



Salesian Bulletin

No. 7 — JULY — 1906

♣ Vol. V. ♣

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

Sanctus

✠ DA MIHI

ANIMAS CAETERA TOLLE

CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

FOUNDED IN FAVOUR OF

THE ORATORY OF THE SACRED HEART

AT THE CASTRO PRETORIO IN ROME

TO WHICH IS ATTACHED THE CELEBRATION OF

SIX MASSES DAILY IN PERPETUITY

offered for the intentions of those who make a single contribution

OF ONE SHILLING

ADVANTAGES.

1. During the erection of the magnificent Temple, recently consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, at the Castro Pretorio in Rome, it was established that, as soon as the grand edifice were finished, the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin and other prayers should be daily recited therein, and Holy Mass offered on Fridays for all Contributors to the Building Fund of this International Monument of devotion to the Sacred Heart. In order to augment these spiritual advantages and admit to their enjoyment a greater number of the faithful, the Charitable Association of the Sacred Heart of Jesus has been established in the above-named church; whereby all the members participate in the fruit of six Masses daily, in perpetuity, offered for the intentions of those who are inscribed in the books of the Association and have given an alms of One Shilling once for ever towards the Oratory of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



2. Two of these daily Masses will be celebrated at the Altar of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, two at that of Mary Help of Christians, and two at St. Joseph's. We may remark that Don Bosco's venerable name is associated with the two last-mentioned Altars, for on them he offered the Holy Sacrifice during his last stay in Rome.

3. Besides the six daily Masses all MEMBERS, both living and dead, participate in the fruits attached to:

(a) The recital of the Rosary and the imparting of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, which takes place every day in this church;

The Salesian Bulletin

Organ of the Association of Salesian Co-operators

"Oratorio Salesiano" Turin, Italy.

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THE FESTIVITIES

The members of the Association of Co-operators will be pleased to know that the Fifth Salesian Congress and its accompanying festivities were eminently successful. Great strides will assuredly follow this manifestation of vigorous life, and nowhere more than in the important city of Milan which has made such efforts to complete the new Church and Institute now flourishing there. And not only in Milan. The hundreds of Co-operators present at the Congress and notably the Directors and officers of the Association will carry away to their own districts new methods and instructions, wider views and fuller knowledge which will exert an influence in many directions. Matters of interest in connexion with this will be put forth in a following issue.

FOR THE NEXT SCHOLASTIC YEAR

After the August holidays the First Scholastic Term commences at
THE SALESIAN SCHOOL, SURREY LANE
BATTERSEA, LONDON, S. W.

Of the higher sections some fifty pupils are taking the Oxford Local and College of Preceptors' examinations in July.

The principal object of the school is to provide, at a moderate charge, a classical education for those boys who desire to study for the priesthood. Boys who have no vocation for the ecclesiastical state are prepared for any other career they may wish to follow.

The Curriculum embraces the usual subjects of study essential to a liberal education.

Boys are prepared for the Preliminary, Junior and Senior branches of the Oxford Local examinations, and for the College of Preceptors and Civil Service examinations.

At the end of each term a report on the conduct of the student, together with the result of the terminal examination is forwarded to parents or guardians.

The religious education receives the most careful attention. The diocesan inspection is held every year. The report for 1905 was as follows: *It was a pleasure to examine the boys of this school. They are taught so thoroughly, and evidently very much appreciate their religious instructions.*

F. G. WILDERSPIN,
Diocesan Inspector.

For terms and prospectus apply to the

Very Rev. C. B. Macey, S. C.

Salesian School, Surrey Lane

Battersea, London, S. W.

The Co-operators in Congress



A brief notice in our last issue acquainted the Co-operators with the fact that a fifth Salesian Congress was about to be called together. Turin and Bologna, each of which could boast of an eminently successful attempt, have now a rival in Milan. These large centres of industry have now for many years been strongholds of Salesian activity, spreading their influence throughout the surrounding districts, linking up outlying suburbs and even country places by the establishment of Festive Oratories and smaller schools; while in all that has produced such a rapid development of Don Bosco's work they have been leaders and guides.

In these places the enthusiasm of Don Bosco's personal charm, the influence that could hold hundreds in rapt attention to his words, and beneath all, the knowledge of that saintliness of life which brought him so often in contact almost, with the secret workings of God's power and grace, have not yet lost their influence, nay, their effect is only now being realised and the wonderful dealings of God's Providence in regard to his servant becoming more and more manifest.

In the September of 1886, about eighteen months before his death, Don Bosco visited the city of Milan for a conference in the Church of Our Lady of Grace. His journey from the station to the Archiepiscopal palace was of the

nature of a triumphal entry; and the vast church could not contain the throng that crowded to the conference on the following day. And yet Don Bosco merely assisted at it, though he was well represented indeed in the pulpit by the Salesian Missionary, Fr. (afterwards Bishop) Lasagna. Although the city of Milan had already had a Salesian Institute for some years, the enthusiasm of that day seems to have given the impulse which has now culminated in the Congress of last month.

The immediate circumstances have been already given. The imposing new church dedicated to St. Augustine and attached to the Salesian Institute, was to be solemnly opened in the early part of June. The Milanese Co-operators rightly considered it proper to mark the occasion by special commemorations, and our Superior General was approached on the subject of a Congress. The reply was, in his own words: "I most willingly agree." Arrangements were forthwith begun.

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* *

The work which Don Bosco was called by Divine Providence to accomplish was above all things a work which just suited the needs of the times in which he lived; and mainly on that account it very naturally adapts itself to the special necessities that surroundings and circumstances call into existence; nay, should it take up a dif-

ferent line of action its primary character would be lost and its action would languish and be paralysed. For this reason no new development or phase of life is left unnoticed by it.

Now in order to keep abreast with the continual flow of new aspirations,



H. E. Cardinal Andrew Ferrari
Archbishop of Milan.

needs, ideas, inventions or discoveries which daily multiply themselves before our eyes, it will not suffice to stop at the goal arrived at even so recently as yesterday; so likewise it will not do for our work to rely solely on the experience of past congresses. Born and reared among the activity of the children of toil, the work of Don Bosco will remain true to its principles and pro-

gramme, and flourish in vigorous life as long as there are in the world children exposed to dangers from poverty, ignorance or surroundings, others to be trained and educated, savage tribes to be converted and the works of religious charity to be performed. But in order that it may continue such a manifold work, and do so efficaciously, it is necessary for it to continue to perfect itself according to the new methods which the times render indispensable. To this end it is necessary that congresses should be held at intervals, where, on account of the concourse of Co-operators from many provinces and nations, valuable experience in many directions is accumulated which can be combined into a general method of procedure more practical and effectual.

It is out of place to lament the times in which we live, or to exaggerate the evils of the present state of society; and more so to look on with indifference at the effects of the disastrous forces which are working towards its ruin. Our age has resources of its own, and aspirations too which other centuries could not boast. These must be studied, adapted to circumstances and directed to higher ideals.

On the 8th of May 1884 His Eminence Cardinal Parocchi, then the Protector of our society gave a conference to the Co-operators in Rome, and among other things he said: "If I have correctly understood the object of the Salesian Congregation, if I have been able to form a judgement of its special work, its scope and characteristic, nay,

its essential note is *the exercise of charity suited to the needs of the age*" and further on he says: "We must adapt our forces to the needs of our times..."

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It was with this in view that under the presidency of His Eminence Cardinal Ferrari, Archbishop of Milan and His Grace the Archbishop of Ravenna, both distinguished Co-operators, that the late Congress was held. Cardinal Parocchi's words were seemingly quite to the point, for it is not yet two years since the present Holy Father in his letter to Our Superior General, *si consentanea*, styled Don Bosco *that illu-*

strious man, a model in whom shone all the christian virtues but foremost among them charity... and that as a summing up of his character and the character of his work.

What strides Don Bosco's work has made in Milan since his visit there in 1886! It was then a conference, now a congress; then it was a city's tribute, now an international one; then a parish church was offered for the occasion, a new Salesian church and spacious Institute now accomodated the throngs of the crowded meetings; and in addition, the very fact of the congress is significant of yet further developments and a yet larger field for the deeds of charity.

GENERAL PROGRAMME OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS.

SECTION 1st. Instruction and Education of youth.

1. **Education in general.** Its connection with Festive Oratories (Sunday schools and recreations); Evening classes; the position of sports, music and drama.
2. **The student section.** Colleges and Boarding-schools; text-books and scholastic periodicals.
3. **The artisan section.** Professional schools and Institutes; homes for boys and girls who are employed in different pursuits during the day; clubs and associations in connection with these.
4. **Agricultural training.** Instruction and practical work; Publications dealing with agriculture.

SECOND SECTION. Salesian Missions.

