved to feelings of compassion and anger. Endowed by Divine Providence with the richest country on earth, these nations by their continual revolutions have squandered their treasures and decimated the population. Every bold and greedy adventurer has always found fools ready to take up arms in his cause, and place him in authority, where his one object has been to amass a fortune. Certainly one ought not to despair of these peoples. These different nations, writes Hadryen, are still in process of formation and when they are definitely organized they will astonish us by their forward movement, and will flood our markets; the sight of Mexico, as it now is, suggests this thought.

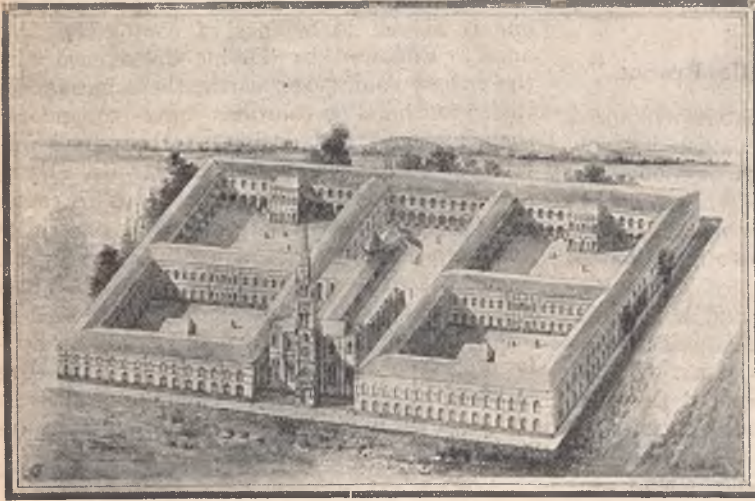
A glance at Mexican affairs.

The early inhabitants, more civilized than those of other countries in the New World, not excepting even the famous *Incas*, having gained their independence, quickly adopted European customs; and to day the vast Republic of Mexico is one of the American Nations which has made the greatest advance in civilization. But it had to pass through a period of helpless infancy and the follies and turbulence of youth.

Freed from the Spanish dominion in 1822, Mexico, dreaming of her ancient greatness, would have an Emperor for ruler; and Iturbide, the Napoleon of his triumphant army, received the sceptre and the diadem. But he also found his *Blucher*: — Santa Anna, a soldier of fortune, who having taken him prisoner, ordered him to be shot, and proclaimed a Republic.

This was the beginning of political troubles which lasted nearly half a century. First the Imperialists and Republicans, then the Conservatives and Liberals fought each other unceasingly. The supreme power, with rare and brief exceptions, alternated between dictatorships and republics, sometimes as a whole, sometimes federal; everything was at the mercy of a disgraceful ambition, which, coming up ever

fresh and ever more greedy and ferocious made use of the supreme power itself to squander the public moneys, to annoy, despoil, proscribe, imprison and even put to death all Mexicans distinguished for their religion and probity. The country was bleeding to death. The United States, taking advantage of these disorders, invaded Mexico; the Liberals joined them and thus contributed to the dismemberment of their country, which in ten years, with little or no opposition lost more than half its territory.



Salesian House in Mexico.

Another ten years of similar independence and Mexico would have disappeared as a nation. At Washington they have not abandoned this hope, and await a propitious moment for the complete annexation of the vast territory of Mexico; the first was a succulent morsel and has whetted their appetite.

On their side there is no concealment; the American Consul in Venezuela, whilst we were there, published in the well known "Harper's Magazine" that from the Pole to the Equator there should be but one nation, the United States of North America, the head of which should reside at the *White House*.

This unenviable independence reminds one of what Aristotle teaches in his *Politics* and which is repeated also by Machiavelli, namely, that civil Society is preserved by the principles which gave it birth and may be re-established by returning to them. Now, if there be in the world a nation born Catholic and owing its prosperity to Catholicism, undoubtedly this is true of Spanish America and particularly of Mexico, whose Metropolis has been called "*the holy city beyond the sea.*"

Mexico under the Spanish Government.

The Spanish dominion has passed away not only in Mexico, but throughout America; still, in order to judge it rightly we must not forget that in these remote countries, Spain did not take possession of well established nationalities: rather, amongst peoples both pagan and partly savage, she formed nations both Christian and civilized, inspiring them with sentiments so profoundly Catholic, as to produce better fruits than even in European countries. It is thus that the Mexicans themselves, after half a century of independence, at an immense distance from their former rulers, speak of the Spanish dominion.

When the French troops came forth victorious after defeating the terrible Juaréz and his satellites, an assembly of Notables, elected by the people, was formed to decide upon the best form of government for the good of the people. It would seem that the assembly could not carry out its purpose without recalling with a regretful satisfaction the

Spanish Catholics who had ruled them for many centuries and their thoughts reverted to those times, as the dying man thinks of his once vigorous health and the old man recalls the happy years of his youth, full of hope and pride.

"If we can divest ourselves" says the official report, "of exaggerated ideas and a severity of judgment which would be ungrateful, we cannot fail to admire the bright examples left to our country by that line of monarchs, who, from beyond the seas, extended their protecting sceptre over Mexico. Special laws, both prudent and wise, protected the natives from the persecutions which as a conquered nation, weak ignorant and superstitious, would otherwise, have weighed them down. The power of the ruler would not have sufficed, the tenderness of a father was needed to adapt the laws to the customs and habitual vices of the Indians, so as to civilize the first and correct the second, modifying in the ordinary forms of justice what might be too severe. The individual, the family, the community, the villages of the natives, all were objects of interest for these monarchs, who con-

sidered themselves the guardians of the people and defenders of the property of a race worthy of their kindly solicitude. Refuges, hospitals, schools, erected exclusively to provide for the material wants and intellectual culture of their new subjects; these were not the least of the benefits lavished upon Mexico by the Spanish Government."

