

Salesian Bulletin

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♣ Vol. V. ♣

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

Leo XIII

DA MIHI

ANIMAS CAETERA TOLLE

Important Notice to Readers.



As announced previously in the **Bulletin**, the Rules of the Association of Salesian Co-operators, together with a summary of the Indulgences and spiritual favours, and appendices, have been reprinted and bound into a neat volume or manual.

A copy of this and a diploma of membership is being sent to all readers. If some of the dates affixed thereto are subsequent to the date of receipt, that is the day on which membership will commence, and on which the plenary indulgence may be gained.

Those readers, who on receiving a copy and reading the instructions and regulations, do not desire to be enrolled as members, should return the two things, and their names will be cancelled. Those who retain them will be definitively enrolled.

Explanations and information concerning the rule will be found in the manual, but will be supplemented by the **Bulletin**. Any member is of course free to withdraw his name at any future time should he so wish.

It is greatly desired that by this means a new-impetus will be given to the development and active participation of the Salesian Co-operators, and that the works of Don Bosco will be known, esteemed, and aided more and more. It will also serve to strengthen the bond of charity, of prayer and of work, which ought to unite the Co-operators amongst themselves, and also to the members of the Salesian Society, with whom they work for the greater glory of God and the good of society at large.



The Salesian Bulletin

Organ of the Association of Salesian Co-operators

Via Cottolengo 32, Turin, Italy.

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AN INTENTION FOR MARCH.



during the month of March the Holy Father keeps the Feast of his Patron Saint, and all Catholics renew their devotion to the Patron of the Universal Church. It has long been customary to recommend the Co-operators to intercede with St. Joseph for the particular needs of their Association; but just at the present, there is one great need that the combined endeavour of the members is striving to supply, and which our Superior General hopes to obtain through the intercession of St. Joseph. It is the erection of the New Church of Our Lady in Rome, the carrying out of which has been entrusted to the Salesians, and which in its completion is to form our combined presentation for the Holy Father's Jubilee. This intention and others which are awaiting fulfilment are especially recommended to all Co-operators.

IMPORTANT NOTICE. — Our Rector Major, the Very Rev. Don Michael Rua, begs to request his correspondents outside of Italy to put a twopence halfpenny stamp on their letters when writing to him. As his English-speaking Co-operators are increasing day by day, many of the new ones are not aware of postoffice regulations for abroad, while some of the old ones do not always remember; with the result that he receives a considerable number of letters taxed by the postal authorities owing to insufficient postage which, for Italy, is twopence halfpenny (2½).

A Sequel to our Superior General's Letter

PRESUMABLY our readers have now had leisure to glance at the contents of our Superior General's Annual Letter. Reviewing its latter portion one cannot help being struck with the apparently overwhelming expenditure which must be annually met for the upkeep of such a vast organisation, and for the continual needs which occur, both in the ordinary course of things and from the exigencies of times and places. The vitality of an organism is displayed in its unceasing growth and expansion, but as it does so, it makes new demands on the sources of energy. The growth of the Venerable Don Bosco's work is one of its remarkable features, and this growth, it must be noted, is not only remarked in the Institute as a whole; but the various provinces which constitute it are expanding in different departments and every house is forced by circumstances to increase its accomodation and sphere of influence. But, and this is the important point to which our Superior General draws attention, this growth and expansion make greater demands on resources and energy, and if these are not supplied the period of growth, though succeeded by maturity, is liable to be followed by a period of stand-still instead of progress. This continual demand upon resources is one of the points to which our Rector

Major calls attention, and the various provinces look to the Co-operators to enable them to meet these demands.

By the Providence of God, our Venerable Founder was supplied with the means of establishing his work and carrying it into all parts of the world. But what were the instruments in the hands of God? — The direct means were the religious whom God gave him to work by his side and under his direction; the indirect, were those who helped by material means and by personal services wherever possible, who thus *co-operated* and were canonically established as a Third Order of *Salesian Co-operators*. This organisation, which has naturally far outgrown its early stages, is the great mainstay of the works which have been undertaken, but its own constitutions must be consulted by readers for details of ways and means.

It has been previously pointed out that in bringing home to readers the continual need of their co-operation, our Superior General is appealing for each individual province, equally with the whole. Houses and schools in various districts form combinations or provinces, each of which is, or ought to be, self-supporting. For this support they rely on the Co-operators of that province, viz, those who have been enrolled as such, and are in receipt of this periodical; but others are also

included to whom it is sent, as being interested and desirous of furthering our Holy Founder's work. Of late years the development of individual provinces by their own Co-operators has come more prominently to the front, and this policy, though clearly put forth in previous issues is apparently not quite understood by all.

It will be clear that to enable one House or one Province to develop its undertakings, to extend its sphere of influence, to increase its power for good and for more extended work among the young, is to benefit the province as a whole, and the work as a whole; and it will also be clear, that the province to which the Co-operators may belong has a priority of right, in such a case, to their generosity. In his last visit to this province, as a matter of fact, our Rector Major left us an official message for our readers. He expressed his gratitude and pleasure at what had been accomplished with such great labour and sacrifice, and supported by Co-operators and friends; and he concluded by saying: "Let the Co-operators of the Province come forward and develop the work more and more". If these words of his point to anything, they must at least mean that the Province should be the first concern of the Co-operators, that its needs should be relieved, its houses developed, and that the good work which he found already so flourishing should be more and more extended.

On another head some misunderstanding may be in vogue. The plan of issuing an annual letter or report on the year's work and on the year's

needs and policy is to be completed by a yearly supply. It may be natural for Co-operators to forget and to let their first fervour cool; as a preservative against this, an annual reminder is given, and it is not a too frequent one — the *Bulletin* to some extent supplementing it monthly. The expenses of this latter are very considerable, and the annual subscription should at least be sufficient to cover them.

Among the ways and means proposed in order to reduce to practice the suggestion of the annual letter are the *Conferences* of the Co-operators. In towns and districts where a good number are enrolled and can be conveniently assembled, these conferences are certainly of great use, providing for discussion of plans and details. But where this opportunity is not present the matter of the Conference is treated of in these columns, while results of other important meetings are reported. The times of the chief Conferences of the year are the Feast of St. Francis of Sales and the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, and these two events are intended to serve as fixed occasions for the Co-operators to note, as being suitable for an extra effort on their part. In this regard (for England, and Ireland) the Very Fr. Provincial, Salesian School, Battersea, London, should be consulted, and all enquiries and other matters should be directed to him.

We are not now discussing the Co-operators' Association as a whole. Its spirit of active charity, of zeal for religion, particularly when the young are concerned, its spiritual privileges and

advantages — all these have been and are treated of from time to time; we would rather insist on this one point of striving to develop the province to which one belongs, and of directing whatever aid may be forth-

coming into its proper channels. It is hoped by this means to give further development still to the work within our own borders, and thereby to lay the foundation for more successful and more widespread results.

THE PONTIFF OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST.⁽¹⁾

The apostolic zeal of our Holy Father, Pope Pius X, is already so well known as to be characteristic of his pontificate; indeed he set out at the very commencement with the apostolic commission and intent—to *restore all things in Jesus Christ*: but it may not be equally well known that the Holy Father's dearest hope is to realise this proposal through the return of the faithful to the practice of frequent Communion. To succeed in his main object this means is not only of prime importance but singularly efficacious and indispensable.

Our Divine Lord gives to His Church supreme pastors endowed with the special gifts to meet the particular needs of the flock of Christ. Our present Holy Father, Pius X, gloriously reigning, has made it clear that his first endeavour is to recall the catholic world to the service of his Divine Master, through the practice of frequent Communion; and as followers of the Venerable Don Bosco—of one, whose first principles almost were the practice of frequent Communion and devotion to the Papacy—we should make it our endeavour to realise this much desired aim of the Holy Father. For this purpose it will be useful to call the attention of readers to the recommendations of the Pope concerning the Blessed Sacrament.

The preparation for First Communions.

The Holy Father gives the first intimations of his plan in a letter to His Eminence the Card.

Vicar *with regard to the preparation for First Communion of the children*, in all the parishes of Rome. The letter bears the date of Jan. 12th, 1905.

"Among the many and important duties," the Holy Father says, "to which the attention of the parish priests must be devoted, the Christian instruction of the young holds the first place. It is true that this duty falls primarily upon the parents, and only by its fulfilment do they gain the rewards of paternity; but besides the great neglect that is prevalent in this regard, religious instruction, which holds such an important place in Christian education, is imposed on those to whom Christ has said: *Go ye, and teach all nations*. Now, if through the evil consequences of original sin, education has become such an arduous task, if even with every advantage and every available assistance it is so difficult to bring it to a successful issue, how will the young, if left to themselves, arrive at the goal of Christian perfection?.... For this reason, the Church, ever solicitous for the good of souls, enjoins on the parish priests the obligations of teaching the young the principles of the faith, and of obedience to God and authority; for as children have need of frequent nourishment for the growth and sustenance of the body, so for their soul they are in need, urgent and continual, of this heavenly food, for their growth in the Christian life and to preserve them from evil."

And having then laid down that the parish priests should choose the most opportune time for the instruction of those who are to make their First Communion, in order to learn their dispositions, to inspire in them the greatest reverence for this Sacrament, and to render them less unworthy of such a gift, the Holy Father

(1) In a former number mention was made of the *great secret* Don Bosco had in order to achieve the wonderful results he did in the education of youth. The reference is to the frequenting the Holy Sacraments, which he fostered among his boys.

concludes: "The perversity of the age would confine the priests entirely to the Sanctuary; but they should know, and especially the parish priests that the souls of the young are the most august of sanctuaries; and if it is part of their duty to keep the sacred fire constantly burning within these living temples, where guilty hands would fain cast the seeds of wickedness, one of the most efficacious means is that now inculcated by us."

These words of the Holy Father show in the very early part of his pontificate his determination to lead the faithful back to frequenting the Holy Table; and shortly afterwards he supplements his teaching by further decrees and indulgences and privileges.

Various Indulgences.