1. **Institutions and movements on behalf of emigrants.**
2. **The maintenance of the Salesian Missions.**

THIRD SECTION. Various Proposals.

1. **The special work established some years ago at Milan on behalf of youth, under the patronage of St. Augustine.**
2. **The ladies' committees in connection with Salesian work.**

THE PRESIDENCY.

Besides the honorary presidency of H. E. the Cardinal, the arrangements of the Congress were undertaken by the Very Rev. Don Rua, Superior General of the Salesians, assisted by an executive committee.

The **Religious Functions** at the close of the Congress commenced with the *Te Deum* in thanksgiving, and continued through a triduum in preparation for June 7th, when the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians was solemnly kept at Milan.

The Salesians in San Francisco.

These are two letters from Salesians in California at the time of the catastrophe. They were written soon after the occurrence but were necessarily delayed in transmission.

I.

Destruction of the Church of SS. Peter and Paul. Great damage to that of Corpus Christi. None of the community injured.

VERY REV. DON RUA,

YOU must have already had particulars of the earthquake, and of the fire which followed it, and which only now after three days burning seems to be giving out, having nothing more to consume.

The home of 350,000 people, San Francisco is no more; it has been devoured by fire. No human force could stem the flames which engulfed the city, and no winds were needed to assist them, the air in fact was perfectly calm, but the large amount of timber in some quarters gave them an easy prey.

All the churches with scarcely one exception are laid in ruins; this morning during the course of an hour, our own church of SS. Peter and Paul and the presbytery were destroyed; that of Corpus Christi is only partly wrecked but will not stand repairs.

More than 200,000 people are here in Oakland; all kinds of business and occupation are at an end, and quite a hundred thousand who depended solely on their daily toil are in utter misery, and will be so till work commences again. Several committees have been organised to start relief funds and indeed there has been no lack of subscriptions from all parts of the States.

We had only just previously opened a relief fund for the victims of Vesuvius, the circulars were printed and all arrangements made, when on the very morning of the opening, the earthquake commenced the catastrophe. The fire burst out almost immediately and whilst I am writing, the city is still partly in flames. The loss at Vesuvius could no longer be thought of. What we ourselves shall do, or what move

to take we do not know. That must follow in another letter.

II.

The ruined city. Three hundred people with the Salesians at Oakland.

VERY REV. DON RUA,

I have just returned from a hasty visit to San Francisco. On leaving the wrecked station with its lofty tower in danger of fallings one enters the large square usually one of the busiest scenes, alive with motors and vehicles of every description, now an expanse of ruins still smoking.

I had gone with the intention of visiting our church of SS. Peter and Paul, which had lately been interiorly decorated and furnished with stained glass windows. The way was blocked by heaps of wreckage, the ground still hot, the air still full of ashes and smoke blown by a gentle wind. The telegraph wires and poles lay strewn about, making the way still more entangled. In Dupon Street, the Italian quarter, not even a wall was left standing, the front of the church of St. Francis d'Assisi remaining all solitary, giving the scene the aspect of a cemetery many centuries abandoned.

It was difficult to make out the precise locality of our church, but the discovery of two granite supports showed us where the entrance had been. Its destruction was perfect; church, house, walls, statues, paintings, organ, bells and tower all burnt up and left in ashes. Two poor families had taken up their abode under improvised sheds, guardians as it were of the necropolis. The Blessed Sacrament, the sacred vessels and church registers were fortunately secured in time.

Viewed from a neighbouring eminence what a spectacle the ruins presented! Enormous buildings, towers, public offices, barracks, prisons—some had a few walls left standing,

but within, ashes and rubbish. Banks, schools, churches, theatres, commercial houses fell promiscuously to the inexorable flames. It had been necessary to drive out the population, martial law was immediately proclaimed, and a strong cordon drawn round the most dangerous localities by the military. A few however were wounded by shots through attempting to rescue belongings.

It was forbidden to go in from Oakland to San Francisco, but not vice versa, hence the crowd that in a few hours filled all available space at the former town, a crowd numbering at least 200,000.

On the other hand it was surprising what generosity and readiness were displayed in sending supplies to the relief of the people. As soon as the lines were in order, train after train brought consignments of food and clothing to be distributed, and we ourselves managed to give a shelter to some three hundred.

The best streets of San Francisco, with the finest shops containing almost priceless stores have been destroyed entailing losses of millions. Very few of the streets are at all able to be traversed, but the municipal authorities are most active, and preparations for a New San Francisco, on a much grander scale than the former, are already begun. It is wonderful how little there was of lamentation or disorder, the whole population seems to be buoyed up with the hope of a speedy recovery.

As a member of the central Catholic Committee of Oakland I have to attend two meetings daily in connection with the distribution of relief. Twenty-five thousand dollars were handed to us yesterday by the government

for immediate wants. In the midst of so many dangers we must thank God that not one of the Salesians in California received personal injury. So many telegrams were sent from New York and other places to the stricken city, that even when the telegraph was con-



Interior of the new Salesian Church of St. Augustine at Milan.

nected again it was seven days before we received ours from our confreres at New York.

We have good hopes of seeing our church speedily rebuilt and things in order again, but in the meanwhile we stand in urgent need of your prayers and those of our confreres and Co-operators.

Your most obedient son in J. C.
A. BERGERETTI Salesian Priest.



CHINA.

Arrival of the Missionaries at Macao—
 Providential interposition — Cordial welcome.

(Letter from Fr. L. Versiglia to the Very Rev.
 Don Rua).

Macao, China, Feb. 13, 1906.

Dear Rev. Father,

With heart overflowing with gratitude to God, I send you the glad news of our safe arrival. The voyage was the best we could have wished for, and we had proofs of God's loving care even in the smallest circumstances. No mishaps, no oversights, no inconveniences, but everything according to our wishes, and exactly as if all had been planned beforehand.

When we arrived at a port we found the persons we wished to see. At Colombo, we found the Fathers of the French Mission, at Singapore the Fathers of the Portuguese Mission, and so on, all owing to the kindness of a good Portuguese gentleman well acquainted with these parts, who took care, as soon as we arrived without saying anything, to prepare these pleasant surprises: and this was a special Providence of God.

What difficulties might we not have had at Hong-Kong on account of arriving before the time telegraphed from Singapore and mentioned in the newspapers, but on the contrary everything went off well.

And the receptions!

At Hong-Kong we found the Bishop's Secretary and good Canon Suarez who took charge of everything saving us all trouble.

At Macao, the Dean, the Vicar General and many of the Canons were awaiting us. The Superior of the Jesuits and several of the Fathers welcomed us as cordially as if we had been their own brethren.

His Lordship the Bishop was waiting for us in our own house, being prevented from coming to meet us only by the heavy rain. His Lordship welcomed us with such paternal kindness that we recognized at once in him a good and saintly father. Lovingly he conducted us to our little chapel, where he blessed us in the name of Mary Immaculate to whom he had dedicated the establishment.

After this kind welcome as a few days were needed in which to complete the final arrangements, in our house, the Jesuit Fathers kindly gave us hospitality, treating us with the greatest cordiality, allowing us to share their community life. Here we shall remain for two or three days and then go to our little house, which is pretty well arranged, and large enough for the present.

To our great surprise we found a printing establishment supplied with press, type and everything necessary in abundance. This means that in another year at the latest, it will be absolutely necessary to provide a suitable staff. In addition we shall have to teach the Chinese children Portuguese, and this will be impossible for us under two or three years; so that, on all accounts, it would be desirable that you should send us a good Portuguese confrère. For the present we must arrange to send ours to the classes of the Jesuit Fathers, but you can well understand that the time-table followed by their students is not suitable for artisans, of whom we have charge.

Finally I have a favour to ask. In this diocese there is a periodical called the *Diocesan Bulletin*, the official organ of the Bishop, but which also contains literary and scientific reviews, etc. The Bishop has told me that this *Bulletin* will be handed over to us when our printing press is in working order. May I beg you to kindly remember this our future work when you send us an increase of the working staff.

Thanking you in anticipation I conclude in haste, being anxious to post my letter this

evening that you may receive without delay the news of our arrival.

Begging your blessing and prayers for all I remain

Your devoted Son

LOUIS VERSIGLIA, Priest.

P.S. — Our steamer was actually five days in advance ; we reached Hong-Kong on the 13th instead of the 18th, at half past nine in the morning.

letter, written by the boy Michael Magone and signed by those who are already able to write. Who could have imagined they would learn so soon to write neatly and with so much care !

Thanks be to God they are also making progress in reading, in arithmetic and in instrumental music, and that which is most consoling in the practice of piety also. With God's blessing, we hope that several of the boys and girls, having been well prepared, will make their First Communion at Christmas. I will give you, later on,



Little Indian Girls at work (Colony of the Sacred Heart).

FROM THE COLONY OF THE S. HEART.