"If," continues the account, "we glance at the vast extent of our country, traverse the roads, penetrate into the depths of the mines, interrogate the inhabitants, explore our cities, everywhere we discover traces of a power which manifested itself only to ameliorate in every way the state of the people... Bridges and fine roads, improved methods of communication, the building of magnificent cities, splendid aqueducts, majestic basilicas, rich palaces, innumerable schools in which all branches of science were taught, charitable institutions destined to alleviate all forms of human misery.... the Commission would never come to an end if it tried to enumerate all the glorious monuments of the wisdom, piety and munificence of the Spanish rulers."

Finally they conclude this part of their statement by declaring that there is no Mexican who cannot point out the day and the hour in which Mexico, relinquishing the peace she enjoyed at the summit of plenty and prosperity, entered on the downward path which she has followed for more than fifty years.

When a nation is governed in this way, that is, in accordance with the maxims of Christianity, absolutism causes no fear, submission is blessed and sixteen millions of subjects can be kept faithful to a foreign and distant monarch by a force of eight thousand soldiers only; and indeed this small number may not always be necessary.

Don Porfirio Diaz.

The Assembly of Notables decided to offer the Crown of Mexico to the one selected by France. Maximilian of Austria was proclaimed Emperor; but being basely abandoned by Napoleon III. he soon suffered the fate of the first emperor, and Mexico, on the tomb of Maximilian, shot in the 19th June 1867, uniting herself more closely to her chosen leader, Don Porfirio Diaz, the instrument of her resurrection seems to have entered on a period of more vigorous life.

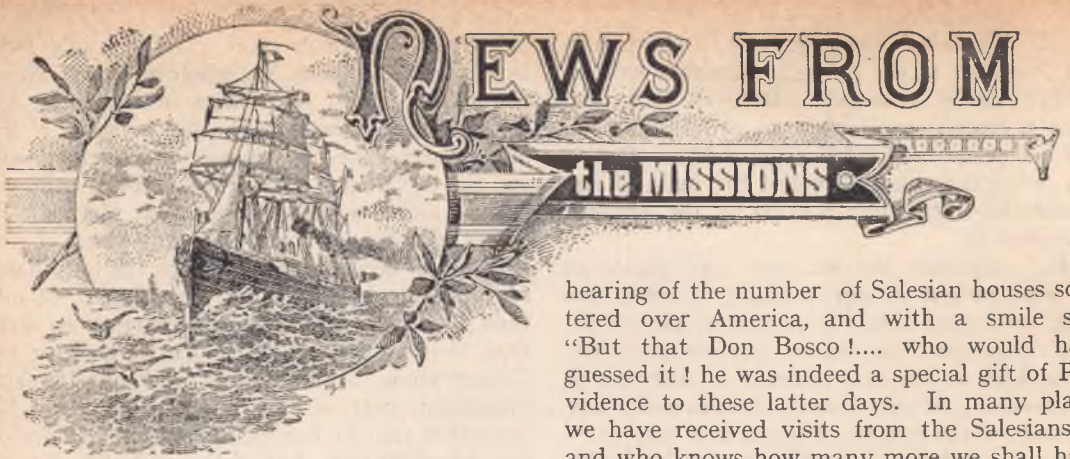
Twenty six years have elapsed since Don Porfirio Diaz became President of the Mexican Republic. Every four years he has been re-elected without opposition, and in spite of his advanced age, he has consented to offer himself for the next term 1904-1908. He is still vigorous, and it is to be hoped that his political career may be prolonged for many years. I say *it is hoped*, because he is perhaps the only head of the State who receives the support of all, though divided into opposing parties, so that Don Porfirio is loved and feared equally by Conservatives and Liberals and obtains the unanimous vote of both parties. It is not by despotism that he has secured the free choice of his fellow-citizens but rather by his innate worth, by the results of his labours and his wise and practical views. His refusal to govern the country would be looked upon as a national calamity and it is as such, that the date of his departure from this world, is feared.

When Don Porfirio first took the helm of state the country was infested with gangs whose only trade was that of revolution. They were enemies to all forms of government. They levied taxes on the towns and their ill-gotten booty was spent in orgies and banquets. The new President, a distinguished soldier, who had freed Puebla and the city of Mexico from Maximilian's troops, set out in pursuit of these gangs and, notwithstanding the difficulties of a mountainous country, succeeded in capturing several; he treated them kindly and offered their leaders, according to their taste and capacity, honourable posts in the regular army or the civil service. Those who persisted in their rebellion were threatened with the death penalty and thus it came about that the greater number submitted and settled down into official positions, whilst those who persisted in their rebellion were looked upon as robbers.

Public tranquillity being restored, Don Porfirio devoted himself to the improvement of the country's financial position, devising new means of communication and encouraging trade. When arrived in Mexico in 1903, railroads were being constructed everywhere, so that the abundant agricultural products might reach the best markets: there were probably more than fifteen new lines in course of construction, giving to the working class more opportunities of employment than in any other country visited by us

(To be continued.)





NEWS FROM

the MISSIONS

Southern Patagonia

Visit of H. R. H. Prince Ferdinand
of Savoy to Punta Arenas.

Punta Arenas, July, 28, 1905.

Very Reverend Don Rua,

On the 19th 20th and 21st of this month we were honoured by the visit of H. R. H. Prince Ferdinand of Savoy, Duke of Udine, the eldest son of Prince Thomas, Duke of Genoa, who arrived on board the Royal Vessel *Calabria*. Courteous and affable as ever, he seemed greatly pleased with his visit to our school, our Church, and above all to the Meteorological Observatory and the Museum, taking several photographs of the buildings and of our pupils. He visited also the boarding school of the Sisters of Mary, Help of Christians, taking photographs of the various work-rooms where the girls were employed. He gave us several photographs of the Royal Vessel *Calabria* and an alms for our Missions.