The Decree "*Sacra Tridentina Synodus.*"

On the 30th of May of the same year 1905: "desiring most earnestly that the practice of daily Communion, so salutary and so pleasing to God, should by His Grace, spread among all the Christian peoples," His Holiness attached special indulgences to a prayer for the propagation of that custom.

On the 12th of July of the same year, with reference to the First Communions of the young, in order to excite them to greater devotion, so that they may receive the most abundant fruits, the Supreme Pontiff again opens the treasury of Holy Indulgences, and grants: 1st a *plenary indulgence* to all children who shall pray for the Holy Father's intention on the day of their First Communion; 2nd a *plenary indulgence* to their relations within the third degree, who shall approach the Sacrament of Penance and receive Holy Communion at the First Communion Mass, and pray for the same intentions; 3rd an *indulgence of seven years and seven quarantines* to all the faithful, who shall take part in the ceremony.

Other privileges and indulgences followed.

On Feb. 14th, 1906, the Holy Father granted to all those who received Holy Communion daily, or almost daily, the privilege of gaining all indulgences, for which confession had previously been prescribed.

On Sept. 15th, 1906, through the Sacred Congregation of the Council, His Holiness empha-

tically declared that even children, as soon as they have made their First Communion should be exhorted to receive daily, or as frequently as possible, and he considered the opposite custom as blameworthy and to be discouraged. On April 10th, 1907, the Pope gives further directions, concerned chiefly with the keeping of the Feast of Corpus Christi. Through the Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation of Rites he issued to the Bishops a circular in which, after discussing the means for promoting this pious custom, he expressed the desire that in every Cathedral Church, on the three days following the Feast of Corpus Christi a discourse should be given on the Most Holy Sacrament and on the dispositions required to approach it with the greatest profit. Exposition and Benediction should form part of these services, and on the following Sunday a general Communion should be made, and the faithful urged to greater frequency and devotion. To those taking part in these services the Holy Father grants an Indulgence of seven years and seven quarantines for participation on any one day; a plenary indulgence to those who should approach the Sacraments on one of the days and pray for the Holy Father's intention; and lastly a Plenary Indulgence to those who having attended the Cathedral services should approach the Sacrament and pray for the same intention in any parochial Church.

When the Holy Father's desires are so clearly expressed, we should be among the first to endeavour to realise them, especially as the practices he inculcates are contained in the teaching of our Founder. In the daily life of the Co-operators there should be a place for attendance at Holy Mass, and if possible to receive the Sacraments, and also to make a visit to the Most Holy Sacrament; should it not be possible to fulfil all three, one at least should be made convenient. If it is not possible for every member of the family to go to daily Mass and the Sacraments, one or more may be able to, and a blessing be thus drawn down on the labours of all. As a part of the homage offered to the Holy Father on the occasion of his jubilee, there could be none better than an active participation in the endeavour to extend the devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, which forms an integral part of his Pontifical programme—to restore all things in Jesus Christ.



The First Commemoration

OF

The Anniversary of the Venerable Don Bosco.

As soon as it was known that, for the first commemoration of our Holy Founder after his being declared *Venerable*, His Eminence Card. Maffi, Archbishop of Pisa, would give the discourse for the occasion, hopes and expectations ran high; but the event easily surpassed anything that could have been anticipated; and the scene that was witnessed at the Oratory will form one of those memorable occurrences that have made the Story of the Oratory so remarkable. His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Pisa came to Turin on the 29th of Jan., the day before the feast of St. Francis de Sales. The bells of the Sanctuary of Our Lady Help of Christians joyfully announced his arrival at the Oratory, and the voices of some eight hundred boys were raised to give a welcome. Our Rector Major, the Very Rev. Don Rua, and the other chief Superiors of the Congregation, received the distinguished guest. After a short interval the Cardinal visited some of the workshops of the Technical Schools, and then passed on into the large study-hall where some four hundred boys were at work over their books. His Eminence was taken by surprise at the sight of such a number of boys, all silent and studious, not a sound stirring. Having reached the assistant's desk he spoke to the boys, congratulating and encouraging them, and giving his blessing. On the following day, the feast of St. Francis of Sales, the Cardinal celebrated the Mass for the students and assisted pontifically at the solemn High Mass; he also pontificated at the Vespers in the evening and, after the panegyric of the Saint, gave the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. As the suffrages for the repose of our Venerable Founder have now ceased, the vast church was hung with the tapestries which have hitherto been reserved to the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians. Thousands approached the Holy Table, and although the weather was by no

means ideal, even taking the time of the year into consideration, the services were attended by vast crowds of the faithful. After the evening Vespers the Oratory boys, assisted by the *Don Bosco Club*, gave a performance to a large audience. Before the curtain rose one of the pupils addressed some complimentary verses of welcome to His Eminence the Cardinal.

All this was but a prelude to the 30th of December, the day fixed for the twentieth commemoration of our Holy Founder's death, and the first since his being declared Venerable. In the early morning Cardinal Maffi said the Mass for the other section of the Oratory boys—the Artisans—who were anxious to have the privilege of receiving Holy Communion from him. The prayers on that day, as is the custom, were all offered in suffrage for the repose of the soul of our deceased Co-operators. During the morning His Eminence passed through the city and went to Valsalice to visit the tomb of Don Bosco where he spent much time in prayer before the remains of the Venerable Servant of God. The hour fixed for the commemoration had now arrived. Thousands of people had long before filled all available space, and exactly at three o'clock the two Cardinal Archbishops of Pisa and Turin took their places on the seats reserved for them, surrounded by numbers of the Clergy and the most distinguished laity of Turin. Among other notable personages were Mgr. Spandre, the auxiliary Bishop of the archdiocese, Mgr. Mariana, many Municipal Concillors, Representatives of the Metropolitan Chapter, of the Seminary and the Religious Orders. The Salesians of the Missionary College were present *en masse*, the other Salesian Houses of the town were represented in good numbers, and many of the Inspectors had places reserved for them.

The commemoration opened by the rendering of a new musical setting of a poem for the oc-

casian by the biographer of Don Bosco, Fr. Lemoyne. Cardinal Maffi then ascended the platform. His Eminence summarised in his masterly fashion the life, the works and the final glorification of Don Bosco, after having described the various preparatory steps—beginning with the early Christian training by his excellent mother—comparing his development in grace with the growth of a plant which, in the gradual unfolding of its leaves and flowers, beautifully illustrates the growth and manifestation of the different virtues that adorn the lives of the servants of God. “The charitable and religious works accomplished by Don Bosco,” he said, “are the outcome of the sanctity which he had acquired and cultivated.” Having thus referred to Don Bosco as the palm in the desert, the Orator passed on to the oases, which he said were fitly styled by that name—meaning the Houses and Schools founded by him. The need and opportuneness of his work, its institution, its providential growth and results, were then touched upon, and the Cardinal then continued: “But yesterday, around his remains, were held the last solemn rites of the church, interceding for his repose; but now all tears are wiped away, and rejoicing has drowned all sounds of mourning and regret; he has entered into his glory. May the fulness of that day quickly come of which as yet we see only the dawn; and then not only Turin will offer its tribute, one such as has never before been witnessed in the town, not only in the Salesian Houses, but throughout all the earth, and in heaven as well, men and angels will honour the Saint. The palm grew up in the desert; its foliage opened to the light, to the light of the glory of heaven in the splendours of the eternal majesty of God; *Justus ut palma florebit.*”

For over an hour the Cardinal held the great throng in rapt attention, and long applause showed how his words were appreciated and how well he had interpreted the sympathies of

the audience. Massed choirs then gave some classical selections, which were followed by brief addresses in the various languages, representing the various lands in which Don Bosco's work is carried on; pieces were read in Italian, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Bohemian, German, Polish, Russian, Slavonic, Hungarian, Roumanian, Croatz, Arabic, and Indian. Opinions were unanimous that a more



His Eminence Peter Cardinal Maffi, Archbishop of Pisa.

solemn or imposing commemoration could hardly have been imagined, and the great hopes were more than realised. Before leaving the Oratory the Cardinal was photographed in the centre of the Oratory boys, and, promising to pay them another visit, he left amid hearty cheers.



Salesian



London.
I. Our Patronal
Feast.

A contemporary gives a prominent notice to the celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Sales, which apparently, and appropriately, seems to have been kept with more solemnity in the Salesian Church of the Sacred Heart than elsewhere in the Metropolis. On Sunday last, it observes, the Patronal Feast of the Salesian Society—St Francis de Sales—was duly celebrated in the Salesian Church, West Battersea. The early masses were well attended, and there was a large number of communicants. Solemn High Mass was sung by the Very Rev. Father Macey (Provincial), the blessing and distribution of the candles preceding the Mass. After the Gospel, Fr. Kelly, S. C. made a brief statement regarding the condition of the school-building fund, and congratulated the regular subscribers upon having helped by means of their donations to reduce the school debt to just under £950. In announcing that the annual report of the Committee would be published shortly, he urged upon all the necessity of doing everything in their power to help towards the speedy reduction of the debt, and appealed for new subscribers.

The seating accommodation was taxed to its extremity at the evening service, a splendid congregation being present. After the solemn Vespers, Rev. Father McCarthy, S. C., late of New York, ascended the pulpit. Taking for his text the words of St. Paul: "I became all things to all men that I might save all" (I Cor. 9. 22), he explained the nature of the eminent virtue of charity, showing how in St. Paul and other Saints it was practised in an heroic manner. Speaking of St. Francis de Sales, he gave a résumé of his life, bringing out his characteristic virtues. He showed then how these same characteristics were manifest in the life of the Venerable Don Bosco—founder of the Salesian Congregation—who, whilst a student at the

Seminary was known as "Bosco di Salice", to distinguish him from another student of the same name.

Referring to his work now being carried on in all parts of the world by his spiritual sons of the Salesian Congregation, he showed how it was thoroughly in keeping with the needs of the times; how, when men of practically all nations were striving to abolish religious teaching in the schools, Don Bosco and his sons had built schools and workshops in which thousands of boys and youths were being, and had been, trained to become afterwards good, zealous Catholics and useful members of society. Not only was Don Bosco's work being carried on at home, but the savages of many lands had been given to the special care of the Salesians, and during the last thirty years excellent results had been obtained. In conclusion he urged all to follow the example of Our Holy Father, Pope Pius X, and his two venerable predecessors Pius IX, and Leo XIII, by becoming Salesian Co-operators, and thus helping in a truly practical manner the carrying on of these important works.