82 Indians at the Colony of the Immaculate Conception.

(Letter from Fr. G. Balzola).

Very Reverend Don Rua,

In the first place I must thank you for the great pleasure you gave me by replying personally to my letter. But your cherished words only reached me about five months after the date of sending !...

A letter from the little Bororos—Bright hopes—Obstinate attachment of the adults to their traditions.

Our little Indians reciprocate your good wishes and I enclose with my own their little

notice of this consoling ceremony, of which I cannot yet fix the date, as this depends upon the visit of the Provincial Fr. Malan from whom I wish them to receive their first Communion. I hope, besides, that for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception several will go to Confession, thus beginning to fulfil the principal duties of a good Christian, on that solemnity on which Don Bosco began his great work. You may remember that it was on this Feast, three years ago, our first Indian was baptized. May the ever blessed Virgin assist and succour us always in this arduous Mission, which, though on one side it is full of difficulty, on the other fills us with the greatest hopes.

If I remember rightly, in my letter giving an account of the contagious sickness brought by the Indians from their settlement of *Rio das Mortes*, I told you that I hoped to succeed in

preventing their usual horrible funeral rites. And I had the more ground for this hope as there had been thirty deaths, and even had they wished to resume their usual practices the number would render their labour too exhausting; but I was mistaken. Thus, though six months have elapsed, they go on digging up the bones of four or five of the dead at a time and complete the funeral rites in the manner already described. There is this advantage, that after this lapse of time, the flesh is consumed and the washing of the bones is more speedily accomplished. With this custom, grave-diggers would not earn much, because here, for instance, there will be graves empty for several years, unless they are attacked by another epidemic. It seems that they take great pleasure in this ceremony of washing the bones, because in addition to its being a religious rite, it is one in which the young people find great amusement by painting themselves in divers colours!

As you see, with these people much patience and toleration is necessary. Time must elapse before certain inveterate customs can be abolished. Thanks be to God, in many things already they obey me and in many others they make the excuse that they are not baptized, and therefore cannot understand certain things, or are not bound by them. However on several Sundays after the eight o'clock Mass, at which all are present, I have given a short sermon or explanation of the Gospel in their language, and they seem very attentive and pleased to listen. Thus, little by little even the old Indians may draw some profit for their souls; all the more, because fortunately with the new Colony of the Immaculate Conception about thirty miles further on, we can watch over them better; for when they leave us to go hunting or fishing, they will usually be near the other colony and thus remain always under our own care.

An embassy to other Indians—A Misunderstanding—All set out for the Colony.

Lately we were told that a good number of these Indians were wandering along the banks of the great river *Araguaya*, causing alarm to the inhabitants of that region, because the memory of the murders committed some years ago, is not yet forgotten. The Indians themselves, fearing vengeance, hide themselves as much as possible from the whites.

We sought some means of approaching them. In fact, when for the Feast of St John, Fr. Malan and I gave a Mission on the banks of the *Araguaya* in a new settlement called *Macedina*, nearly forty miles from the place where it was

said the Indians were living, Fr. Malan was anxious to seek them out and visit them, but he was advised not to attempt it. I promised him, therefore, that I would send some of our Indians to invite a few to come to us, that we might get to know them, and they might make acquaintance with us. So towards the end of September I confided this mission to two Indians promising them a blanket, a knife and other things much esteemed by them, on the condition that they should bring us four or five of the chief Indians, in order that we might speak with them, but only four or five and no more because we could not receive a larger number. The two ambassadors, armed with bows and arrows, set off. After four days' journey they reached the great river *Araguaya*, but they found the Indians had abandoned their *aldea*. They were obliged to follow their tracks. After travelling another four days they found them. Scarcely had the two explained their Mission and spoken of the Missionaries their protectors and defenders, when shouts of joy were raised and they decided at once to abandon their *aldea* and follow their visitors to our Colonies. In addition they went at once to carry the good news to another *aldea* further off, but these Indians were somewhat suspicious, so they sent eight men to find out the truth. These were, in fact, the first to reach this Colony and give us notice of the coming of many Indians, who had remained behind as there were many aged, blind and children with them and were all very weary. We found out afterwards why they had gone so far from the old *aldea*. They told me that one day whilst hunting they found an *anta* or tapir and shouted at the animal; but several of the civilized inhabitants on an exploring expedition in canoes hearing the shouting fired off their guns; and the Indians hearing the sound of the shots fled precipitately towards their huts calling to the women to collect their few possessions and fly because the *Braides* (civilized inhabitants) were following them. The women seized with terror fled in haste laden with what they were able to carry. Some however of the bravest hid themselves not far from the *aldea* and saw the *Braides* enter their hut examine them with curiosity taking or destroying what was left. When the explorers returned to their canoes the few Indians who had remained behind followed their families withdrawing sixty or seventy miles further into the forest. From this one sees that these poor people are very easily frightened; and that a simple misunderstanding may often be the cause of a massacre.

To resume my narrative as I saw that many

of the Indians whose coming had been announced did not arrive. I resolved to go out to meet them.

Meeting with the Indians—Joyful exclamations—They halt near the new Colony.

Taking with me two Indians and some things to give away, I went to the *Colony of the Immaculate Conception* and from there on the following day I set out once more thinking I should have to travel several miles further; but after an hour's ride I met the party of Indians. You should have seen what an impression my appearance on horseback with two mounted Indians made on these poor people. There was a cry of joy and that which surprised me most was to hear my name pronounced by Indians who saw me for the first time!

As it is their custom to travel in single file even when there are a hundred together, and even in a wide road they march one behind the other, so the first who saw us turned round and shouted to the others:

"Father John has come
Father John has come!"

I expressed my astonishment at their great number saying that I had sent only for four or five; but they replied they had all come because they were destitute of every thing having neither clothing nor tools.

In fact they had not a yard of cloth and only a few broken knives.

I made them halt and separating the men from the women the boys from the girls I counted them; there were eighty-two. I then distributed the few little things I had brought with me and they were delighted. Then I asked them to resume their march adding that at the Colony I would give them more fine things; but they insisted that I should go before them, like a great captain attended by numerous followers.

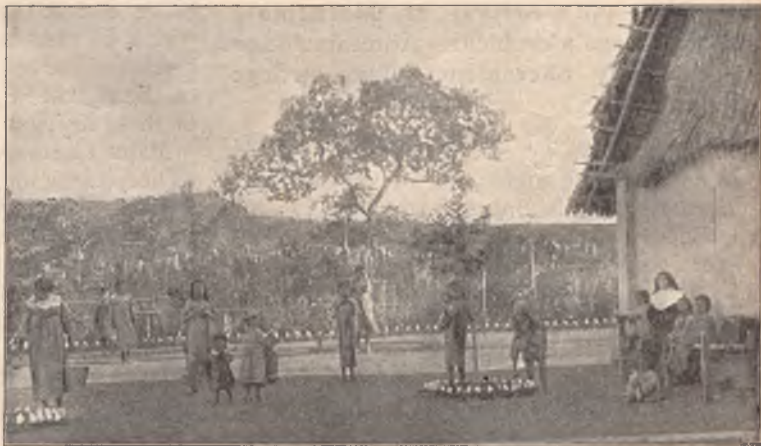
On reaching the Colony of the Immaculate Conception Fr. Salvetti gave them some food and afterwards they retired to the *aldea*.

Several who had left their families behind them on finding such good friends went back to fetch them.

We were much consoled for these are souls sent to us by Our Lord; but how are we to feed them? They are an additional hundred.... *Deus*

providebit! Divine Providence is all powerful and generous souls are not wanting. Our good Co-operators will have pity on us, who live in the midst of this wilderness surrounded by poor savages, destitute of everything. At the same time we beg of you, to make special appeal for alms for our sustenance. Surely, the prayers of so many new Christians will obtain what is needful for them. I place myself entirely in the hands of Divine Providence.

Whilst I am writing, the night is far advanced and they are still disturbing us with their shouts around the skin of a tiger they killed to-day, and by means of which they claim to have set free a



Garden and residence of the Sisters of Mary Help of Christians amongst the Bororos.

soul that was inside it! What extravagant superstitions!

I commend myself to our good Co-operators and do you, dear Father, bless us all, but especially

Your obedient Son in J. and M.

JOHN BALZOLA, Priest.

Matto Grosso

The two Colonies amongst the Coroados.

(The provincial Fr. Antonio Malan's report.)

III.

Through the forests of Upper Araguaya.

Dearest Father,

AT last I am sending you the account of the third and final part of my journey through the dense forest of Matto Grosso.

