



Salesian Bulletin

No. 35 - NOVEMBER - 1908

♣ Vol. V. ♣

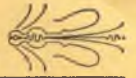
*Beatus qui intelligit super egenum et pauperem:
in die mala liberabit eum Dominus. [Ps. XL.]*

L. G. & Co. X. 1112

✠ DA MIHI

ANIMAS CÆTERA TOLLE

Important Notice to Readers.



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

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

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

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

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



CONTENTS.—

	page		page
The Holy Father	793	Salesian Notes and News.	807
Bibliographical notes on his Holiness Pope Pius X	796	Notice to Co-operators	810
Peters Pence	799	Indulgences.	810
Notes on the Decree of the Sacred Congregation of		News from the Missions	811
Rites for the introduction of the cause of Don Bosco	800	Devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians	815
The Very Reverend Don Rua in the near East	803	Graces and Favours	816

The Holy Father.

His Grace the Archbishop of Westminster, referring to the Eucharistic Congress when it was still a forthcoming event, said that the two prevailing notes would be devotion to the Abiding Sacramental Presence and loyalty to the Sovereign Pontiff. It was a happy forecast, for both these sentiments were well in evidence; the occasion however was particularly appropriate for a display of devotion to the Sovereign Pontiff, since it almost coincided with the date of the Sacerdotal Jubilee of His Holiness, an occurrence which produced a note of exultation throughout the Church over which he rules.

The merest glance at religious history through the succeeding centuries reveals a long-continued strife, relieved by victory and final triumph for the Papacy. The period through which the Church is now passing is beset with difficulty and danger; heavy clouds gather and obscure her horizon; but these do not prevent the chorus of exultation from rising above the sounds of storm and strife. And this rejoicing is well-founded, resting as it does on the words of Him who made St. Peter the foundation of His Church and promised to be with it all days. *Oremus pro Pontifice nostro Pio*, who has now completed the fiftieth year of his priesthood.

But why this widespread interest in

the Pope? Because he is the Successor of St. Peter; this all the dignity of his position derives — a dignity which stands alone in the world.

Divine Wisdom has displayed its power in the raising of an edifice. As a foundation to this building He placed St. Peter, saying: *Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church: and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.* But the Roman Pontiff is the Successor of St. Peter; hence he is in the first place and beyond all else the foundation of the Church.

The Church moreover is a kingdom, which is bound by confines as are earthly kingdoms, but which does not decay as they, because it is the kingdom of God. It's divine Founder said to Peter — *To thee I give the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, shall be bound also in heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt loose upon earth shall be loosed also in heaven* (1). As Peter was constituted the Head of the Church having full jurisdiction over it, so also is his successor, the Sovereign Pontiff, endowed with the like authority and jurisdiction.

Again even more vast than this material world are the realms of science which can only be completely traversed by Divine Wisdom. Man has ever desired to fathom their depths but until now he has hardly penetrated beyond the border; and even in so doing he has shown his littleness and is often deceived. Not so unstable however is

the knowledge of God of which Peter again was appointed the custodian and teacher infallible. *I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not, and thou being once converted, confirm thy brethren* (1).

Hence the Sovereign Pontiff is the Infallible Teacher of all Christians.

The gospel, yet again, styles the Church a *fold*. Jesus, the good Shepherd gave his life for his sheep, and on leaving them committed to Peter the office of feeding his mystical flock: *Feed my lambs; feed my sheep* (2). But the Shepherd's staff has been handed down from Peter to his Successors, so that the Roman Pontiff is the Supreme Pastor of Universal Church.

Hence the Holy Father, Pius X., being the Successor of St. Peter, stands as the foundation of the edifice, as the monarch to the kingdom, as the master to his disciples, as the shepherd to his flock; it is accordingly a sacred duty for all Catholics to nourish sentiments of respect and veneration for his august person; he is their leader, their head. Amid the strife of conflicting theories and opinions he points out the way of truth; his is the barque which enters the haven in safety.

Dominus conservet eum, et vivificet eum, et beatum faciat eum in terra et non tradat eum in animam inimicorum eius!

The Lord preserve him and give him life, and make him blessed upon the earth, and deliver him not up to the will of his enemies.

(1) St. Math. XVI. 19.

(1) St. Luke XXII. 32.

(2) St. John. XXI. 15. 16. 17.



AD MULTOS ANNOS!

*
* *

Towards the end of November, when the whole Catholic world will be united in its congratulations, Our Superior General, and Successor of the Venerable Don Bosco will have the privilege and consolation of prostrating himself before the Holy Father, and of thus addressing him :

„Your Holiness, behold the new Church of *Santa Maria Liberatrice*, by the gate of St. Paul, the building which Your Holiness entrusted to the Sons of Don Bosco. It now opens its doors to large numbers, eager to learn and practise their religion. Your Holiness, this is the homage of all the Salesians and their Co-operators on the occasion of your sacerdotal jubilee.”

It cannot be but a source of consolation to the Pope to see renewed the ancient devotion to *Santa Maria Liberatrice*, and he will recall to mind the crowds that once flocked to the former church, now demolished, in the Forum ; and going farther back still, he will be reminded of the very first marks of homage paid to Our Lady in Rome in the Church of *Santa Maria Antigua*. Nor can it fail to draw from the Holy Father a particular blessing on all those who have so generously co-operated in the speedy erection of this memorial church. The good work that will be propagated by its means will go far to revive the true spirit of Catholic faith and practice in that industrial quarter, and serve thus to aid the Holy Father in the accomplishment of his great ideal „to restore all things in Christ.”



Bibliographical notes on HIS HOLINESS POPE PIUS X.

In agreement with our Ven. Founder's principles, who allowed no opportunity to pass by of manifesting his respect and loyalty to the Holy See, and of his veneration for the person of the Supreme Pontiff, we present to the reader the following notes concerning the Holy Father. While enlarging, perhaps, their knowledge of his life and work, they may serve at the same time as a remembrance of the jubilee, and increase the interest and devotion, natural to all Catholics, in regard to the person of the Vicar of Christ.

His native place.

Pius X. was born on 2nd of June 1835 at *Riese* in the province of Venice. But yesterday, obscure and unknown, this village is now regarded with a degree of envy by the Catholics of the world. It is situated in the diocese and district of Treviso about eighteen miles west of the town of the same name. Two long rows of plane-trees border its main street which leads on, now direct now winding, towards *Asolo*. It forms part of the district of *Castelfranco*, in the cathedral of which Joseph Sarto received his ordination to the priesthood, and which in combination with other scattered districts forms a commune of about 5,000 inhabitants, of whom some 2,800 constitute the parish or village of *Riese* itself. Not the least boast of the old-fashioned place is a Sanctuary of Our Lady styled *Madonna delle Cendrole*, and around its old walls has grown up many a future minister of the altar.

The Sanctuary delle Cendrole.

This Sanctuary stands by itself in the middle of a field which is surrounded by a hedge of evergreen; and it contains, besides others, one altar adorned with valuable gifts and votive tablets, and above which is placed a large picture of Our Lady. It appears to have been in existence since the year 972 since the first church of *Riese* was situated, according to authorities, just at the *Cendrole* and was dedicated to Our Lady's Assumption. During the last ten years of the century just gone by, it was decorated, and pre-

mises added for the accommodation of priests and pilgrims who flock to it in considerable numbers. But the Sanctuary now boasts another glory: „Margaret Sarto, the mother of Pope Pius X., used to take her boy to it very often just as the mothers of Riese do still with their little ones.” And this is why neither the glorious Basilica of St. Mark, nor the gigantic Basilica of St. Peter’s can dim the memory of the modest Sanctuary in the field, still dear to the heart of Pius X. „I have heard him myself,” writes Marchesan, „as he stood under the gilded byzantine cupola of St. Mark’s, Venice, on the day that he had been solemnly installed as Archbishop, mention as a cherished memory his devotion to Our Lady in the Sanctuary of his native village.” And on August 10th 1903, a few days after his election to the papal throne, he himself wrote to the parish priest of Riese, sending the Apostolic Benediction to all the village people, and asking them to remember him in their prayers particularly in the Sanctuary of the *Madonna delle Cendrole*.

His parents. — It was a cold day in February 1833, and the Wednesday after Sexagesima Sunday, the 13th of the month. The pealing of the Church bells had drawn a goodly number of friends and neighbours to witness a modest wedding. The bridegroom, notwithstanding his forty years, bore himself with joyful composure, and with the air of one in the vigorous prime of life. She was becomingly and modestly attired, blushing slightly, but calm and smiling in the bloom of her twentieth year. He was the village postman. He was paid daily for his work, had a cottage with three small fields adjoining, a few outhouses and a small office where he conducted what business his official capacity brought. His wife was the tailoress of the village, and skilled in all household duties. This happy couple God had designed to honour by raising their second son to the Supreme Pontificate.

No time was passed after the manner of a honeymoon, but on the morrow the husband attended to his letters and the wife to her household. No one could then foresee that John Baptist Sarto and Margaret would be blessed with a family of four boys and six girls, or that their family would end on the throne of the Pontiff. For of the brothers of His Holiness two died young, and of his brother Angelo no male issue has survived.

Pius X., born on June 2nd 1835, was baptised on the following day and received the names of Joseph Melchior, but he was always familiarly known as *Beppi*, and he is perhaps the first Pope bearing the name of the Spouse of Our Lady.

School-days.

He was in his twelfth year when he began to attend the higher classes of the school at Castelfranco, having already attended the village school and received further instruction from the parish priest. He had about four miles to walk to school, no light task for his young legs; but nothing ever deterred him from making the journey, not even the worst of the winter days much less the oppressive heat of summer.” I did the same thing myself for some years” Marchesan says, „and I know what it cost to set out in the cold, winter mornings, especially as it was necessary to start before it was light, if one wished to be in time for the commencement of work. Joseph was equal to all occasions, but that made it none the less a real sacrifice for a boy of twelve, not too well blessed with luxuries in food or clothing. As the eldest of the remaining brothers he understood best the straitened circumstances of the family, and often on setting out for school he would take off his shoes, tie them together, and throw them over his shoulder so that they might not be worn out so quickly. This unusual method of practising economy was by himself disclosed while at the seminary, when speaking of the sacrifices which life entails.