After the sermon there was a procession in honour of the Blessed Sacrament, in which the choir-boys, altar-servers, Children of Mary and school children took part, the canopy being borne by four gentlemen of the parish. Solemn Benediction followed, after which the whole congregation advanced to the altar-rails to venerate the precious relic of St Francis, this ceremony very fittingly bringing the day's solemnities to a close.

On Monday morning a *Requiem* Mass was sung, in accordance with the Salesian custom, for all the deceased Co-operators and parishioners, the celebrant being the Rev. Father Kelly. The music on both days was worthy of special mention, for where the services are always so well provided for in the matter of musical accompaniment, it is no easy task even to maintain the traditions of a first class choir, which

were however, if anything, surpassed on the occasion of our Patronal Feast.

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In the days before Councils and Rate-aid were mentioned, or perhaps even dreamt of in connection with Catholic Elementary Schools, the Feast of our Patron, St. Francis of Sales, was the recognised occasion for an annual appeal in aid of the parish schools which are attached to our Church of the Sacred Heart, Battersea. It was therefore befitting that the preacher on the morning of the Feast-day, should refer to those schools and to their support. Such a well-known fact as the financial difficulty in which most Catholic Schools were placed, when certain requirements were placed before those responsible for their upkeep, needs no further comment here. Suffice it to say that, to the already overburdening debt, contracted for necessary alterations, the above schools were so unfortunate as to undergo the calamity of a disastrous fire, the consequences of which still tell with great force on those who had to find the money for the re-building. We have put this matter before our Co operators in previous issues—as being one of the many departments in which their assistance is needed; it is opportune at this time, when the annual appeal is made, to repeat and urge it anew.

The occurrence of the Feast-day has also been connected for some years with another interesting item in connection with the above schools; particularly interesting, in fact, to the young generations who are in attendance at them. It is an occurrence which both boys and girls eagerly look forward to, and the date is regarded with an amount of impatience and anxiety usual at such periods of youthful excitement.

The annual *tea-party* of this year was not behind its predecessors in the characteristics that usually mark such occasions. The children were naturally in the best of spirits, and on both days—for the numbers prevent the carrying out of the whole scheme on one day—they were treated to a sumptuous tea, followed by a grand entertainment, a musical play given by the students of the Salesian School. This latter had been prepared with unusual care, and the acting and orchestral accompaniment fully merited the applause bestowed upon them. On the boys' day, the play was honoured with the presence of Lady Turner, who has long taken a practical interest in the school-children, and who on her arrival and departure was treated to hearty and appreciative cheers.

After some months of silence we are glad to publish the following from a correspondent at Capetown, S. Africa. The work that is here recorded represents in reality a good deal more of self-abnegation and patient industry than is shown on the surface, for the labours of the Salesians have been, and still are, cramped by lack of room, and of accommodation for growing needs; and though a brighter horizon is now opening out in that regard, the waiting for it only serves to intensify the present drawbacks. "The school-year," says the Correspondent, "was fittingly brought to a close by the annual distribution of prizes. The one great item of interest to us and to our Co-operators that has occurred during it, is naturally the securing of the old and long unused Catholic burial grounds as the site for our new Schools of Arts and Trades; to this, moreover, the Government has added an adjoining piece of land formerly used as a military burial ground. Through the kind offices of the Hon. A. Wilmot we have been able to use convict labour, free of charge, for the purpose of putting the ground in order, previous to building.

His Lordship, Dr. Rooney, distributed the prizes, presiding over a representative gathering of our Co-operators and benefactors, including, T. J. Anderson, Esq., M. L. A., J. C. O'Riley, Esq., President of the Council of St. Vincent de Paul Conferences; Mr. O'Reilly, President of the Johannesburg Conferences; Mr. O'Malley; Mr. O'Callaghan, etc., etc.

After an address recited by one of the boys, the Band Drill Class entertained the visitors, who showed their kind appreciation of the performance. Messrs J. Callanan and J. Rigby, well-known friends of the school contributed appropriate songs.

Father Tozzi, the Director of the Institute, then addressed the audience and gave a brief report of the year's work. He spoke as follows:

"My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure, and with some degree of pardonable pride that I meet you, dear Co-operators, on the day of the prize-distribution. By your generosity, by your sympathy in our work, you have become rather the trustees of the boys, than of the Salesians, who, devoting their lives to works of charity have often to turn to you for material support.

St. Lawrence, Deacon of the Church of Rome, was arraigned before the Prefect of the city and commanded to give an account of, and hand over the treasures of which he had been made administrator by Pope Sixtus. Lawrence asked for three days in order to prepare his accounts,

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and on the fourth day returned to the court followed by a long line of poor, including the blind and the lame, the widows and orphans, whom he had sheltered, fed and clothed. Pointing them out to the astonished Prefect he exclaimed: 'There are the treasures of the Church'. That was a novel spectacle, and a remarkable example of charity for Pagan Rome. But we are continually witnessing such scenes of charity nowadays. Today our boys are before you after another year of training, technical, intellectual and moral. Their unskilled hands have been taught to earn a living, they have gone one stage forward in the preparation for their standing in life. The day will come when, with their trade in their hands, with a good education, they will make a start in the world, and it is hoped, they will be able to give testimony to the faith that is in them, proud of their home and of their benefactors. It may be said with equal truth as of old: "These young men are your treasures, dear Co-operators, the treasures of the Church." They themselves will always be mindful of their indebtedness to you, and daily prayers will ever be offered for your temporal and eternal welfare.

The number of boys throughout the year has continued at seventy-one, which is the maximum allowed to us with our present accommodation. The condition of the health and physique of the boys has been the most satisfactory of the three past years, while the House has been full to its utmost; for this excellent health report we are greatly indebted to Dr. Hazell, for his kind suggestions and devoted care freely given to all the inmates of the School.

The efficiency of the School teaching has also improved, as is evidenced by the last examination held by the Government Inspector, D. Crail, Esq., to whom we express our gratitude, as well as to the Education Department for the kind co-operation they have afforded us.

The Trade Departments have also made progress, and there are now securer grounds for our confidence that the day is not far distant, when each one of the departments will be able to command such a regular custom, that our attention may be entirely given to the orders in hand and to the technical training of the boys, instead of being divided by the seeking for custom.

The past year has been one of quiet steady work. We have had the privilege and consolation of a visit, the first one, of our Inspector, the Very Rev. Father Macey, who took away with him, as one of his best impressions, the kindness and generosity, already so well-known, of our Cape Town people.

A memorable day too was that on which we

received the news that our Father and Founder, Don Bosco, had been declared Venerable, namely the 24th of July. I also record as another day worthy of remembrance, that on which I received the first donation from one of our former boys towards the Building Fund, which example was soon followed by several others. When once gratitude has been secured a great deal has been accomplished.

And now, what prospects are there for the new School? The work of clearing and preparing the site will be completed in about two weeks' time but the funds for building are not forthcoming, nor indeed are the times promising. Yet the need of new premises is every day more keenly felt, and is indeed evident to all. The Education Department, continually urges us to build, allowing us another eighteen months, and the Superiors of the Congregation see the necessity of moving onwards. As yet we are working on the lines of the motto: 'make haste slowly,' but as soon as we receive orders to proceed, obedience will cover all rashness, and I am confident that God will assist our efforts, especially by means of your continuous and generous support. Allow me to thank you, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your valuable help in the past, and to wish you every happiness and all prosperity in the New Year.

The Consul-General for Austria-Hungary, Herr Otto Von Leider, who was unavoidably absent, gave the first prize for good conduct, a handsome silver Inkstand. Mr. F. J. Anderson, M. L. A., presented one pound in money to accompany the first prize in the Compositors' Department—a setting stick, on the point-system. The other prizes were chosen according to the different trades.

His Lordship, the Bishop, in a suitable concluding address, which was interrupted by frequent applause, spoke in very consoling terms of the work carried on by the Sons of Don Bosco at the Cape, thanked the benefactors for their co-operation, and encouraged the boys to correspond, while they had the opportunity, to the training that was offered to them, so that later on it might manifest its results by their perseverance in a good Christian life and by their gratitude to the teachers and benefactors.

At the call of Mr. J. C. O'Riley, three cheers were heartily given for His Lordship, and the National Anthem closed the afternoon's proceeding.

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Malta. The close of the old year
The Salesian School. also witnessed stirring scenes
at the Salesian School, Sliema,
Malta. In a previous issue, interesting de-

tails have been given of the opening of the new Theatre Hall, which the generosity of a long-standing benefactor had made available for the school entertainments. The *Malta Herald* had announced the performance to be given at the close of the year in the Salesian School, and it refers to it as an accomplished fact in its issue of the last day of the year. "The dramatic, musical entertainment," it says, "announced in our issue of the 27th took place yesterday at the Salesian Institute, in the presence of a large concourse of guests, filling not only the Theatre, but also galleries, corridors, entrance and in fact every available nook." The paper then continues in a most appreciative tone to describe the various items of the programme which appear to have in every way deserved the applause they received. The guests were highly satisfied and expressed their gratitude to Father O'Grady, the Director of St. Patrick's, who had provided so enjoyable an evening for the friends and benefactors of the School.

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Tanjore. We commend the perusal
Feast of St. Francis of Sales of the following to our readers.

There is too much indiscriminate charity in India, with the result that it is the shameless clamourers that benefit by it, while the shy and deserving poor suffer. Hence the value of organised relief, contributors towards which can make sure that they are not encouraging idleness and vice, but promoting the true interests of God, by providing for the widow and the orphan in the best possible way.