Having founded, as I told you in my last, the new Colony of the "Immaculate Conception," I and Fr. Balzola, with the Indian Julius and my faithful companions, Brother Gabet and the good youth Pius Bueno, started at once for the Upper Araguaya, our object being to reach a place called Macedina, fifty miles beyond our Colony just established. For road we had but a *picada* (a path opened by travellers with hatchets and axes through the dense brushwood of the Matto Grosso forests) obstructed by young shrubs and trunks of trees which rudely caught in our clothes and harness, the unfortunate riders and horses not always avoiding a scratch.

The first halt—Arrival at Macedina—Major Cicero's kindness—Administration of the Holy Sacraments—Two strange cases.

On the 22nd we were overtaken by the darkness, one of those nights full of vague terrors which alarm the most intrepid travellers; nights experienced also by the Missionary, in his apostolic journeyings, who, however, in the profound and mysterious obscurity of those anxious hours, is comforted by the thought of the Eternal Reward to be received from the same Hand which impelled him to carry the Good Tidings.

As usual, we spent the night in the open air on the grassy banks of a stream called *Corrego fundo*, from its great depth, breathing the damp air which penetrated the marrow of our bones, though we had lighted a good fire in which the green boughs crackled amidst the flames. We were beginning to feel the pangs of hunger and the sleep ardently desired did not come to lessen our discomfort. Indeed our slumbers only brought with them a legion of hungry insects, such as the terrible *polvora*, *mosquitos* and *carrapatos*, which attacked our animals also, tormenting them to such a degree that they stampered in the night, causing us fresh trouble and fatigue.

Towards dusk on the second day we happily reached our goal. At one league's distance from *Macedina* we were met by twelve horsemen, sent by the worthy head of this newest settlement, Major Cicero; so that preceded and followed by this illustrious company we arrived in the midst of the festive discharge of fireworks and were received with the utmost cordiality.

Macedina was a military station intended to restrain, by fire and sword, the exploits of the terrible Boróros, who used formerly to attack defenceless travellers, killing them with great barbarity. Since the establishment of our work of evangelization amongst these unhappy

children of *Jupá* (1), these sanguinary encounters have almost ceased. Macedina has now become a pastoral colony for the rearing of the best breeds of cattle horses and a mining centre for gold and diamonds. It is inhabited almost exclusively by good colonists from the State of *Bahia*, under the wise government of the charitable Major Cicero, who exerts himself to the utmost to preserve intact the treasure of religious traditions in the midst of these families, delighted to have, for the first time, a priest amongst them on this evening of the 23rd of June. Having been implored some time ago to administer the Holy Sacraments in this locality, we profited of this favourable occasion, being desirous of complying with the pious wishes of persons who showed such an appreciation of the benefits of religion and we arrived on the vigil of St John Baptist, the Patron Saint of these regions.

Major Cicero, with his usual kindness, offered us hospitality under his roof, where we remained until the morning of the 25th; during that time, having received all the necessary faculties from the Bishop, we administered the Sacraments. Before giving Baptism and Confirmation to many of these dear souls and celebrating or regulating many marriages, we took care to give the requisite instructions. We had the happiness to baptize, confirm and give Holy Communion to a person who wished also to receive the Sacrament of Penance, after which the marriage was regulated. We hope that this marriage, thus abundantly blessed with the grace of so many Sacraments, may be attended by lasting blessings.

I must also mention another somewhat curious case. From the *Rio Bonito* flowing through the fertile territory of Goyaz, 28 leagues away, one came to Major Cicero asking for some medicine for a poor sick person. During the two days he spent in Macedina the man forgot the urgent need of the medicine, but found a wife whom I baptized and confirmed; and wishing to celebrate the marriage without delay, the bride in great haste prepared her trousseau, without troubling tailors or dressmakers, borrowing for herself and the bridegroom the garments absolutely necessary for the suitable celebration of the wedding! They made their confessions, received Holy Communion and were joined in Holy Matrimony. Then the anxious bridegroom returned in haste to the poor invalid with the medicine he had come to seek and with his wife.

(To be continued).

(1) *Jupá* is the name given to the Supreme being by almost all the Indians of Brazil.

Southern Patagonia

An expedition to the large Island of Tierra del Fuego.

(Letter from the Catechist Pietro Maria Rossi.)

Dawson (Magellan).

REVD. AND DEAR FATHER,

DURING the latter half of the Month of August last, accompanied by our Confrère Faustino Minucci and several new Christians, I went to the large Island of Tierra del Fuego in search of the Indians. The expedition, which was made in the Mission boat, lasted twelve days.

Meeting with the Indians—No more provisions—Wonderful draught of fish.

The first day passed pleasantly enough; the wind was favourable, and we crossed the strait with all sails set when a mile or two from the shore we saw smoke rising from one point, a certain indication of the presence of Indians. The pilot steered our boat to that spot, and thus already on this first evening we found in a *toldo* two natives, with an infant a few months old, who the following day came on board, and later on, with some others, accompanied us to the Mission.

Leaving the boat safe in a small inlet, we prepared to pass the night in the wood, about a hundred yards from the shore, intending to pursue our journey next day for more than thirty miles. With the sail from our boat we made a convenient tent. Early the next day, accompanied by the two elders, Christopher and old Eliseus, I proceeded towards the headland, named by the Indians that of the *Rio Grande*. At first, for some miles nothing was to be seen but deserted *toldos*, but at last in the distance we perceived something moving. Eliseus assured me there were people, and he was right for we found eight individuals, two natives with their wives and two boys. They had seen the smoke from our fire and were coming, with several guanaco skins, to meet us. Last year they had been to the Mission, but now they only came for food. They did not, however, make known their object, and I brought them to our little camp, where they were speedily supplied with all that they wanted.

Meanwhile Our Confrère Minicci, having brought with him some boards, made a niche on the top of a hill near the sea, where we placed a statue of the S. Heart of Jesus. By these small shrines the islands are dedicated to that

Divine Heart, who is pouring out abundant graces on these countries.

When the moment of departure arrived, we invited these new-comers also to travel with us, so as to return together to the Mission. But one said that he had not yet finished his canoe; another not knowing what excuse to make, boldly replied; "When the sun is a little higher, I will come."

Bidding them farewell, we pursued our way towards *Mirantasco*.

In this journey we had evident proofs that the devil was not pleased with us. Having succeeded by his deceitful stratagems, in withdrawing several new Christians from the Mission, he expected, no doubt, that we should allow him to tyrannise over them at his pleasure. But knowing him to be a cruel master, we do not acknowledge ourselves vanquished; rather we shall do our utmost to bring back speedily these few prodigal sons to their *Father's house*.

On the eighth day after we set out, having distributed our provisions with fraternal generosity to those even who did not accompany us, in spite of having killed three guanacos we found ourselves without any food. But the lynx-eyed old Eliseus had seen in the distance two walruses on a rock; so taking a rifle we approached with great precaution; the shot, however, missed its mark and the animals slipping into the water were not again seen. Matters were becoming serious, as the nearest *estancia* was nearly sixty-miles further on, and you know that in Tierra del Fuego there are, as yet, no railways. Still we were all in good spirits and quite cheerful, remembering the saying of the Blessed Curé of Ars: "The Cross is planted in all parts of the world, so that there may be a small piece for everyone." Placing our whole trust in our Heavenly Father we commended ourselves to Divine Providence and cast the net; in a few minutes, to our great surprise it was filled, and to draw it on shore we had to take the greatest precautions not to break it. There were a hundred and twenty fish, each about two lbs in weight and these supplied us with the food required for the remaining four days of our journey. On seeing such a quantity of fish, we cast the net once more, but in vain; Providence had given us what was necessary and no more were taken.

A terrible storm—Invocation of Mary Help of Christians—Return to the Mission—Pilgrimage to the Monument of "Serro Alto."

Encouraged by the draught of fishes which seemed to us marvellous, we put to sea once

more for the crossing in order to reach the Canal of St. Gabriel. We had sailed some four miles when, all on a sudden, a south west wind began to blow hard, followed by a great storm. Those only who have travelled in these parts can form any idea of the tempests caused by the strong, uncertain winds of the Fuegian Archipelago. Not long ago the steamer *Ventura*, sailing to Puntarenas had to turn back and seek shelter, near the coast where we have the Mission of the

head to foot; some stared at one another in silence. The fear that some might have forgotten the *estote parati* (be ye ready) of the Gospel caused me profound sorrow. Humanly speaking there was no hope of reaching land. *Adam*, the old Indian, recalling the ancient superstitions not yet forgotten, with gestures, songs and prolonged sighs set himself to exorcise the foaming billows. At another time one might have laughed at him, but in such circumstances one could not. I told him to cease, but he pretended he did not understand and continued his strange *exorcisms* unmoved. Seeing him fixed in his ideas, I took my Rosary beads and placed them round my neck; Cyprian the Indian, watching me, did the same, and immediately others followed our example. Then placing all our confidence in Mary Help of Christians, I fastened her medal to the mast and with all possible fervour we began to recite the Litany of Loretto. To Mary was reserved the victory!