We went on board the *Calabria* to return his visit and to salute him in the name of our Superior, Mgr Fagnano (absent at Buenos Ayres) and of all the Salesians in these parts, presenting him several photographs and curiosities from our Missions. We found him with several officers very busy arranging the photographs of our Schools taken the previous day. He received us with great kindness, thanking us repeatedly for our insignificant gifts and invited us to take with him and Commander Marenco di Morione, a small glass of Vermouth from Turin. He asked how long we had been labouring in these parts (which in some respects he finds very interesting) and what were the numbers of Salesians and of our houses already established. His astonishment was great on

hearing of the number of Salesian houses scattered over America, and with a smile said "But that Don Bosco!... who would have guessed it! he was indeed a special gift of Providence to these latter days. In many places we have received visits from the Salesians.... and who knows how many more we shall have before the end of our voyage!...."

Then he recalled the visits he had paid to the Oratory of Turin and the great impression it always made upon him. He concluded with cordial wishes for the prosperity of all the Salesian foundations, not only in America, but over the whole world, and for the Superior General, Don Rua. After more than half-an-hour of cheerful and familiar conversation, we took leave of him, enchanted with his affability.

Commander Marenco and many of the officers also came to visit us and to all were given photographs, arrows, bows, or other curiosities. We gave the Doctor, a native of Turin, the skull of a seal, which he intended to send to the Museum in that city, as he had been on the look out for a specimen of the kind: he was greatly pleased. All went away with the best impressions of Punta Arenas.

The local authorities gave a sumptuous banquet in honour of His Royal Highness and the officers of the *Calabria*; a banquet attended by the young Prince, the Commander and several officers, all the chief authorities of the city, several Consuls and the principal citizens; towards the end of the repast toasts were proposed to the welfare of Chili and Italy. These visits of the Italian Navy which are repeated from time to time contribute efficaciously to strengthen the bonds of friendship between these two nations and also secure greater respect for the Missionaries living in these distant lands. We may therefore regard them as blessings from Heaven.


As I think the above account will give pleasure to Your Reverence as well as to our Cooperators, I hasten to send it.

With the filial greetings of all the Salesians of Punta Arenas and of Terra del Fuego, accept those also of

Your obedient Son
M. BORGATELLO,
Priest.

Central Patagonia

In search of alms for the Mission of Chubut.

he Superioress of the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians, established at *Rawson* in Chubut, sends the following from Buenos Ayres to Don Rua.

Very Revd Don Rua,

Your esteemed letters have reached me, and the last arrived just in a moment of great trial, in which I felt more keenly than ever the difficulties of the arduous task of collecting alms...

How humbling and mortifying are one's experiences! How many times has the door been shut in my face! how many times have I almost wept in the streets! how often have I passed the whole day without a morsel of bread! sometimes, when quite exhausted, I have begged a cup of milk or broth from a family who seemed kindly disposed. In these days it is painful to go from door to door soliciting alms, more especially because I made it a rule not to beg from any of the benefactors of our Houses in Buenos Ayres. Every day there were new faces and I went on thus for four months, without missing a day. On Sundays and holidays only I remained at home; even in the rain, though in poor health, I continued my work from morning till night.

Thanks to Mary, Help of Christians, the work is now finished; with joyful heart I can say that Our Lady has shown herself a true Mother, granting me many favours. I will relate one briefly.

On the 15th of May, the first day of Her Novena I implored of Her to come to my assistance. I had been working every day for three weeks without any result; all shut their doors against me! That day, full of confidence, I went out into the town. I rang the bell and a maid answered. I said to her "Is the lady at home?" "Yes," she replied, "please walk in." The *Señora* came and asked me what I wanted. I was a perfect stranger to her. I told her where I came from, of the misery at Chubut, our wants etc. etc. "Poor Sister," she replied, "how sorry I am for you! your position is very trying..." Then she took my hand and gave me 500 pesos, about 1200 francs." Accept this, she said, and take courage, the Madonna will help you!" I was petrified and two great tears were my only

acknowledgment. At this sight the lady also was touched and said: "Before leaving the town call again, that I may give you a little more help." I thanked her and went out. In the street I could scarcely see where I was walking, so great was my surprise.

Continuing my round I had fresh proofs of Our Lady's maternal care, so that on this day of the 15th of May I returned home profoundly moved.

The following Tuesday was also specially marked by Providence. That evening I received a letter saying that a lady would expect me on Wednesday at eleven o'clock. On that day we were keeping the the Feast of the anniversary of the Coronation of Mary, Help of Christians. I had intended not to go out but this invitation seemed to me to have been sent from above. I decided to go out. The lady received me most amiably, and after making some enquiries, she also placed in my hands 500 pesos.... You can well imagine, dear Don Rua, that at this fresh proof of God's Providential care my emotion was indescribable. The whole novena in fact was full of surprises.

Truly Our Lord repays a hundred-fold the sacrifices made solely for Him and for the good of souls. When this is the end in view one may feel certain of success; of this I have had a thousand proofs.

For the present I have collected a sum almost sufficient to finish the building of the school and therefore I leave things in the hands of Providence.

I have also collected some provisions, obtained two machines for the work-room and all the necessary furniture for our chapel. We earnestly ask your blessing and your prayers.

Your devoted daughter

Sr. JOSEPHINE TORTA.


Northern Patagonia

Along the banks of the Rio Negro.

(Letter from the Missionary Fr. Andrew Pestarino to His Lordship Mgr Cagliero.)

Coronel Pringles, Aug. 24, 1905.