On Wednesday, January 20th, the Salesian Fathers of Tanjore celebrated the feast of their holy Patron, Saint Francis of Sales. The feast was prepared for by a triduum, and the new Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christians was decorated with its best ornaments. High Mass was sung by the Rev. Fr. Coelho, Parish Priest of Tanjore, who delivered an impressive sermon in Tamil on the Patron of the feast and his characteristic virtue of meekness, taking for his text the words of our Divine Master: "*Learn of Me because I am meek and humble of heart*" (Math., xi, 29). The Salesian Co-operators of the town were present and the Communion was almost general. The Mass in plain chant and hymns were well rendered by the orphans. The day was spent merrily in diverse amusements, including a charming entertainment with the gramophone. At 6 30 p. m. the beautiful Chapel was filled again for the ceremonies of the evening, and for the conference of the Salesian Co-operators, presided over by the Rev. Fr. Lacombe, S. J., the zealous spiritual director of

St. Joseph's College, Trichinopoly. After the singing of the Magnificat "*Iste confessor*" and "*Justus ut palma florebit*," Father Lacombe, S. J., addressed the Salesian Co-operators, taking the text *Charitas Christi urget nos*, he spoke to them of the distinctive virtue of their Patron, St. Francis of Sales, *viz.*, charity, and showed by examples that the whole life of their great Saint was animated by the most ardent charity. St. Francis of Sales excelled in all virtues, but his distinctive virtue was that of charity and zeal for the salvation of souls which virtue made him kind, patient and amiable to all, to save all. The preacher said that "as Salesian co-operators" they should like their Patron be animated by a most ardent charity, and follow in the footsteps of their Founder, "the Venerable Don Bosco," who has chosen St. Francis of Sales as a Patron of his Congregation in order that all the Salesians and their co-operators might try to imitate that great Saint. In a few words the preacher showed how *Don Bosco*, a poor priest, had done wonderful works which evidently pointed to divine assistance; but all these works could not have been done without the help of the co-operators. The Salesian Fathers give their time and their lives for the salvation of souls, the co-operators should give them all possible help especially in the shape of alms, and these alms go to feed and clothe the orphans supported by the Salesian Fathers. He then spoke of the duty which binds all Christians to practise charity. After the coming of our Lord, nothing avails for a man's salvation, but faith which works through charity. If we wish to have the grace of God in us, we must practise charity, for "God is charity and he who abideth in charity abideth in God." He who pretends to love God and does not love his neighbours tells a lie, for "He that loveth not his brother whom he seeth, how can he love God whom he seeth not"? (I John, iv, 16, 20) For all the love God has had for us, He wishes to be repaid by love for our neighbour. In India, observed the preacher, the people are naturally charitable and the poor are not abandoned. Except in times of dire famine, no one dies of hunger, but unhappily charity is not perhaps well directed. Often charity is given at random and money spent on persons and things that do not deserve it. Some rich persons will now and then give a dinner to the poor and think all their duty of charity has been fulfilled. Charity must be practised intelligently, it must be directed mostly to the souls. What is done to the body without any intention to save the souls is lost with the bodies. What is done to the souls remains eternally, and souls saved by us are the

only riches we shall take to Heaven. There cannot be a better way of practising charity than to be a Salesian Co-operator. The money given to the Salesians is spent to open orphanages, schools, schools of arts, and other institutions in order to save the souls of abandoned children. The preacher ended his discourse by quoting the Holy Scripture to show that nothing will give greater confidence on the day of judgment than the fact of having practised charity and saved souls. He expressed the wish that all the former pupils of St. Joseph's College, Trichinopoly, should join the Association of Salesian Co-operators and help the Salesians practically. It would afford him great pleasure to hear they did so for St. Francis of Sales and the Jesuits had been always on the best of terms, and St. Francis had been educated in a Jesuit College, and assisted at his death by a Jesuit. Don Bosco likewise and his society had always been very friendly with the Jesuits, and therefore it would be very gratifying to him if the pupils of the Jesuits were to help the sons of the Venerable Don Bosco and have a share in their merits. After the conference a *Te Deum* was sung to thank God for the title of Venerable that the Church has lately given to the Founder of the Salesians, Don John Bosco, who died just 20 years ago (31st December, 1888). The Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament given by the Rev. Fr. Coelho, assisted by the Rev. Fr. Diaz, his curate, and Rev. Fr. Monis of Manargudy, crowned the solemn and devout ceremonies of the day. Going out of the Chapel the people were delighted with the brilliant illumination of the compound and the sweet notes of a powerful gramophone which gave out its best pieces. The feast left in the hearts of all who witnessed it a pious, agreeable, and lasting souvenir.

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The "Don Bosco" Club. Within the first year of its inauguration the "Don Bosco" Circle or Club which consists of the former pupils of the Oratory living in Turin and its neighbourhood, has succeeded in establishing a record, if only through its splendid achievement in the promotion and management of the great Commemoration of Our Venerable Founder, which was announced a few issues back. The members have since kept the first anniversary of their enrolment and organisation. The preliminary part was very properly performed at the Sanctuary of Our Lady Help of Christians, and after their special service, the members repaired to the *Hotel del Gran Cairo* where a banquet was served.

The president of the Club and several guests had important statements to make concerning the previous year's work and the prospects opening up for the present year. He announced also renewed approbation from the Holy Father, from distinguished members of the hierarchy and particularly from the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese, Mgr. Spandre, one of the very foremost of our Co-operators. In the evening the dramatic section gave a representation, which was attended by large numbers of influential people, and greatly applauded,

In the rooms occupied by the club, conferences on social questions are regularly held, and courses for special subjects, including languages, are inaugurated. The whole movement, which is rapidly developing, is another form of Don Bosco's work among the young, and this is indeed among that section of it which most requires guidance and assistance. The influence of such a body of young men will be invaluable in the struggle in which all the large towns of Italy, as indeed those of other countries, are engaged, — a struggle against irreligious teaching and socialism and the worst forms of anti-clericalism.

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From time to time we are reminded of the disastrous results of the earthquakes which have succeeded in making Calabria almost a name of dread. At Macerata, which is not very far distant from the scene of the catastrophe, the *Robur* dramatic section of the Festive Oratory lately gave a performance in the theatre-hall of the Salesian School of that town, the proceeds of which were to be for the benefit of the Calabrians.

The Bishop of the Diocese encouraged the idea and the citizens followed his example, with the result that all the influential persons in the town patronised the entertainment. Two plays were performed, one by the students of the Salesian School, and one by the Festive Oratory Dramatic Section. The proceeds were sent to His Eminence Card. Portanova, Archbishop of Reggio in Calabria, who replied by the following letter:

Archbishop's House, Reggio.

Very Rev. Sir,

Kindly give my heartiest thanks to the members of the *Robur* club and Festive Oratory, and to all those who by this means have befriended the poor Calabrians, so lately again subjected to exposure and want by the earthquake. One cannot but recognise in these good dispositions

of the boys the result of sound educational principles. May God enable them, all through their life, to be true to their early education, and may He keep them always in His holy fear and love.

I send my blessing to all connected with this good work, and remain

Yours, etc.

G. Card. Portanova, Archbishop.

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The Salesian Schools in S. America- Buenos Ayres sent out their pupils to the number of two thousand to join in a combined pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lujan. They had a special train to the Station, whence they marched eight abreast in an imposing column to the Sanctuary. There Holy Mass was celebrated and though the hour was late, three priests took twenty minutes to give the boys Communion. At midday refreshments were served to this somewhat unusual number of guests, and at three in the afternoon after a brief discourse by the Very Rev. Father Inspector, the boys re-formed to march back to the station *en route* for the Capital. The former pupils of the Schools to the number of three hundred made a similar pilgrimage a few days later. At Rosario the Salesian School has lately been privileged with a visit from His Excellency the President of the Argentine Republic. He had been visiting the city to take part in the Industrial Exhibition, at which the young musicians from the Salesian School had the foremost place among the city bands.



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 April.

1. The Seven Dolours of Our Lady, April 10th.
2. Easter Sunday, April 19th.

During Lent.

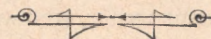
1. On Ash Wednesday and on the 4th Sunday of lent an Indulgence of fifteen years and fifteen quarantines.
2. On Palm Sunday an indulgence of twenty-five years and twenty-five quarantines.
3. On Maunday Thursday, by approaching the Sacraments, a Plenary Indulgence.
4. On Good Friday and Holy Saturday an Indulgence of thirty years and thirty quarantines.
5. On all the other days of Lent ten years and ten quarantines. (*V. Constitutions footnote, page 32*).
6. On each day within the octave of Easter Sunday, on the three Rogation days, and the Feast of St. Mark, April 26th an indulgence of thirty years and thirty quarantines.

It would be well to call to mind :

1st that the indulgences granted to the Salesian Co-operators are all applicable to the holy souls in Purgatory;

2nd That to obtain them, the present Holy Father has prescribed the daily recital of the *Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father*, for the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff, and the invocation, St Francis of Sales, pray for us. These prayers are the ordinary ones undertaken by all Co-operators at the time of their enrolment, and the Pope commands them by way of reminder.

The complete list of indulgences and privileges may be found in the issue of January 1905, or in the Co-operator's manual.





Colombia.



The annual Mission at Contratacion —
Additional acts of kindness from the
Government and the Head of the Re-
public.

(Letter from Fr. Evasio Rabagliati).

Contratacion.

Very Rev. Don Rua,

I am on the eve of departure for the Ca-
pital after a sojourn of two months in
this lazaretto. During the many years I have
been visiting this place, I have never stayed so
long, and I was within a hair's breadth of failing
in the purpose for which I had come.

On my arrival during the first days of August
with the principal object of giving the annual
Mission to the lepers, I found a great number
confined to their beds with the various maladies
then prevalent. It was absolutely necessary to
await better days, but these were long in coming;
dangerous cases, instead of decreasing were
daily on the increase, and the two priests in
charge of the lazaretto were wholly employed
in attending to those who summoned them to
their bedside and in administering the last Sacra-
ments. Moreover, it rained continually and
the damp is so injurious to the poor lepers that
it forces them to remain indoors and mostly
in bed.

In these circumstances how could a Mission be
given with any hope of success? So we waited,
trusting that things would take a more favour-
able turn, fixing Sept. 12th for the beginning
of the mission; and so it was announced for that
date, that those also living in the neighbourhood
of the lazaretto might prepare themselves.