The stormy waves make a final effort increasing their deafening war; it was but for a brief space. When we came to the invocation: *Maria Auxilium Christianorum, ora pro nobis*, to our great surprise, the wind entirely ceased, the waves calmed down, and after three hour's sail, we landed in safety.

At once the *Ave Maris Stella* and *Te Deum* resounded on those distant shores in thanksgiving for so signal a favour.

At the Mission a consoling surprise awaited us. A new Encyclical of Our Holy Father Pius X. had arrived from Rome, and it is well for our good Co-operators to know, that even in this furthest limit of the New World the words of the Vicar of Jesus Christ are received and put in practice in the same way as obedient and respectful sons attend to their Father's words. Here also we labour to carry out the programme of the Supreme Pontiff: "*Instaurare omnia in Christo.*"

The 18th September was a day of general rejoicing in this Mission. In the morning, after



The Altar in Private Chapel, Salesian Schools, Battersea, S. W.

Good Shepherd; and the *Magellanes* took five days to accomplish a journey of seven hours. From Genoa to Montevideo, and from the Malvine Islands to Puntarenas we had experienced other storms, but taking into account the difference in the vessel they were not to be compared with this one. The waves, rising far above the boat, tumbled over one another with deafening noise. Although it was only eleven o'clock in the morning, obscurity caused by the dense fog and heavy clouds resembled the darkness of night. A poor Indian woman, wrapped in some guanaco skins with her infant fastened on her shoulders, glanced from time to time at the foaming waves and wept. I looked around; we were eleven; some were trembling from

Holy Mass we set out for the *Serro-Alto*, from which an enchanting view is to be seen, stretching about three miles from the Mission of St. Raphael, on the summit of which was erected, two years ago, a splendid monument dedicated to the Most Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. The view is magnificent! Besides West Port, several lakes, St Joachim's Point, and the territory around the cape of SS. Peter and Paul a great part of Terra del Fuego is to be seen with its lofty mountains covered with perpetual snow. There we spent several hours in pleasant recreation, and before descending to return to the Mission, we poured forth fervent prayers to our Creator, begging Him to hasten the longed-for day when His praises will resound in this distant land.

Asking a blessing for the poor Fuegians

Your affectionate Son *in Corde Jesu*

P. M. ROSSI

Salesian Missionary.

ITEMS IN BRIEF.

On returnig from Malta Our Superior General crossed to Sicily and thence passed to Naples. In this district he visited the newly established Houses in aid of the Calabrian children. He was consoled to find great progress already attained.

A Salesian Missionary tells us that one of the last of the Patagonian caciques lately visited Santiago, in order to obtain from the Government a grant of land for a settlement. On his way back he stopped at Valparaiso, where the small-pox was raging. Arriving at Puntarenas his nephew showed symptoms of the disease and died after a few days. The others hastily left for their old home, but they had hardly arrived when the old chief was stricken down and died. His terrified wife attacked her too and she fell a victim to it within a few days. Lastly their son fell ill and was carried off by the same complaint. In this manner the whole family of one of the last remaining of the ancient caciques was swept away; but Almighty God in his goodness had called them to the light of faith before taking them out of this life.

By a rescript, dated May 8th, Our Holy Father Pius X. has extended to all the Co-operators the privilege of gaining three hundred days indulgence every time they repeat with

proper dispositions the ejaculation: *Maria Auxilium Christianorum, ora pro nobis*, Mary Help of Christians pray for us.

On May 24th it was announced that the process of beatification for the servant of God, Father John Cafasso, has been approved by the Sacred Congregation of Rites and by the Supreme Pontiff. The servant of God will thus have the title of *Venerable*. Father Cafasso was, as many will know, for a long time the Confessor and adviser of Our Holy Founder, Don Bosco.

INDULGENCES

which may be gained by the Co-operators.

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.

Every month.

1. On any one day at the choice of the associate.
2. On the day the monthly exercise of a good death is made.
3. Whenever 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.

In the month of August.

1. August 6th Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord.
2. August 15th Feast of the Assumption.
3. August 16th Feast of St. Roch.
4. August 26th Feast of the Sacred Heart of Mary.

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.



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.

ON one day in every year the Devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians records a crowning triumph, and among these glories the annals will no doubt reckon the festival of 1903 as the greatest of them all. But many combined circumstances were responsible for that, mainly the Turin Congress, the numbers of prelates assembled for it and the solemn coronation of the picture of Our Lady Help of Christians by order of His Holiness Leo XIII. Succeeding years have come very close to it and the celebration of last May 24th at the Sanctuary at Turin may very well take their place among those days which are events that will make the history of this devotion.

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For a whole month before—the month of preparation—the faithful had flocked to the Sanctuary to assist at the special services. Discourses were given in the early part of the month by a Salesian priest and during the novena by the Rev. Professor of Sacred Eloquence from the Archiepiscopal seminary of Turin. The audience could not have been more responsive. The Holy Sacrifice was celebrated without interruption from four a. m. till eleven and the Communions numbered more than a thousand every day. The Sanctuary was draped in ornamental hangings for the feast day and the attendance of the faithful became even greater. The pious folk of the Valdocco quarter, passionately attached to their Sanctuary, Co-operators in hundreds from Turin and its precincts made up the bulk of the attenders. The Salesian Institutes in the city aided by those of Foglizzo and San Benigno

took turns in rendering the sacred music in the Sanctuary,

On the 17th of the month, the 3rd anniversary of the coronation, His Lordship Mgr. Castrale, Vicar General of the Archdiocese pontificated and from that day to the vigil the pious enthusiasm increased.

The vigil.

In the early morning a pilgrimage arrived from Cuornè while the evening had been set apart for the Conference to the Co-operators which was given by a Salesian father. He spoke chiefly on this Devotion and the part taken in it by the humble priest who had set it on foot and through whose agency it had been carried to all parts of the world; so that no one ever hardly mentions this devotion without passing in thought to him, her devout servant and the instrument of her designs. The approach of the feast-day led the speaker to urge the Co-operators to imitate their Holy Founder in his devotion to the Help of Christians, and he spoke with great power on the marvellous works accomplished by her for her devout clients.

The first vespers of the day were sung at six o'clock, the Auxiliary to His Eminence the Cardinal pontificating. After the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament the precincts were illuminated and till a late hour crowds lingered at the church and its vicinity.

The Solemnity. — Five thousand receive Holy Communion. — Procession.

The Sanctuary which was only closed to the public at half past ten the evening before was thrown open at three o'clock on the morning

of the 24th. Holy Mass had commenced at that hour and though the early morning weather was not too fine, being interspersed with drizzly rain, the celebration of the feast day was memorable even for that Sanctuary. A description is impossible. We can merely state that moving about within the Sanctuary was soon impeded by the crowd of worshippers, and the number of those who approached the Holy Table was over five thousand. Many people had reserved that day for bringing in their testimonies to graces conferred, and no end of votive candles were lit both in prayer and thanksgiving.

His Eminence Cardinal Richelmy Archbishop of Turin said Mass in the Sanctuary at a quarter past seven, and his auxiliary, Mgr. Spandre pontificated at the Solemn Mass and also at Vespers. The panegyric, delivered during the High Mass, was by the preacher of the novena.

Benediction was given in the afternoon to satisfy the throngs of devout worshippers, but sacred hymns and the recital of prayers went on unceasingly. Pontifical Vespers at six o'clock commenced the evening service. The procession—a triumph in itself—along several principal thoroughfares, and made up of clergy and people in almost endless succession was a wonderful manifestation of faith and fervour. The Cardinal Archbishop gave the Benediction afterwards when the crowds in and out of church, in the neighbouring square and street reverently knelt in religious silence. From a quarter to nine till half past ten the Sanctuary was again left open for the faithful who stayed in the church and some in the piazza till a late hour. Even the following days saw bands of pilgrims still arriving to pay their tribute of love and veneration.

From the Annals of the Sanctuary.

1868. On June 9th the Sanctuary was solemnly consecrated. Don Bosco said the First Mass in the new church and the Archbishop offered the Holy Sacrifice immediately after him.

During the octave the Sanctuary was visited by its first bands of pilgrims who were drawn to it from the very commencement by the extraordinary favours there obtained.

GRACES and FAVOURS

Belfast.—Special prayers had been offered for the recovery of my father after a dangerous operation and promise of publication made. I now enclose a thank-offering for the favour granted and would ask for special prayers for another intention.

June 1906.

Anon.

Chicago (U. S. of America).—Please accept the enclosed offering for the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians in Turin and kindly publish the following favour in the *Salesian Bulletin* according to a promise made by me to this effect.

My mother has been suffering from attacks of Bronchitis every winter for several years. Our physician said that if ever she contracted Pneumonia it would positively be fatal. However, one Sunday she took cold, was feeling very ill on Tuesday and next day the same doctor diagnosed her case as Pneumonia.