My Lord,

y the disposition of Divine Providence I have returned from the Missions of the Rio Negro to reside at Pringles, where in 1889 I was the first teacher in the school annexed to the Church of that Centre

In March, May and June, accompanied by the Catechist, I went to give Missions at various points on the coast to the North and South of Rio Negro. The results seem to have been satisfactory, as Your Lordship may judge from the subjoined statement. It could not be otherwise, having commenced my missionary expedition under the auspices of the glorious Patriarch St. Joseph, and continued it under the protection of our Patroness, Mary Help of Christians and of the most Sacred Heart.

At the Traversia del Turco — An old man of 115 years — A little good everywhere.

We stayed several days in the patriarchal home of Signor Mariano Crespo, a venerable man 115 years old! where we received every possible attention. Thanks to the zeal of this gentleman's sons and nephews, people came from all parts to the Mission.

At La Commercial, near the Rio Colorado, we spent a week at the *estancia* of Signor Otto Peters, a German. Though he himself, as well as his administrator and the representative of the Chamber of Commerce, were non-catholics, they treated us most kindly and sent notice of the arrival of the Missionaries to all in the neighbourhood.

At about twelve miles from the *estancia* I found a poor Argentine family with eight children not yet baptized. As a State official I married the parents in accordance with the law and as a Missionary I blessed their union according to the Rites of the Church. I baptized also their eight children after having sufficiently instructed in the truths of our holy Religion those who had attained the age of reason. The eldest was fourteen years old. This couple were so pleased to be once more in the grace of God that they could not find words to express their gratitude for this great benefit.

Some miles further on we found an Argentine man who had contracted a civil marriage with a Protestant young woman, who had spent a year at the boarding school of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in Viedma. Having sufficiently instructed her in the truths of our Holy Religion, and as she was anxious to enter the true Church, I gave her the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion, and blessed their marriage. The husband also received the Sacrament of Confirmation; and both were of the greatest help in enabling me to baptize the five elder children. The zeal and devotedness displayed by the husband and wife in this matter filled me with admiration.

With gratitude and with regret we left that place to go on to *Bajo San Pedro*, where the good family of the Vascos were expecting us. But darkness overtook us when we were still two leagues distant: so we spent the night in the house of a Christian Indian called Francis Naucupil. This disappointment was however Providential; for we found there a young Indian, thirty years of age, who wished to receive Holy Baptism, and two persons desirous of making their Easter duties.

At Bajo S. Pedro — Feast of Mary Help of Christians at Conesa.

At *Bajo S. Pedro*, thanks to the zeal displayed by the above named family Vascos. I was able to perform the civil and religious marriage of an Argentine couple who had already five children growing up. Having finished the mission there, we went on to Conesa. I was there the guest of Signor Tissot, whose sons were all educated at the school of our Mission. They all approached the Sacraments together with their native servants. Another servant hitherto a pagan was prepared for Holy Baptism and Confirmation. In this house I found that morning and evening prayers were said in common just as at the School.

I wished also to go to Numero but on account of the very wet weather it was impossible.

At Conesa we remained several days, waiting for the roads to improve and meanwhile I preached the triduum in preparation for the Feast of Mary Help of Christians. On the day of the Feast I celebrated the Mass of General Communion, giving also a brief sermon, and at the Solemn Mass, sung by the parish priest, I preached again on the glories of our heavenly Patroness.

In the *Colonia Frias* I gave missions in several houses, everywhere preparing the children for their First Communion. In the house of Signor Pagleman, an old and great friend of the Missionaries, I gave a Mission twice over, in March and in May, and each time there were a good number of Communicants. There also I administered Holy Baptism to two Indians, thirty years of age, and to another, an old man, whose faith, candour and gratitude filled me with admiration.

I gave a one day Mission at the house of Signor Alfaro, who prides himself on having entertained, in 1884 His Grace, Mgr. Espinosa, then Vicar General and now the Archbishop of Buenos Ayres. I prepared the two younger sons of Signor Alfaro for their First Communion and celebrated Mass on the anniversary of the

death of a son of his, at which all his numerous relatives and friends were present.

Then I went on to two other settlements with but little fruit on account of the influenza which was raging, and of the absence of many heads of families, who had gone to Viedma, precisely those in whose houses I had determined to give the short mission.

On the 30th June which was the Feast of the S. Heart of Jesus, I said Holy Mass at Faro, during which several of the local authorities communicated. The same evening I set out for Viedma, where I had the pleasure of arriving in time for the closing function of the Month of the Divine Heart of Jesus and of giving Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.


I conclude this short report begging a special blessing for myself and for all those persons who have in any way contributed to the success of the above mission,

Your Lordship's devoted son in J. and M.
ANDREA PESTARINO, Priest.

Ecuador

A new Mission Station.

(Extract from a letter to Don Rua).

 I have just returned from the Mission of *Pachicosa*, where I went with three carpenters to erect a chapel and a small house.

Mr. Rinaldo Moscoso, the son of a great benefactor, also accompanied me. Many were the obstacles to be overcome but thanks to God and Our Blessed Mother the work is finished and when we go thither again we shall find a little house to shelter us, and a chapel in which to pray.

Throughout our journey the rain fell in torrents and continuously, so that the rivers were much swollen and we could only cross them with the greatest difficulty. In fact we ran a great risk of losing our lives. On our return we tried to cross the flooded river *Chucumblesa* in a canoe. I made the attempt first with two carpenters, but in the middle of the current, we were unable to withstand the force of the water which turned the prow of the boat and swept us like lightning down stream. The oars were useless; we were hastening to destruction in the foaming waters. I turned to Our Lady Help of Christians and to St Joseph, calling upon

them with fervent invocations and once more we began to row with greater vigour; but our efforts were fruitless! Suddenly another unexpected rush of water struck our boat and in an instant we were dashed against a rock; I shuddered, involuntarily closed my eyes and suddenly there was a terrible shock.....