During the last year at school, things were not quite so bad, for he not only had his brother Angelo to accompany him, but they had sometimes the use of their father’s donkey cart, which had been purchased with the double object of lightening both the father’s and the boy’s tiring walks.

Progress in his studies.

Joseph Sarto soon gained and kept the first place in his class. Treviso was the only place in the diocese where the government examinations were held, and the seminary, as benign practically the one suitable place, was the centre for these examinations. In his two first examinations he received full marks in all subjects, and in the next two years came out first not only among his own school-fellows, but even the private students of the seminary. At the end of the Scholastic year 1849-1850 he took a higher examination at Radna, and received full marks in all subjects and obtained the first place among forty three private students. A boy who had for four consecutive years, held the first place in the province of Treviso at his examinations, was surely worthy of some consideration.

He receives the clerical habit.

A favourite with everybody, of a happy and peaceful disposition, young Sarto was also pleasing in the sight of God, who was drawing him to

the sacred ministry. But how was he to follow out this heavenly call? As years went on the needs of the family increased rather than diminished. His father, however, had recourse to His Eminence Card. Monico, Patriarch of Venice, who had the privilege of nominating to a number of three places in the seminary at Padua, and to support his request the father mentioned the boy's brilliant course at school. His Eminence, who was a native of Riese, on hearing of the promising career of his young compatriot, very willingly acceded to the request. Accordingly on September 10th 1850, to the great pleasure of his family and of all the country side, no less than his own, he was vested in the clerical habit by the Archpriest of the parish church, Don Fusarini.

His eight years' course at the Seminary.

Joseph Sarto spent eight years at the seminary of Padua, and every year he was at the head of his class. In the first year his class was a very large one, but he came out first at the examinations—and with the following reports: *Inferior to no one in excellence of behaviour; the first in intellectual attainments; endowed with a splendid memory; of brilliant promise* (1).

In his last year of philosophy he was again at the head of a class of thirty-nine, and received the following reports from the various professors.

Conduct.—Quite exemplary; constant in application and diligence

Religious knowledge: Passed with distinction in every part of the syllabus.

Philosophy: Gained distinction; both for thorough knowledge of the matter and sound and acute reasoning.

Italian: Very good—for knowledge of the classics and general literature, and for style in composition.

Latin: Excellent in composition and translation.

Greek: Excellent for grammatical knowledge and also in the knowledge of authors and composition.

Geography and History: Distinction gained for knowledge of matter especially of the modern era.

Mathematics: Endowed with natural aptitude for this science, and shows great skill in the solution of mathematical problems.

Physics and natural science: Distinction gained for general excellence in these subjects.

In November 1854 he went back to the Seminary to begin his theological course. He had eagerly looked forward to this, and had regarded

all his previous work as a preparation for it. In fact when the cleric had become His Holiness Pius X. he said: General knowledge is necessary; but make of the sciences that use that St. Thomas made of them. He had within his mind, as in a reservoir, all sciences, and he used them to illustrate the great science, theology.

Concerning his theological course it need only be remarked that it was equally as brilliant as the previous ones, and on each succeeding examination he received full marks. In the early years of his seminary career he had devoted himself with such success to the study of music that in 1857 he was made the choir master to the seminary, and in the later years he devoted himself to the extra study of the Bible and the Fathers.

Two memorable dates.

On the 30th September 1851 Joseph Sarto had received the tonsure in the cathedral from the Bishop of Treviso. This was the first official step towards the goal and his parents thought it ought not to pass by unnoticed. But in the following year sorrow came to him, for on the 4th of May the indefatigable official of the commune, the father of the young cleric was called away to his reward, leaving a widow with nine children. „With what grief,” writes Marchesan, „Joseph received the news of his father's illness, especially as he had a peculiar gift of penetrating beyond the surface of things; and with what anxiety he hastened off to Riese, where he assisted at his father's last moments, only those can know, who have had occasion to prove the tender clarity for others which distinguishes the noble character of Pius X.

His ordination.

But the day on which all hopes and anxieties had been so long centred, which had been so eagerly awaited by his indefatigable mother and sisters dawned at last.

Having received Minor orders in November 1856 and the Subdiaconate in the following June he was promoted to the Diaconate in the September of the same year. He had already in the previous June delivered the discourse for the Feast of the Sacred Heart in his parish church and now on the 24th Feb. 1858, a dispensation having been obtained for the eight months and sixteen days which were yet wanting to the canonical age, he proceeded from Riese to Castelfranco, in the cathedral of which the ordination was to take place. It was a cloudy morning, and had already been raining, but now it was fairly fine as Joseph Sarto traversed the road which had been so familiar to him in his boy-

(1) *Disciplinæ nemini secundus; ingenii maximi; memoriae summæ; spei maximæ.*

hood days, and which he had walked under all skies and in all weathers. This day seemed to be a reward for so many sacrifices, but though a happy one, it seemed to be mysteriously lost on a boundless horizon, the dawn of untold possibilities.

Although he was now riding, the road seemed more interminable than when he had walked along it in his boyhood; however the ivy-covered walls of the old castle at last rose to view, and the sight of the town made him realise how near the great event was. He found that some of his companions from neighbouring districts had already arrived and others were still arriving for the ordination.

On the following day, the Sunday on which falls the feast of the Sorrows of Mary, assisted by the parish priest, and in the presence of his family and of all his village acquaintance, the young priest sung his first Mass. Our Lady, venerated in the ancient Sanctuary *delle Cendrole*, must have gazed longingly on the ancient though happy scene, and after fifty years, as he celebrates his Jubilee Mass in the Vatican Basilica, she still regards him, now the Supreme Pontiff, from the old Sanctuary, filling his soul with sweet and holy remembrances.

(To be continued).



PETER'S PENCE.

Among the subscriptions of Peter's Pence enumerated in the *Civiltà Cattolica*, mention is made of the following: From six hundred and fifty lepers at Contratacion (Colombia), through their chaplain Fr. E. Rabagliati S. C., five hundred francs.

Referring later on to this subscription the *Civiltà Cattolica* says: „The offering was accompanied by the following letter which we are glad to publish for the edification of our readers:

Lazzaretto of Contratacion.
Colombia (S America).

To the Rev. Editor of the *Civiltà Cattolica*:

I am sending you the widow's mite. It is the sum of five hundred francs subscribed by the lepers here, as their participation in the jubilee of the

Holy Father; and it includes the offering from the Salesians and Nuns of Mary Help of Christians attached to this lazzaretto.

But the fact has a slight historical connection. In October 1903 the writer had the happiness of an interview with His Holiness Pius X., who had recently been elevated to the Papal throne. Taken by the kindly interest he displayed, I made bold to speak of the lepers, of their great misery on account of the three years' civil war, and I asked for some assistance on their behalf. The Holy Father was greatly moved by the account of so much misery and suffering, and opening a drawer in his desk he took out a small box and said: „Here is the whole of the Pope's fortune,” and he emptied the contents of the box into my hands, 500 francs; adding that he was extremely sorry he could not do more just then.

On the following day I received at the Salesian House in Rome many sacred ornaments destined by His Holiness for the lazzarettos, and among them were two portraits of the Pope bearing his autograph underneath; they were accompanied by his best wishes and blessing.

I recently had occasion to speak to the lepers about the Pope, about the year of his jubilee, and about the great celebrations which would be held all over the world. I related to them the fact mentioned above, recommending them to pray for the Vicar of Christ, and if possible to make some little sacrifice so that we might join in the offering of Peter's Pence; reminding them that in the eyes of God the widow's mite was more acceptable than the large sums given by the Pharisees.

The result of this exhortation is the subscription I am sending to you, and it amounts exactly to the sum bestowed upon us by the Holy Father. I would ask you to forward it and mention its source so that all of us out here, Salesians and Nuns and especially the lepers, may have a remembrance from His Holiness.

Recommending myself to your prayers

Your obedient servant

EVASIVS RABAGLIATI S. C.

(Chaplain to the Lepers in Colombia).



NOTES

on the Decree of the Sacred Congregation of Rites for the introduction of the Cause of Don Bosco

Don Bosco's care of the young artisans.

These had been placed under Masters in the various workshops of the city so that they might learn and practise the different trades: these workshops he visited frequently to gather information as to the conduct of his boys and of their progress in the exercise of their trade.

Don Bosco recognized and loved in each of his boys the person of the youthful Saviour and wished to see reflected in them the grace of their divine model. And his boys with that certainty of intuition peculiar to their ingenuous age, trusting to his affection ready to make any sacrifice for them, in the same spirit were prepared to carry out his every wish. Thus the Venerable Father was able to direct them by his counsels even during their hours of work, at a distance from him. The better to ensure his success he was accustomed to visit their employers in their workshops and places of business, especially when he could give or receive good reports of the apprentices.

In passing through the streets of Turin he met frequently poor boys who solicited alms and often he had not a penny in his pocket. Then with kind words he encouraged them to place their trust in Divine Providence, exhorting them not to live in idleness, but to look for work; and then invited them to come to the Oratory on the following Sunday. And if, through no fault of theirs, they remained without work, he would seek out an employer, to whom he would recommend them more earnestly than their own father would have done. In these visits to the workshops which he continued for many years, he was frequently accompanied by his companion Fr. Giacomelli and the Professor Canon G. B. Anfossi.

The arrival of Don Bosco in a workshop was a pleasing event for both masters and employees, so that when he took his leave they begged him to repeat his visit to them. And he willingly consented sometimes bringing a new apprentice with him.

How frequently in the streets of Turin did not the inhabitants see boys from the houses or shops, crowding round Don Bosco to kiss his hand! And all were touched by these demonstrations of affection and full of admiration at the great patience of the Man of God. The Provost Theologian Giorda, who was parish priest of Poirino, saw him one day surrounded by many boys who, in their affectionate anxiety to get near him, struggled and pushed so much, that many times he was nearly knocked down. Seeing which, the provost, much

displeased, drew near and scolded them wishing to send them away, but Don Bosco said gently: — „Let them alone, let them alone.”