Thursday she was part of the time unconscious and remained so for a good while. Her eyes were glazed, her respiration almost gone and the signs of death were unmistakable.

We had not sent for a priest as it all occurred too suddenly, and it was useless then as she had neither sight nor hearing and each breath seemed to be the last.

Then I remembered what I had heard through the *Bulletin*, of Mary Help of Christians and her unfailing help. So in an agony of faith and despair I begged our Blessed Mother for the first time under the title of Mary Help of Christians, to intercede for us and spare my mother, promising the above offering and publication. Saturday at noon she became conscious and much improved, and Sunday night she was talking and remarkably better. The doctor could not understand it. He said it was a wonder and (as he was a non-catholic) he attributed the cure to some new powders which he said literally absorbed the disease. A catholic doctor however said it could not have been the powders but it was a real miracle.

Thanks to Our Blessed Mother. Would that I had the power to tell the world of her innumerable favours to me, this one more particularly, for whilst I asked it I feared it was too late.

May, 1906.

M. V. T.

Sligo (Ireland). — I offer loving thanks to Our Lady Help of Christians for a temporal favour obtained after promise of publication and thanks-offering which I have already forwarded to her Sanctuary in Turin.

May 22nd, 1906.

T. B.

Chicago (U. S. of America). — Kindly accept the enclosed offering in thanksgiving to our Lady Help of Christians for two favours obtained after promise of offering and publication.

May 22nd, 1906.

M. E. G.

Demerara (British Guiana). — I enclose an offering for the purpose of having Masses said at the Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians for the souls in Purgatory, especially

those of my relatives and those most in need, in thanksgiving for a very great grace granted to me by Our Lady.

May, 1906.

G. C.

Charleville (Ireland). — I enclose a small offering in honour of Our Lady Help of Christians in thanksgiving for a temporal favour received.

May 30th, 1906.

A Client of Mary.

Tullow (Ireland). — Please accept enclosed offering for a Mass in honour of Our Lady Help of Christians in thanksgiving for favours granted.

May 25th, 1906.

P. J. M.



The Salesian Schools. London.

The closing month of the school year is regarded by the average boy as being an event in itself; for not only is it the time for the final examinations — an important item, forming as they do a kind of summing up of the year's work — but it also brings the prize day — and last of all the breaking up, which to the school-boy is the event of the month.

During the early part of July, and indeed the latter part of June, a large proportion of the boys at the Salesian Schools were presented for the public examinations which the prospectus mentions. This year's entry was a record one for numbers, and though every result list will contain its inexplicable failures, it is confidently hoped that this may be a record of success. An account of the prize day and breaking up will appear in our next issue.

The religious examination of the school was held in the early part of June. All the divisions, from the first form to the sixth seem to have acquitted themselves well, and seeing that the religious instruction and training have such a prominent place it is only natural that they should. The report however is not yet to hand.

On another page a notice is given of the Salesian Schools and the outline of their work, but the fuller information required by parents or guardians cannot be given in detail there. Applications for the next scholastic term should be made as early as possible to prevent delay in the commencement of the new term's work. The foundations of a successful year are laid in the opening weeks, and of those who go through the three terms regularly very few find disappointment await them at the end. The principal will forward prospectus and syllabus on application.

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The choir boys had been in great demand during the last school term. All Salesian Schools, if noted for anything, are noted for their choirs, and the school at Battersea is far from being an exception. The boys formed an important factor in several of the processions for the feasts of Corpus Christi and the Sacred Heart in some of the London Convents and also for the forty hours exposition service. At all of these the reputation that had preceded them was enhanced by the reality, for exceedingly few of the London choirs can compete with them.

In some of these processions the instrumental music was supplied by the band from the same school. Its ability was already high enough for the Mayor of Battersea to ask for its attendance at an open air concert under his patronage, but in the processions the sacred services were rendered far more impressive and becoming by its assistance.



The Salesian Church and Grounds, Surrey House, Battersea, S. W.

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We often chronicle the special services which characterise the principal feast days in the Salesian Church at West Battersea; perhaps, however, few of these occasions can equal in real impressiveness the quiet simplicity of the children's Mass on the Feast of *Corpus Christi*. The explanation lies in the fact that this day in each succeeding year is the First Communion day for the parish school children. The weeks of preparation, the care and labour bestowed upon the boys and girls is well rewarded in the sacred moment of Holy Communion, the happy consummation of so many prayers and desires. The birthday or initiation of the children into the participation of a full christian life was suitably commemorated. After the thanksgiving the communicants retired to the school close by, where breakfast was served and the parish priest

distributed their First Communion certificates and prayer books as souvenirs. After a brief interval the children were again clothed in their sashes and veils to assist at the Solemn High Mass by way of thanksgiving. This over they were free to go home, where, we hope, the great act of the morning is not without its effect on the recipients and their surroundings.

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The schools however, to which reference is made in the above, have not yet been brought

up to the structural efficiency which the education authorities require, but great efforts will be made to carry out some of them before the end of the year. The work of collecting still goes on and by means of this and entertainments of various kinds the cost will be gradually covered. During the vacation the grounds of the Salesian School will be used for a few days for a Garden Party, which it is anticipated will give a further impulse to the funds and to progress. Last year the venture was satisfactory beyond expectation and though the labour and expenses of preparation are great, last year's success and pressing necessity are urgent motives. Co-operation in this direction would be most welcome.

The Governor of Malta at the Salesian School.

Very shortly after the celebrations in honour of the visit of our Superior General, the School

at Malta was prepared for the first exhibition of work and the distribution of prizes, and according to all accounts the occasion was a memorable one in the annals of the rising Institute. At 4.30 His Excellency the Governor arrived, accompanied by Lady Mansfield Clarke and his suite. A very distinguished gathering had assembled with the Rector and clergy to meet His Excellency, and the first part of the ceremony — the presentation of bouquets and brief addresses of welcome — was a very successful opening. The distribution of prizes followed. These were awarded for class and manual work and many of them had a special value being presented by various Co-operators. A little surprise however had been kept in the background, for as the *Daily Malta Chronicle* informs us, His Excellency having seemingly concluded the distribution, addressed the company as follows: "When I was asked to come here this afternoon for the prize day, I thought the authorities, and the boys themselves, would appreciate a small token of my recognition of the efforts of the boy who had obtained the highest number of marks at his books and at his trade. This little boy has been recommended to me. Take this from me, and I hope you will find it useful to you by and by."

Music from the band and the school choir was followed by an address by the Director of the Institute who very ably set forth the place of the technical school in the industrial life of the people, and discussed several methods of co-operation which he looked forward to from his hearers.

Hearty applause followed the address to which the Governor replied as follows :

Father Rector, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I find among the items of the programme, a copy of which has been handed me, that I am supposed to make a speech, but I will not keep you very long, as what I have to say may be said in a very few words. It has given me very great pleasure to be present amongst you this afternoon, and I am perfectly convinced, that you will all share with me the opinion that in the Industrial School, a very good work has been started and is being carried on. I don't think that anyone could but be struck with the progress that is being made, reflecting the highest credit upon the direction of the Institute and upon all concerned. You will have an opportunity of inspecting the exhibition and you will all be struck with the excellence of the exhibits, which is very remarkable considering the age of the boys and the short time they have been under instruction. I also consider that

the performance by the Band was very creditable. This is a feature of great importance as the music not only affords pleasant pastime during spare hours, but the knowledge of the instrument provides a means of livelihood in after life. I desire to support the concluding remarks of the Rector, which teaches a lesson too obvious to require comment. In order to repel the incursions referred to, it is useless to sit and grumble; rather must there be an awakening to effort, and here I would quote the French proverb "Help yourself and God will help you."

Another point. In the latter part of the Rector's address, he referred to the removal of boys during the period of their apprenticeship. Now this is decidedly prejudicial to the boys themselves. A smattering of a trade is of very little use, as unless the workman is skilled in his trade he can never hope to turn it to proper account.

Although I do not go about much, I hear a lot; and there is a report, which has reached me, that there is a want of interest in this Institute, on the part of the government. Now this is erroneous. It is not true that the government is lacking either in a knowledge of the usefulness of the Institute or readiness to encourage it; but the government must cut its coat according to its cloth. There are many works of great importance standing over for the means necessary to complete them, and many of them of even more importance than this Institute; and if we are prevented, from doing what we only too earnestly desire, it is no fault of ours as we are kept back for want of money. But all this, will, I hope, come about in time, and gradually we may hope to be able to accomplish what we have in view. I had the pleasure of welcoming, the other day, the present head of the Salesian Order, Don Rua, and I fully explained our position. He appreciated my remarks and went away perfectly satisfied.

