



Salesian Bulletin

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Vol. V.

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


L. A. A. X. III.

DA MIHI

ANIMAS CAETERA TOLLE

Important Notice to Readers.



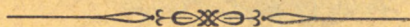
s announced previously in the **Bulletin**, the Rules of the Association of Salesian Co-operators, together with a summary of the Indulgences and spiritual favours, and appendices, have been reprinted and bound into a neat volume or manual.

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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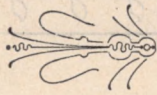
The New Salesian Church of Santa Maria Liberatrice Rome.

The building of the New Church is reported to be progressing favourably. The roofing of the Nave and of the arms of the cross has been completed and that of the aisles is now in hand.

The bell-tower will be practically finished in a week's time, since the mural parts are already up and the covering-in is commenced. This tower it may be noted adds much to the imposing effect of the whole and renders the church conspicuous from a great distance.

At the same time the secondary parts are receiving attention. The altars and sacristies are being fitted as well as other details of the edifice.

By the assistance of the Co-operators it is hoped that the Autumn will bring the day of inauguration within sight, as the sacred edifice is to be a permanent monument commemorative of the Sacerdotal Jubilee of the Sovereign Pontiff, and of the loyalty of the Salesian Society and Co-operators to the Vicar of Jesus Christ.



Half-way



WITH July the second half-year enters on its course. It does not, it is true, open with a pronouncement from Our Superior General concerning the doings of the Association, or of the Salesian Society by means of its co-operation. It should be nevertheless a kind of second starting-point rather than a half-way halt, for it is practically the month for the adoption of the resolutions proposed in the Conferences which have been held on, or about the time of, the feast of Mary Help of Christians. The connection between that feast and renewed co-operation is evident, for Our Lady was the first Co-operator, and a most efficacious one both in the commencement and in the development of the work, and the simple narration of what she has accomplished for the works of the Ven. Don Bosco, is only another way of putting her example before the Co-operators. Thus they receive the impetus it is designed to give by the holding of periodical conferences, and the speakers at those recently held made this clear; for what practical outcome would there be from these regular meetings, if the matter ended with the conference, or if the proposals merely remained such and were not carried into effect?

The second half year has special calls on the Co-operators. It brings the period of the new school year,

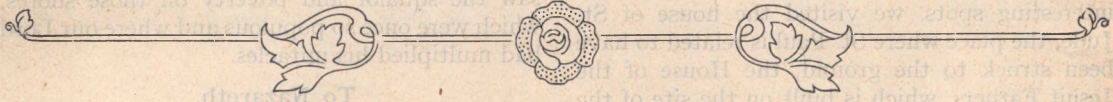
with its preliminary preparations — improvements, extensions, etc. And here it is to be noted that our Superior General in his letter for the present year, called the attention of Co-operators particularly to this question of developing existing centres, rather than directing energy and ontlay to the commencement of new works. And this indeed would be a most desirable attainment, for it not unfrequently happens that when Institutes have been established, means are not forthcoming for subsequent expansion and development, whereas the early stages may have been a simple matter, compared with the difficulty of maintaining and improving long established works. It is necessary to insist on this point. Co-operators sometimes appear to have a misapprehension of the state of affairs and regard a work as complete and self-supporting because it has reached a certain standard, high though it be, of development. It is exactly in that highly developed state that it stands more in need of co-operation.

This is moreover practically the same recommendation as that urged by the Ven. Don Bosco, when, just before his death, with the knowledge that so many establishments founded by him could not be maintained except by continual support from the members of the association, he said, that although these Houses had no longer any need of him, they had none the less great


need of the assistance of the Co-operators.

Another point in connection with the schools. At the opening of the scholastic year Co-operators may themselves be sending boys to school, or their acquaintances may be doing so. Here is the occasion to recommend Salesian Schools and to make early application. In this issue some details on Scholastic matters are given, but more precise information may be had by a letter to the Principal, Salesian School, Battersea, S. W.

This is one of the recognised methods of co-operation and falls under the heading of developing the works within our own borders. Many other departments indeed call for continual support and development and by means of the last issue's remarks on the conferences, supplemented by the present, it is hoped that Co-operators will gradually adopt the idea that has now been frequently insisted on, of enabling their own province to keep pace with the demands made upon it.




The Very Reverend Don Rua IN THE NEAR EAST



III.

From Beyrout to Nazareth.

n the 6th the vessel left the port of Smyrna. The captain of this boat the *Saghalien* had already been introduced to us by the Superior of the Sionists, and he made everything as convenient as possible during the three days of the voyage. On one of the days it was possible to have the Holy Mass said in a saloon for the many catholic passengers.

Though in Syria, Beyrout is so close to the borders that on landing one may consider himself in the Holy Land. Fr. Cardano accompanied Our Superior General on his visit to the Apostolic Delegate and to the Jesuit Fathers, and in the afternoon to the Maronite residence where we had the good fortune to meet three Maronite prelates, the Bishops of Acre, Sidon and Beyrout. We were also met in the street by two of the old pupils of the school at Bethlehem, who remembered having seen Don Rua when he visited the Holy Land thirteen years ago, and who are now well settled in life, thanks to the training received at the school. The Consul-General was among those who visited Don Rua at the Institute

En route.

On the following morning our portable altar and luggage were conveyed to the station, where Don Rua was pleased to find many of our former pupils, now engaged in various occupations, who had assembled to see him off. Our *Cavas*, and the company of the Consul of Damasceno ensured us immunity from many inconveniences, and the gentleman mentioned was able to be of great service to us.

The train, on leaving Beyrout, commences almost immediately to ascend the neighbouring hills, which enables one to have an excellent view of the charming prospect, presented by the ancient city and its surrounding panorama. A maronite religious who accompanied us for some part of the journey provided many interesting details of the locality, and when he left us we made use of the guide written by Fr. Barnabè and given us by the Franciscan Fathers at Beyrout.

Still ascending, the train crosses the range of Mt. Lebanon, some peaks of which were snow-capped, and then descends into the valley between the Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon ranges, emerging finally and turning eastwards to Damascus which we reached at five in the evening.

At Damascus.

We were practically unknown at this town and hence were not met at the station, but the *Cavas* of the Consul General conducted us to the House of the Franciscan Fathers where our letter from Beyrout gave us a ready admission, and on the following day Don Rua was able to say Mass in the underground chapel of the house of St. Ananias where he had the vision of the conversion of St. Paul.

Our Superior General was heartily welcomed by the Italian Consul, Signor Carrara, who expressed his great regret at not having been previously advised of our arrival, especially as he had had the good fortune when a boy to know the Ven. Don Bosco. He arranged everything to facilitate our journey of the following day to Tiberias, and sent a telegram to the Franciscan Fathers to announce our coming. Among other interesting spots, we visited the house of St. Jude, the place where St. Paul is related to have been struck to the ground, the House of the Jesuit Fathers, which is built on the site of the dwelling of St. John Damascene, etc., etc. The view of the city from the neighbouring hills is quite an enchanting scene, the woods forming a garland round the whitened walls and ancient towers.

On the Lake of Genesareth.

We had at our disposal the Consul's carriage to take us to the station on the following day. Not far distant is a small place *Caija*, where we found waiting for us the now familiar *Cavas*, sent us by the Consul to facilitate the transport of our luggage. The train soon enters the valley of the Jordan and reaches *Sema* near the shores of the Sea of Tiberias. There were several boats by which we could have crossed, but one of the boatmen came forward and showed us the telegram that had been sent by the Consul from Damascus; we therefore decided to make use of his services and were soon on those waters which recall so many memorable incidents. Our Superior was quite moved by the experience of sailing over the very sea on which our Lord and His Apostles had so often been. He gazed long at the waters and at the distant shore. From the Mussulman rowers we sought in vain for any religious reference to the scene before us.

At Tiberias.

We embarked at the little harbour of Tiberias. On the landing stage was a small group of people, among whom was the Superior of the Franciscans; the whole community accompanied us after our repast to the pilgrim quarter where a considerable number of strangers were gathered, and

arrangements were made for the morrow's Mass. In fact Our Superior General offered the Holy Sacrifice at the altar which commemorates St. Peter's receiving the commission to feed the flock of Christ.

During the morning we went by water to visit Capharnaum the city beloved by Our Lord, where he worked so many miracles, and taught the crowds on so many occasions. The Franciscan Fathers are now conducting excavations which have already resulted in discovering the foundations of the ancient synagogue. After visiting several institutions, we returned to Tiberias and saw the mount of the seven Beatitudes and then passed on to Bethsaida the home of the Apostles Peter, Andrew and Philip, and to Genesareth and Magdala. The lake was wonderfully calm, but nothing could remove the sadness from the mind of Our Superior General as he saw the squalor and poverty on those shores, which were once so populous and where our Lord had multiplied his miracles.

To Nazareth.

The journey to Nazareth was made in a sort of carriage. The road is considerably lower than sea-level, being the bed of what was once a lake. Sacred memories crowded upon us at almost every step. Safet and the land of Nephthali lay on the right, the home of Tobias was in the vicinity and Tabor rose on the left. From time to time we came across groups of Bedouins, guarding their flocks. The children stood and stared, and some of the girls ventured to ask us for a coin, while the women sat at the doors of their tents.

At the entrance to Cana, the scene of Our Lord's first public miracle, we were met by a number of priests and religious, with whom we visited the place where the water was changed into wine. *Seforis* the native place of St. Joachim and St. Anne, lay on the right as we pursued our way, and before long Nazareth rose into view. The city is built on hilly slopes and numbers about 7000 inhabitants, half Christian, half Mussulman. Our vehicle went in a circuitous route round the city and then slowly climbed up again to the Salesian House which has an elevated situation. As we approached, we perceived more clearly, the figures of the boys who were impatiently awaiting our arrival under the porticoes, with the band ready to give a hearty welcome to Our Superior General.

IV.

At Nazareth.

Demonstrations of affection.

Our sojourn in Nazareth has been prolonged for a week, truly a *full* one for our Superior.

On the first day he visited the school which is new, large and recently finished, the building operations of the neighbouring church in charge of our excellent co-operator P. Tannus and the old house of the Salesians, from which there is a view of the Port of Caifa and Mount Carmel.

I need not describe the festive reception prepared for him by the boys, in which they manifested their filial joy, the Rector bidding him welcome and they, in brief compositions in French and Italian, and specially in Arabic, expressing the feelings of their hearts. The good Father said a few words of grateful acknowledgement; but in the evening when he went to speak to them after prayers, he thought well to make use of an interpreter, which he also did on the following days.