One evening whilst walking on the footpath in Via Doragrossa (now Via Garibaldi), he passed in front of the windows of a large draper's shop, in which the glass filled the whole width of the door. A good youth of the Oratory who was serving in the shop, seeing Don Bosco, with youthful impetuosity, not remembering that the glass door was closed, ran to salute him and knocked his head against the glass, breaking it to pieces. Hearing the crash of the falling glass Don Bosco stopped and opened the door; the boy overcome with confusion went up to him, the shopkeeper shouted and the passersby crowded around.

— „What have you done?” enquired Don Bosco. And the boy replied simply:

— „I saw Your Reverence passing by, and in my great desire to salute you, I did not think of opening the door, and thus broke the glass.”

The owner, meanwhile, continued his complaint of the boy's carelessness.

— „Why are you so cross?” said Don Bosco; „do you not see the damage was done inadvertently?”

— „Meanwhile the glass is broken and it will cost me a lot to replace it.”

— „Very good, you shall not be the loser; but let the poor boy alone; he broke the glass on my account and I will pay for it.”

— „If such is the case, I will say no more. And who are you; may I ask?”

— „I am Don Bosco and I live at Valdocco.”

Meanwhile the shopkeeper's wife, with a kindly countenance, had made her appearance on the street.

— „So you are Don Bosco?” she said, and turning to her husband, continued; „Give up your claims, you can see that Don Bosco has no money to throw away.”

— „And Must I then suffer this loss?” exclaimed the shopkeeper.

The good woman was silent; but the next day she made her appearance at the Oratory and said to Don Bosco:

„Another time I hope our little Charles will not try to pass through the glass like a spirit. Meanwhile I have brought you the money so that you may not be put to inconvenience in paying my husband. Do not tell him from whom you have received it. A child's love and the charity of Don Bosco who has to provide for so many boys, must not suffer for an oversight.

He opens Professional Schools at the Oratory.

Later on, to provide shelter for their training in work and piety, in 1853 he opened workshops at the same place.

The Church of St. Francis of Sales having been built and opened in 1852, Don Bosco said: „After having provided a house for the Lord, it is necessary to make ready another for His children.” And the school was begun. Scarcely was one portion finished (October 1852) than he at once removed thither the classes, the refectory and the dormitories, and the boys very soon numbered sixty five. The community being housed, Don Bosco determined at once to carry out, at the cost of any sacrifice, his project of opening workshops in the House. The sending out daily of the boys to the workshops in the city, however well selected and watched over, was a risk, if not a prejudice to the discipline and improvement of the inmates. Evil customs and irreligion were, moreover, on the increase amongst the working classes and Don Bosco perceived that the rallery to which his pupils were subjected, tended to destroy much of the fruit of the moral and religious education he was striving to give them.

The streets, also, which they had to traverse were crowded with vendors of newspapers, propagators of licentiousness and impiety. In the windows of booksellers and other shops there was a scandalous display of indecent prints and statues, of bad novels and other loathsome productions, as well as heretical books.

With all these incentives even their faith was endangered, although Don Bosco, besides many warnings and admonitions, gave a brief exhortation every evening, with the special object of expounding some truth which perchance they might have heard contravened during the course of the day. And not only in public, but also in private he spoke continually of Sectarian errors and their disastrous consequences, exhorting all to be on their guard.

Don Bosco, therefore, desiring to withdraw at least some of his artisans from the seunsuitable surroundings, with the assistance of benefactors, having bought some small tables and the necessary tools, opened a shoe-maker's workshop in a little corridor of the Pinardi house near the Church tower

At the same time as he wished several boys to learn the tailor's trade, and having removed the kitchen to the new building the former one was turned into a tailor's shop.

The Crucifix and the Statue of Our Lady took possession of the workshops. At once a change for the better was observed in the spiritual, moral and material condition of the pupils. Don Bosco was the first instructor of the youthful, tailors having worked at that trade when he was attending school; so also from time to time he seated himself at the cobbler's bench to teach the boys how to use the awl and waxed thread in mending shoes. And thus, by degrees, as a new want developed in the house, he decided to open a new workshop.

But this was not all. With his great and far-seeing mental powers, he perceived the dangers threatening all nations and the necessity of settling the great working class question in a Christian manner. Socialism was showing itself in the neighbouring states and was menacing even Italy. The partisans of erroneous doctrines, convinced that the future would belong to him who had acquired influence over the mind and heart of the workman, began to display a truly satanic zeal in brutalizing the masses, so that they might be ready for any outbreak and might thus serve as a pedestal for their own exaltation. D. Bosco's object therefore, was to prevent so great a misfortune by means of these same young artisans, drawing them to that Religion which alone, by the way of charity and self sacrifice, would make them contented in their own sphere. He showed them how manual labour had been honoured and glorified in the person of Our Lord Jesus Christ Who, during his life on earth chose to be, like them, a simple workman, and frequently described their triumphal entry into heaven and their everlasting reward when the labours and trials of this life are passed.

Don Bosco therefore, in 1853, without publishing it by sound of trumpet, as is so frequently done in these days for a mere trifle, began another gigantic undertaking in so humble a way that it seemed, though it was not, a simple experiment. He seemed to hear the words: „Place all your hope in the Lord, and do not rely on your own judgement. In all that happens turn to Him and He will direct your steps.” And in fact, this work also was to embrace both hemispheres. In the course of fifty years, more than 300.000 artisans have come forth from his workshops with a Christian education and have been scattered over the world; as today we find thousands of boys who, left to the dangers of the streets, would have become blind instruments in the hands of evil men, now being transformed into useful and honest citizens.

The Students of the Oratory.

Moreover amongst the boys those whom he found suitable by their talents and virtue he destined for the higher studies; and he was himself their teacher. Later on he availed himself of the cooperation of other priests as Professors and Theologians, the Diocesan Seminary having been closed and Mgr. Franzoni, Archbishop of Turin, having been exiled.

The first boys then, whom Don Bosco gathered together in the Oratory of S. Francis of Sales, were young artisans, who were to be taught some trade in accordance with their aptitudes or tastes; but the various conditions and requirements of those sent to him caused him by degrees to add also a class of students. This work began, as it were, insensibly, between 1848 and 1849.

During the war of Independence, the Seminaries being occupied by the troops, Don Bosco, at the request of Mgr. Franzoni, received in the Oratory as many clerics as he could, so that, removed from

the distractions of family life and the dangers of the world, they could follow their vocation. They remained as boarders pursuing their studies and attending in common the exercises of piety; but they frequented morning and afternoon the classes of the Professors of the Seminary of Turin who gave their lectures some in their own house and others in a room near the Seminary itself, left to their use by the Government.

But one thing follows another. About this time Don Bosco began to feel more than ever the necessity of having, at his disposal, Masters and assistants for his work. And with a view to securing these, amongst the boys sent to him by Divine Providence, he began to select those who, by their good conduct, gave well-founded hopes of a successful result, and these were set to study. In 1850 their class consisted of twelve boys; but afterwards, several of them became Oblates (1) others adopted a different career and very few remained at the Oratory. Don Bosco did not lose courage at such a disappointing result, but made a fresh selection and these proved more faithful to him.

Whilst the numbers continued to increase, for another reason the class of students also augmented. Amongst the boys sent to Don Bosco, either by the Government, the Municipality, the Parish Priests, or the parents, there were many belonging to families of the better class who, through reverse of fortune, had fallen into distress. For these boys, hitherto nurtured in comfort, the apprenticeship of a laborious trade was neither attractive nor suitable. Moreover there were others whose talents were so conspicuous that it would have been a shame to bury them in a workshop thus it was readily understood that such boys, if well educated, would in time render important services to the commonwealth. So Don Bosco who, as far as possible, regulated his charities in accordance with the needs, the suitability and the inclination of others, encouraged such boys rather to study than to learn a trade. In this way the number of students, in a few years, equalled that of the artisans.

So far as his occupations allowed, Don Bosco himself undertook the teaching of these boys; but in the year 1852, being unable any longer to continue it, he began to send them to the private school of Cav. Joseph Bonzanino, Professor of a preparatory academy, and later on to that of Fr. Matthew Picco, Professor of Rhetoric. These excellent persons charitably admitted Don Bosco's pupils to their classes without payment, earning the gratitude of the Oratory and of many families. In fact, for many years, hundreds of boys came forth from their classes well instructed, many of whom became renowned Professors, doctors of medicine, judges, notaries, lawyers and barristers. Not a few embraced the ecclesiastical state, became zealous parish priests, and a large number as fellow

labourers of Don Bosco, consecrated their lives to the care of the young, in the various Salesian Institutes.

The founding of this class of pupils was a work truly inspired by God. In this way Don Bosco benefited a larger number of persons; he brought into play the special talents of those who would otherwise have remained in their native ignorance; he gave to society not only good workmen and clever artists, but also well-trained officials; and above all, in those years which were perhaps the most fatal to ecclesiastical vocations, he provided the Archdiocese of Turin, as well as all the other dioceses of Piedmont with hundreds of clerics and Priests. And yet more; by this institution, Don Bosco then began that nursery of assistants, which enabled him to extend the benefit of civil and religious education to thousands of poor children in both hemispheres;

Thus in a few years, by 1856, several having completed their course of Latin and chosen the ecclesiastical career, they themselves became masters and professors and Don Bosco with their help began a Latin class for the boarders.

At the beginning of the scholastic year 1859-60 the clerics in the Oratory numbered twenty; and Don Bosco was able to carry out his plan of having all the classes taught in the house, instead of sending the boys into the town to the afore-named professors. Of the first class, containing ninety-six pupils, the cleric Celestino Durando was the professor, of the second, the cleric Secondo Pettiva, of the third the cleric John Turchi, of the fourth and fifth the cleric John Baptist Francesia. In this noble arena they were succeeded by many others, who, having completed their training and become masters in their turn, saw themselves surrounded by numerous children, the hope of the Church, and the seeds of the future Salesian Society

Excellent and consoling results of the Oratory.

From the Oratory, as may be seen from its history after the year 1870, many priests went forth honoured by ecclesiastical dignities and of the greatest use in the Archdiocese of Turin and in the other dioceses of Piedmont.