But man proposes and God disposes. On the
very eve, the present writer, who was to preach,
was seized with a violent attack of influenza
necessitating a thousand precautions and ex-

emplifying the proverb: "It is an ill wind that
blows nobody good."

In fact, from the 12th to the 17th September,
precisely the period destined for the Mission, the
maladies, instead of diminishing, increased in
number and violence. Preaching in such cir-
cumstances would have been absolutely useless,
all the more so as the rains, rivalling the sickness,
had become torrential.

There was nothing to be done but to wait.
It was now the last week of September, the only
one I could dispose of, being obliged to return to
Bogotà and go on to the lazaretto of *Agua de
Dios* to fulfil promises already made; consequent-
ly I ventured to announce that the Mission would
begin on the 22nd and conclude on the 29th.

And so it was done. On that very day I had
the inspiration to offer Holy Mass for the Souls
of the Faithful Departed of the lazaretto, more
especially for those lately dead; I recom-
mended to them the good success of the Mission
and offered for them in advance the fruits, small
or great, that it would produce. The result
was beyond all expectations. From that day
there were no more dangerously sick; the
weather became fine, the preacher was freed from
influenza and the two Salesian Fathers were
able to devote themselves, without interruption,
to hearing Confessions. I must add, that quite
unexpectedly, on the very day the Mission began,
the 22nd, a parish priest from a neighbouring
village came to offer his help, and with great self-
sacrifice, to our admiration, acted as confessor
during the whole of the week. Thus this mission
was perhaps the most consoling and fruitful of
all those given in this lazaretto since the year
1894.

There were as many as *two thousand two hun-
dred Communions*, a number never hitherto
attained. Yesterday, which was the last day,
the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered
to all those who had not received it before,
and thus the lazaretto had a spiritual renewal.

But after caring for the souls it was necessary
also to provide for the bodies of these poor
creatures and this I did by giving to all a new
garment. The cost was defrayed by the Govern-
ment which does not allow the poor inmates of
the lazaretto to want for necessaries.

My concluding item contains good news. This
very day, a doctor sent by the Government

has arrived, not on a visit to collect information and then go off again, as on former occasions, but to remain permanently at the Lazaretto. He has been at Agua de Dios for nearly three years rendering great services to the lepers there. I must point out that he is the first doctor, not attacked by the disease, who has dared to shut himself up in a lazaretto to live with the lepers! Now that others have been found who, following his example, have consented to remain at *Agua de Dios*, he, Dr. Osorio, has accepted the proposal of the Government to remove to *Contratacion* and he arrived today. This is a fresh act of kindness from His Excellency General Reyes, President of the Republic, the importance of which is evident to all.

The other works being carried on by the Salesians and also by the six Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, looking after the parish, the schools for boys and girls, Festive Oratories, and hospitals, are very flourishing. But all this is already well known to you and I forbear repeating what has been stated before.

Asking a blessing for us all and for the sick, all of whom are most grateful for the letter you sent them,

Your most devoted Son

EVASIO RABAGLIATI, Priest,

Chaplain to the lepers of Colombia.

Ecuador.

A touching appeal from Gualaquiza.

Gualaquiza, Ecuador.

Dear Rev. Father,

You have but too much reason to complain of my long silence. Many a time I have intended to write and then delayed; but you will easily believe that even in my solitude I have often had occasion to think of you, being particularly reminded by your Circulars, as in that on the virtue of poverty which we desire to live up to, as becomes worthy sons of Don Bosco. If our House of Cuenca, when I was Rector there, was poor, and we rejoiced in our poverty, this Mission-House has ten times more reason to boast, and might well be called the *House of Poverty*, sheltered under the wings of Divine Providence which alone, for so many years, has sustained it in the midst of these forests, where many times the necessities of life in food and clothing are wanting.

But remembering the early days of the Oratory and the examples left to us by our beloved Father Don Bosco, we are resigned to all, and go forwards with confidence.

Zeal for the young — First Fruits.

Fr Mattana is doubtless, with you at present and will have given you many details concerning our Mission. You will also have seen our young *Joaquim Bosco*: we offer him to you as the first fruits of our apostolical labours.

Faithful to the programme of Don Bosco, our most zealous solicitude is for the young. Another boy, Andrew Mattana, was transplanted by Our Lady Help of Christians, to the gardens of Paradise before the world could spoil him. A third, Joseph Rua, is now at our School in Quito. Another little savage, who came here from the Macas' tribe, remained with us some months, was solemnly baptized on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, receiving the name of Pius and was preparing to make his First Communion, when his parents took him away. Another, called Antony Mattana, was a long time with us and was already a good Christian, approaching the Holy Sacraments frequently with a lively faith, when his relations sent him to a distance, and the poor creature was murdered in the woods out of revenge, no doubt, from his having dared to become a Christian.

This year, during the Novena of St Aloysius, we succeeded in getting a boy of twelve years, called Aloysius, to stay with us, to whom we gave the surname of Calcagno. He has already spent two months in our company, is quite lively and happy, studies his catechism and enjoys learning to read and write. He was brought here by a Captain of the tribe, who is very grateful to us because, when he was bitten by a serpent, we nursed him and succeeded in curing him; a cure which we attributed to Mary Help of Christians, for in our extremity we placed her medal on his leg and her picture at the foot of his bed. For several weeks we have had another boy of fourteen years, a native of Indanza; if he remains we think of calling him Joseph Costamagna. So far he is quite contented and says he will never go away. Another little boy came last Sunday with his parents: we did all we could, offering him presents, to induce him to stay; even his father and mother tried hard to persuade him to remain, but he would not, as he was very much attached to his parents.

There are also other boys in the best dispositions and wishing to come to the Mission, but their relations object and try to frighten them

saying: "If you get sick, you will die; when your enemies come, they will kill you; some wizard may injure you," and thus it is impossible to persuade them to stay with us.

It is well that you should know that the savages grow up in perfect freedom, and that their parents advise and scold them, but never force them to do anything. On this account, when children come to the Mission, we do all we can to attract them to us and get them to stay here at least for some days. Each time we succeed is a triumph for us; but knowing this the parents frequently prevent their sons from coming to the Mission.

How much more might be done had we but a larger staff animated with the spirit of self-sacrifice and love for souls, and had we but more pecuniary resources so as to catch these savages with presents, as fish with the bait.

Means are wanting!—Good dispositions of the Indians—What has already been achieved.

But we may safely state that so far everything possible has been done. Means are wanting! To gain the hearts of the children, we must first conquer those of the parents, and to attract the parents, ample means are required. It is a great grief to us not being able to do more, few in numbers and isolated as we are; whilst these poor creatures show generally not only much natural talent, but also a great desire for instruction. There is a young man here, about twenty years of age, called Joachim, a brother of the Captain, who says he does not want to marry, but to remain with us in order to learn to know and serve God better. He says openly that he regrets he does not know more of God, and without human respect, he reproves those who deny a future life. He would be an immense help to us at the Mission. We hope to get him as a favour in answer to prayer.

During this year two savages died, one an old man, the other young: they went to Confession and received Extreme Unction before dying. Another old man, called Pukupi, living one day's journey from here, called for us to make his Confession in preparation for death, saying that he had what he called disquieting dreams.

During the period of nearly fifteen years since we came to this Mission much solid progress has been made. Those who live here or in the neighbourhood already understand and speak Spanish, they have dealings with Christians and like to be clothed as they are. In January, when a house was attacked with the intention

of burning it through revenge, the deed was not carried out solely because there were some Christians in it. Several of those living nearest to us come regularly to Holy Mass on Sundays and holy days, abstain from work on these days, give up their dead so that they may receive Christian burial, are anxious to have their babies baptized, wish to have a picture to put on the door of their house, or near their beds, have acquired the habit of making the Sign of the Cross morning and night, and when they set off hunting, etc; they behave with devotion in Church, listen willingly to catechetical instructions, regard the Missionary as someone sent from above, and devote themselves to work to obtain their livelihood.

All this and much more has been obtained from those haughty savages who would never submit to the rule of the Incas, nor to that of the Spaniards.

Frequently have we succeeded also in making peace between bitter enemies; and here to our Mission-House many come, without distinction of tribe, as to a place of security, to arrange matters which they would not dare to do elsewhere. They come, also, with great confidence to ask for help in their wants and above all for medicine in their maladies. There are numberless cases of restoration to health, which we cannot account for but through the intervention of Mary Help of Christians, for our medicines and surgical knowledge are both scanty. They appear to regard our house as their house, a resting place for them in going and returning from visiting other tribes.

I have put this before you to prevent any incorrect idea of the mission, and lest some might be persuaded that here there is little to be done and that it would be better to pitch our tent elsewhere. We have no intention of giving the devil such a triumph....

What they were and what they are—Pressing necessity for a house of assistance—Other needs.

Since this Mission was placed under the patronage of Mary Help of Christians, many victories have been gained, and religion little by little is penetrating into the hearts of these savages. In order to realize this it would be necessary to know what they were when we came and what they are now. They would not hear of being instructed, they would not pray, and if we tried to get them to recite a prayer, they at once wanted to be paid, saying to us: "If not, what do we gain by praying?..." To form an idea of these savages one has only to read the

letters of the late Father Magalli to the Pontifical Delegate Mgr. Cavicchioni. They have no common creed nor idols; some consult the devil who deceives them in a thousand ways; they believe in dreams and are full of superstitions; their human respect is incredible; for them revenge is sacred; they think they will never die, and whatever evil happens to them they say it is the work of their enemies; the women are slaves and are married when quite children; the men are lazy; they are enslaved by bigamy and divorce is common.