Here also the visits which he made and received were numerous; and amongst these I must not omit those of the Reverend Franciscan Fathers of the Holy Land, who in the schools where they have 200 pupils, as well as at the Hospice and at the Sanctuary of the Annunciation, showed him the most delicate attentions; nor those of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, and the good Fathers of the S. Heart of Betharram who made him spend one day with them; of the Rev. Maronite Pastor and the chief members of his congregation; and of the Sisters of Charity, the Sisters of the Rosary of Jaffa of Nazareth, of the Sisters of S. Joseph, and the worthy lawyer Scibli Sibran.

Don Rua deemed it his duty to present his respects to the *Kaimakamo*, the governor of the city who, though a schismatic Greek, wished the Successor of Don Bosco to invoke the blessing of the Lord on his house and family, and on the same day hastened to return his visit accompanied by the chief magistrates and by the military commandant of Jaffa and Jerusalem, who was passing through Nazareth. Our boys welcomed the visitors with the harmonious strains of music, and — it is worthy of notice — at the hour of sunset, the commandant of Jaffa and the other Mahometans were seen respectfully requesting permission to retire, and beneath the porticos they recited their prayers, which being ended they re-entered and joined in the conversation. The military commandant could not conceal his admiration for our Superior and the *Kaimakamo* himself repeated to many that this had been a memorable occasion in his life.

Pious recollections.

Moved by his pious instincts, which at every step of this journey found the sweetest satisfaction, our Superior General did not fail to visit the memorable spots in Nazareth and its en-

viron. He went several times to the Sanctuary of the Annunciation, where he had the consolation of celebrating Holy Mass at the altar of the Annunciation of Our Lady. This is now situated under the high altar of the Church and one descends there by a marble staircase of fifteen steps; beneath is seen a small silver cross with the inscription: *Hic Verbum caro factum est*. The feelings experienced there are indescribable!

Thanks to the delicate attentions of the Franciscan Fathers, Don Rua was able to visit the ruins recently discovered, of the basilica erected by the Crusaders, on the site of the Holy House now venerated at Loreto; and a little further on, other ruins, where the workshop of St. Joseph is supposed to have stood. Nor did he fail to visit the *Mensa Christi* a rock about ten feet in length six in width and three in height, where, according to a tradition, Our Lord supped with his apostles after his Resurrection; this rock is now in a chapel erected by the Father Guardian of the Holy Land; as also the Fountain of Our Lady, the ruins of an ancient synagogue, and the Chapel called the *Tremor* which encloses the spot where the Blessed Virgin, having heard that Jesus was being hurried along that road by his compatriots who wished to cast him over the precipice, following his footsteps in fear, swooned away!

Nor did he miss the ascent of Mt. Thabor.

On Mount Thabor.

By midday on the 16th, accompanied by the Rector of the School and by a Franciscan Father whom the Guardian had appointed to accompany us and the Arab who supplied the horses, we were ascending and descending six small hills, and in two hours reached the fort of the Holy Mount. The Franciscan Fathers who are in charge of it, having been informed of our coming, did all in their power to show their gratification in having amongst them the Superior General of the Salesians and treated him with the greatest possible respect. They gave us supper in the pilgrims' apartments, where they afterwards came to keep us company in friendly conversation; and amongst other things they showed us a large map of the summit of the Holy Mount on which were to be seen both the actual buildings and ancient ruins, those in possession of the Catholics as well as those belonging to the Schismatic Greeks. Very early the following morning after having said Mass, we went up to visit the colossal ruins of the ancient basilica of St. Helena, called also the Church of the Transfiguration, destroyed in the seventh century, rebuilt by the Crusaders and destroyed

again by Saladin, near which are seen the remains of an ancient abbey of the Benedictines, who at one time had charge of the Basilica. In the midst of these imposing ruins extends a large open space and in the centre an altar has been erected where during the great pilgrimages the Holy Sacrifice is offered, weather permitting. Don Rua knelt devoutly before it to gain the plenary indulgence granted for that visit.

Having gained the summit of the ruins, we cast a glance on the surrounding country all full of Biblical reminiscences. It is truly a grand and enchanting panorama. To the north is seen in the far distance the great *Hermon*, and nearer *Mount Hattin* where the Crusaders were repulsed by Saladin; to the east on the far horizon the Lake of Tiberias and nearer the plain of *Esdraelon* which encircles the mountain crossed by the river Cisou and a village inhabited by Circassians; to the South east the mountain chain of *Gilboa* where Saul and Jonathan perished, and nearer the little *Hermon* on whose slopes is situated *Naim* where Jesus raised to life the widow's son, and more towards the East, *Endor* where Saul consulted the witch; whilst towards the south extends the Plain of *Esdraelon* where, in 1798, the soldiers of General Bonaparte fought the Mamelukes and behind which we discerned in the distance the mountains of *Samaria* extending towards the West with those of *Ephraim* and finally *Carmel*. The contemplation of such a spectacle fills one with the desire to spend a long time gazing upon it, but we were obliged to break the charm in order to descend, for it was growing late. In going down we followed the same road we had taken the evening before, our hearts filled with emotion from all we had seen.

Don Rua exclaimed: « To come to *Nazareth* and not to make the ascent of *Tabor* would indeed be a sin! »

The Feast of St. Joseph.

Amongst the consolations experienced at *Nazareth* must be numbered that of being able to celebrate there the Feast of St. Joseph. During the preceding days Don Rua did not fail to prepare the boys for its celebration with special fervour and for this end he recalled the many graces obtained by St. Joseph for this house, one of which was really extraordinary. During the early days of the Salesians at *Nazareth*, their financial difficulties were so great that the Superiors had decided to recall them. This decision arrived there on the third of March. On receiving it what did the good Rector do? he assembled the boys and urged them to pray to St. Joseph!... A few days passed and then a letter

reached him from a good French lady who, precisely on the 3rd March! sent him a sum of fifteen thousand francs; ten thousand to pay the debts owing and five thousand for the year's current expenses. It was this same lady who afterwards sent the money required for building their present house!

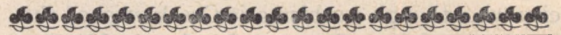
With this and other reminiscences the Feast was one of joyfulness in which we were joined by the Franciscan Fathers, the Brothers of the Christian Schools, the Fathers of Betharram, Fr. Elit the parish priest of Jaffa of Nazareth and Signor Tannus, to all of whom our venerable Superior renewed the expression of his gratitude and his best wishes. On the morning of the Feast, before the Mass of Communion, he received the abjuration of a schismatic youth, sent to the Orphanage by the Patriarch of Jerusalem and later he sang the Mass, after which he despatched the following telegram to the Holy Father:

From St. Joseph's country, Salesians wish your Holiness long life and prosperity imploring apostolical blessing. — Michael Rua.

The School band enlivened us with its strains, and in the evening the young actors played a little comedy with an excellent moral.

This morning, accompanied by all the pupils to the spot where our horses awaited us to carry us to Jerusalem, we bid farewell to *Nazareth* with hearts full of pious and grateful reminiscences.

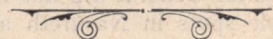
(To be continued.)



Book Notices.

The Irish Catholic Truth Society has issued the following excellent numbers of its penny series of publication.

1. An outline of Old Testament History, in three parts by Rev. F. E. O' Loughlin.
 2. Popular and Patriotic Poetry. Part IV. Compiled by Richard. J. Kelly, B. L.
 3. Helena's Son, by Nora Degidon.
 4. Finn Mac Coole. His Life and Time, by M. O' Mullane.
 5. "Bridgie" and "When Friends fall out" by J. Rill.
 6. "Paddy O' Flynn". A tale of the Commune by Cardew.
- 27 Lower Abbey St. Dublin.



An account of Salesian Work in Brazil.

(By the Provincial, Fr. Peretto).

Writing to Our Superior General, after a lengthy apostolic expedition, Fr. Peretto gives an account of the Salesian Work in some of the Brazilian States „ Brazil ”, he says „ was one of the countries in which our Venerable Founder showed a keen interest, and he did not hesitate to say that in years to come his sons ought to have some two hundred Houses within that vast republic. If it were not for the scarcity of personnel, taking into considerations the proverbial hospitality of this religious country, rightly called the *Land of the Holy Cross*, the words of our Founder would already have been realised.

Brazil occupies practically, a half of the South American Continent and has about twenty million inhabitants not including the native Indians who are still more or less in a savage state.

Our province, dedicated to Mary Help of Christians, includes the Federal district, the state of Rio Janeiro, the state of San Paolo, and that of Minas Geraes. The city of Rio Janeiro is the residence of the President, and contains the Chambers of Senator and Deputies, and the residence of the first Cardinal of South America. It is also well known to be one of the finest harbours of the world. The state of Rio Janeiro was the scene of the first Salesian work in Brazil for Mgr. Lasagna founded the school at Nictheroy, the capital, on July 14th 1888. The state forms two parts: the maritime and the higher interior lands which have a beautiful climate and are wonderfully fertile. At the Salesian School of St. Rose of Nictheroy there is an average of four hundred boys, engaged in both the ordinary school work and in the technical departments. The school is one of the best known in the Confederation. On a hill within its grounds is erected the monument which commemorates the fourth centenary of the discovery of Brazil. It was built as an act of homage to Our Holy Redeemer and to Our Lady Help of Christians at the opening of the present century, and is the constant resort of visitors and pilgrims. A most successful Festive Oratory is carried on in connection with the school.

The state of St. Paul is the richest and the most important of the Republic. Its fertility is unsurpassed, it has great mineral wealth and has the best means of transit. St. Paul, the chief town, was founded in 1554 by the celebrated Jesuit Father, Joseph de Anchita, and it is the second city of the Republic. Santos is its suburb and port, and is itself rapidly rising in importance.

At *Campinas* we have the well-known *Lyceum*, a fine Institute, a witness to the generosity of the Co-operators. Other flourishing schools have also been opened such as that of St. Joseph at *Guaratingueta*, of St. Joachim at *Lorena*, of St. Joseph at *Batataes*, the Oratory at *Araras* and seven schools directed by the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in this one state. But above all these in im-

portance and influence is the fine school of the Sacred Heart in the capital itself. It was founded in 1885 and has an average of 300 boarders, 400 day-scholars, and about 800 in attendance at the Festive Oratory. Attached to it is a magnificent Church, so that the good work of the school and the Church is very far reaching and has an influence far and wide.