We alluded, lately, to the immense services rendered, by our Venerable Father to the whole of Piedmont through the large number of ecclesiastical vocations fostered by him in the Oratory, Here, however, without going into other detail, we will confine ourselves to a list of the names of the venerable Prelates, former pupils of Don Bosco, illustrious children of the Oratory, who have been raised to the dignity of the episcopate.

They are :

1) His Grace the Most Reverend *Mgr. Giovanni Cagliero*, born at Castelnuovo d'Asti January 11th, 1838, admitted by Don Bosco into the Oratory, November 3rd, 1851, elected Titular Bishop of Magida November 13, 1884, and raised to the Titular Archbishopric of Sebaste in 1904, Vicar Apo-

(1) The Oblates of the Blessed Virgin, approved in 1824 by Pope Leo XII, were founded by two pious and learned Piedmontese priests, Lanteri of Cuneo and Raynald of Carignano.

stolic of Northern and Central Patagonia, and now Delegate Apostolic and Envoy Extraordinary to the Government of Costa Rica.

2) The late lamented *Mgr. Pietro Strobino*, born at Mosso S. Maria, in the Commune of Pistolesa and the Diocese of Biella, Jan. 2nd, 1856, pupil of the Oratory for several years, elected Titular Bishop of Pompeopoli and appointed coadjutor of *Mgr. Ricards* in September 1891, consecrated in the Church of S. Augustine, *Port Elizabeth*, November 1, 1893, in the same year succeeded, *Mgr. Ricards* as Vicar Apostolic of the Eastern Districts of the Cape of Good Hope, Nov. 30, 1893, and passed to heaven October 1, 1896, whose pious and beloved memory still survives amongst the faithful committed to his care.

3) The late lamented *Mgr. Luigi Lasagna*, born at Montemagno March 3rd, 1850, admitted by Don Bosco into the Oratory October 21st, 1862, elected Titular Bishop of Tripoli March 12, 1893, killed in a railway accident near the station of Juiz de Fora in Brazil November 6, 1895.

4) His Lordship *Mgr. Giacomo Costamagna*, born in Caramagna January 2nd, 1846, admitted by Don Bosco into the Oratory December 10, 1858, elected Titular Bishop of Colonia, March 18th, 1895, Vicar Apostolic of Mendez and Gualaquiza in Ecuador.

5) His Lordship *Mgr. Pietro Berruti*, born in

Borghetto Borbera, Diocese of Tortona, August 28th, 1840, who was a pupil of the Oratory as a clerical student of theology, elected Bishop of Vigevano, November 28, 1898.

6) His Lordship *Mgr. Luigi Spandre*, born in Caselle Torinese, June 20, 1853, pupil of the Oratory from August 13, 1856 to August 28, 1871, elected Titular Bishop of Tiberias and Auxiliary of His Eminence Cardinal Richelmy, September 3, 1899.

7) His Lordship *Mrs. Giuseppe Gamba*, born at S. Damiano d'Asti April 25, 1857, pupil of the Oratory in the year 1870-71, elected Bishop of Biella December 16, 1901, and translated to the See of Novara December 6, 1906.

8) His Lordship *Mgr. Pasquale Morganti*, born at Lesmo, Diocese of Milan, December 31, 1852, pupil of the Oratory from 1864 to 1870, elected Bishop of Bobbio June 9, 1902, promoted to the Archbishopric of Ravenna, November 14, 1904.

9) His Lordship *Mgr. Vincenzo Tasso*, born at Banenga, Diocese of Casale August 13th 1850, pupil of the Oratory from 1862 to 1865, elected Bishop of Aosta on May 28th 1908.

Almighty God had apparently entrusted many future Pastors of the Church to the care of the Ven. Don Bosco.

(To be continued).

The Very Reverend Don Rua IN THE NEAR EAST

IX.

To Alexandria in Egypt.

Coming to the late hour of Don Rua's arrival in this city, our confrères had issued no invitations for his reception. Nevertheless we found at the station *Mgr. Amato Amaddio*, Provicar General of His Excellency *Mgr. Aurelio Briante*, Delegate Apostolic, the Rev. Franciscan Fathers, the Jesuit Father Rector, the lawyer Signor Verità and some other gentlemen. In the station was drawn up a company of our boys with many Salesians and the Director. A landau and other carriages sent by Signor Adem carried our Superior very rapidly into the midst of 200 and more pupils of the Salesian Institute, who welcomed him with the greatest joy.

It would be impossible to narrate the countless demonstrations of esteem shown to the Successor of Don Bosco during the ten days spent in this city. The visits which he received from illustrious benefactors and friends of our work were so nume-

rous that it would be impossible for me to make even a bare list of them. For the same reason I pass over in silence the other visits paid by Don Rua, but I must mention the cordial welcome he received not only from the Italian Consul, Marquis di Seregno, but also from Chata Way Bey, administrator of the Municipality and from His Excellency the Governor of the city, Mustafâ Ibadi Pasha.

Last Saturday he received a touching demonstration of filial affection from the whole Institute. Confrères and pupils, students and artisans, great and small, all had their representative. On Sunday the 26th inst. was the chief solemnity. In the morning forty-five pupils received their First Communion from the hands of Don Rua. The parents were present and during the *ferrovino* preached by the venerable Superior, many were moved even to tears. At 9-30 there was solemn Mass with Gregorian chant. Finally at four o'clock there was a solemn commemoration of the Ven. Don Bosco, the account of which I copy from the *Egyptian Messenger*, a daily paper of this city.

Commemoration of Ven. Don Bosco.

„ We had the pleasure of assisting at a dramatic and musical entertainment, given by the Salesian Institute for the visits of Don Michael Rua, Superior-General of the Salesians. The commemoration of Don Bosco, declared Venerable in July of last year, was celebrated at the same time.

„ In the spacious hall of the Institute, decorated for the occasion, the numerous invited guests took their places. From four o'clock, there was not a single vacant seat, and many had to remain standing, for numbers came who had not been invited; and this was due to the popularity enjoyed by the Institute and the good-feeling displayed toward it.

„ In the centre of the first row was seated the worthy Successor of Don Bosco, Don Michael Rua, a true Missionary and a most learned man; on his right sat the Governor and surrounding him were many of the élite of the town.

„ The opening discourse from the Father Guardian of S. Catherine, lofty in conception and delivery, could not have been better received and produced an excellent effect. Loud applause frequently interrupted the orator who, in concise language, recounted the prodigious work of Don Bosco, of the educator of the masses, the benefactor of the unfortunate, the apostle of light and truth. Don Michael Rua followed with the greatest attention this discourse, of which we shall, if possible, give a full report, because—treating of several points of pressing importance—it may serve for the instruction and guidance of all.

„ Later on „*Cause and effect*” received its due meed of applause. The little pupils were greeted with repeated clapping, elicited by their simple and attractive manners worthy of born artists, each one performing his part to perfection. The audience followed the play with the greatest interest and pleasure to the end. And this play was not selected at hazard, for by it fathers of families are taught the ruin caused by a mistaken education and evil example.

„ The band executed its programme most successfully; certainly these young musicians are capable of sustaining any test. We therefore heartily congratulate the Superior and all his staff which is accomplishing such good work among the young population.

This morning His Excellency Mgr. the Delegate Apostolic came to return Don Rua's visit, offering his best wishes for a good journey. We shall start soon via Messina, Syracuse, Malta, Syracuse, Messina, a tiresome round, but one which enables us to avoid quarantine.

X.

From Messina to Malta.

We were accompanied to the port of Alexandria by several gentlemen and confrères with two divisions of the boys of the Institute. Mgr. De Metriades, who had accompanied us with Fr. Gatti from Bethlehem, was also with him on the steamer.

On the first day we were able to celebrate without difficulty: not so the following day. The writer succeeded in saying Mass; but owing to the rough sea, Don Rua contented himself with receiving Holy Communion. However, towards evening, thanks to God and Mary Help of Christians, to whom we turned with heartfelt supplications, the sea grew calm, so that our Superior decided on reminding our fellow passengers that the next day would be Sunday and that, owing to the kindness of the Captain they would be able to hear Mass in the second class reading-room. His announcement was well received, for a good number of the passengers profited of the opportunity to fulfil their obligation.

At Messina.

After three days on sea, the loftiest peak of Calabria and that of Etna, covered with snow, came in sight, and then the coast-line where, after a while, we could distinguish the towns and villages, amongst others *Bova Marina* with its Seminary under the care of the Salesians, and *Reggio Calabria*, on seeing which we sorrowfully breathed a prayer for the soul of the lamented Cardinal Portanova, lately deceased. After executing a long round to the left the vessel entered the port of *Messina*. Here there was no one waiting for us: our brethren thought Don Rua would go direct to *Malta*, so their pleasure at the visit was somewhat damped by their being unprepared with a suitable welcome.

That same evening Don Rua went to pay his respects to the Archbishop and spent some time at the Festive Oratory, well pleased at the numbers and regular attendance of the boys, and assisted also at a meeting of *Don Bosco's Club*. Next morning having said Mass, we set out for *Ali Marina*, which we left again at 1.30 p. m. At the station of

Taormina

a pleasant surprise awaited us. On that day the boys of the Institute of St. Francis of Sales at Catania were having their annual outing. Those 220 sturdy youths, preceded by their band of Musicians, having traversed the silent city, went to the station and, taking their places in the train, in due time reached Taormina. where they ascended the steep acclivity having been kindly united by Miss IIs to her splendid villa, and after Mass, had joyfully dispersed themselves over the pleasant grounds, where at 10 o'clock they had breakfasted. Then they went to the Greek theatre where the *Animus*, the flourishing gymnastic section of the Institute, gave a fine gymnastic display, and finally, they had returned to the station to proceed to *Acireale*, where they were to halt for dinner, when at the station of Taormina they caught sight of Don Rua in the train. Our Superior General also saw them and left his carriage. It was a touching scene! From the little boys of the elementary school to the youths of the upper classes, all crowded round him with filial affection, each one striving to kiss his hand and speak to him, whilst he had a word and a

smile for every one. But the voice of the Director promptly recalled them, for they must take their places in the train for Arireale! However they succeeded in inducing Don Rua to leave the train with them, and, preceded by the news of his coming, he had a most imposing and unlooked for reception at the flourishing College of S. Michael directed by the Philippine Fathers.