The canoe should have gone to pieces, but Our Lady and St Joseph watched over us and the bows only were damaged; however the boat had sprung a leak and my two companions who were at the prow, in a single bound found themselves in safety on the river bank. I at the other end had not time to jump and the canoe resumed its headlong course. But Providence assisted me and, I know not how, I was able to grasp the root of a shrub and held on to it, whilst the canoe was swept away by the current.



General Porfirio Diaz
President of the Mexican Republic.

My companions ran up and one catching hold of my hand and the other of my feet dragged me out of danger. But alas! in what a state! The root to which I clung was full of thorns which left their mark upon me; but after all this was nothing; what grieved us was the loss of all our property in the canoe.... There was nothing to be done, but to resign ourselves; our canoe-load of goods was worth some £ 25, but our lives were saved....

That night, moreover, we had to sleep as we were, drenched to the skin, without food of any kind, on the banks of the river. The next day having nothing to transport, it was easy for us to swim across the river and continue our journey to the Jivaro settlement of Gualaquiza.

If you could only have seen our absurd appearance! Each had lost a portion of his clothing. One had no shirt another had lost his hat; I was without hat, *poncho*, or shoes! Fancy, what a sight!

In this state we had to remain several days with the Jivaros of Gualaquiza, because the river *Bomboisa* and one of its branches was in flood. Later, with the help of God and encouraging

one another, we overcame the last difficulties and reached the Mission house in safety.

We made a triumphal entry.... bare-footed, bare-headed and cassock in rags.... But with your blessing dear Father we hope that the mission of *Pachicosa*, may yet produce abundant fruit.....

JOHN DE MARIA,
Salesian Missionary.



Our Patron Saint.

An Association, whatever may have called it into being or whatever may be its intents and purposes, usually discloses by its very title a certain amount of information concerning its foundation and objects. We cannot say that this is exactly the case with the Association of « Salesian Co-operators. » The second word is significant enough and suggests a line of action; the first not so. However it would probably not take any reader long to pick out the fundamental part of the first word, and the transition to the name of St. Francis of Sales is then immediate. It is to this name we would direct a brief notice. The Association of Co-operators is then connected with St. Francis of Sales., and derives its name from that of the Saint; so too does the Salesian Society to which the Co-operators form a recognised *Third Order*. Did St Francis then found these societies, or give them their constitutions? Not exactly; but the one who did found them was himself in word and deed, and has often been styled a second *St. Francis of Sales*.

Don Bosco was a faithful model of all the virtues which shone so pre-eminently in the Saint, from whom he took the name to give to

his life's work. St. Francis' charity and meekness, his zeal in the revival of the christian spirit, his labours in recalling heretics, his work as a founder of religious orders were renewed in Don Bosco. St. Francis of Sales then figures largely in the work of the Salesian Society and its off-shoots. He is their patron; his feast, Jan. 29th, is of first importance to them. In large Catholic centres, where the Co-operators can be gathered together, this is the day for their chief conference, and often the occasion of initiating some new mode of co-operation. All the members are reminded that they should mark that day by some special private devotion, and would do well to take up their book of regulations and settle on some further good work in connection with the objects of the association.

Our Holy Founder, Don Bosco, spent his last commemoration of the feast of his Patron almost in his agony. The two dates are now never separated in our recollection, Jan. 29th. the feast of St. Francis of Sales, and the 31st the anniversary of Don Bosco's death. The receiving of Don Rua's annual letter, and its connection with the founder and the patron of the order, are quite opportune, a stimulus to the fervour of first resolutions and a reminder of obligations undertaken.

An evening with the artizans.

The Very Rev. Don Rua, in the preceding circular letter, has something to say concerning the training of the young artisans in our Schools of Arts and Trades. The work of these schools is being frequently brought before us — a regular exhibition, contributed to by as many schools as possible, is held every three years; but local ones are by no means unknown. The Institute at Rome held one during its late commemorations for its 25th anniversary; the Houses of Spain are doing the same. But in work of this kind the Schools at Turin have long had a standing reputation, and this year's prize distribution to the artizans was evidently an event, if the names of the eminent personages present are any guarantee.

Our Superior General presided; among others in the places of honour were the representative of the Prefect of the city, the president of the Court of Cassation, the Royal Procurator-General, the President of the Court of Appeal and the head of the Chamber of Commerce. Such personages were likely to know what ought to constitute a training for a boy, and are sufficient witnesses to the reality of whatever merits the methods may have claimed.

A discourse opened the proceedings; it dealt with: *Faith and liberty, faith and progress, faith and labour.* A musical composition set especially for the occasion followed. The prizes were then distributed. The Director in his remarks upon the work said that more than thirty boys had that year completed their course of training and were placed with various firms. Fourteen of these boys, resident in Turin and its suburbs actually received that evening their diplomas of proficiency. The Director also spoke of the arrangements for the boys' weekly allowance which is regularly put to the credit of each as a provision for the completion of the course; the thirty boys mentioned had taken away some thousands of francs.

Our Superior General closed the Assembly; no words could be more suitable than his, who had sat by Don Bosco's side on many a like occasion, and has a large share of his love for the children of the masses.

Royal Co-operators.

Two years ago the Salesians were called to take charge of an Institute at Vienna, dedicated to Mary Help of Christians. The House combined boarding and day Schools with its work of Arts and Trades. They went there at the

invitation of Her Imperial Highness, Archduchess Maria Josephine, and of the Burgomaster. The School has lately been removed to a more commodious building accommodating a hundred and fifty day scholars and nearly a hundred boarders.