The state of Geraes is the richest in mineral wealth and produces also large supplies of coffee, sugar-cane, tobacco, rice, millet, etc. Our chief House in this state is at *Ouro Preto* and it is the centre for continual missionary work in the surrounding districts which contain many native settlements.



BRASIL (State of Matto Grosso). — Father Malan and three Bororos boarders of the college San Gonzalo.

The following is an account of our last missionary expedition. On the last day of June we celebrated the feast of the Sacred Heart at the School of *Ponte Nova*, when one of the priests now on this mission sung his first Mass. Special prayers were offered for the success of our undertaking, and on the following day, relying on the blessing of the Archbishop and of your own, we set off. It would take too long to describe the kind hospitality and assistance so generously bestowed by faithful Co-operators, although their benevolence should not go unrecorded. These missionary journeys are undertaken every three years and to some districts

every five years, and two sermons are usually given daily in each locality we stop at.

On the 3rd of July we reached San Antonio. Half an hour before our arrival we saw bonfires blazing and were met by a group of boys and young men who marched on either side to escort us. Although it was nearly dark we were welcomed by the members of different confraternities and the band. After a short time, during which a welcome discourse was given, we entered the church and the writer ascended the pulpit to thank the people for their welcome, and to announce the mission. It was to last three days, including a sermon every morning and evening, with special instructions for the children. There were more than five hundred communions. At the next settlement, or village, St. Anne, we gave only two sermons and heard confessions. On our arrival at *Aboe Campo* we found triumphal arches erected. We intended to make a longer stay there and our mission was spread over four days. At five other places we passed on to give these brief retreats and at all of them we had the consolation of seeing a ready co-operation and good results obtained. At *Caratinga*, a rising town we were met by a very large procession, the school children having an important place. The school taught by mistresses from the Normal College conducted by our nuns at Ponte Nova.

The town of Caratinga cannot boast of any long standing traditions. As a matter of fact the forest was only cleared in 1848 and the sons of the first settlers are now the chief owners in the district. By 1861 about sixty families had gathered there, and the church was built in 1867. Only a few days before our arrival, the wife of the founder of the city died at the age of one hundred and eleven years.

Our next halting place was San Domingos where, besides the usual exercises we also undertook the first Communion of the children. Further on at *Inhapim* a salute of guns was fired on our arrival, and this mark of welcome was characteristic of the friendly hospitality we everywhere received, and of the spirit with which the native folk entered into the spirit of the mission. We were now quite out of the ordinary settled districts, and the scene of our labour were rearing stations or scattered farm settlements. At quite a dozen of these we gave short retreats for those working in the vicinity. Among many of these settlers there is great ignorance of religion and there is danger of their falling into the half-civilized state of the natives. To some we had to offer the assistance of what little medical knowledge we possessed, so that diseases both of soul and body awaited our arrival. At several places we found that the devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians is already flourishing, and it gave us an opportunity of dealing with that subject and also with the life of Our Venerable Founder.

But here I must close this part of the account, hoping that through your blessing some of the good results may be permanent.

Your obedient son in J. C.

C. PERETTO,
Salesian Priest.



INDULGENCES

which may be gained by the Co-operators.

The following plenary indulgences may be gained by all the Co-operators who, having confessed and communicated, shall make a visit to a Church or public chapel, or in the case of communities a private chapel, and pray for the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff.

Every month.

1. On any one day at the choice of the associate.
2. On the day the monthly exercise of a good death is made.
3. Whenever the Co-operators shall say five times the *Our Father*, *Hail Mary*, and *Glory be to the Father* for the welfare of Christendom, and once the same prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father they may gain the indulgences of the stations in Rome, of the Portiuncula, of Jerusalem and of St. James of Compostella; these indulgences, moreover, are all applicable to the Holy Souls in Purgatory and can be gained by the Co-operators as often as the prayers are said, as long as they are in the grace of God.

In the month of August.

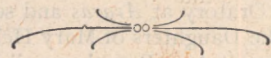
1. August 6th. The Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord.
2. Aug. 15th. The Assumption of Our Lady.
3. Aug. 16th. St. Roch.

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.



Salesian



London
May 24th

It would hardly need pointing out that the month of May has a special meaning for all connected with the work of the Ven. Don Bosco, whether in the churches directed by his priests or in the schools and institutes under their care, or in those conducted by his spiritual daughters the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians. Following the custom established by their Holy Founder no day of the month is allowed to pass without some particular devotion, and the whole of the period before the 24th is regarded as a preparation for that day, which is itself a sort of culminating point — the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians.

The novena and special devotions were observed in our London Churches of West Battersea and Wandsworth; at Farnboro Hants; where the Church is dedicated under that title, at Chertsey where the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians kept their titular feast, and in other Houses.

It is some years since the 24th of the month actually occurred on a Sunday, and as it came on that convenient day this year, it may account to some extent for the increase in attendance at the services and in the general manifestation of devotion and participation by the parishioners. The services on that day were accompanied by more than usual solemnity, a special feature being the evening procession.

The
Salesian School

The past month has with a brief interruption been one of continual application, and that with good reasons for July means examinations and the close of the school year. We have not yet received the report of the religious examination, but from remarks of the examiner we may safely foretell one that will maintain the excellent traditions which have been established in this regard. The interruption referred to was the four days retreat which is given every year during the final term. Elsewhere in this issue

the schools referred to, and in view of the holidays, the notice of readers is called to the necessity of early arrangement for next term entrances.

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Developments
in Malta

Last month we were able to bring before the notice of our readers some very interesting details relating to the new work which was about to be inaugurated by our confrères and their zealous Co-operators in Malta. The ceremony has since taken place and was honoured by the presence of the Very Reverend Father Michael Rua, Superior General of the Salesian Society. Most appreciative were the descriptions of it in the local papers. From the columns of one of them, *The Daily Malta Chronicle*, we take the liberty of gathering the following details, which will serve, among other purposes, to place on record the 'successful results of constant efforts on the part of the Maltese Co-operators, and particularly of those named herein.

A large and fashionable assemblage, numbering over 800, and representing the *elite* of the several communities, responded to the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Galea, to participate in the opening of the „ Juventutis Domus ” and „ Festive Oratories ” affiliated to the Salesian Institute, Sliema, which took place on Thursday at 5 p.m. when the ceremony was performed by H. E. the Governor, General N. Fane Grant, C. B.

H. E. and Mrs. Grant, attended by Contino Teuma Castelletti A. D. C., were received at the entrance to the building by Mr. Galea, the Rev. Father O'Grady, Director of the Salesian Institute, Marquis Testaferrata Olivier and others, who conducted the distinguished visitors to their seats. Among those immediately supporting H. E. and Mrs. Fane Grant were: Lady Meredith, the Rev. Father O'Grady Director of the Salesian Institute, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Galea, Sir Richard and Lady Micallef, Mrs. Barron, Marquis and Marchioness Apap Bologna, Judge and Mrs. Pullicino, Judge Parnis, Count and

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Countess Messina, Count and Countess Bernard, Prof. and Mrs. Magro, Mr. and Mrs. John Asphar etc., etc.

An address of Welcome was read by the Director in the name of Mr. and Mrs. Galea, thanking H. E. and Mrs. Grant for the honour of their presence, after which a bouquet was presented to Mrs. Grant by Miss Mary Galea, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Galea, who laid the foundation stone of the building some twelve months ago.

The prelude was then proceeded with, being the Blessing of the „ Domus ” by the Right Rev. Mons. S. Grech D. D., Vicar General, after which ceremony, the curtain rose upon the orchestra and choir, comprised of 56 professors and 139 ladies and gentlemen, who presented a very pretty and imposing appearance, being accommodated in tiers occupying the entire stage. After the performance of a March from Wagner's *Tannhauser*, ably conducted by Father Urso, who afterwards delivered an eloquent discourse, H. E. the Governor, having accepted the keys of the Building from Master Lewis Galea, spoke as follows:—

Ladies and Gentlemen. Before formally opening this Institution, I desire to say a few words in recognition of the munificence and generosity of its noble founders. It somehow happens, that when any truly good and useful scheme, having for its object the welfare and advancement of the population, is suggested for adoption and carrying out, there are always to be found persons ready and willing to give it effect. The usefulness of an Institution, such as that which is now so worthily controlled by the Salesian Order in this Island, had long been felt; and some years ago, Mr. Galea very nobly came to the front with a site and a gift of £ 1000 supplemented by a bequest, from the estate of a generous lady in the person of the late Miss Giovanna Pullicino. The Government sanctioned the proposal and helped in carrying it out, and we now see in the good work which is being carried on by the Salesian Institute, a very satisfactory realization of the hopes of its founders.

The idea of establishing this Club which we are assembled here to-day to open, was furthered by the early co-operation of the Order, which undertook its management and control. Here again Mr. Galea came forward with his munificence and we have before us abundant evidence of the liberality of expenditure, and the upspring zeal and intelligence employed in the construction of these elegant premises which are generally intended to further the great objects initiated by the worthy Don Bosco in 1841. The „ Juventutis Domus ” embraces a resort

for those who have completed or are pursuing their literary or scientific studies. These will, in turn, be expected to assist in entertaining their less fortunate compatriots, by mixing with them and teaching them by precept and example.

The children of the poorer class will be invited on Sundays and holidays and other occasions, to participate in wholesome recreation and enjoyment amidst moral surroundings. They will have games and every approved form of amusement, and such education will be afforded them as is best calculated to expand their minds, improve their morals, and correct their manners.

The Salesian Fathers will conduct the Club and regulate its working, and it is hoped that the good example shown by boys of the better class will have effect, in advancing the object of the founders. I now declare the buildings open, and I sincerely wish the Institution a long existence and unbounded success in the good work devoted to God and the benefit of the young.

His Excellency thereupon handed the keys to the Father General of the Order, amidst loud and continued applause.