Acireale

The Very Rev. Father Leonardi, Superior of the House, of the College and of the Festive Oratory, had stationed his hundred boys in true military array at the entrance to the Institute; and here and there had affixed placards along the way with *Viva S. Filippo! Viva Don Bosco! Viva Don Rua!* The dinner was at 5-30. A fine hall had been prepared for our 220 pupils with Don Rua and their Superiors. The boys of St. Michael's College sang a hymn and then speeches were made by the Very Rev. Father Leonardi, by some of our old pupils, attracted by the presence of Don Rua and their school-fellows, by several pupils of St. Michael's College and of our own. During dinner the Dominican, Franciscan and Jesuit Fathers and the Superiors of the Seminary came to visit Don Rua and had a hearty reception. The enthusiasm was uncontrollable and broke out again at the speech of Don Rua who, in referring to the hope expressed that he might again be present on a similar happy occasion, said that on account of his age, he could not promise himself such a pleasure, but invited them all to meet him one day in heaven.

The finishing stroke was added to their happiness, when at the end of dinner a telegram was received from His Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese, Mgr. Arista, announcing from Rome his participation in the Feast and blessing Don Rua and the invited guests. It was quite a memorable occasion.

At Malta.

We reached the port of Valletta about eleven o'clock at night. At once the Custom house Inspector came on board and sought out Don Rua to inform him that the Director Fr. O'Grady had been down to the port so many times and at that moment he was not there. But Mgr. Farrugia and his brother, a priest, were there and received Don Rua with great joy; notified by telephone Fr. O'Grady soon arrived with Signor Alfonso M. Galea, the Hon. Sammeto and the Prefect of our house. We reached Sliema after midnight.

The following morning Don Rua was welcomed with much affection by the good pupils of the Institute; afterwards he paid visits to His Excellency the Governor of the Island and, in the absence of the Archbishop to the Very Rev. Mgr. the Vicar General, both of whom received him with every attention. On the 7th he said Mass and was the guest until afternoon of the good Galea family, to whom we owe the new Institute, the opening ceremony of which took place the same evening.

The "Juventutis domus."

The splendid building bears the name of „*Juventutis Domus*” and has been erected according to the most approved plans both as regards architecture and hygiene. It provided not only dormitories and class-rooms, but also splendid halls for reading, and debating, as well as for gymnastic exercises and dramatic entertainments.

The large theatre, capable of seating more than 600 persons, was on that evening crowded with a select audience. It was presided over by His Excellency the Governor and Mr. Grant, by the Vicar General of the Diocese in his Prelate's robes, Don Rua, Mgr. Farrugia and Heads of Departments, Honorable Councillors, and members of the nobility. Amongst these in the first row in a state of emotion and confusion, were to be seen Signor Galea and his wife. The ceremony opened with the reading of a telegram from the Holy Father, then the Director explained the object of the assembly, after which the Vicar General gave the blessing *novae domus* adding words of praise and gratitude to the worthy founders: and finally His Excellency the Governor ascended the tribune from which, after a short and apposite speech in praise of Signor Galea, the Salesians and the Maltese youth, he declared the *Juventutis Domus* open, and handed the keys to Don Rua.

The opening was followed by an academical entertainment, to which I could not do justice were I to devote many pages to it; songs and music, recitations and speeches succeeded, one another, each perfect in its way. In conclusion Signor Galea said a few touching words in praise of the Christian education received from his parents, to which he ascribed the merit of the excellent work now completed. The crowd having dispersed, the members of the Committee gathered round Don Rua for a few moments of friendly converse; he, after taking leave of the boys, accepted an invitation to supper at Valletta in the house of Mgr. Farrugia, who had invited many gentlemen. to do honour to the Successor of Don Bosco. That same evening Don Rua went on board to return to Sicily. It was midnight when Fr. O'Grady and the Signor Galea bid us farewell after accompanying us on board.

At Syracuse and Catania.

Landing at Syracuse in the morning we proceeded to the Cathedral to say Holy Mass, intending afterwards to visit the Vicar General as we believed His Grace the Archbishop to be in Rome. You can therefore imagine our surprise when, after Mass, we saw, entering the Sacristy with several Canons and Seminarists, the Archbishop himself who, though on his way to preside at a religious function, as soon as he heard of Don Rua's arrival, came down to greet him and express his regret that he was prevented from attending him to the Archbishop's House.

On reaching Catania we found at the station all the Salesian Directors of that Province who accompanied us to the Institute, where an entertain-

ment was given to celebrate Don Rua's name-day. Around him were gathered Mgr. Riccioli, the Vicar General, several Canons, many religious, and a large number of gentlemen, amongst whom were several Professors from the University. The *Animus* gave a fine gymnastic display, after which Don Rua paid a visit to St. Philip, another of our schools.

At 3 o'clock we left *Catania* for the Peninsula.

XI.

In Calabria.

At the central station of Messina, many friends and two companies of our boys were awaiting us. These last hastened to the port and arrived there in time to give a welcome cheer, as Don Rua boarded the vessel, continuing their farewells whilst it sailed away.

At *Reggio* he was met by several clerics from the Seminary, who told us that, on the previous evening, a larger number of their companions had been there awaiting Don Rua. At 11.30 p. m. we reached *Soverato* where the following morning was to take place the laying of the foundation stone of the Church and of the Salesian Institute, which is being erected through the munificence of the lamented Marchesa di Cassibile.

At Sorato — A memorable ceremony.

Accordingly on Sunday morning, having said Mass in the small but pretty village Church built by the Marchesa di Francia, sister of the deceased Marchesa di Cassibile, Don Rua, vested in stole and cope, and surrounded by many of the clergy and inhabitants and by the principal personages of *Soverato*, went in procession to the site of the Church now being built, where he performed the rite of blessing the first stone. In the cavity of the stone was placed a leaden case containing several coins of Victor Emmanuel III, the portraits of Don Bosco and of Don Rua, and some medals and pictures of Mary Help of Christians, with an artistically executed parchment by Cavaliere Santacroce of *Catania*, giving an account of the ceremony.

The religious function being finished, Don Rua and the company took the seats provided, whilst an eloquent and appropriate discourse was given by the Very Rev. Fr. Antony Condemi, archpriest of *Soverato*. Don Rua thanked the orator for the expression of his feelings towards the munificent Marchesa di Cassibile; he spoke of the hopes entertained of the speedy completion of that Church, in which the good inhabitants of *Soverato* would have every facility for fulfilling their religious duties and where a large number of boys would each day pour forth prayers to God for the eternal rest of her who had thus provided for the building of this home of learning and piety, and for him suffering from illness, who had likewise done so much to benefit the young.

At the simple repast, served in the small temporary dwelling of the Salesians, to which a few were invited, the Marchese Armando Lucifero and others drank Don Rua's health, and he expressed

his grateful acknowledgments. Towards evening he visited the Festive Oratory, conversing familiarly with the boys and giving to each a picture of Mary, Help of Christians.

At Borgia.

On the 11th he paid a visit to Baroness Scoppa and the Marchesa di Francia, going to *S. Andrea* where he said Mass and remained till the evening when he went to *Borgia* for the opening of our new Institute on the 12th. There were present at the ceremony the Very Rev. the Archpriest with several ecclesiastics of that place and the neighbourhood, the Provincial Councillor Cavaliere Massara, the Syndic Signor Sgronma and other persons of note. The corridors of the new Institute were crammed; the temporary chapel could not contain another person. Having blessed the building, Don Rua celebrated the First Mass in the Chapel and during Mass addressed a few appropriate words to those present. There were many anxious to receive Holy Communion from his hands and, when Mass was over, they went to the sacristy to speak to him without giving him time to unvest!

When the function was over, to the sound of bands and the discharge of fire-arms, accompanied by the people and the authorities, we returned to the old house where the Archpriest and several ecclesiastics, and other co-operators sat down to table with us.

Towards half past nine in the evening we left *Borgia* in a carriage and at *Catanzaro Marina* we took the train for *Rossano* arriving at 3.15 in the morning.

At Rossano dell'Jonio.

His Grace the Most Rev. Mgr. Orazio Mazzella, Archbishop of *Rossano dell'Jonio* and nephew of the celebrated Cardinal Mazzella, had earnestly implored of Don Rua to pay him a visit. The time being so limited we had little choice as to hours. At the station the Archbishop's carriage awaited us; at 4.15 we were in the city, where immediately on our arrival we said Mass in the Archbishop's chapel, after which we heard the Mass said by His Grace, who, later on, had a long conversation with Don Rua; and accompanied by the Archbishop we visited the Cathedral and the Seminary. Here our Superior conversed with the students, to whom he gave fatherly advice and amongst whom the Archbishop wished him to stop the night in remembrance of his visit to *Rossano*.

Don Rua had now reached Italian soil on his homeward journey and he was constrained to make a halt at the many Salesian Houses which were passed *en route*. He finally reached Turin, giving thanks in the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians for the successful termination of his long and arduous journey.





LONDON
The School.

Last month was an important one from the scholastic outlook. The temporarily unsettled state of youthful minds, consequent on return to school, or an introduction thereat, rapidly wore off and the studies for the opening term were seriously taken in hand. At the commencement of the month the triduum was given to the boys; it consisted, mainly, of a course of three instructions suitable to their capacity and to the opening of the school year, and is intended as a kind of spiritual send-off which will supply directions and suggest good resolutions.

This month of November opened with an important event, the great event, in fact, of the first term. The 4th of November has now long traditions behind it as the feast day of the Very Rev. Fr. Provincial and Rector, and it obtains more importance and significance as the years go by and the school increases in numbers and in its connection with past students and friends. St. Charles' day is therefore always suggestive of festivities and this year's celebration was by no means behind hand. The evening before saw the commencement of the proceedings, when a gathering of boys and Community took the opportunity of offering their congratulations to Fr. Provincial and a select entertainment was given in his honour. On the following day Solemn High Mass was sung by Fr. Provincial, and this was followed by luncheon at which many representatives from other Houses were welcome guests. The day was brought to a close by a very successful production of a new School-play, which, both in its acting and singing deserved the applause bestowed upon it. The 4th of November had once more gone by, but by its memories and pleasant associations it has passed into that realm of reminiscences which will not fade away.