But pecuniary means are wanting! You have been our help hitherto and we are most grateful; without your assistance what could we have done? No one, I think, could understand the difficulties and wants of this Mission, without spending at least a year here. Above all there is an urgent necessity for a house on the outskirts of this Mission, as a basis for supplies. Hitherto we have been forced, though so few and so isolated, to go forth from Gualaquiza in search of pecuniary help; but if others would undertake this office, providing for our wants, the Missionaries could then devote themselves exclusively to the savages, both in Gualaquiza and in the neighbourhood of their *Jivarie* by regular and frequent expeditions and thus the Mission could be more methodically worked. The confrères destined for such a house should also be ready to take our places in this Mission for a time, because, as is well known, in these damp tropical regions it is impossible to continue for a long time in the field of labour. Thus it would also be possible to assist other colonies scattered over this country, such as those of *Cuchipamba*, *San Giuseppe*, *Aguacale*, *Rosario*, etc. It must be remembered that at two days journey from here is situated *Indanza*, on the road to *Mendez*, and there also a residence for at least two Missionaries should be established, to be followed up by one also at *Mendez*, a centre of many tribes. Such a residence would be, in the present circumstances, of great advantage also to the Indians of *Macas*, as well as for the civilized population in the neighbourhood of *Loja*.

But perhaps the greatest need of all is the commencement of our regular work—a School of Arts and Trades. It is necessary for the sons of the poor whites, who in their turn would be an example to the little savages and would help greatly to attract and keep them with us, for the little savages do what they see done by others, and show an eagerness to equal the boys who live with us. In general the boys are good and even pious. We have established amongst them the Way of the Cross, the Associations of

St Joseph, of the Guard of Honour and the Apostleship of Prayer:

Asking for a special blessing and the prayers of our confrères,

Your most obedient son

J. SPINELLI

Salesian Missionary.



Buenos Ayres: Pupils of the Salesian Institutes on a Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lujan.

Editor's Note. — In compliance with the above request, it has already been arranged to give a fresh impulse to our Mission in East Ecuador. The house of *Cuenca*, will be, for the present, the starting point of these Missionaries, and if possible, we shall establish very soon another centre nearer the forest, from which it will be more easy to provide for the wants of the Missionaries resident in *Gualaquiza*. For this end several priests and clerics started with the last expedition; if this project is successful, other Missionaries will be despatched to this most difficult field of labour next year.

Southern Patagonia

State of the Prefecture Apostolic.

200 more Indians in the Houses of the Mission.

(Fr. Peter Marabini's report).

The missionary Fr. Peter Marabini, on returning, at the beginning of last Month, to the distant shores of Southern Patagonia, left us the following brief notes on the State of the Prefecture Apostolic under the zealous care of Mgr. Joseph Fagnano.

In the Central House of *Punta Arenas* (Straits of Magellan) we have about 150 pupils (of whom 40 are boarders) and a Festive Oratory. The locality, served by us, contains about 11,000 inhabitants. We have also charge of the class for religious instruction in the State Schools, of the religious services at the Hospital and in the two public Churches belonging to the Schools of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. I must not omit to speak of our well furnished Observatory, which has recorded valuable data since 1887, and our Local Museum, both of which have merited the encomiums of strangers who, passing through the Straits, pay a visit to Punta Arenas; for instance, I may mention the flattering terms in which they were spoken of by His Royal Highness the Duke of the Abruzzi, during his visits accompanied by his staff.

Similar good is being done, in proportion, in our other House and Churches of *Porvenir* and *Ushuaia* (Tierra del Fuego), *Rio Gallegos* and *Santa Cruz* (in Southern Patagonia) and at *Port Stanley* in the Falkland Islands. With regard to our two Missions for the natives at *Dawson Island* and *Rio Grande* we note: The first, in 18 years, has educated and maintained more than *twelve hundred* individuals; and the second has reached *eight hundred*. Maladies, defying all remedies, decimated some years ago these flourishing villages, which are now coming once more to life by gathering together the savage inhabitants of the surrounding forests. Mgr. Fagnano writes that *two hundred* Indians have just arrived at the Mission.

Several of our new Christians have already gone to the Fuegian settlements where they earn an honest living. Those who remain with

us in the Mission live like Christians, divided into families (each in their own cottage) forgetting by degrees their former wild habits.

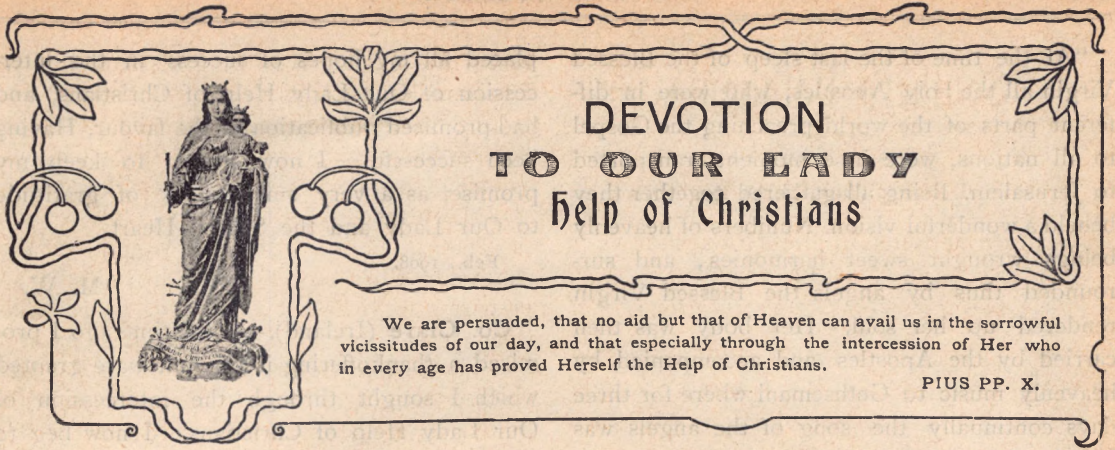
Their devotion in church is truly edifying, as well as their Christian conduct on all occasions and the firmness of their faith. This is more especially the case with the young and the children. When any of these fall sick and are preparing for death, it is touching to behold in them such entire resignation and so great a longing for that better life for which the Missionary has taught them to hope. We hear the most moving accounts of Christian hope in those last hours, so terrible to the generality of men!

Mgr. Fagnano is at present making plans for starting a Mission amongst the *Tehuelches* who, to the number of about 2000, inhabit the slopes of the Cordilleras near the *Rio Deseado*, to the north of *Santa Cruz*. May God bless his pious intentions and send him fresh subjects for the undertakings he has already in hand. One would hardly realise that we are but twenty priests for nine Salesian Houses, four Parishes, twelve Churches and two Mission centres, without counting our labours for the many inhabitants scattered over the vast territory lying between the *Rio Deseado* and Cape-Horn. The ordinary expeditions of one month on horseback are not sufficient to attend regularly to the administration of the Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony; it is necessary to have at one's disposal from time to time at least three persons for three months with fifteen horses. However by little and little, but with great self-sacrifice, even the most savage tribes are being gathered under the standard of the Cross, and the boundaries of civilized countries are being extended. We are therefore gradually attaining the ideal, the object of missionary life.

May the fervent prayers of our good Co-operators be our daily comfort and help in the arduous labours of the Apostolate. If we are able to work, we owe it to those who, in their charity, supply the necessary means, and Our Lord will give them all a great reward

PETER MARABINI,
Salesian Missionary.





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.

To those who have adopted the practice of performing some special devotion on the 24th of each month, in honour of Our Lady Help of Christians, it is recommended that, besides other intentions they should join their associates in praying for the wants of Holy Church, particularly in this month of St. Joseph—the Patron Saint of the Sovereign Pontiff.

New Churches and Chapels.

The continual spread of the devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians is recorded in very clear characters by the new Churches and Chapels which are dedicated under that title. An interesting example of this is the case of the Church now in course of erection at *Rodeo del Medio* in the Argentine Republic. At this town there is already in circulation a periodical issued on the 24th of the month entitled: *Our Lady Help of Christians*. In one of its numbers it refers to the unfinished church, whose foundation stone was laid as far back as 1899 by Archbishop Cagliari, but which could not be brought to completion, and the temporary chapel still had to do service. The second number of the periodical announces that, on Nov. 15th last, the works were again commenced amid much enthusiasm, and it is expected that the present year will see the church dedicated and opened, as another witness of the power and maternal goodness of Our Lady Help of Christians.

In *Valdivia*, Chile, our confrères were entrusted, about two years ago with the direction

of the Commercial School founded by His Lordship the Bishop. They have now a new Chapel in course of construction, to be dedicated, to Our Lady Help of Christians, and an influential committee, working in conjunction with our confrères, is actively employed in finding the means.

Trelew in Patagonia has now a new Chapel dedicated to our Patroness. This struggling mission-centre has long been in need of a permanent place for the practice of our Holy Religion. The band and choir from the Salesian School of Rawson were both laid under requisition to supply the music for the inauguration ceremony.

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* *

The Venerable Don Bosco, after explaining the scene at the foot of the Cross in reference to Our Lady, goes on to say that the faithful of the primitive Church had recourse to Mary as a powerful protectress and guide. This is shown by the general concern and grief displayed by the news of her approaching death. Not only those of Jerusalem, but from the country round about great numbers came to have the privilege of seeing her once more. Moved by the sorrow and by the tears of the people, Mary comforted them with many promises: that she would still assist them after her death, that when she had joined her Divine Son she would have even better opportunities than she had had till then, and that her maternal authority would be used for their benefit. St. John Damascene gives the following account of the occurrence.

"At the time of the last sleep of the Blessed Virgin all the holy Apostles, who were in different parts of the world preaching the Gospel to all nations, were in a moment transported to Jerusalem. Being all gathered together they beheld a wonderful vision. Numbers of heavenly beings wrought sweet harmonies, and surrounded thus by angels the Blessed Virgin rendered up her soul. Her body was then carried by the Apostles and accompanied by heavenly music to Gethsemani where for three days continually the song of the angels was heard. After three days it ceased.

St Thomas who was not present at the death of Our Lady, arrived on the third day, and as he manifested so ardent a desire to see the body, the Apostles, who were still on the hallowed spot, opened the tomb, but the body was no longer there. They found the linen cloths in which it had been wrapped, and perceived the fragrance emitted by them. There was only one conclusion possible: that He, who had deigned to become man in the womb of the Blessed Virgin, had willed that her immaculate body should be preserved incorrupt and honoured by a translation to paradise before the general resurrection common to all others." Thus far St. John Damascene. The experience of eighteen centuries has unmistakably proved that from her throne in heaven Our Lady has always fulfilled her mission as the protectress of the Church, and as the Help of Christians, which she commenced while upon earth.