It will be needless to congratulate Mr. Galea, and his estimable lady upon the triumph achieved in the formal inauguration of the „ Juventutis Domus ”, as they will have already been afforded a sufficiently convincing manifestation of public gratitude and appreciation. Father O'Grady may likewise be proud of the success of his initial efforts, in applying this Institution of his to the benefit of our rising generation. It was indeed an occasion of great satisfaction to all present who heartily joined in the good wishes of H. E. the Governor for the success and prosperity of Mr. Galea's munificent gift. Father Urso was the recipient of overwhelming congratulations upon the leviathan achievement of having trained the choir to such excellence, in the difficult music so faultlessly executed. Everything tended to make the occasion a „ Red-letter ” day in the annals of Salesian work in our Island, and it will suffice to say that all and everyone who contributed their services are to be highly congratulated. The „ Juventutis Domus ” is now an established institution, and we join the general wish for a full realization of the aims of its noble founders.

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Tanjore India.

At the end of the second year their labours among the native boys, it must have been gratifying to the Staff of the School of Arts and Trades at Tanjore to see that the efforts they had made under such trying circumstances, had borne such satisfactory results. There was recently held at St.

Francis Xavier's the distribution of prizes closing the scholastic year. It was very fittingly made the occasion for a gathering of the Co-operators and friends, and the programme was opened by a selection from the native musicians. The opening address of the Superior very aptly touched on the ideal they had in view in working up the trades, departments, showing that India formerly excelled in manufactures, but has been surpassed by other countries to a degree which the resources of the country and the intelligence of the people do not warrant. He made also some thoughtful remarks on the advantages held by a lad who has been through an apprenticeship, or a technical course, over one whose education has been confined to literary or even commercial subjects.

The prizes were then awarded, most of them having been supplied by Co-operators and friends. The Assistant Deputy Collector of Tanjore, who presided, then rose and spoke as follows:

„ A chairman's duty is principally to allow others to talk while he himself remains silent, and it was on these conditions that I accepted the invitation to take the chair and distribute the prizes this evening. I now find that I was partly in the wrong, for I feel myself obliged to say a few words of gratitude to the Salesian Fathers for giving us an opportunity of witnessing what is being done for our young generations of workmen. This is the first time that I have attended a prize distribution of this kind, and if I am not mistaken, most of you are in the same position.

The Rev. Fr. Director has pointed out the necessity for a speedy development of our industries. In this regard there has lately been a good deal said in many parts of India, but of action there has been very little. Here however in a corner of Tanjore we find the initial stages of a technical school completed, working in a quiet, unobtrusive manner, but promising great results in the near future.

The initiative, no doubt, has come from European Fathers, but the undertaking is purely *swadeshi*. Drawing, Carpentry and Weaving have received special attention, and the success attained in the space of two years can be estimated from the exhibits in the adjoining room and the prizes just now distributed. The esteem in which the work is held, is also shown by the fact that Government orders are already being sent to the school, which has been recognised by the Education Department to give instruction in these trades." The speaker then touched on the main features of the *Veni*. Don Bosco's life and work and urged all present to join the association of Co-operators, putting before

them the example of Pope Pius IX. Pope Leo XIII., and Pope Pius X. in this regard.

The native boys gave a very creditable performance of a play in three acts entitled: „ The Cross and the Crescent." and the national anthem closed the proceedings. Exhibits of the boys' work during the past year were shown in one of the school-rooms and remained on view for ten days.

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The Patronal Feast.

The long list of reports concerning the celebrations for the Feast of St. Francis of Sales is not yet completed. This year's commemorations were to some extent unique as they were intended to celebrate the introduction of the cause of Our Venerable Founder. A speaker at one of the meetings, after discoursing on the occasion of the festivity, said: „ The Saints of the Catholic Church are truly great; and the Ven. Servant of God, Don Bosco, holds a high place among them; the more his life and character are studied the more his excellence appears, just as a star displays more and more brilliance as it comes more within our range of vision. A well-known professor of the University of Bologna speaking of him at a recent Congress recalled the honours of the triumph which ancient Rome accorded to those who laid new conquests at her feet. And Don Bosco was a conqueror. It was not without design that Providence raised him up in an age of conquerors political and scientific; but he was greater than his fellows; the energies of nature were subdued by them, but his victories lay in a higher sphere; he was the master of the intelligence, of the mind, of the heart; he was a conqueror of souls to lead them to God. His politics had not in view the expansion of an empire, or the gain of earthly prestige; his efforts were directed and very successfully to the extension of the kingdom of God on earth, and the reign of peace, charity and justice. A triumph is therefore rightly accorded him for his place among the conquerors."

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Rome, Our Lady in the Testaccian

quarter of the Holy city is not yet completed, a flourishing Festive Oratory has been for some time established in that industrial neighbourhood. The first Communion class for this year at the Oratory numbered over fifty, and His Eminence Cardinal Respighi, the Vicar of His Holiness, came to preside at this the Children's feast-day, and after giving Holy Communion, His Eminence spoke to the large gathering assembled in the chapel. He exhorted all to con-

tinue in the good work which had been so successfully began in that quarter, referring to the efforts that were being made to complete the Church, so that the district might be adequately served.

A few days later these First Communicants were all received by His Holiness in the Vatican. After speaking to them on the solemnity of the occurrence and the lessons to be borne in mind, His Holiness gave each a medal, and as they approached to his hand he expressed his hopes that they would be loyal to their new pastors and the fine church which in being built in their midst. The work of Don Bosco in this quarter of Rome has evidently good prospects, and its development is especially desired by the Holy Father.

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His Eminence Card. Maffi, Archbishop of Pisa, whose discourse the Oratory on the Ven. Don Bosco we gave in a former issue, recently laid the foundation stone of a Salesian Oratory at Cagliari (Sardinia). His Eminence who is Primate of Corsica and Sardinia acted as the representative of the Holy Father on that occasion.

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Among the visitors at the Oratory (Turin) during the novena for the feast of Our Lady Help of Christians were His Eminence Cardinal Cavallari, Patriarch of Venice and their Lordships the Bishops of Macao (China) and Tivoli.

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The President of the Sucre University (Bolivia). Inspector of Schools for that district, has recently sent in his report of the inspection at the *Don Bosco College*, in which he says a great and useful work is being carried on, and the methods and results of which he regards with entire satisfaction.

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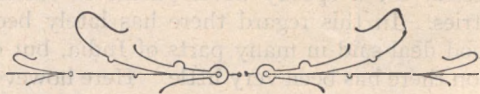
The Salesians at Cape Town are making constant effort in the uphill task of providing a large school of Arts and Trades, so as to relieve the present inconvenience caused by lack of adequate accomodation, and also to allow of an extension of their beneficial work. In aid of the building fund of the proposed Institute a grand concert was recently organised, concerning which the *South African New* says: „There was hardly a vacant seat in the City Hall last night on the occasion of the grand concert given in aid of the New Salesian Institute, which is to be erected in Somerset Road. The concert was under the highest patronage and very many prominent citizens were present. The performers included some of the very best local talent and demands for encores were frequent.

Amongst the audience were Dr. Welch, Father

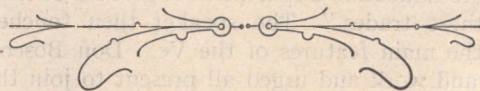
Leeson Father J. O'Keilly, Father Harlin, Father A. O'Riley, Mr. H. Wilmot and the Spanish Consul. It is estimated that the receipts amounted to £. 150, a truly handsome addition to the funds now being raised.

During the interval Advocate Uppington, M. L. A. made a stirring appeal on behalf of the Institute. He pointed out the claims which the work of the Salesians had on their co-operation, and on the co-operation of all who were interested in the true welfare of the State. „Public support,” he said, “had not been given in the past as it should have been, and his object in addressing the audience was to ask them to use their influence with their friends to do something to support the institution. During the last five years the school had sent out a hundred and twenty-seven qualified tradesmen, all of whom were in work, and if not rich, were at least earning their living. Had it not been for the Salesian Institute those hundred and twenty-seven men would certainly not have learnt a trade or be in that respectable position.” He went on to say that there were eighty-three boys and young men being trained in the five trades taught at the school, but the quarters at present occupied were too small for the work, and they now intended, if the citizens of Cape Town would sufficiently support them to erect in Somerset Road an Institute which would be capable of receiving two hundred boys. He made an earnest appeal to the audience, and to every citizen of the Cape, each to do something to support the work.

The musical part of the programme appears to have been very select and the various artistes were greatly appreciated. We are glad of this opportunity to join our confrères at the Cape in the heartiest expression of our thanks to all those who worked so willingly and so successfully in the accomplishment of such great results.



NB. — Our Readers are earnestly requested to direct all communications for the *Salesian Bulletin* and the *Association of Salesian Co-operators* either to the Director of the *Salesian Bulletin*, or to the Very Rev. Don Michael Rua, both at the following address: **Via Cottolengo 32, Turin, Italy.**





Ecuador.

A great work to be accomplished.

(Letter from Fr. Ciriaco Santinelli).

Cuenca (Ecuador).

Very Reverend and dearest Father,

After journeying, by sea and land, for nearly four months, at last I have reached the longed for Mission of Gualaquiza. Thanks be to God and to Mary Help of Christians for the special protection granted to me, having passed safe and sound through many dangers. I feel bound, therefore, to give you a short account of the journey before speaking of the Mission, in token of gratitude to so many Confrères and zealous Co-operators, who showed us great kindness, manifesting thus the special regard they bear to the work of Don Bosco.

From Genoa to Lima.

Starting from Genoa with nine other confrères by the Steamer *Hermonthys* of the German Line *Kosmos*, we made a fairly good voyage. We had every facility for performing our spiritual exercises and devoting ourselves to the study of the Spanish language. The Captain and the whole of the ship's company were most attentive to us. It was the first time I had travelled by way of Magellan where storms and shipwrecks are frequent and we too had to pay tribute to the sea for, after passing through the straits, a furious wind and tempestuous gales caused us great anxiety for several days. The mountainous waves tossed our vessel like a cockle-shell, whilst, huddled in our cabin we commended ourselves to Mary, Help of Christians. Arriving at *Corral*, the first port at which we touched after leaving *Punta Arenas*, we seemed to pass from death to life, seeing ourselves once more on solid ground, safe from all danger.

The journey from *Genoa* to *Callao* through

the *Straits of Magellan* has its advantages, principally because it saves the frequent transfer from one steamer to another; but it has the disadvantage of much greater length. We were told we should reach *Callao* in fifty days or a little more, but alas!... that « little more » became twenty two days, for, including a halt of eight days at *Valparaiso*, we spent seventy-two days on sea!

The most unpleasant days were those we spent in the ports, waiting for the vessel to discharge merchandize.