The Sacred Heart
Church.

It seems scarcely a few years since the opening celebrations of the Salesian Church of the Sacred Heart, attached to the London House; and yet we have now to record the fifteenth anniversary of the feast of the dedication. There was no falling off in the grandeur of the commemorations; the church looked at its best with the elaborate decorations of its altars and its candles burning before the consecration crosses. Many of the parishioners made it the occasion for approaching the Sacraments and all the services were well attended. The morning sermon was given by the Rev. A. Hawarden, S. C., who, dwelling on the Gospel of the day, the marriage feast, applied it to the occasion and urged his hearers to make the best use of the opportunities afforded them. In the evening a large congregation assembled. After the solemn Vespers, the Very Rev. E. Muldoon, S. C. from Our House at Farnborough preached the sermon. He drew attention to the fact that the workings of Divine Providence have continually resulted in a leaning, a condescension on the part of God towards men. This was developed in a very interesting manner from such examples as His mercy to a chosen few at the deluge, His choice of a particular people, His crowning act in the Incarnation and Redemption, and finally dividing means to stay with us, though returning to His Father; more than this, the multiplication of His presence in our midst, his abode being the Churches where he deigns to dwell in loving condescension.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament closed the celebrations, which had all been rendered more worthy of the occasion by the special music beautifully rendered by an excellent Choir.

**The Polish
Mission.**

The work which was set on foot about three years ago for the benefit of the Polish emigrants in London has met with great success. A large edifice was fortunately secured in the district which is peopled to a considerable extent by the emigrant Poles, and its central hall was converted into a church. This was dedicated to St. Casimir, the great Polish Patron, and is attended every week almost to overflowing. Indeed so often has the accommodation been sorely taxed that the need of a larger church is seriously occupying the minds of the priests in charge and also of the congregation, though nothing definite in that direction is yet arranged. But it is not only the local population that finds its way to the Church of St. Casimir. The devotion of the Polish people to their religion and their fervour in its practice is well-known, and this is clearly evidenced by the piety displayed by them at their church services; and what is more, not a few come every Sunday from a distance, even making a two hours' journey in order to assist in their own church at services conducted in their own tongue.

The zeal of the priests in charge has led them to do more than the customary Sunday services. In one of the rooms attached, the people have opportunity of reading newspapers from their own country, conveniently laid out for their perusal, so that on the evenings of the week and for some time on Sundays they can meet together and discuss their common interests and projects. The children are also gathered together on some evenings to be instructed in their religion and prepared for the Sacraments. The Director has more far-reaching views still. As several cases have come under his notice of emigrants finding themselves alone, unknown and lost on the London streets, he is proposing to lodge and feed such deserving cases for a few days until they have secured work and a lodging of their own. This proposal he intends to send to the newspapers in Poland so that immigrants may correspond with him before coming, if they have no friends or acquaintance to depend upon. In this and other ways the mission in the East End will become a central station for the Polish Immigrants, to which they may turn for direction as well as for spiritual assistance.

A great event has recently been celebrated in the Church of the Institute. The High Altar had for sometime been adorned with a picture of

Our Lady, but this has now been substituted by another sent direct from Poland, and is an authentic copy of a picture widely venerated in that country and claiming to be a copy of the painting of Our Lady by St. Luke. This has been fixed in an elaborately worked frame and is provided with a curtain, which, according to a Polish custom, is only removed during Mass. On the occasion referred to this picture was solemnly blessed by the Very Rev. Fr. Provincial who celebrated the solemn High Mass. The special services, the eloquence of the preacher, and the view of the venerated picture combined to produce the effect of stirring up the devotion of the good Polish people to a high pitch, and they had come in their hundreds to be present at the festivities. It is to be hoped that nothing will occur to retard the progress of the mission which seems to be destined to accomplish great things.

*

Rome.

Although the new church is not yet opened, the Testaccian Quarter can already boast of a well-attended Festive Oratory, which for some time past has had the religious training of the young, especially boys and young men, in a flourishing condition. His Eminence Cardinal Gennari lately showed his interest in the work by presiding at the patronal feast of the Oratory. He celebrated the early Mass at which there was a general Communion, and about twenty of the boys had the happiness of receiving their First Communion on that occasion. His Eminence addressed the large congregation that had assembled, and both boys and adults were deeply moved by his fatherly kindness and encouraging words. The Cardinal also administered the Sacrament of Confirmation. For the repast which followed the boys were accommodated in the new hall which has been provided for the use of the Festive Oratory in the new group of buildings which compose the new Sanctuary of Santa Maria Liberatrice. The Pontifical Schools which are adjoining had their prize-giving on the same day. His Eminence Cardinal Martinelli presided, and a short programme was gone through as a preliminary. When this was over a space was cleared, and the members of the gymnastic club of the Oratory made their appearance. The exercises performed were up to a high standard and were highly applauded, especially as this

was the club's first public display, it having been organised only a few months back.

Speaking of the gymnastic clubs attached to the Festive Oratories, it may be remarked that there is scarcely any Salesian School in Italy which cannot boast of a well equipped and well-trained team, to represent the school in public and private displays. The fact that no less than sixteen of our schools took part in the sports Exhibition lately given in the Vatican Gardens before the Pope suffices of itself to show that

which the Nuns are imparting to their young protégés.

*

The Oratory. No month passes without distinguished visitors to the Oratory at Turin, drawn there by the fame of the Ven. Don Bosco, or by the extension of his work in distant lands. Three distinguished Co-operators were among the latest of the Oratory guests one being the Bishop of Spalato in



ROME, Testaccio. — Festive Oratory of S. Maria Liberatrice.

they are well to the front in the athletic movement which has of late become so prominent in schools abroad.

While touching on the work in the Holy City mention should be made of the catechism competition held in the parochial church of S. *Doroletta*, for the girls under the direction of the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians. Many distinguished members of the clergy and laity were present and in the intervals some excellent sacred motets were rendered by the higher girls. The *Osservatore Romano* speaks in terms of the highest encomium of the result of the catechism competition and of the excellent training

Dalmatia who had come in person to urge the requests he had formerly made for a Salesian House in his diocese. His Grace the Archbishop of San Domingo in the West Indies was another visitor. He has long been a member of the Association of Co-operators and had come to see with his own eyes what was already familiar to him from his reading. A third distinguished guest was His Lordship Mgr. Bisleti, Majordomo to His Holiness and Maestro di Camera. He had a long interview with our Superior General and visited both the school and Sanctuary of Our Lady Help of Christians.

**Barcelona
Spain.**

An interesting item comes to us from Barcelona. We have had occasion to mention previously in our columns the work directed by our confrères on the eminence known as Mt. Tibidabo on the outskirts of the city. There is at present in course of erection a monumental sanctuary which is to represent the homage of Catholic Spain to the Sacred Heart. Their Royal Highnesses, Princess Maria and Prince Ferdinand of Bavaria, lately visited the mount and were conducted over the works after having been made acquainted with the origin and purpose of the Sanctuary.

In 1885 two workmen climbed the hill, and in their ascent they broke off a branch of blossoms from a bush, to offer it to the Sacred Heart, and promised to repeat this modest act of homage and devotion every year. In 1886, the following year, Don Bosco visited Barcelona, and the summit of this mountain was offered to him. The Salesians built a small chapel there and undertook to serve it. The pilgrimage of the two men had a wonderful increase in numbers and now began to assume considerable proportions, becoming quite a recognised annual celebration. The band from one of the Salesian Schools in the vicinity accompanies the pilgrims, and Mass is said in the open air on the summit. These pilgrimages gave rise to the idea of erecting a suitable church, and this at last took the form of a monumental Sanctuary to be dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It will therefore rank with the great temples that have been raised by the Salesians and their Co-operators in other Capitals such as the two Churches in Rome, that at Turin and Buenos Aires.

Notice to Co-operators.

I. Co-operators are kindly asked to always send their new address to Turin, with the old printed one whenever they change their place of abode.

II. Co-operators who have not yet received the Diploma of the Association are requested to apply for it as soon as possible.

III. Co-operators are desired to send us the names of their deceased relatives in order to obtain the prayers of the members of the Association.



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 December.


1. Dec. 8th The Immaculate Conception.
2. Dec. 25th The Nativity of Our Lord.

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.





Matto Grosso (Brazil)

A triumph of Christianity.

Notes of the journey of the band of musicians from the Colony of the S. Heart.

Our readers will remember the interesting news which Fr. Balzola gave us in his last letter. The zealous Missionary told us that the Provincial of our Missions in Matto Grosso, being encouraged and aided by the Government, had decided to send to the National Exhibition at Rio Janeiro the little Indians forming the band of musicians of the *Colony of the S. Heart*.

This pleasing idea has already been carried out. Father Malan with his little Bororós is actually in Rio Janeiro! So far we have not received any news from our brethren, but we have been delighted to read in the newspapers of Montevideo of Buenos Ayres and of S. Paulo the excellent impression produced by the journey of this interesting band.

Therefore, whilst awaiting a fuller and more intimate account of this musical event, we shall now give our Co-operators a few specimens from the above mentioned papers.

At Montevideo.

I) Journey of the band of Musicians consisting of little Indians through Montevideo—The Brazilian Government and the civilisation of the Indians.

From the *El Bien*, of Montevideo:

We have now to publish an incident which perhaps has no precedent in history. A band of little Indians of the tribe *Bororós-Coroados* from the forests of Matto Grosso have first arrived by the steamer *Estrella*.

They are in the charge of the Rev. Fr. Malan, Superior of the Salesian Missions in those regions. They are all between eight and sixteen years of age, educated during the last four years in the Colony of the Sacred Heart, founded by these

Missionaries on the banks of the Araguaya and its affluents, to the east of Cuyabá.