It is now my pleasant duty to declare the exhibition open, and I am sure that when you have inspected the exhibits you will come to the same conclusion as I have done as regards their excellence and the progress which has been made.—(*Applause*).

Colonel Gatt called for three cheers for His Excellency and Lady Clarke which were given with the usual heartiness after which H. E. and party took their departure.

The general company proceeded to visit the exhibits, which embraced furniture, carpenters' work, shoe making, tailoring etc., some excellent designs were shown. God Save the King brought a very pleasant afternoon to a close.

We cannot but congratulate the Rev. Rector upon the success of the proceedings. Under his care and guidance the boys have made surprising progress during the 18 months the Institute has been in operation. We have only to hope that each succeeding year will witness a continuance of the prosperity so auspiciously inaugurated."

Cape Town. The Building Fund.

A few months back we laid before the Co-operators the urgent need of a Institute for the Salesian work in Cape Town. Many and great difficulties are making the effort a peculiarly trying one, and though no falling off is allowed in the zeal of the collectors and promoters of the building scheme, funds are yet a long way from the amount required. Circulars have been sent out in many districts and it is hoped that the co-operation of the clergy and Bishops will give a fresh impetus. The following replies from two of the South African hierarchy show that the work is in great favour and their words will be an encouragement to the faithful at large to help towards the accomplishment of the work.

My Dear Father Tozzi.

I thank you for your circular of the 14th ult. appealing for funds in aid of our building project, and have great pleasure in warmly recommending that appeal to the generous Catholics of the Eastern Vicariate.

Wishing you and your good work every blessing I remain, dear Father Tozzi, with sincere esteem

Yours very devotedly in Christ

✠ H. MAC SHERRY.

My dear Father,

I desire very earnestly to support your appeal for a Building Fund, which will enable you to carry on the noble work in which you are engaged

under more favourable conditions, and to extend its sphere of usefulness. I trust that the faithful in this Vicariate who can assist will not refuse their aid. May God bless your efforts.

I remain, my dear Father

Yours very faithfully in Christ

✠ M. GAUGHREN, O. M. I.



The Private Chapel, Salesian Schools, Surrey Lane, Battersea, S. W.

Port Elizabeth.

The Salesian Bulletin

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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.

The Story of the Oratory or Don Bosco's Opening Apostolate

CHAPTER LV (Continued).

Another advantage our Oratory gained by the happy termination of these troubles was the favourable opinion it continued to gain henceforth in the public mind; moreover those who were well disposed towards us, seeing that we were only treated on a footing with many longstanding institutes of excellent name, were confirmed in their good opinion or even became more friendly; while the evil-minded or hostile, seeing that with all the calumny from their newspapers, and the minute investigations of government officials nothing unworthy could be discovered, began by degrees to abandon their hostility, and even to consider us worthy of sympathy.

And in this way the words of that servant of God, Canon Louis Anglesio, successor of the Venerable Cottolengo in the Little House of Divine Providence, began to be verified. The day after the first visitation of the police he came round to congratulate Don Bosco on the violence he had suffered. "Rejoice now, dear Don Bosco," he said, "your work has been tried and stood the test. When the persecution commenced against the Apostles, they left Jerusalem and taught the Gospel in other towns and countries, and so it will be with you."

Thus it turned out that a period of prosperity set in for us when the time of persecution was over, but I cannot say the same for those who had conspired against us. Perhaps this is the most convenient place to bring to light one fact which shows clearly the just judgements of God, and how heavily the divine vengeance fell on him who had taken the leading part in persecuting our Oratory. However, the Lord will be my witness, that neither Don Bosco nor any of us ever wished any evil to, or rejoiced in the misfortunes which overtook our enemies; on the contrary I remember quite well, that even when our troubles were thickest, Don Bosco always recommended us to pray for these men that their eyes might be opened to the truth, and their hatred give place to sentiments of humanity. Moreover while recording the sad lot which fell on one of them I do so with feelings of profound pity and with the single purpose that it may be a useful lesson to those who read, and to persons whether public or private who have dealings with the work of this servant of God.

I will say nothing of the Minister L. Farini who

had styled Don Bosco a madman, and who only a few years after ended his own life in a fit of melancholy; but he who displayed against the oratory a zeal worthy of a better cause was, as every one is now aware, Commendatore S. Gatti. He commenced to give proofs of his hatred as far back as 1860 as I have already said, and we are certainly not indebted to his kindness, if at that time or in the following years our schools were not shut up and hundreds of poor boys sent homeless. He had persuaded himself that he could work our ruin as certainly as he had done so to other similar institutions; but his hopes were vain. From the day when, covered with confusion he mistook the door leading from the apartment, the wheel of Fortune seems to have changed, and he appears, to have had the Pandora's box of the poet which contained all human ills. His troubles began with the death of his wife who lost her life through an accidental fall.

When the capital was changed from Turin to Florence and thence to Rome, Gatti hoped to improve his position, and indeed his great activity would have secured advancement, but he had an open account to settle with Divine Providence. For having fallen somehow into disrepute with his superiors and his fellow officials, instead of rising he lost ground, and being superseded by a rival he lost his post and found himself in an inferior place. This unexpected downfall and painful undoing acted upon his mental faculties and the fallen man became disconsolate and melancholy; then he became infirm and finally lost his mental powers entirely. In this state he at times wept like a child, at times raved like one possessed, moving everyone to compassion.

Having the image of his rival always before his mind he continually cried out: *Ah! you have ruined me.*

He was taken to his native place where the country air had formerly been beneficial to him. But there he became furious and raving. In a moment of extraordinary frenzy he seized his wife by the hair and dashed her head against the wall causing her death, and shortly after he himself died without any human comfort.

The history of the unfortunate ends of other persecutors might be related, but it will suffice to express here again our conviction that Almighty God had made a promise to Don Bosco similar to that he made to Abraham: *I will bless them that*

bless thee, and curse them that curse thee: *Benedicam benedicientibus tibi, et maledicam maledicentibus tibi.* (1).

CHAPTER LVI

A flower of Paradise—Don Bosco's brother—The Church of Our Lady Help of Christians—The school of Mirabello—The first examinations at the University of Turin—Sunshine after a great storm—Episcopal commendations.

As a relief to the stormy times related in the preceding chapter I shall devote a few words to the saintly youth, Francis Besucco, a student at the Oratory. The few short years he passed amongst us, the brilliant examples of virtue he gave, and his holy death were the motives which induced Don Bosco to publish a short biographical account. This admirable youth, along with Dominic Savio and Michael Magone made a beautiful triple crown of merits for him who had educated them, and converted our Oratory into a kind of garden where all the flowers of virtue flourished. I cannot say much about him here, as Don Bosco has published a biography at once complete, fascinating and edifying. When Don Bosco, soon after the boy's death told us a part of his life's history, he related with tears in his eyes the lad's dying words: *I die with the one regret that I have not loved God as He deserved.* It would be impossible to make you realise the effect of this simple and paternal description by Don Bosco. While the boy was dying an event somewhat extraordinary happened. Don Bosco was assisting him, priests and boys were standing round, and the dying lad was uttering a few words of thanks, when suddenly he stopped... he fixed his upward gaze on something in front, and then with a countenance beaming with a heavenly smile and with a voice clear and limpid such as he had never had before, one of the favourite hymns to Our Lady burst from his lips. Everyone stood amazed at the sight, an extraordinary brightness shone round about, and the sick boy raising himself in the bed seemed to be entering into the joys of Paradise. Then he lay back and was silent. We approached and found that he was dead. Happy he who had spent his short life in the service of God, so that he was regarded as an example of virtue. Don Bosco called him a flower of Paradise and his edifying life long continued to be a guiding star to the boys of the Oratory.

(To be continued).



LIFE OF MONSIGNOR LASAGNA

Salesian Missionary, Titular Bishop of Tripoli

The voyage was one of great suffering, as Fr. Lasagna wrote on the 23rd December. "My poor Missionary companions! They will never forget what they suffered in the two terrible days of the 19th. and 20th Dec. of this year, When we left Marseilles on the night of the 14th, the Gulf of Lyons and Valence was somewhat agitated, but not enough to cause us any alarm. Although most of our party were suffering from sickness and vertigo, nevertheless there were several quite well and turning the matter into ridicule; by their pleasant wit they succeeded in encouraging the most timid. Besides we had great hopes that the Atlantic Ocean would treat us better. Captain Andras to comfort us kept on saying: "I am quite sure that at this time of the year the atlantic is never as rough as the mediterranean. . We must expect some bad weather in these parts, but once through the Straits of Gibraltar, then the sea will be calm."—And we believed him implicitly, having, indeed, a great desire that the sickness and giddiness should come to an end. To strengthen our hopes, during the evening of the 16th as we drew near to Gibraltar, the wind went down, and during the ensuing calm, we all met at supper to enjoy some refreshment; this had not occurred since we left the port of Marseilles. But alas! This was but a brief and golden dream. Towards midnight, the Atlantic became agitated, dark and menacing, the wind, with redoubled fury buffeted the vessel, which began at once to dance about in a way so fatal to the poor passengers. Towards midday, however, the waves calmed down, and we, pale and exhausted, left our couches to breathe a little fresh air.—"You see" said the Captain, with fatherly solicitude, "that these were the last gusts of a storm which has now spent itself. Take courage then, all will be well; the bad weather is over."—Alas! on the contrary the most terrible storm was only just beginning. The sky was overcast and threatenng, to whatever quarter we turned our eyes. The sea, which during a short period of calm, had still been agitated by a ground swell, began once more to rise, driven by the increasing cold wind from the North against our poor ships. It is unnecessary to state that we hastened at once to take refuge in our cabins, there to suffer this fresh and formidable attack. The wind, with indescribable fury lifted the bows of the vessel in the air and then plunged the stern under water for several seconds to the mortal anguish of the 1200 passengers of the *Tibet* who feared their last hour had come.