We arrived at *Punta Arenas* on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the last day of the Month of Mary; we assisted with great joy at the beautiful procession, in the midst of a truly edifying concourse of the faithful. Mgr. Fagnano, who may well be called the chief benefactor and the spiritual Father of *Punta Arenas*, treated us with the greatest kindness. We spent about two days at this port, which for us, after a month on sea, were two days of paradise. In *Iquique* also our brethren treated us with that charity which is found only in the Church of Jesus Christ. And here I must mention Signor Serra, a Genoese, Captain of a sailing vessel, a practical Catholic and an admirer of Don Bosco, who came to see us on the steamer and the following day invited us to dine on his ship.

In Lima I remained only four or five days, attending merely to the most pressing business, as on the 23rd of the same month I set off for Ecuador. The parting with those dearly loved confrères and pupils with whom I had spent six years was most affecting: I carried away lasting sentiments of gratitude.

On reaching *Paita*, the last port but one of Peru, I landed, undecided what route to take; whether to go by land to *Jumbes* and then by *Guayaquil* to *Riobamba*, *Cuenca* and *Gualaquiza*; or to go to Cuenca, a fatiguing journey of fifteen days on horseback. The Parish Priest of *Paita*, Fr. Sobogal, our good friend and co-operator, received me into his house, and on account of the bubonic plague raging on the coast and other difficulties, I agreed with him to take the road to *Loja*.

On reaching *Sullana*, a small town, I found there our confrères of *Pira* who were spending the holidays as guests of the excellent Parish

Priest Fr. Saramillo, a native of Ecuador. He supplied the horses and furnished me with letters of recommendation for the journey to *Loja*. During the first two days the heat was suffocating: even the water we carried to slake our thirst seemed to have been heated at the fire. The road was dusty and lay for the most part through a desert; frequently we penetrated into the woods where at any moment one might expect a visit from lions and tigers. Reaching *Macará*, a village on the borders of Peru and Ecuador, I spent the night with the Parish Priest, another Fr. Saramillo, who on reading the note from his relative at Sullana gave me a fraternal welcome. May God reward all those good souls who besides receiving me most charitably, provided me with fresh horses and a guide and furnished all that was necessary for the long journey to *Loja*. May He also reward all those who so generously offered us hospitality and food on our journey.

After four weary days through torrents of rain and many perils I reached *Loja*, where I was the guest of the Franciscan Fathers, several of whom I had known at their Convent of Quito. These good religious procured for me, at once, horses and an excellent guide for the journey to *Cuenca*, during which the parish priests, being acquainted with our work gave us many marks of kindness and whatever assistance lay in their power.

Finally after a journey lasting about twelve days, I arrived at *Cuenca*. I only stopped a few days there, resolving to push on to *Gualaquiza*, for wearied as I was with the journey and absorbed in making preparations for the new house, I was unable to pay any visits: but this did not hinder several worthy ecclesiastics from coming themselves to greet the poor sons of Don Bosco. Amongst these were the Rev. Fr. Mattovelle and His Lordship the Bishop of Cuenca, Mgr. Manuel M. Polit. The Bishop of *Loja* Mgr. José A. Eguigureu had shown us the same attention in his own city. The Bishop of Cuenca, as Your Reverence is aware, desires at all costs that we should open schools of arts and trades in his diocese.

After a short rest and having attended to the most urgent business, I set off with one lay-brother for *Sigsig*, where I found our Fr. Spinelli who was anxiously expecting me. We had not seen one another for fifteen years! The enthusiasm of the people of *Sigsig* for the work of the Salesians is well known to you and also to our Co-operators. May God preserve in them this enthusiasm so that they may help us in our arduous Mission. Along our route from *Loja* to *Cuenca*, especially at *Cañaz*, *Azoguez*, I found great enthusiasm for our work and a growing

devotion to Mary, Help of Christians. Fr. Matana and Fr. Spinelli have exercised a veritable apostolate in furthering this devotion. At *Sigsig*, with the assistance of the Co-operators, a fine house has already been erected, the building of the Church is making good progress, so that in a short time we hope to see it finished. For this year only one of our priests is in residence, but next year a secondary house will be established, as *Sigsig* is at the very gates not only of the Mission of *Gualaquiza* but also of those of *Gualaceo* and *Indanza*. In the temporary church of *Sigsig*, filled with astonishment at the crowds of faithful who flock there and at their assiduity in approaching the Holy Sacraments, I gave two exhortations on devotion to Mary Help of Christians and those fervent souls so took them to heart, that all day long new members were being admitted to the Association. The Parish Priest is doing his utmost to obtain a foundation of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, to whom Signor Pesantes generously offers his house as a temporary habitation.

On the morning of the 15th I began my journey to *Gualaquiza*. This lasted only three days, but they are ever memorable! It was the rainy season and those acquainted with these roads are filled with horror at the very thought. Such roads might rather be called chasms, precipices, ditches and swamps. A traveller passing this way exclaimed: "What crime have I committed that I should be obliged to pass through such places?" Thanks be to God we arrived safe and sound at *Gualaquiza*. Now if it is so difficult to reach the outskirts of the Mission, think what an excursion into the Jivaro country must be, where roads and means of communication are a thousand times worse. And yet these expeditions are indispensable, they are, and always will be made even at the cost of life. Pray therefore, and get prayers so that we may overcome so many difficulties and dangers.

**Mission News.—50 Baptisms.—Christian deaths.—
A great work to be done!**

On reaching *Gualaquiza* I was laid up for the first three days owing to fever and fatigue. The Mission, though not in as flourishing a condition as one would wish, through lack of means and of apostolical labourers, does not fail in doing good work. Accounts of it have already appeared and for this reason I confine myself to a list of figures relating to the administration of the Sacraments, the Cachechisms and the expeditions made in the Vicariate during the years 1906-1907

It is worthy of remark that the Jivaros owing to our teaching and certain enticements are

constantly at the Mission house and are growing more docile. During the last two years, 50 have been baptized and 40 confirmed; the confessions and communions amounted to nearly 900, and five marriages were blessed. There is also a school for the Jivaros always well attended under the superintendence of Fr. Caderca who has a sufficient knowledge of their language and in this way a considerable number of children are induced to attend. The daughters of Mary Help of Christians are also engaged in a work of heroic abnegation amongst the women.

Another consoling fact is this, that the baptized Jivaros, when at the point of death, ask of

I know that you have an ardent desire for the progress of this Mission, and truly there is a great work to be accomplished, but one full of difficulties. The first is that of the staff; we need zealous and learned priests, called by God to the Missions with a true vocation and apostolic gifts. For, in order to make expeditions and to found residences strong and zealous missionaries are required.

At the same time, in the midst of trials of all kinds, great also are the consolations and graces bestowed.

The other difficulty we have to encounter is the absolute want of pecuniary means. In



BRASIL (State of Minas Geraes). — Procession at the end of the Mission.

their our accord for the last Sacraments. Recently the Missionary Fr. Cadena was called to the bedside of a dying man whose hut was quite two days journey from Gualaquiza; in this way during the last two years, twenty-five dying persons have been attended. The Missionary always takes advantage of these occasions to catechize, and thus the members of those who believe in Jesus Christ are increased.

In this Vicariate there exist also several Christian centres of whites. These settlements have an opportunity every month of having Mass and also facilities for approaching the Holy Sacraments, especially in Paschal time. In my journey to *Gualaquiza*, having arranged to say Mass in these places, it was a subject of admiration and joy to see such a large number of the faithful approaching the Holy Sacraments.

Cuenca we have only just begun to build, and in *Gualaquiza* the house and the church is falling to pieces and almost uninhabitable. The self sacrificing life of our Missionaries is incredible especially during the rainy season (which lasts the greater part of the year) not having a roof to shelter them! The erection of some chapels in the above named centres should also be carried out and roads have to be made; finally means are required to provide what is indispensable for the staff and for Divine Worship, for the clothing of the poor children and some little presents to attract them; but for all this a large sum is necessary.

The Mission having no revenues, we know not to whom we can have recourse except to you and to our zealous Co-operators. May God move the hearts of some of them to send us abundant

alms; and we on our part, are ready to sacrifice of our lives, submitting to many privations, to promote the extension of the kingdom of God and the Church amongst these poor souls.

But what should we do if through lack of pecuniary resources we are forced to abandon our apostolic labours?

I conclude my letter with this one wish, that the needs of this poor Mission may touch the heart of some generous soul!

May Our Lady Help of Christians, the special Patroness of this Vicariate, provide Apostolic labourers for this great work, and open the purses of the wealthy. We should like to know, either directly, or through you, the names of those who come to our assistance, either to recommend them in a special manner to Our Lord, or to give their name and surname to our neophytes in Holy Baptism. Meanwhile be pleased to bless all your sons here, and especially.

Your most devotedly in C. J.

CIRIACO SANTINELLI
Salesian Missionary.

NB. — The Very Rev. Don Rua joins in pleading the cause of the poor Missionaries who are extending the sphere of their labours amongst the unfortunate Jivaros of Ecuador and he undertakes to place in direct communication with the Missionaries those generous souls who are moved to assist them, and to forward all offerings in kind or in money destined for them.

Matto Grosso (Brazil)

The Work of our Missionaries judged by a Federal Deputy.

The *Correio da Manhã* of Rio Janeiro published a splendid testimony to the work of our Missionaries amongst the Coroados-Bororos, written by Signor Serzedello Correa, Federal Deputy.

This excellent man, through whose influence the Ministry of the Interior had already in 1906 contributed from its funds a considerable subsidy for our Missions, had another opportunity, towards the end of last year, to recommend the same worthy object, though I do not yet know with what result.

"There is nothing I consider more important" he writes — "nor anything better to which I could call the attention of the Government and of the Senate, than the results already obtained

by the Salesian Mission of Matto Grosso, begging them to consider the work which has there been begun, prodigious in its consequences, and fruitful in the benefits conferred on the natives of this land which we love and which is our country!"

And then from information supplied by the Fr. Malan, he recounts what has already been achieved in the three Colonies. The following is an abridgment.

In the Colony of the S. Heart (founded in 1901, about two hundred and fifty miles from Cuyabà, on the river *Barreiro*), there are two hundred Indians who have a permanent dwelling place, whilst about sixty bands of other natives, who cannot be accommodated from want of pecuniary means, visit it every year. In the same place there are already six houses built of brick, inhabited by the managing staff and serving for schools and workshops, including a small Meteorological Observatory which corresponds with the Observatory at the Salesian College of *Cuyabà*. There also may be seen four houses, built of mud and planks, inhabited by the chief of the tribe and 30 huts well planned, which in the midst of the wilderness, resembles a pleasant village.