The Brazilian Government, recognizing the great work of civilization carried out by the Salesians, gives them every encouragement: and now, on the occasion of the opening of the National Exhibition at Rio Janeiro, it is defraying the cost of the journey of these little Indians, who, trained as a band of musicians, will entertain the visitors with their harmonious strains.

By this voyage a double end is attained that of placing before the eyes of all the results of the Missions, and of displaying for the first time before the wondering gaze of these poor Indians the greatness and the progress of their own country, Brazil.

We have asked for information regarding the state of these little artists of the tropical forests, and we have been assured that under the direction of the Missionaries they have made wonderful progress. Not only do they understand Portuguese fairly well, but they are beginning also to read and write it. Hitherto they have been usefully employed in learning various trades such as that of the carpenter, the blacksmith the tailor, etc.

Probably they will remain as our guests for some days, awaiting the steamer which is to take them to Rio Janeiro and we shall not fail to put ourselves in communication with them, hastening to transmit our personal impressions to our readers.

Meanwhile, we offer our welcome to these *Bororós-Coroados* and offer our cordial congratulations to the Salesian Missionaries on their work of civilization, and to the Government for their highly patriotic and humanitarian co-operation.

II) Arrival at the Professional Schools of Don Bosco.

It was four o'clock in the afternoon when they arrived in good order at the *Professional Schools of Don Bosco*. They wore their uniform, with their musical instruments strapped on, and seemed pleased to enter the school where they were sure of a welcome.

There are just twenty-one of these boys; symbolizing by this number the twenty states of the Brazilian Federation and the Federal District. At their head walked the two Salesians who have been their musical instructors.

Having crossed the threshold, the Band of the *Professional Schools* struck up a lively march of welcome. The little Indians responded with another march. It was a solemn and touching moment. These young children several of whom only quitted the life of their native forests a few months ago, played their instruments, eliciting general and enthusiastic applause, which the little musicians accepted joyfully. The reporters of the daily press were there, seeking information and taking photographs. On all sides one heard expressions of admiration and of kindly welcome for the little guests.

These then visited the establishment. They showed great interest in the workshops where they saw as many boys intent upon their work; and they gazed in wonder on the machinery which was an absolute novelty to them. Afterwards they dispersed through the playgrounds and made acquaintance with the other pupils.

At Buenos Ayres.

Excellent impressions.—Various visits.—At the Archbishop's house.

From *El Nuevo Templo de S. Carlos*:

The College of Pius IX and the whole neighbourhood of S. Carlo were enlivened for four memorable days by the melodious strains from the band of twenty-one little Bororós-Coroados Indians of Matto Grosso on their way to Rio Janeiro. They are to take part in the National Exhibition, and will also make their appearance in the festivities of the Salesian Society on the 14th July in celebration of the 25th anniversary of their first Institute founded in Brazil.

The readers of the *Salesian Bulletin* are aware of the remarkable progress of the Missions amongst the Indians of Matto Grosso, now gathered together in three flourishing Colonies, that of the *S. Heart* (to which our little Indians belong), that of *Mary Immaculate*, and the more recent Colony of *St. Joseph*, which by its situation links the others with the central house of Cuyabá. The school at this last mentioned town has earned such distinction in the educational world, that it is entitled to confer degrees on both internal and external students.

We have admired the good-manners and the piety of these little Indians, already so well trained in the school routine as to serve as examples to our pupils and to the faithful of the parish who heard them say their prayers together in Portuguese and saw fifteen of them receive Holy Communion and serve Mass devoutly, afterwards writing letters to their families and showing the greatest interest in their own trades when visiting the Professional Schools of Almagro.

After having visited the Brazilian Legation and the Consulate to pay their respects to the authorities, they went to see the Salesian Colleges of Boca, of *Mater Misericordiae*, of Bernal and of St. Francis of Sales, everywhere giving a sample of their musical skill. They played several pieces also at the Archbishop's Palace, where several ladies belonging to the Committee of the Salesian Co-operators were assembled. His Grace the Metropolitan conversed familiarly with them in Portuguese, and accompanied them in person during their visit to the cathedral, where he was pleased to hear them pray aloud before the Blessed Sacrament and finally on returning to his palace he regaled them with refreshment showing special kindness to the little ones who will never forget His Grace's goodness to them.

At San Paulo.

Another correspondent says: Today the band will pay their respects to His Grace the Archbishop, the President of the State, and the Prefect of the Municipality.

The twenty-one little Indians reached the Archbishop's Palace about 2,30 p. m., accompanied by Fr. Anthony Malan and Fr. Charles Peretto. After playing a selection the oldest of the little band, the Indian Michael Magone, made the following speech:

„My Lord Archbishop,

In the name of my companions here present, the first fruits of that Christian education which the Cross alone can give us, I come to offer our respects to Your Grace.

Receiving this dear proof of our education, be pleased also to accept the protestation of our filial and entire submission to the Divine Authority of which you are the representative and the assurance of our perseverance in these sentiments.

Then they all kissed the Archbishop's ring and he gave to all a souvenir, conversing a long time with them. The good Prelate showed the greatest interest in our compatriots of the forests and enquired kindly about their education and their satisfactory progress. Then he offered them some refreshment and after conversing affably with each one he gave them his blessing. The little musicians, having played another sonata, retired leaving a most agreeable impression not only on those present at their visit, but also on the great crowd in front of the archiepiscopal palace.

On the occasion of their visit to the President of the State, the Bororo *Giacomo* made the following speech:

„Your Excellency,

Coming from the woods, the first-fruits of true education, I and my companions are enchanted and can scarcely contain ourselves in beholding the civilization which surrounds and fascinates us. Now over this region we behold you the President and in you we recognize the authority which presides over the progress of the people of this State, an honoured successor of those conquerors whose renown reached even to our forests.

Through Religion and under the guidance of that authority which we are beginning to understand, we also, who till yesterday adorned our heads with feathers will in a short time, become a civilized people.

After the President's reply the band played several pieces.

Amongst the little Bororós there are some not yet baptized. There is one, Robert, whose mother was assassinated by the tribe of Cayapós who live on the other side of *Rio das Mortes*. Another *Mark Bons-Annos*, was wounded in the head in the same fight.

The President has asked that the band may perform during our preparatory Exhibition, and it will probably play at one o'clock on Sunday in the Pavilion of the *Corso Tiradentes*.

At the Office of the "San Paulo".

Last evening we had the pleasure of receiving a visit from the indefatigable Fr. Malan accompanied by three of his Bororós.

The eldest, Michael Magone, of lofty stature and son of a cacique, seems proud of his birth. Graceful in manner and at the same time reserved yet answering readily, Michael is of the greatest assistance to Fr. Malan in the work of civilizing the savages, over whom he has obtained great influence, since his visit to Europe about two years ago.

The second, *Faustino Marengo*, appears to be more timid and constantly lost in thought.

Dominic de Campos, the youngest, of true Japanese type, pleased us the most. A diligent observer, he wants to know everything, and we were delighted to watch him with his plump little free and intelligent eyes standing enraptured before our printing press".

To our enquiries about the objects in the forests with which he was familiar, he replied promptly giving us the names in his mother tongue. He is the drummer of the little band of Musicians.

Thus we have had before our eyes the magnificent results of the apostolic labours of the confrères of Fr. Malan, who with wonderful simplicity answered all our questions regarding his

great civil and religious undertaking. It would seem that for these self sacrificing Salesians there is nothing more natural than traversing forests, overcoming all kinds of obstacles and encountering dangers of every description, with the sole object of winning to Christ souls yet under the bondage of Satan.

The visit of Fr. Malan and his Bororós has been a great consolation to us. The recollection that the religion, for which we also are working, can inspire such great works and gain such lofty victories will be to us a great alleviation amidst the inevitable thorns of this life!

Ecuador.

Easter amongst the faithful of the Vicariate of Mendez and Gualaquiza. (Letter from Fr. Giovanni M. Giner).

Gualaquiza

Very Rev. Don Rua,

I am happy to inform you of the pleasing results of my visit to the centres of civilization in this Vicariate, with the view of giving the scattered inhabitants an opportunity of fulfilling their Easter duties.

At one day's journey from this residence one finds several houses scattered amongst the hills and forming small settlements. The inhabitants are very few, but they are generally true to their religion and I had a proof of this in their attendance at the religious services which I held in succession at each centre during the week's mission. I can affirm, that amongst the ninety families inhabiting the above-named villages, not one failed to comply with the Easter precept.

And this is all the more worthy of praise when one remembers the difficulties which have to be overcome, on account of the bad roads and the prolonged rains in these tropical regions.

I stopped a day and a half in each place. On my arrival, I sought the most central house for the exercise of the Sacred Ministry. The news of the Missionary's coming, without any bell, was at once conveyed to the most distant huts, and when all were assembled the rosary was recited, followed by the singing of the litany, then a short instruction, after which I heard confessions. When the confessions were over three Hail Maries were said and I wished good-night to all.

Early next morning these good Christians had assembled and, whilst they sang hymns I said Holy Mass. The altar was poor, but devotion seemed to supply for all that was materially wanting.

And now, may I beg of you to join with me in thanking Mary Help of Christians, for her gracious and constant help. Once I fell from a height of about twenty-five feet but my thoughts turning immediately to the Holy Family for help I escaped without injury from this evident danger. What would the poor Missionary do without help from Heaven!

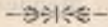
I ask a special blessing for this mission and for myself and remain:

Your devoted son in J. C.

GIOVANNI M. GINER,
Salesian Missionary.

Central Patagonia

AT CHUBUT



Consoling news.—The new School.—An expedition of 2,500 miles—Another fruitful Mission.

(From the „*Cruz del Sur*” of Rawson).

THE *Cruz del Sur* is a small weekly paper issued by the Mission of Central Patagonia, or to be more accurate of the Territory of Chubut. Lively and varied, with instructive and attractive articles, its telegraphic summary of the more important events in all parts of the world and the chief local news, it fulfils a real Mission and is of undoubted utility to the inhabitants of Rawson, Trelew and other centres of the Territory. From this small but interesting paper we have gathered some consoling details.