GRACES and FAVOURS

Brighton.—Kindly publish a thanksgiving for several favours received through the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians, for which a thank-offering is enclosed.

Feb., 1908.

J. H.

London.—At a certain examination, which it was very important I should pass, I had

placed all my hopes of success in the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians, and had promised publication of the favour. Having been successful, I now hasten to keep my promise, as a very small mark of gratitude to Our Lady and the Sacred Heart.

Feb., 1908.

M. W.

Co. Clare (Ireland).—Some time ago I promised a thankoffering if a favour were granted which I sought through the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians. I now beg to enclose the offering, and would ask prayers for another much needed favour,

Feb., 1908.

W. B.

Co. Cork (Ireland).—I am sending an offering promised in thanksgiving for a favour received through Our Lady Help of Christians.

H. O'R.

County Waterford (Ireland).—Enclosed you will find the sum of one pound in thanksgiving for favours received from Our Lady Help of Christians and Saint Joseph.

Feb. 18th, 1908.

One who trusts.

Italy.—"A short time ago, my Father encountered many difficulties and adversities which threatened to overwhelm him. In his affliction he wrote to me saying he wanted prayers to be offered up for his intentions. I immediately began a Novena to Our Lady Help of Christians, promising to publish the favour if obtained. I am glad to say that our good Mother has heard my prayers, for the troubles have begun to disappear and peace has been restored to the family."

February 16th, 1908.

Anon.

County Monaghan (Ireland).—As promised I now wish to offer, through the pages of the *Bulletin*, my heartfelt thanks to our dear Lady Help of Christians for a great favour received. I enclose an offering in aid of the great work of your good Society.

February 4th, 1908.

KENMORE.

LIFE OF MONSIGNOR LASAGNA

SALESIAN MISSIONARY

TITULAR BISHOP OF TRIPOLI

CHAPTER XXXVIII (*Continued*).

How deplorable is the condition of many of these emigrants who purchase material prosperity at the cost of their faith! But further on, His Lordship, ever an accurate observer of the appearance of the country he was traversing, felt a thrill of horror in contemplating the mournful aspect of that Argentine Chaco of which the President Saëns Peña had spoken to him. The Chaco is an immense territory, low and swampy, which, exposed during the greater part of the year to heavy floods, becomes almost uninhabitable. At present it is little more than a bog, for the late governors of Argentina, unfeelingly exterminated the greater part of the Indians who dwell there. One must confess that the hatred of so-called modern civilization for these poor creatures is implacable, making of them a target for the shots from their deadly weapons. Our Bishop had little difficulty in finding examples of this kind. His arrival in Paraguay coincided with that of a certain man of Swiss nationality, who was taking part in the expedition of Signor Muller for the Exploration of the Chaco. This man, known as *the hunter of the Indians*, was praised by everyone, because his rifle never missed its mark, and in the Argentine Chaco he had mercilessly beheld more than a hundred unfortunate natives fall a prey to his shot. Horrible tales which in those days caused no feelings of surprise in these countries! Fortunately a change has come over things since then.

From the worthy Captain of the *Mercedes*, Signor Noceti, a native of Genoa, who for forty years had navigated these rivers, the Bishop obtained much useful information. He knew thoroughly all the countries through which they were passing and was pleased to converse with the Bishop and give him all necessary details; in addition he was most careful that he should want for nothing which might alleviate the discomforts of the journey. To him also Mgr. Lasagna owed the facilities for saying Mass, at which, on Sundays, many fellow travellers were present as well as a large number of the ship's company; every convenience was also afforded for the other spiritual duties to which the Missionary Bishop was always most faithful. But the Blessed Sacrament was not reserved, so whenever the vessel stopped for coaling, for provisions or merchandize, the Bishop and his Secretary hastened to land and, if not too distant, turned their steps towards the Church. Thus, the steamer having an-

chored for some hours at the village of Diamante, he landed at once, and betook himself to the Chapel where he visited the Blessed Sacrament and also had the pleasant surprise of meeting Fr. Gonzalez, a priest, who eighteen years previously, had been at Las Piedras. The long interval, and the distance only increased the pleasure of their meeting and the short time at their disposal was spent in recalling memories of the past....

From Diamante, Mgr. Lasagna telegraphed to give notice of his coming to the Bishop of Paraná, with whom he had already exchanged many letters, and whose diocese, divided into three provinces, *Entre-Rios*, *Corrientes* and *Misiones*, is so vast, that this excellent Prelate with all his apostolic zeal could not visit the whole of it, unless God gave him the wings of an angel. In the province named *Entre-Rios*, lying between the Paraná and the Uruguay, there are numbers of emigrants, visited every year by the Salesians, who thus contribute greatly to the preservation of the faith amongst them. This mission was begun by Mgr. Cagliari, seven years before his consecration as Bishop, that is to say in April 1877. The interesting letter, in which he gave a brief account of the good done in this expedition was inserted in the First Number of the Salesian Bulletin, published in August of the same year, and commenced the series of *Letters from the Missionaries of Bon Bosco*, which still contribute information as well as edification for the Co-operators of all nations.

Meanwhile the *Mercedes* had reached the city of Paraná, but as it entered the port at night time His Lordship, for whom the Vicar General had waited many hours, to present the Bishop's salutations, was unable to land, and had to spend the Feast of Pentecost on board. In the diary of his journey it is noted that, for the sake of greater recollection, he chose to say Mass on that day in his tiny cabin. Although accustomed to doing the work of God in various places, still it would seem, from his conversations and his demeanour, that he could not but remember how in the preceding year, on this same feast, he had pontificated solemnly in Montevideo, and had preached two sermons to the Tertiaries of St. Francis of Assisi. Assuredly it must have grieved him to spend within the narrow walls of his cabin a feast, of all others the most solemn and memorable for a Bishop to whom is committed the distribution of the graces and gifts of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, on this occasion, not having to work for the good of souls, we can scarcely be mistaken in supposing that he would have availed himself of this opportunity to think of himself, reflecting on the gifts bestowed on him by the Holy Spirit in his episcopal consecration, and examining carefully his correspondence therewith, always remembering those words of Christ: *Omni autem cui multum datum est, multum quaeretur ab eo; et cui commendaverunt multum, plus petent ab eo*: "Unto whomsoever much is given, of him much shall be required: and to whom they have committed much, of him they will demand the more."

Three days of monotonous and tiresome navigation were spent amidst the desert land of the Chaco before reaching the city of *Corrientes*: here our Missionary was received by many friends amongst the clergy and the laity, who accompanied him to the Governor of the Province, Signor Virasoro, who, after the presentation of the letters of the President, gave him a joyful and respectful welcome. A large building was offered to him to found a school of Arts and Trades; but he judged it better not to undertake anything of the kind, because all the requirements of religion both within the city and outside were zealously attended to by two communities of Franciscan Fathers. He paid them a visit and experienced an agreeable surprise. One of the communities was composed of Italian religious depending immediately upon the Congregation of Propaganda in Rome. Who can describe the consolation experienced by our Bishop and these good religious in finding themselves together, at such an immense distance from their own country, and speaking their native language! Here was living one good Brother from Farigliano, in the province of Cuneo, the same who, on the expulsion of the religious from their convents, had taken refuge in the Oratory of Don Bosco, and having obtained leave to join the expedition to America in 1876, had since retired to this convent to end his days in peace. It would have given the Bishop great pleasure to see him again, but at that moment the good old man was not at home, and Mgr. Lasagna had to return hurriedly on board to continue his journey.

After three hours' navigation, leaving Paraná on the right, our missionaries entered the river Paraguay. The time which remained after the performance of their spiritual exercises, was employed in gazing upon the undulating and flowery lands of the Republic of Paraguay, all the more attractive from its contrast with the left bank where the interminable Chaco extends, ever low-lying and swampy. Gliding close to the bank of the stream, their eyes sought under the overhanging trees the wooden-like bodies of the crocodiles, which here and there emerge from the water to bask in the sun; these disgusting creatures remain motionless, with their great eyes wide open, as if made of granite. Many shots were fired from the vessel, but unless they were struck, the creatures never even moved a limb, but continued gazing with the same stony look.

The Paraguay and its affluents are full of them and their presence renders bathing in these waters very dangerous. Captain Noceti recounted to His Lordship how, many years ago, he had on board, a thoughtless cabin-boy, the son of a friend of his. During the hottest part of a summer day, taking advantage of the vessel being stationary through a dead calm, the boy quickly undressed and descending the stairs jumped into the river to cool himself. He had scarcely plunged into the water when he uttered a terrible shriek; all the sailors rushed to the quarter deck and saw him struggling desperately in the jaws of an enormous

crocodile. The Captain, an excellent shot, seized his gun and put a bullet into the monster, but alas! killed the boy at the same time! "At least," sorrowfully concluded the captain, "we were able to bury him on land!" A poor consolation for his afflicted parents!

What a charming prospect was that of the floating islands, formed by the large-leaved marsh plants; they are carried down by the stream in such numbers as frequently to form in a short-time a surface covered with verdure, as in the Sargasso Sea. The steamer stopped for a few hours at Humaità, the first village of Paraguay and later on at Villa de Pilar. Whenever the vessel made a brief halt, the Bishop, as a zealous and watchful Missionary, gladly seized the opportunity to study the manners and customs of the inhabitants, especially those of the natives, and to examine the fauna and flora and ethnography of the country, as well as any phenomena which might be useful in the cause of science, or for the Missions. All these he made use of in conversation, in preaching, in moral reflections, or in calling upon his hearers to bless God, the author, of so many marvellous things, exclaiming: *Quam magnificata sunt opera tua, Domine. Omnia in sapientia fecisti: impleta est terra possessione tua* (1): "How great are thy works, O Lord! Thou hast made all things in wisdom: the earth is filled with thy riches."

CHAPTER XXXIX.