H. I. H. Archduchess Maria Josephine of Austria

The inauguration and blessing of the chapel was performed by His Lordship the Bishop, in the presence of many zealous Co-operators, these including Princess Olga of Liechtenstein representing Her Imperial Highness and some of the most influential people of Vienna. At the assembly, after the church service, the Prince of Liechtenstein briefly explained the the object of the Institute and his remarks were seconded by the mayor of the town. The Director in thanking the Co-operators made special mention of Her Imperial Highness the Archduchess Maria Josephine, the Prince Liechtenstein, the mayor of Vienna, and the Very Rev. P. Abel S. J. the chief promoters of the movement that day inaugurated.

The Salesian Schools. London.

The New Year is synonymous with a new term from the Schools' outlook, for class work has regularly begun its peaceful course. The

first school term went through rapidly enough, and the terminal examination reports despatched to the parents were, in the main, a record of successful efforts. The first term was also a lengthy one, so that a good deal of the syllabus was under the consideration of the teachers and boys so as to make success securer when the Summer term comes.

But it was not all work. No little enthusiasm has been aroused in the past term as in former seasons from the boys' sports' point of view. The senior football teams have a football cup in dispute till the end of the season and a good deal of youthful energy is used up in obtaining possession of it. This year's games had their interest considerably increased by a series of friendly matches with other London secondary schools, including St. Joseph's Academy, Kennington, The Westminster choir School. The Christian Brothers' School, Norwood, and St. Aloysius' Highgate. In all these matches the School team acquitted itself with honour.

In a former issue we mentioned the results of the early efforts of some of our schools abroad in the department of sports' competitions; we should therefore do an injustice to our own if it were to pass without notice.

Apart from such topics celebrations of a different nature marked two other events in the last term; these were the holidays of Nov. 4th, the feast of the Very Rev. Rector, and Dec. 8th, the Immaculate Conception, a day of first importance in all Salesian Schools. We have already spoken of the former occasion; on the latter, after a pleasant holiday, the whole school was treated to an enjoyable entertainment of musical selections and a dramatic performance by a select troupe of actors from the artisans' departments.

The school term closed by the reading of the marks by the Very Rev. Principal, and the presentation of Christmas wishes in appropriate addresses by the students; certificates of merit were awarded at the same time for exceptional work, the prize day, of course, being reserved for the Midsummer closing.

Parents and others, who may have the intention of sending their boys to school, should remember that the term soon grows old, and even a month lost means a great difference to a boy's work.

Application for any particulars should therefore be made in good time to the Superior of the school.

The New Salesian Church at Wandsworth (London).

A full notice is given on another page of this work vigorously prosecuted by the Salesians in charge of the new mission at East Hill, Wands-

worth. The building, of which the exterior elevation was given in a recent issue, is practically complete in shell, and will now be for some time in the hands of painters and fitters. The scheme for the ultimate decoration of the interior is quite elaborate and will probably be in progress for some time.



The Burgomaster of Vienna
(Salesian Co-operator)

The committee in whose hands lies the heavy task of providing funds, held three meetings last month, a testimony to its zeal and constancy. The object of the special appeal on another page is to draw as many as possible to take part in the grand bazaar which the Rector is arranging for the month of February, and by which he hopes to realise a good round sum. Through the medium of the *Bulletin* he would ask for a *New Years'* gift towards the bazaar — a gift in reality towards the new Home of Our Divine Saviour which is being raised in the New Mission.





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 Patroness of the Salesian Works.

IF we stop to consider for a moment the wonderful diffusion of the devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians, it is at once made evident that Divine Providence had Chosen His servant Don Bosco, and that in a remarkable manner, to be the instrument of its development and diffusion. But it may not be as clear to all, how Divine Providence made use of and still makes use of this devotion to aid the works of Don Bosco.

But experience has by this time brought us to the conviction that, among those who have recourse to the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians, those who promise some good work or offering towards the Sanctuary of Our Lady or towards the works of Don Bosco, more readily obtain their request and obtain it more abundantly.

We cannot doubt of course that the Mother of God is always the beneficent patroness of all who have recourse to her, but the fact remains and it is familiar to all, that there are places and circumstances in which Our Lady is pleased to grant special gifts and graces. Now in our days, one of these seats of mercy is the Sanctuary of Our Lady at Turin; and one of the favoured images is that: "Wonderfully represented in the midst of the Apostles who reverently offer homage to her from every side, with a sceptre in her right hand, and the left arm holding the Divine Child" (1).

Among the many means suggested for the use of the faithful, and by the use of which so many have experienced the power of the Mother of God perhaps the most recommended is this.

To make a novena; to approach the Sacraments, if possible, during it; and at the same time to promise or to make an offering towards the Sanctuary of Our Lady or towards the works of Don Bosco, which might almost be termed the works of Mary Help of Christians. In his announcement of the then forth coming Coronation the Very Rev. Don Rua said: *You know well all that Mary Help of Christians is to us. She it was who inspired and so wonderfully guided our venerated Don Bosco in all his grand enterprises. She it was who sustained, and she it is who continues to sustain our works by her protecting aid, so that we can truly say with our holy founder that all that we have we owe to the intercession of Mary, Most Holy* (1). So far Our Superior General.

But what did Don Bosco say on the point. To the continual applicants who consulted him on what they should do to obtain such or such a favour he used to recommend the novena, but he never failed to suggest as more powerful intercessors the sacraments and almsgiving.

Regarding this last item Don Bosco was often heard to raise up his voice against the diffidence of some, who made a promise of an alms in case they obtained their request. *Man*

(1) Brief of His Holiness Leo XIII. 13 Feb., 1903.

(1) *Bulletin*, April 1903.

has no right to put conditions before the Almighty; one should do his own part by giving generously beforehand, without reserve or restriction; after that the Lord of all things will open His hand to give freely. Give and it shall be given unto you. Experience proves that this is the best way; I myself have witnessed its verification, times without number (2).