The progress of the Mission during these last months has been remarkable. The new Chapel of Trelew, of which we have already spoken, having been opened and provided with bells by the exertions of an active ladies' Committee, there is now a project on foot for building a new parish church at Rawson, the capital of the Territory and for this also a Committee has been formed.

Several ladies have joined the Pious Union of the Salesian Co-operators for the purpose of promoting the fulfilment of religious duties and the education of the young. As a result the Feast of Mary Help of Christians was celebrated with unusual splendour not only on account of the concourse of the faithful frequenting the Church services, but also from the members who approached the Holy Sacraments. On that day twenty-four boys and girls made their First-Communion; and a brilliant entertainment mu-

sical and literary was given at the school of the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians.

The Schools of the Mission, both those for boys under the Salesians, and those for girls under the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians, are most flourishing. The first-named have also a band of musicians, a *Schola Cantorum* or choir and a dramatic society; these have also a school-theatre.

Our Confrères opened on the afore-mentioned feast an additional building for school purposes. After solemn Mass, the Superior of the Mission accompanied by the Governor, and his wife, who acted as sponsors, performed the Ceremony of Blessing the New buildings.

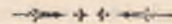
The edifice, erected in conformity with the best hygienic rules, consists of a dormitory, three class-rooms, a small theatre and a spacious corridor in which is erected a fine statue of Mary, Help of Christians. In the buildings formerly used as class-rooms, several work-shops will be opened next year.

The Daughters of Mary Help of Christians at the beginning of the scholastic year opened in Rawson a new Infant School, and now they are building a Boarding-school for the neighbouring town of Trelew.

The country Mission also, notwithstanding the insufficiency of the staff, are not neglected and do not fail to produce consoling fruits. This year the missionary Fr. Ludovico Dabrowsky from the beginning of January to the first-half of April, made an expedition of about 2,500 miles touching at a large number of settlements.

The fruits of this apostolic excursion were 329 Baptisms, including 200 of the natives, 450 Confirmations and 22 marriages.

Another important Mission was given in the prisons of Rawson by the missionary Fr. Francis Mattana, who is now displaying in the Territory of Chubut the same zeal which he exercised for so many years amongst the Jivaros of Ecuador. Throughout the month of May, he gave conferences on religion and morality three times a week to the prisoners, and during the last week, assisted by the Superior of the Mission, Fr. Vacchina, he gave them the Spiritual Exercises. At the closing function, during the Mass celebrated by Fr. Mattana six members of our school band played religious music and the little *Schola Cantorum* sang several motets. The prisoners seemed very earnest and devout. Almost all had been to Confession and many received Holy Communion. All were greatly pleased with the Mission as was testified by a letter sent by twenty of them to the Superior expressing their heartfelt gratitude.





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.

ALL the Co-operators are invited to take part in spirit in the special devotions which are held in the Sanctuary on the 24th of the month.

Besides their own particular intentions they are asked this month to pray for the welfare of His Holiness Pope Pius X. the commemorations for whose jubilee will be completed this month.

The Patronal Feast.

It would be a lengthy task to attempt to chronicle all the celebrations that marked the keeping of the Patronal Feast; we have inserted some in former issues, dealing mainly with the more important centres of Salesian activity. The ancient city of Bobbio in the North of Italy, though for ages the seat of a Bishopric and claiming a long line of illustrious prelates, is not so conservative as to be in any way behindhand in the work of the Co-operators or in the spread of the devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians. A procession through the ancient streets of the city was the principal event of the celebrations, and after it His Lordship the Bishop gave the discourse for the occasion, treating on the devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians in connexion with the Ven. Don Bosco's work. His flock greatly appreciated the words of their Pastor which will go far to increase the devotion in the hearts of his hearers.

At Tento, His Grace Archbishop Cagliero was the officiating prelate. Although the school has been flourishing in that town for the last twenty years, it was the first time His Grace had visited it, and large gatherings were accordingly witnessed at the various services. He gave the

first Communion and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to some of the boys of the Salesian School, and presided at the Conference which was given by one of our missionaries and dealt mainly with the interesting work of the missions in other lands. After adding a few words at the close His Grace gave the Benediction.

In Spain and Portugal there were special commemorations in various towns, notably at Sarriá and Barcelona, where processions were held, and at Malaga where no fewer than a hundred and five children made their First Communion, Lisbon was not behindhand. A fine literary entertainment was given in the afternoon, Sig. Torres being the chief speaker. Out in the Azores the day was kept with special solemnity, His Lordship the Bishop pontificating.

Nichteroy in Brazil is representative of the great strides that the Co-operators have made in the new world in connexion with this devotion and with Don Bosco's work generally. At the foot of the monument which has been erected at Nichteroy a grand manifestation was held and a procession crowned the proceedings. Bahia however had the honour of the Archbishop's presence and the Primate himself gave the conference to the Co-operators. From the towns our attention is drawn to the forests, which although not yet penetrated by white men, already re-echo with the praise of the mother of God, and have received the blessing of Our Lady Help of Christians. In fact the Indian tribes learn to sing the hymns of Our Lady as soon as they have acquired any knowledge of the faith, and much of the work of their training and teaching

and converting has been considerably aided by the favours received from Her in these far off places.

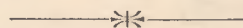
Villa Colon, one of our earliest Houses in Uruguay, has long been a centre of this devotion, and just previous to the keeping of the feast the Bishop of a neighbouring town conducted four thousand of his boys and young men on a sort of pilgrimage to the Sanctuary in Villa Colon. The other South American states display similar enthusiasm in this regard and many of them have already started a periodical of their own dealing with this devotion and topics connected with it.

Bogotá, the Capital of Venezuela, appears to have surpassed itself on this year's festival. The Provincial of Our Houses in that Republic writes: „On the eve of the feast the fine statue of the Help of Christians was transferred privately to the Metropolitan Church and placed on a special throne erected by the Association of Our Lady Help of Christians. About seven in the evening all the houses in the neighbourhood of the Salesian Church were illuminated, while in front of the Metropolitan Church, a military band, sent by the minister of War played suitable selections for the solemn occasion. The following day had been prepared for as one of General Communion, and from 5. a. m. till midday, at about every half hour when Mass was celebrated, the altars were thronged, and three priests, had at times to give Holy Communion, so as to cope with the numbers. At 9. a. m. the Cathedral presented an imposing spectacle. In the central nave reserved places were occupied by many of the Government ministers, and by members of the Archconfraternity. The aisles were occupied by schools and colleges directed by religious and seculars, the remainder being filled to overflowing by an immense concourse. His Grace Archbishop Ragonesi, Apostolic Delegate and Envoy Extraordinary, pontificated at the High Mass. A choir of a hundred voices from the choir of the Salesian school gave Meurer's Mass and at the Gospel the Very Rev. Canon and Director of the University of Rosario gave the sermon which was equal to the Orator's great reputation and to the theme with which he dealt. Dogliani's *Corona Aurea* performed by three choirs had an extraordinary and charming effect. In

order to bring the statue back to Our Church, a procession had been organised through the principal streets, and an immense concourse formed the escort, including the first dignitaries of the state, civil and military. The minister of the Interior, representing the President, carried the principal banner. General Reys, himself, assisted from the balcony of the Government House and the Minister of war had provided both military bands and an escort of soldiers as a guard of honour.



GRACES and FAVOURS



Ireland. — I beg to publish the expression of my deepest gratitude for a favour obtained through the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians. I enclose an offering for the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice at the Shrine according to my intentions.

August, 1908.

Anonymous.

Coleraine (Ireland).—I enclose a thank offering for a favour received after prayers to Our Lady Help of Christians and the Sacred Heart. I would ask you publish the favour in accordance with my promise.

K. C.

Liverpool.—I wish you to publish in the *Bulletin* my heartfelt thanks for many important favours received through the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians. A thank offering is enclosed.

A Child of Mary.

Westmeath (Ireland).—I beg to fulfil my promise of sending a thank offering for a favour obtained after prayers to Our Lady Help of Christians.

J. M.





History of the Ven. Don Bosco's EARLY APOSTOLATE.

The notice of readers is called to a volume recently issued by the Salesian Press, Battersea, S. W. Although the *Bulletin* has now been circulated for some sixteen years and has recorded the main events which have marked the development of Don Bosco's work, there had been no really authoritative book in English, which dealt in any complete way with the rise and growth of this work on behalf of the young. The present volume while supplying this need goes a good deal further, revealing many of the wonderful occurrences in the life of the Servant of God and filling gaps which were unavoidable in previous lives.

A recent issue of the **Month** says: A large and handsomely bound volume comes to us from the Salesian Press, Battersea: viz: **The History of Don Bosco's Early Apostolate**. The life of the Venerable Founder is already familiar to Catholic Readers in this country, but here we have an account written by a friend and disciple, who himself lived with the holy man, and witnessed much of what he relates. The story of the first twenty-five years of Don Bosco's apostolate is told in much detail, but it will be read with absorbing interest. The Archbishop of Westminster points out in the Preface the chief lessons of the career of the Ven. Servant of God.

The book is bound in Red Cloth, lettered back and front in gilt, with a Photo of the Ven. Don Bosco as a frontispiece.

Orders may be directed to the Manager, Salesian Press, Battersea, S. W.

Single copies, cloth covers, Four Shillings.

Single copies, paper covers, Three Shillings and Sixpence.



SALESIAN SCHOOLS

SURREY HOUSE, SURREY LANE

BATTERSEA, LONDON, S. W.



DIRECTED AND TAUGHT BY THE SALESIAN FATHERS.

The principal object of the School is to provide, at a moderate charge, a good Commercial and classical education. The studies are arranged to give those boys who may have a vocation for the ecclesiastical state the education they need. The Curriculum embraces the usual subjects of study essential to a Commercial and Classical education. The boys are prepared for the Examinations of the Civil Service, the Chamber of Commerce, the London Matriculation, and the various branches of the Oxford Local Examinations. 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 Principal. Very Rev. C. B. Macey.

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

The Very Rev. E. Muldoon

Salesian School. Queen's Road

Farnborough, Hants.

A preparatory school for little boys, and Convent School for girls is conducted by the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians, Apply to:

The Rev. Mother

Eastworth House, Eastworth St.

Chertsey, Surrey.