The Indians, industrious and generally docile to the instructions of the Missionaries, are employed in the cultivation of rice, Indian Corn, Manioc, etc., and show some interest in the preservation of the implements of labour belonging to the Colony and an incipient practical notion of the rights of property and the value of labour; in proof of which they have begun a system of paper currency by means of which they exchange certain things procured from the stores of the Colony, such as clothes and iron tools, and also, sometimes, oxen and other domestic animals.

The lands, both of the Colony, or belonging to the Indians, are well cultivated and are worked in allotments including plantations of Indian Corn, rice and sugar-cane.

In addition to this there are ten long rows of American grapes, and five hundred coffee plants are already beginning to bear; while experiments in fruit gardens give good promise.

Together with agriculture several trades are being taught, in particular those of the carpenter, the blacksmith, the tailor, the tanner and bricklayer. Thirty five boys are learning these trades: three of them, to stimulate the rest, have been sent to the Professional classes of our College at Cuyabà, hoping that when they return in a few years' time, they may be able to teach the boys and men in the colonies.

The scholastic teaching is given in conformity

with the government programme, restricted at present to the three first elementary classes. During the past year these have been attended regularly by the 35 boys above mentioned and also by 26 younger pupils.

Nor must we pass over in silence the musical band of thirty instruments, which has already caused these woods to re-echo the solemn strains of the patronal Hymn.

In the Colony of Rio das Garças named the *Immaculate Conception*, and founded in 1904 thirty miles from that of the S. Heart and about two hundred and sixty from Cuyabà, in an enchanting and most fertile spot, there are gathered together from 100 to 120 Indians, who in the wet season are increased to 200. This colony, owing to its topographical position, has a most promising future. Its lands are of wonderful fertility, surrounded by extensive woods, and watered by numerous streams. There is also a waterfall which will be shortly turned to account as a motor power. The ground in cultivation includes many acres of Indian-corn, of manioc and sugar-cane. On the other hand, here as in the other Colony, corn cannot as yet, be successfully cultivated.

The schools follow the same methods as at the S. Heart Colony. They are attended by thirty boys and girls who spend four hours a day working with their parents in the fields or at home, the other eight are given to their studies.

Here also the weaving looms, purchased by Fr. Malan at Turin during his last journey are in full working order.

The Colony of Sangradouro (called *St. Joseph's*) forms the junction between the two above mentioned colonies and Cuyabà, that is to say between the forest and civilization. It is situated a hundred and fifty miles from Cuyabà and about seventy from the Colony of the S. Heart.

This third Colony was opened for two ends. First of all to have a permanent and productive establishment for mules, horses and oxen, in dispensable for the transport of goods between the capital and the Colonies, and secondly for the support of the Indians; it would otherwise be impossible to provide every year the hundreds and hundreds of oxen necessary for the maintenance of the Indians, so that this settlement is commencing to supply one of the chief needs.

Again as it has a telegraph station and is thus more in contact with civilization, it is naturally the best fitted to receive the more civilized Indian families; its lands are consequently the most suitable for permanent division amongst the heads of those families who, after a long sojourn in the other Colonies, will have distinguished

themselves by settled habits and aptitude for labour etc.

Finally the Deputy points out that the subsidy granted by the Government and Senate to these prosperous Missions is far below the expenses incurred, and concludes: "Such, in its general outlines, is the result of this extraordinary work of civilization, to which with a spirit of self sacrifice and virtues like those of the early missionaries, Fr. Malan and his brethren have devoted themselves."

Northern Patagonia

A Mission in the Neuquen Territory.

(Letter from Fr. Dominic Milanese),

Very Rev. D. Rua,

As I am now at Roca for the Spiritual Exercises, I must make use of the opportunity to send you a brief account of a mission of four months given by me last year, traversing about one thousand miles in the Territory of Neuquen. The journey was done in a small cart drawn by a single mule. Some years ago this would have been impossible, as the roads suitable for wheeled traffic were then very few.

And here it seems opportune to recall that from time immemorial Patagonia has been covered with innumerable narrow paths traced by the wandering native tribes who were ignorant of riding. Later on came the mule tracks and finally the conquest of the desert, brought to an end by the Argentine troops between 1879 and 1883, when the roads for the most part became suitable for wheeled traffic. On my expedition I went alone, having no one to accompany me, so that more than one said: „How is it possible that the Father, already advanced in years, can have the courage to travel alone, having frequently to ford dangerous rivers and cross steep mountains?" But probably they did not think that besides trusting to my Angel Guardian, I never attempted the more difficult routes without being accompanied by some good neighbour whom I was so fortunate as to meet. Still, far more than to these prudential measures, which is a duty not to omit, I must attribute to the special assistance of Our Lord my immunity from accident: as I also ascribe to God's grace the happiness of being able to do some good amongst these poor people.

The brevity of my account will not allow of minute details, so I will only state that in the course of this mission I preached two hundred sermons or conferences on religious and moral subjects, resulting in 200 Baptisms (of which 50 were of native children) 250 communions and the blessing of several marriages. The number of Communions is relatively small: but one must bear in mind that in the neighbourhood of *Junin*, Catholics are less numerous than in *Chos-Malal*, and also more indifferent, like those who come in great part from Araucania. From this you can understand what labour and toil our Missionaries must undergo here, before reaping the same fruit as in the other parts of Patagonia.

Two episodes.

But I cannot forbear recounting the consolation I experienced from a letter sent me by a prisoner who had assisted at a kind of Retreat which I gave in the prison of *Neuquen*..... Owing to this pious Mission eight infidels were converted and received Holy Baptism and twenty Catholics approached the Sacraments of Penance and the Holy Eucharist with lively sentiments of faith and piety. Amongst the newly converted there was one, twenty years old, who, not content with manifesting his sorrow in confession, wrote me a letter which I kept.

"I should be most ungrateful," he wrote, "if I did not make known my thankfulness for the good Your Reverence has done me by the explanation of the truths of religion during the Mission. Hitherto I have been wicked and have offended God in a thousand ways, because I did not know Him. But now that I have had the happiness of learning the consoling truths of the Catholic Religion, I detest my past life and make a solemn promise to live as a good Christian..."

Another incident. In one of my visits to a settlement of native families, I was grieved to see half a dozen of them unjustly turned out of their huts where, for several years, they had been living, occupied in cultivating a small plot of land. You must know that the lands occupied by them belonged to the Government; and yet several foreigners, bent on money-making and apparently, wishing to reap the fruit of the labour of others, had bought some fields near the dwellings of these poor people and, in order to take possession of their lands and houses, had made them believe that they had bought them! In fact they forced them to abandon the place and these poor creatures, dreading fines and imprisonment, had determined to decamp in bad weather, carrying their tents elsewhere. Fearing that there also they might be disturbed, they

had recourse to me for help. I gave notice at once to the Governor, who took the necessary measures, so that now they are happy and in peace. In this way I won the hearts of these poor people; their protestations of gratitude were unceasing, all of them promising me to live as good Christians. They willingly bring their children to be baptized, have their marriages regulated by religion, and when they come to the village they attend the Mission-House where they are instructed and receive food both for their body and soul.

At Junin de los Andes.

Before concluding, allow me to add some news from our Mission House of *Junin de los Andes*.

In *Junin* the Mission has some acres of land thanks to the kindness of Signor Carlo Cernados, owner of a large estate twenty square leagues in extent.

Considering the cultivation of the soil as an efficacious method for promoting the welfare of these people, we decided to divide up our plot of land and till it, with the twofold object of deriving some benefit from it and inducing the inhabitants to do the same with theirs: many of them through ignorance, or being unaccustomed to work neglect it entirely, so that they are forced to live in poverty and continue their wandering and half savage existence. It is true it has been necessary to struggle for many years against a thousand difficulties; but at last, with a little effort on our part and that of other neighbours who have followed our example we have succeeded in gaining something. Today in the neighbourhood of *Junin* there may be seen on all sides fields of waving corn and of other cereals, fruit trees, vegetables and flower-gardens adorning the lowly dwellings.

This then is the brief account. If God gives me strength I shall before long undertake another mission, either alone, or accompanied by another priest or catechist. This is to be made through a large tract of country where lengthy intervals pass between the visits of the priest, and where a missionary journey is therefore much needed.

Asking your blessing

I remain

Yours devotedly in Christ

DOMINIC MILANESIO
Salesian Missionary.



Dawson Island



We take this letter, relating to the labours of our brethren in Dawson Island, from the "Crociato" of Udine, an excellent Catholic paper, acknowledging at the same time our indebtedness to the Editor.

Dawson Island.

The work of Don Bosco's Sons.

From the Straits of Magellan, Jan. 12, 1908.

I give you a brief description of my visit to the Salesian Mission of S. Raphael in Dawson

Here extensive meadow-lands dotted with plantations mirrored in the waters of the lagoons, further on impenetrable virgin forests clothing the valleys, climbing the hills and then descending till they are bathed in the numerous water-courses, and on the horizon, the sombre and rugged lands of Tierra del Fuego and of the Continent which afar off towards the South raise a veritable barricade of lofty peaks towards heaven, clad in snow and ice as if to defy the stormy winds which sweep down from the Antarctic Sea.

But that which interested me far more than the marvels of nature was the opportunity of visiting those savages who for more than eighteen years have provided for the sons of Don Bosco a continual sup-



JATAAY (Brasil - State of Minas Geraes), — A civilised family.

Island. This island which extends from N. to S. obstructs the Straits of Magellan, between Tierra del Fuego on the east and the last ranges of Patagonian mountains which rise snow-crowned to the West.

Landing at the Northern point of the island on the morning of the 6th inst. with Mgr. Fagnano, Prefect Apostolic, we visited the Mission of the « Good Shepherd » founded in 1878, a subsidiary station to the Mission of S. Raphael. The splendid weather, *rara avis* in these rainy and windy regions, enabled me to make an expedition along the banks of the neighbouring lagoons to the summit of the surrounding hills, from which a view of the environs is obtained, the grandeur and magnificence of which it is not easy to describe.

ply of joys and sorrows, of combats and victories, of sufferings and immortal glory.