In the oft-quoted words of his last will and testament to the Co-operators Don Bosco says: *I pray you, moreover, to remember yet furthermore, that in these latter times, in the presence of the great dearth of means and pecuniary resources for the education either by personal superintendence or the instrumentality of others, of poor, neglected children in the true Faith and in christian virtue, the most Holy Virgin has by unmistakable signs constituted herself in a special way their Patroness and Protectress, and that in her quality as such, she obtains for those who are their benefactors here numerous and extraordinary favours, not only spiritual but temporal as well.*

To Mgr. Cagliero, who, while spending a brief interval away from his missions, was able to assist at the dying moments of our holy Founder, he said: *Those who desire favours from Our Lady Help of Christians, let them aid Our Missions, and they will obtain their requests.*

After such explicit declarations further comment would be superfluous; it remains but to express the confidence that all those who have co-operated in the works that Don Bosco placed under her protection, may be able to say as he did in his last agony: **I have always put all my trust in Our Lady Help of Christians.**

GRACES and FAVOURS

London.—As I had for some time been anxious to obtain an important favour, I sought the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians and made an offering towards the works of Don Bosco, promising at the same time

another offering in thanksgiving. I now gladly fulfil my promise having obtained all that I desired.

A Salesian Co-operator.

Dec. 1906.

Alona (ITALY).—I had been in the habit of going out in the evenings to meet my husband returning from his work in the fields. One evening I had gone a little earlier to the Church where a sermon was being preached, and on coming out my husband was just passing. I spoke to him as usual, but his customary greeting was changed for an angry glance and he strode on muttering. I was surprised and afraid, but followed close by. His whole manner was changed, his eyes flashing out a wild glare, and a general appearance of great excitement was visible.

He had hardly entered the house when he cried out: "The police are after me! They will throw me in prison! They tried to kill me in the train." He continued to bring out such like phrases and incoherent sentences, so that in my intense anxiety and fear I was persuaded that he had gone mad.

The doctor was summoned and after examining him attributed the mental aberration to sun-stroke. He applied several remedies with no apparent effect and my husband threatened to drown himself in the river near the village. You may imagine my anxiety and continual worry. Seeing no hope in human aid I commenced a novena and got many others to pray to Our Lady Help of Christians promising publication. The cure was even more rapid than the falling into the malady. A little while after our prayers had been said and promise made, my husband became calmer and gradually gained his senses. He is now as well as ever and at his customary occupation.

S. C.

Sept. 1900.

Ervilla, Ahascragh (IRELAND). I am sending a small offering to have a Mass said in honour of Our Lady Help of Christians for favours received through her powerful intercession.

B. D.



Kent (ENGLAND). We offer loving thanks to Our Lady Help of Christians for a temporal favour obtained, after promise of publication and an offering for Don Rua's boys. May Our Lady still continue to intercede for us.

S. & F.

Dec. 11th, 1905.



LIFE OF MONSIGNOR LASAGNA

Salesian Missionary, Titular Bishop of Tripoli



CHAPTER XXVI.

(Continued).

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. On the day any one is enrolled as a Salesian Co-operator.
2. On any one day in each month chosen by the individual.
3. On the day the monthly exercise for a good death is made.
4. The Feast of the Purification Feb. 2nd.
5. The Feast of St. Peter's Chair at Antioch Feb. 22nd.

6. Whenever the Co-operators shall say five times the *Our Father*, *Hail Mary*, and *Gloria 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.

Mgr. Cagliari landed at Montevideo on March 13. The College of Pius IX had prepared a triumphal reception for the first Salesian Bishop, who also had had the largest share in its foundation: in this year the number of pupils was one hundred and fifteen. Having comforted his dear confrères and enkindled a holy enthusiasm in the hearts of the boys of this School on whom the Church and Society founded their best hopes, accompanied by Fr. Lasagna, Mgr. Cagliari visited all the Salesian Houses and those of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, scattered over the Republic of Uruguay; marvelling that, in a little more than seven years, so much progress had been made.

The Provincial, Fr. Lasagna, was filled with such great joy by the Bishop's visit that, on the 23rd April, he thus expresses his gratitude to Don Bosco. "I thank you so much for sending us Mgr. Cagliari, it is most providential for us all. I, in particular, feel as if an enormous weight had been lifted off my shoulders. In Mgr. Cagliari I seem to behold your Reverence and this sight fills me with immense joy and satisfaction. Thanks, Very Rev. Father, a thousand thanks, for the precious gift you have sent us."

In the same letter, pouring forth his heart into that of Don Bosco, he thus describes the anguish which filled his soul and which had been relieved by the advent of the Vicar Apostolic of Patagonia. "The great concourse of pupils had necessitated an immense expenditure, so that we were burdened with heavy debts. What was to be done? Confidence in Our Lady's help had urged us to make every effort to prepare a suitable building for so many poor boys who came to our doors begging food for the mind and nourishment for the soul.

"But that was not the only trouble. The greatest was that after admitting so many pupils, without neglecting our other Missionary labours, we made a calculation and to our dismay we found that our numbers and strength were quite inadequate to the obligations we had undertaken.

"Mgr. Cagliari deprived himself, indeed, of one half of his staff to assist us, but the eight additional subjects distributed immediately amongst so many houses of the Province, disappeared like smoke, like the dew falling from heaven on land two long parched with drought. All our brethren in this Province implored of his fatherly kindness the help necessary to maintain the good works already begun and to develop them as required." In this strain he poured out his heart to Don Bosco.



There was another reason, not to be forgotten, which rendered the visit of such a Superior as Mgr. Cagliario most helpful and comforting to Fr. Lasagna. In the Republic of Uruguay the period of the elections was approaching: consequently the malcontents and factions were issuing proclamations preparing an armed rebellion... Those who know something of the vicissitudes of the new American Republics, those who read of the horrors and the carnage which usually attend the election of the President, will understand that Fr. Lasagna's fears were not unfounded. What a comfort for him in these trying circumstances to feel that he had at hand one who would take all the responsibility, who would support him with his advice and console him in every event!