Arrival at Assumption—Intimate relations with the President—Extraordinary activity—The Corpus Christi Procession—Ordinations—Visit to the Hospital—A Conversion—A dying man—Arrival and departure—Records of the past.

From the Villa del Pilar the good Missionary had sent a telegram of greeting to the President of the Republic of Paraguay, Signor Gonzalez, and to the Administrator of the Diocese, the Very Reverend Fr. Arrua, indicating the probable hour of his arrival at Assumption. He was thus able to count upon their being ready to receive him, and, without too great an expenditure of time, of finding every facility to accomplish the end he had in view. On leaving his cabin on the morning of May 17th he beheld the green hills which surround the capital of Paraguay, where, however, he did not land until one o'clock in the afternoon, nine days after leaving Montevideo. Scarcely had the vessel anchored, when the Captain of the port with his officers and the Commander of the Military Hospital boarded the *Mercedes*, to conduct the Salesian Bishop ashore in the steam-launch. There he was awaited by the Diocesan Administrator with a Lazarist Father, the Rector of the Seminary, the Chancellor of the Curia and many other distinguished personages, who accompanied him to the Palace of the Minister of Finance which was placed entirely at his service with all the furniture and servants, the Government undertaking the whole expense.

(1) Ps. CIII, 24.

After thanking God who had brought him safely through his long and perilous journey, he visited first the President of the Republic. The reception was suitable to his Episcopal dignity, prompted also by the esteem and gratitude which even then had earned him the title of the Angel Guardian, the regenerator of Paraguay; for the interest which, even from afar, he had taken in promoting the welfare of this unfortunate country, was well known. After the usual greetings, the conversation turned at once upon the twofold projects of providing for the Christian education

the relations with the Holy See which had been broken off, inducing him to write to the Holy Father expressing his regret for having suppressed certain feast days without having applied for the necessary permission, and finally to ask for a Bishop of whom Paraguay had so long been in need. God blessed this advice giving a special efficacy to the Bishop's words and so disposing the hearts of all, that the end in view was speedily attained. Even had Mgr. Lasagna done nothing else for Paraguay, this alone would have earned him a place amongst the most esteemed citizens of that nation, and he



Souvenir of the visit of His Eminence Cardinal Maffi to the Salesian Oratory in Turin.

of the young and the evangelization of the Indians. In his first words the President recognized His Lordship's energetic character, his more than ordinary culture, the vastness of his designs, united with kindness of heart and gracious manners. Nor did he feel as if he were dealing with a stranger, so intimate was the Bishop's knowledge of the wants of Paraguay and so ardent was his desire of supplying them: the greatest patriot could not have been better informed or more anxious as to the result. This first interview was the commencement of that intimate and cordial friendship between them which remained unbroken.

Under such happy auspices, the Bishop, with apostolic frankness, urged the President to resume

might reckon himself well repaid for his long and weary journey. But in that city there was so much good to be done by a Bishop of his character that many months would not have sufficed to accomplish it.

From the first day he began to distribute the bread of God's word and it would indeed be difficult to enumerate all the sermons and conferences he gave during his sojourn at Assumption. Nor did he spare himself in the administration of the Sacraments, so that at least four thousand children were confirmed in the city without counting those in the neighbouring towns. In this way, his advent in that city seemed to revive the faith in all hearts, to improve the moral conduct of the citizens and

to render more vigorous the whole Christian life amongst them. But more than this: the solemn religious functions were again celebrated, which, from the absence of the Bishop, had not been seen for some time; on the 24th May, Feast of Corpus Christi, Pontifical High Mass was sung, the President of the Republic surrounded by all the Ministers assisting officially, and all followed the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, to whom the soldiers rendered Military honours, whilst guns fired their salutes.

He visited the Seminary founded a few years previously under the direction of the Fathers of the Mission, whose coming was truly providential for this Diocese and for the whole Republic, by the infusion of the true ecclesiastical spirit into the young seminarists confided to their care. He had words of encouragement and wise counsels for these candidates for the Sanctuary, expressing hopes for the increase of their numbers in proportion to the needs of the diocese, and in deference to the urgent appeal of the Administrator, he promised to remain some days so as to confer Holy Orders on several clerics, in view of the great dearth of priests for supplying parishes most in need of them.

He had, also, consoling words for the zealous Sisters of St. Vincent of Paul, who have charge of a school for three hundred girls, and who also serve the sick in the Hospital. Passing amongst the sick he showed to each how much he sympathised in their sufferings, and, in his kindly way, he strove to raise their hearts to heaven, the glory of which is purchased by the sufferings of this life. All were greatly touched when he visited the ward of female lepers, those poor creatures whose limbs were mortifying and dropping off by degrees, fully conscious of their terrible fate, of the destruction of their bodies. From these he passed on to the Military Hospital, where he rejoiced to find the sick soldiers comforted by the Holy Sacraments, by practices of piety and what was truly extraordinary, by a tender devotion to Our Lady of Dolours, whose image was to be found in every ward.

This wonderful activity did not, however, make him forget the chief object of his visit to Paraguay. He held long and frequent conferences with Dr. Lopez, Minister of Foreign Affairs, a young, energetic man, large-hearted and of great talent, well fitted to understand and efficaciously assist in the execution of his important ideals. They agreed upon a convention between the Republic of Paraguay and the Superior of the Salesian Society, framed more particularly to secure the existence and permanence of the newly erected Salesian Institute, even in the midst of the disturbances so frequently occurring on the election of a new Head of the State. In this matter Mgr Lasagna showed his generosity, promising much, more even perhaps than lay in his power, for the benefit of that Republic which he loved with a tender and disinterested affection; but on the other hand, he demanded that the two buildings to be made into an Institute of Arts and Trades,—and which formerly had served as a Hospital,—should be declared the

property of the Salesians by the Government, granting them complete autonomy in the management of their pupils: in conclusion he begged of the Government to assist the Institute, more especially in the beginning, until it should be able to support itself.

(To be continued).



The following notice of the death of one of the earliest Co-operators to the Salesian work in India, is given by the *Catholic Register* of Madras. "We regret to record the death of the Very Rev. Mgr. J. Balanadar, Domestic Chaplain to His Holiness, and a very well known and greatly respected priest in the Archdiocese of Madras. The deceased, who was a Telugu Christian, was born in Onteddepallo, in the Kurnool District, in December 1842. He received his theological training at Madras and was ordained priest in 1871. As a priest the deceased worked with great zeal in the Deccan, afterwards at Royapuram and lastly at Pulicat and Ennore. The distinction of *Monsignor* was conferred by His Holiness Pope Leo XIII, in 1896, on the recommendation of His Grace Archbishop Colgan, when on a visit to Rome in that year. Mgr. Balanadar was a fine scholar, a bold and fluent speaker, and an eloquent preacher in English, Tamil and Telugu. His death is consequently a sad loss to the Archdiocese of Madras. The funeral took place on the morning of Saturday last, the service being performed by the Right Rev. Bishop Aelen, Co-adjutor of Madras, assisted by a large number of the clergy, and in the presence of a large concourse of Christians. May he rest in peace.

The following lately deceased persons are also earnestly recommended to the pious prayers of all Co-operators and Readers:

Mr. James Murray, Kirkintilloch, Scotland.
Mr. T. MacCabe, Dublin, Ireland.

R. I. P.

PERMISSU SUPERIORUM
Gerent, GIUSEPPE GAMBINO—Salesian Press, Turin, 1908.

APPEAL

ON BEHALF OF THE SALESIAN INSTITUTE.

To all those who are kindly disposed towards poor orphans, to all those who have at heart the betterment of society by the education especially of abandoned or neglected youth, we appeal with confidence.

The Salesian Institute in Cape Town is a school of Arts and Trades, one of the four hundred and more Institutions of Don Bosco. It consists of schools of printing, cabinet-making, bookbinding, shoemaking and tailoring. Boys are accepted irrespective of creed, are trained in one of these trades, while at the same time they receive a good "book" education and are taught both vocal and instrumental music.

The houses in which the work is carried on at present are only rented and were never intended for educational purposes. So far there are seventy-two lads in the Institute, all healthy and happy, and this is all that we can at present accommodate. During the past year close on sixty applications had to be refused. This year the demands are pouring in daily, but the answer is always the same: "There is no room."

Our benefactors and all those acquainted with the work urge us to build a suitable institute to provide for about two hundred boys, where a model school of Arts and Trades may arise and the complete educational system of Don Bosco may be developed. There is every prospect of a valuable site being secured in one of the old Cemeteries in Somerset Road; so it is now necessary to start a building fund. Confident in the blessing of Divine Providence and the goodness of the cause we turn for help to both rich and poor of every denomination and nationality.

A Committee has been already formed for the purpose of collecting subscriptions. While we expect much from the wealthy, we are confident that the labouring classes, who have experienced many hardships in common with our boys, will not deny their mite. A small subscription every month, sixpence, a shilling or half a crown, will prove most effectual in aid of the new Institute.

We wish to promise our prayers to all those who come to our assistance and we feel certain that the Almighty will reward abundantly every one of our benefactors.

For the Salesians:

E. M. TOZZI, S.C., *Superior.*

Feb. 14th, 1905.

*Salesian Institute,
49, Buitenkant Street, Cape Town.*

I hereby recommend most herartily the foregoing appeal to all the well disposed throughout my own jurisdiction, and to the Superiors of the Missions who have sent, or are likely to send boys to the Salesian Institute from any part of South Africa.

✠ JOHN LEONARD,
St. Mary's, Cape Town.
Feb., 14th, 1905.

(Cablegram.)

To Superior, Salesian Institute, Cape Town. — Rome, 13th March, 1905.

Holy Father wishes development to praiseworthy work of Salesian Institute and blesses Superiors, Benefactors and Pupils.

Cardinal MERRY DEL VAL.

SALESIAN SCHOOLS

SURREY HOUSE, SURREY LANE

BATTERSEA, LONDON, S. W.



DIRECTED AND TAUGHT BY THE SALESIAN FATHERS.

The principal object of this School 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. Muldoon

Salesian Institute

Queen's Road, 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 adressed to:

The Rev. Mother

Eastworth House, Eastworth Street

Chertsey, Surrey.