"Only those accustomed to sea voyages can form a true idea of our sufferings. For the screw, whirling round in the air for such a time and so frequently, gave the vessel such terrible shocks that we thought it would send us to destruction.

How often the ship falling back into the water on its side the railings touched the waves and these burst over the deck with an indescribable crash. And we, huddled in our bunks, what fear, what anguish did we not endure! We were obliged to strap ourselves to the beds, otherwise we should have been tossed out on to the floor, amidst boxes and baggage executing a diabolic dance with the wreckage of bottles and glasses and whatever furniture was in the room.

"But, whilst we were groaning in this extremity a sudden deluge burst open the door between the passage to the saloon and the cabins. Certainly, there could have been no one at that moment who did not feel the blood freeze in his veins. The water penetrated everywhere carrying with it clothes and luggage. Some had no longer breath even to call for help!

"It was then that the officers and engineers terrified at the persistent fury of the storm implored the Captain to alter the course of the vessel and seek shelter in some harbour. But he judged the attempt useless being already too far from any port of safety and he decided instead to stop the engines, turn the prow to the waves and thus riding the billows we tossed all Saturday night, the whole of Sunday, the following night and part of Monday without moving forward an inch. To give you an idea of the agonies we endured from sickness and vertigo, would be impossible.

"During that interminable and never to be forgotten day of the 19th December whilst I was lying soaked from head to foot in my bunk, holding on to the straps so as not to roll off into the room one of the violent upheavals of the vessel detached from the wall a long and heavy slab of marble covering and joining the two washstands of the cabin. With the undulating movement of the ship, the slab moved from one side to the other, and thus was violently thrown against my pillow, so that had I not raised my head in time to escape the blow undoubtedly it would have crushed me. Hearing me call out, a sailor hastened to my assistance and he was able with some difficulty to capture this new kind of monster and tie it to the bed post.

"The room which suffered most from the inrush of the water was that of the Sisters where it was up to the knees. In the night between Sunday and Monday, being utterly exhausted, drenched, benumbed, suffering from vertigo and sickness they were taken to the saloon. There crouched on a sofa in a corner of the room with their feet planted against a fixed table so as not to be tossed about by the sudden motions of the steamer all huddled together like birds in a nest, they passed with many pious ejaculations that long long and dreadful night. When with a great effort in the midst of these horrors, they intoned the *Ave Maris Stella* we below heard the music, like a distant echo which filled our desolate souls with ineffable sadness, a peaceful melancholy, sweet as hope to the shipwrecked! Never have I heard music which so touched my inmost heart, never in my life even

in the grandest basilicas, or beneath the dome of Mary Help of Christians has the singing of the *Ave Maris Stella* seemed so sublime, so fascinating, so powerful over my spirit as during that memorable night. That *Monstra te esse Matrem*, that *Iter para tutum* in those terrible moments to us exhausted, trembling and almost hopeless came from above like an angelical harmony the supplication of heavenly spirits appealing for us poor wretches, to the Powerful Virgin, who is so truly called the Star of the Sea, the Help of Christians.

Towards midday on Monday, though the hurricane was still blowing its fury was somewhat abated. The vessel, still rolling frightfully, rode straight over the waves, which lashed its sides. Many passengers and some of our party with a great effort, had gone into the open air and I, wishing to be with them, though still suffering from sickness, joined them in the corridor situated between the saloon and the deck. Reclining on deck chairs, with feet planted on the iron bars, so as to avoid being tossed hither and thither by the rolling of the ship, we watched in silence, like pale ghosts, the mountainous waves hurrying over each other from stem to stern. When the vessel rolled heavily, our feet sometimes touched the sea, but without any risk save that of a good sprinkling, which from time to time brought a smile to our pale faces.

"It seemed as if the devil grudged us these few moments of rest, for suddenly an enormous wave from another direction, thrust upon us by I know not what evil spirit, suddenly overwhelmed us, like a cruel serpent in its clammy coils, trying to drag us into the depths of the sea: and it might have succeeded, had we not been stopped by railings, half suffocated and more dead than alive. Then we rose up, soaked to the skin and dripping with the salt water, and staggered to the door, more weary than ever, to seek our couches and await the end of this tragedy where we were suspended as by a thread over an unfathomable abyss.

"Well, we are bound to make known to all, in honour of our good Mother, the Help of Christians, that all these suffering these fears and dangers left no traces upon us. Arriving on Monday at midnight near the Canary Isles, the sea became perfectly calm, and we rose, early on Tuesday morning and were all present at Holy Mass....

"Twice a day," continues Fr. Lasagna, "we assembled the children for Catechism and prepared them for Holy Communion on New Year's Day..."

On the 9th January 1887, Don Bosco received a telegram from Montevideo announcing the safe arrival of his Sons at their destination, for which he gave thanks to Our Lord and to Mary Help of Christians.

(To be continued).

PERMISSU SUPERIORUM

Gerent, GIUSEPPE GAMBINO—Salesian Press, Turin, 1906

(b) The devotions performed by the little boys of the Oratory in their own private Chapel, including also the Mass at which they daily assist;

(c) All the Services, Novenas, Feasts and Solemnities whatsoever, that are celebrated in the aforesaid church;

(d) The prayers and good works performed by the Salesians themselves and by their protégés in their Homes, Colleges, Hospices, Oratories, Missions, etc., in Italy, in France, in Spain, in England, in Austria, in Switzerland, in America, in Asia, in Africa,—in a word, wherever they are established or may be called by Divine Providence.

4. Participation in the holy Masses will commence on the day after the alms have come to hand; all the other spiritual advantages are enjoyed from the moment of inscription.

5. The contributor, we repeat, of one shilling given once for all, is entitled to put his intentions in all the six Masses and all the other pious works, for his own advantage or for that of his friends, living or dead, and to change the intention in every circumstance according to his particular wants or desires.

6. Inscriptions may also be made in favour of departed friends, of children, and of any class whatsoever of persons, even without their knowledge or consent.

7. Persons desiring to participate more abundantly in these spiritual advantages may do so by repeating the alms of one shilling, thereby multiplying the inscriptions as often as they please.

8. The offerings thus collected are destined for the maintenance of the boys of the Hospice or Oratory founded by Don Bosco on the grounds annexed to the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Salesians are in duty bound to fulfil all the obligations of the Charitable Association as above described.

9. The names of subscribers will be entered on the Registers of the Association and preserved in the Temple of the Sacred Heart, in Rome, for perpetual remembrance.

10. There are two centres for enrolment, one in Rome the other in Turin. Address: The Rev. Rector, Ospizio del Sacro Cuore di Gesù, Via Porta S. Lorenzo, 42, Rome; or, The V. Rev. Michael Rua, Salesian Oratory, Turin, Italy.

APPROBATION.

Pium Opus adprobamus, eidemque largissimam fidelium opem ominamur,
Ex Aed. Vic., die 27 Junii 1888.

L. M. PAROCCHI, Card. Vic.

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

THE PAPAL BLESSING.

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

1. Given from the Vatican, June 30th, 1888.

ANGELO RINALDI, Chaplain, Sec

SALESIAN SCHOOLS

SURREY HOUSE, SURREY LANE

BATTERSEA, LONDON, S. W.



DIRECTED AND TAUGHT BY THE SALESIAN FATHERS.

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.

The Salesian Fathers have opened a school for boys at their House at Farnborough, Hants. A course similar to that at the above school is given. For particulars apply to:

The Rev. E. Marsh

Salesian Institute

Queens Rd, Farnborough, Hants.

A preparatory school for little boys has been opened by the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians, in a delightful situation at Chertsey on Thames. Communications to be addressed:

The Rev. Mother

Eastworth House, Eastworth St.

Chertsey, Surrey.