Not least, amongst the consolations of which Mgr. Cagliario was the bearer, was the announcement that our good Father Don Bosco left entirely to the prudence of His Lordship the decision respecting the foundation of the new House of S. Paolo. The zealous and far-seeing Prelate, after mature consideration, having invoked the light of the Holy Spirit, decided that the new work should be put in hand without delay, as it promised to contribute greatly to the glory of God and the salvation of Souls. Besides other plans there was question of founding there an Institute to be placed under the special protection of the Sacred Heart and of a Church to be dedicated to Its honour: the success of the enterprise was assured.

It is impossible to describe Fr. Lasagna's joy in beholding his brethren thus chosen as instruments in the propagation and maintenance of the most consoling and the most fruitful amongst the devotions which have sprung up in the enclosed Garden of the Catholic Church. He doubted not that this Sanctuary, when completed, would at no distant date, become a centre like that of Rome where the Missionaries might come to rekindle and increase their fervour and zeal in the service of God and of their neighbour.

As Rector of the new House, called the *College of the Sacred Heart*, Fr. Lasagna proposed one whom he greatly esteemed, the priest Fr. Lorenzo Giordano, for he had known him as a boy and trained him in virtue and learning during his Professorship at the College of Lanzo, Turin. On the 15th May, this priest, having received the blessing of Mgr Cagliario and Fr. Lasagna, started with two companions from Montevideo, and after an unpleasant sea voyage of five days arrived first at Nictheroy and later, on the 1st June 1885, at the Capital of the State of S. Paolo.

The beginnings of this new Salesian House, like all works destined to effect much good, were humble and laborious. These also, in a short time, when the enthusiasm excited by Fr. Lasagna's two previous visits had cooled down, the funds, necessary for the completion of the building failed, so that when the Salesians arrived they found scarcely any habitable rooms for those who were to serve the Church. Fr. Giordano himself had to take up his abode at the Hospital for the town

and the Italian colonists, amongst whom, however, his zealous labours found ample scope or several mouths; the others were charitably entertained by the Chaplain to a convent of nuns and elsewhere. Meantime they were not idle; besides labouring in the Church of the Sacred Heart in S. Paolo, and in the Hospital, they had leisure for visiting several Colonies of emigrants, instructing the children in Christian Doctrine, preaching the Word of God and administering the holy Sacraments to the benefit of many Souls, especially in the Colony of St Anne, already visited by Fr. Lasagna during his first journey to S. Paolo. But, burning with desire to commence the special work for which they had been sent, the Rector implored Fr. Lasagna to come over and on his arrival with his fervent appeals touching all hearts, opening all purses and triumphing over all difficulties, he was soon able to resume building operations and complete the edifice.

(To be continued)



THE pious prayers and suffrages of our Co-operators and Readers are earnestly solicited for the repose of the souls of the following lately deceased:—

- Sister Mary Elizabeth Ryan, Convent of Mercy, Galway, Ireland.
- James Fitzgerald, Castlegar, Galway, Ireland.
- Mrs. Frances Meier, Damiensville, Ill., U. S. A.
- Sister Francis Salt, St. Scholastica's Priory, Atherstone, England.
- Mr. Michael Henry, Aintree, Liverpool, England.
- Mr. Elias Coelho, Mangalore, India.

PERMISSU SUPERIORUM

Gerent, GIUSEPPE GAMBINO—Salesian Press, Turin, 1906

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. tobis 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 Association of Salesian Co-operators

We wish to call the attention of the Readers of the *Salesian Bulletin* to the Association of Salesian Co-operators, and ask them to make the same widely known amongst their friends and acquaintances.

It is a most practical, efficacious and advantageous way of carrying out the wishes and exhortations of His Holiness Leo XIII, and notably those contained in the Encyclical *Graves de communi* on Christian Democracy.

This Association was, from its very beginning, warmly recommended by Pius IX who claimed to be inscribed as first Co-operator, and enriched it with the spiritual favours of the most privileged tertiaries.

His Holiness Leo XIII, on his elevation to the pontifical throne, claimed, like his Predecessor, to head the list of the Salesian Co-operators. He, moreover, said to Don Bosco: *Each time you address the Co-operators, tell them that I bless them from my heart; the scope of the Society is to prevent the loss and ruin of youth, and they must form but one heart and one soul in order to help to attain this end.*

Every good christian above sixteen years of age can become a Co-operator, enjoy the numerous spiritual favours, and share in the merit of the good works accomplished by the Salesian Congregation, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, and the Association of Co-operators throughout the whole world.

The membership does not entail any obligation of conscience whatsoever; hence not only all members of a family, but inmates of any institution or college, members of religious communities, confraternities, etc., can join it by means of their Superiors.

Each and all may become active Co-operators by promoting with their good example and according to their means and capacity the practice of Religion and works of charity in their respective places.

Each and all may co-operate in the numerous and manifold works of charity and public beneficence carried on in other parts by the following means:

PRAYER — by praying for the object and intentions of the Association.

ALMSGIVING — by contributing according to their means to the support and development of the many institutions of the Society for the education of destitute youth; also to the support and extension of the Missions among heathens, and on behalf of the lepers.

PROPAGANDA — by making the Association of Salesian Co-operators more widely known and increasing the number of its members; by bringing the works of the Society to the knowledge of well-disposed and charitable persons, by enlisting the sympathy of them and of all who have at heart the rescuing and christian education of youth and the good of civil society.

Any persons desiring to become Members of this Association are respectfully solicited to send their name and address to the *Very Rev. Michael Rua, Superior General, Salesian Oratory, Turin, Italy*, who will be most happy to enrol them and forward their Diploma of Admission, as well as the *Salesian Bulletin* every month.