There they are, in fact, moving about amongst the bushes round a kind of *toldo*, which they have constructed themselves with stakes driven into the ground and badly roofed with branches and skins. We approach, greeted by the loud barking of the watch dogs the Indian's inseparable guardians. The one who comes to meet us, muttering a welcome in Spanish is „ Brazito " who has been many years at the Mission. Like the other Fuegians he is in stature above the ordinary height, strong-limbed, of a dark complexion, with long, oily, black hair and eyes nearly black; the sparse hairs on the chin recall the *rasi nantes* of Virgil.

Accompanied by him we present ourselves at the

door of the hut, or rather at the entrance aperture. In the centre burns a fire at which some shellfish, of which they are very fond, are being cooked. Beside the fire, huddled together on the bare ground, is "Candelaria" the wife of "Brazito" wrapped in skins of the guanaco and wolf. To our greeting she replies in a slow weak voice: *Estar mucho enferma* (am very ill). And yet even in that state, they prefer such a den to the comfortable wooden cottages erected for them a few steps further on.

Meanwhile, more Indians approach us and for me it is a source of intense satisfaction to ask them a few questions and divine their thoughts in their disconnected and ill pronounced answers.

At midday we set off on horseback for the Mission of S. Raphael, a distance of fifteen miles. A band of Indians started before us in a canoe; from a neighbouring hill we witnessed their embarkation and were touched in seeing all make a large sign of the cross before laying hold of the oars.

We were obliged to ride nearly always on the sea shore, the only pathway between the waves and the tangled brushwood which extends to the coast. Where this is obstructed by rocks, a passage has been made with the hatchet through the wood, where the horse must proceed at a foot's pace, sinking in the marshy ground, whilst the branches of the trees rudely scratch one's face.

At eventide we reached the Mission of S. Raphael and beheld the spire rising above the group of buildings; here is the church, on the right hand the Salesian School crowned by the Observatory, on the left the School of the Sisters of Mary Help of Christians, the Hospital with work rooms for the Indian women. The cottages destined for the Indians are neatly erected round the square and scattered on the slope. The middle of the square is dominated by a large wooden cross and beside it rises a lofty flag-staff from which on feast days flutters a banner.

Now, eighteen years ago nature reigned here in unconquered savagery. Here the forest beaten by the storms had never beheld the print of a white man's foot: the shore, from which now extend two large and well built quays, was the undisturbed habitation of sea fowl and sea lions: whaling vessels passed at a distance up the channel, looking with distrust on these shores from which the deadly arrow of the Indian might at any moment wing its way.

And today, what a change! But to obtain this, what labour and toil, what struggles, since the 4th

February 1889 when Mgr. Fagnano, the valiant leader in this undertaking, landed here with the first expedition, until now!

These labours have not been in vain. The savages quickly assembled here as in a place of refuge. The *Onas* from Tierra del Fuego came in crowds, fleeing from the rifles of the white-men who went so far as to pay one pound for every Indian head: the *Alacalufes* hastened thither in their canoes, choosing the company of the *Padri buenos* and the maternal care of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in preference to their perilous life on the streams and canals.

A breath of Religion passed over these fierce souls, calming their savage passions; the habit of work conquered, with difficulty, their habit of idleness and thoughtlessness: the boys and girls, attending school, absorbed copious draughts of religious truths and the first rudiments of knowledge; finally they succeeded in forming a band of music which, on festival days in the square, gladdened hundreds of savages with their harmonies and when taken to Puntarenas, by the express desire of the Governor, astonished all who heard them.

The ideal of Mgr. Fagnano, so boldly planned, and carried out by the heroic co-operation of his brethren, was almost attained: the Fugian race, at least as regards the spiritual life, was saved.

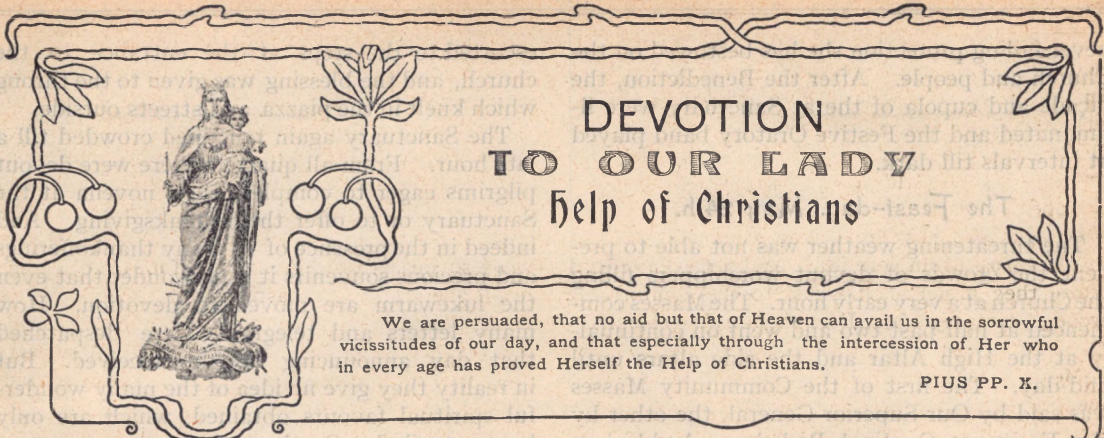
Alas! it has not been so for the life of the body! The violent persecutions endured by them in their own country, with the inevitable results of suffering, fear and violent passions, still more the vicious habits learnt from the whites; and yet again the passing somewhat too swiftly from a nomadic and savage life to civilized habits, weakened their constitutions and predisposed them to tuberculosis, resulting in many deaths.

In visiting the cemetery situated beyond on the slope, and thinking of the eight hundred Indians sleeping beneath those crosses one is filled with an indescribable sadness and pity, but when one has heard the account of their truly Christian deaths, many of them accompanied by wonderful apparitions, one cannot but thank God, who by means of the sons of Don Bosco, has caused the bright rays of the Faith to shine on this poor expiring race.

Such were the thoughts that filled my soul when at midday on the 11th inst, from the deck of the steamer which was to conduct me to Puntarenas, I bade farewell with voice and gesture to the Salesians and the surviving Indians crowding the quay.

P. R.





DEVOTION TO OUR LADY Help of Christians

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

PIUS PP. X.

The Solemnity at the Sanctuary of Our Lady Help of Christians.

The scenes of faith and devotion which made up the festivities connected with the Feast and its novena, are a cause of thanksgiving to God and of consolation to ourselves; for they are a witness that although the Holy Church has many causes for sorrow at the defection and conspiracy of wicked men, she can still count on the fervent loyalty and unshaken faith of innumerable followers.

The Month of Preparation.

The devotions of the preceding month have never been carried out with more solemnity or clearer manifestations of faith and piety. From the opening day the numbers that took part in the morning and evening services gave the weekdays the appearance of Sundays, while the Sundays themselves assumed the proportions of the great solemnities of the year. Twice a day Fr. Antonio Notario S. C. discoursed on the *Christian life and family*; while some days were especially memorable by the presence of such distinguished prelates as His Lordship the Bishop of Tivoli, and His Lordship the Bishop of Macao in China, who has lately established the Sons of Don Bosco in his diocese.

The Novena.

But the days of the Novena far surpassed all expectations. The Sanctuary was arrayed in the costly decorations which were first used for the ceremony of the coronation three years ago, and the eagerness with which the people crowded in to hear the words of Mgr. Sanfermo, who came from Rome to preach the novena, made it a problem to find anything like adequate accommodation. In the midst of these days however came certain occasions which should be mentioned; such as the 17th, the anniversary of the coronation of the picture, on which Mgr. Ca-

strale, titular Bishop of Gaza, and Vicar General of the Archdiocese said the community Mass; the 18th when the mass was said by His Eminence Cardinal Cavallari, Patriarch of Venice, who had just visited the shrine at Lourdes and came on to Turin to pay his homage in the Sanctuary of Our Lady Help of Christians. In the evening of the 30th Our Superior General intoned the *Te Deum* after his lengthy journey to Our Houses in the East., and gave the Benediction. On the day before the Vigil Mgr. Sanfermo celebrated Mass for the Holy Souls, and about three thousand persons received Holy Communion.

The Vigil.

The weather on the vigil of the feast was not at all promising. A heavy rain had been falling practically all night, and the dull, chilly morning gave no signs of brightening. But as the preceding rain had been regarded as an answer to prayer, for the crops badly needed it, so now the clearing up and fine weather which followed were regarded as a favour from heaven for the accomplishment of the proceedings of the solemnity.

At the hour fixed for the conference the church was crowded, and Fr. Trione, the secretary to the Association of Co-operators, gave an eloquent address on the wonders worked by Our Lady Help of Christians in the first years of the Sanctuary. Don Rua then gave Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and he afterwards gave the blessing of Our Lady Help of Christians to numbers of pilgrims who desired to receive it.

At seven o'clock the First Vespers were begun, at which Mgr. Gavotti, Bishop of Casalmongera pontificated. The music of the psalms and for the Benediction was by the best composers, and the hymn had been composed for the occasion by Fr. Pagella S. C. Mus. Doc. The words were expressive of all that has combined to make the Feast of Our Lady so prominent, and of the

never failing protection she has bestowed on the Church and people. After the Benediction, the façade and cupola of the at Sanctuary were illuminated and the Festive Oratory band played at intervals till dark.

The Feast-day. May 24th.

The threatening weather was not able to prevent the crowds of devout worshippers filling the Church at a very early hour. The Masses commenced at half-past two and went on continually at the High Altar and the side altars until mid-day. The first of the Community Masses was said by Our Superior General, the other by His Eminence Cardinal Richelmy, Archbishop of Turin, and the number of Holy Communion during the morning was over 5000.

The solemn pontifical Mass was at ten o'clock. It was celebrated by Mgr. Gavotti; the *Schola Cantorum*, assisted by various gentlemen from the city, rendering the *Missa solemnis* of Cav. Remigio Renzi.

At the Gospel Mgr. Sanfermo ascended the pulpit. It was a solemn moment. In the spacious sanctuary, crowded to overflowing, expectant silence reigned: all eyes were directed to the preacher, who maintained his best reputation on this occasion. The motives for this great solemnity were explained in his lucid and attractive style, and a complete and charming picture was gradually drawn of Our Lady as the Help of Christians. He also referred to the part that the Ven. Don Bosco was appointed to fulfil in the establishment of this devotion in later times. At the end of his discourse he imparted the Papal Benediction.

In the afternoon not only the Sanctuary but the piazza and adjacent grounds were crowded with pilgrims and visitors. For the benefit of the Pilgrims, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given at four o'clock, and at six precisely the Vespers were commenced. Preparations for the procession had all been made and this began to form immediately after the *Magnificat*. From all accounts this procession was fully up to the great traditions of former years, if indeed it did not surpass them. The *Italia Reale* sums it up by remarking that all Turin took part in it. The list of associations and confraternities with their banners, and some with their musical instruments, was between forty and fifty, and the whole scene was a manifestation of faith such has seldom been witnessed.

After wending its way through the principal thoroughfares the procession returned and Benediction was given. The customary blessing having been imparted, the Blessed Sacrament, borne by His Eminence the Cardinal was

escorted to the steps at the entrance to the church, and the blessing was given to the throng which knelt in the piazza and streets outside.

The Sanctuary again remained crowded till a late hour. From all quarters there were devout pilgrims eager to complete their novena at the Sanctuary or to offer their thanksgiving. And indeed in the presence of so many thankofferings and precious souvenirs it is no wonder that even the lukewarm are moved to devotion. How many letters and telegrams were despatched that day announcing favours received. But in reality they give no idea of the many wonderful spiritual favours obtained, which are only known to God. On the 30th a young man presented himself at the Sanctuary, asking for a medal of Our Lady Help of Christians. His Father had not approached the Sacraments for twenty years and now lay dying, persisting in his refusal to see a priest. On the 22nd he returns to say that two hours after the blessed medal had been placed on his bed, his father had asked to receive the Sacraments, and he had died that morning in great peace and happiness.

The façade and cupola were again illuminated and the oratory band provided music. The day had passed, but it had served to make evident that Our Lady Help of Christians is still true to her title, truer perhaps in these times when the Church has so many evils to deplore and enemies to combat. In the midst of such scenes, the Sovereign Pontiff's words come home to us with greater force; for, he says: „ 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.”

Those who are keeping the 24th of the month are recommended to pray for the Holy Father's intentions and the needs of Holy Church.

GRACES and FAVOURS

Farnboro (England). — I beg to publish my thanksgiving for a temporal favour received through the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians.

May 1908.

Anon.

Dublin. — I enclose an offering for a Mass in thanksgiving for a favour granted after

special prayers to Our Lady Help of Christians. Kindly publish the thanksgiving.

May 1908.

Kensington. — I enclose an offering and would ask you to publish a thanksgiving for a temporal favour.

June 1908.

F. A. V.

London. — A poor suppliant wishes to offer thanksgiving for much needed help received after prayers to Mary Help of Christians.

June 1908.

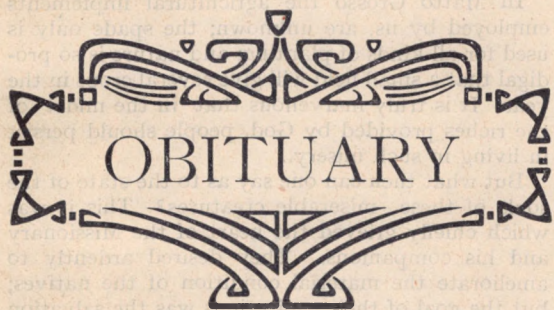
Anon.

Belfast. — I beg to acknowledge in the *Salesian Bulletin* my husband's recovery from a serious illness through the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians.

June 1908.

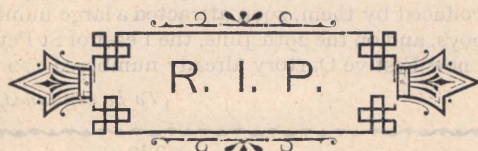
E. de M.

Intention. — Co-operators are asked to pray for a special intention at the request of a member of the association.



The members of the Association are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of John Davis who died May 27th 1908.

Also for the repose of the souls of: Miss Rosine M. Parmentier Brooklyn. New-York. Mrs. Grant. Dublin. Ireland.



LIFE OF MONSIGNOR LASAGNA

SALESIAN MISSIONARY

TITULAR BISHOP OF TRIPOLI

CHAPTER XLI.

Sentiments of the Apostle—Greatness of the work he undertakes—Cuyabà—Fertility of the soil—Special products—Original civilization—Laziness—Use of the spade—Moral condition—Festive Oratory—In the Parish of S. Gonçalo—Sermons and conferences in the Cathedral—Generous emulation—The announcement of a horrible crime.

In about ten years the zealous Missionary had had in view the Forests of Matto Grosso, sighing for the moment when he might be able to go to the assistance of those unhappy savages, still ignorant of the prodigies of charity performed by Our Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation. And now, having reached the centre of that State, he was filled with ineffable joy, seeing that those great plans of evangelization, those aspirations of apostolic zeal, were happily on the way to realisation. Everything seemed to remind him of the saying of the Prophet: *Misit me, ut prædicarem captivis indulgentiam et clausis apertionem* (1). I was sent to announce to these souls, slaves of ignorance and of error, the mercy of God and their deliverance. At the sight of these poor children of the forest, these words rose to his lips: *Tui erant, et mihi eos dedisti* (2): These are also thy children, O Lord, though savage, and thou hast confided them to me. I accept them and am willing to bear every pain and suffering for their salvation.

Filled with these truly apostolic sentiments, after having given thanks to God for his prosperous journey, without any thought of fatigue or ill health, he at once set to work. But to form an idea of the greatness of this work, one must know something of the field assigned to him by Divine Providence, and we shall give a sketch of it, chiefly in the Bishop's own words.

Cuyabà is built on two hills which run parallel to the river, the lower land between being filled in the rainy season by a torrent which rushes down to join the main river. The city has a population of about sixteen thousand inhabitants. The streets are narrow and winding; scarcely one of them is paved and that very badly, the rest are

(1) Isaias LXI, 1.
(2) John XVII, 6.

full of holes and ruts, and in the rainy season become veritable torrents. The buildings are almost all of one story without any pretence to architecture or ornament, but they are well ventilated and almost all have a courtyard and small garden. The few churches are constructed on the old Portuguese plan, resembling a large room narrowing towards the end to allow space for the presbytery and the sacristies at the sides.

The Bishop has but few priests and very few who help in the parishes, many of which have been several years without pastors, and what is worse these priests are old and invalided. There is a Seminary under the care of four zealous Priests of the Mission who are a veritable providence for the Church of Matto Grosso; but vocations are few in number. There is a Girls' Home managed by the Sisters of Charity, the favourite work of the Bishop, who has worked wonders of charity and zeal for its foundation and maintenance.

The soil of Matto Grosso is very fertile, with an abundance of water, of timber and enriched with gold, silver and iron mines which have not as yet been worked. The products are of many kinds and some of great value, amongst which is India rubber. It is extracted from a beautiful tree with a straight and lofty stem, growing luxuriantly in the low-lying lands which for seven or more months of the year are completely covered with floods from the numerous rivers flowing into the Amazon. With a hatchet they make incisions in the bark in several places, and the milk, which flows abundantly therefrom, is collected in a bowl made from the husk of a fruit resembling a gourd and attached to the trunk by a lump of clay. This milk collected at night in a bucket, solidified by the fire and made up into round lumps is sold at a high price to traders, by whom it is despatched to Europe. Here also is found *ipecacuanha*, the root of a shrub which grows wild in the woods, and sprouts up from a small root which always remains embedded in the soil. In these forests also flourish the quinine and vanilla plants and on the banks of the rivers, sarsaparilla; and lastly the herb maté, whose leaves when crushed and pounded produce a powder with an aroma and tonic effects similar to those of Indian tea.

The sugar-cane which grows quickly and luxuriantly is likewise cultivated, also cotton and cacao, and in some places, coffee. The substitute for wheat is manioc a small knotty plant resembling the geranium. After eight months, the root assumes the shape of a bulb, like our turnip, and grows to an enormous size in these countries. Dried in the oven or in boilers, it is then ground and produces a flour which is used in different ways and forms the staple food of these people.

Civilization has made no progress in the country parts, where the conveniences of life are unknown. In a small hut made of stakes and covered with dried palm leaves or reeds, frequently open at at both ends, one often finds living together men and women, boys and girls, with pigs and goats,

besides half-a-dozen dogs. A table, a chair or a cupboard is never seen there. Two stones with an iron pot, or more frequently a basin made of baked clay, constitutes the kitchen apparatus; the wood is the general refectory. From the poles of the mansion hang some nets which serve as beds at night and seats in the day and the inhabitants desire nothing better.

Marriages are rare; consequently the families dispersed over the country have the appearance only of precarious unions, without any hopes for the future, or any interest in the children. And yet with such a fertile soil, with an abundance of God's good gifts, how easily could a man gain for himself a suitable and comfortable position and leave to his children an inheritance without any great labour! These natives never think of the morrow, and having enough to satisfy their hunger for the day, lay themselves down in the shade, smoking and drinking brandy made from the sugar-cane.

In many places the children go about quite naked until the age of twelve or upwards. When they are eight years old it is customary to sharpen their canine teeth, which, is done in a barbarous manner. With a chisel or cleaver pressed against the teeth they are chipped off by blows of a hammer, and thus these poor creatures, at the cost of untold suffering, are able for the rest of their life to display fine teeth sharpened and pointed like like those of a crocodile.

In Matto Grosso the agricultural implements employed by us, are unknown; the spade only is used for all kinds of planting; and nature is so prodigal that a small field will give several crops in the year. It is truly marvellous that in the midst of the riches provided by God, people should persist in living in such misery..

But what then can one say as to the state of the souls of these miserable creatures? This it was which chiefly grieved the heart of the Missionary and his companions. They desired ardently to ameliorate the material condition of the natives; but the goal of their aspirations was the salvation of their souls. Whilst deliberating as to the best means to be employed for the evangelization of the Indians, Mgr Lasagna, having taken possession of the building and the Church destined for the Salesians, commenced his apostolate in favour of the inhabitants of Cuyabá. Like a true son of Don Bosco his first care was for the children and though the School was scarcely ready and still lacked many things absolutely necessary, nevertheless he would begin with the Festive Oratory, which was thus quickly established. The kindness of the missionaries, the little presents, the games introduced by them, soon attracted a large number of boys, and on the 29th June, the Feast of St Peter, the new Festive Oratory already numbered 170.

(To be continued).

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 addressed to:

*The Rev. Mother
Eastworth House, Eastworth Street
Chertsey, Surrey.*