



Salesian Bulletin


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

DA MIHI

ANIMAS CAETERA TOLLE

Important Notice to Readers.

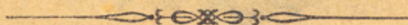
s announced previously in the **Bulletin**, the Rules of the Association of Salesian Co-operators, together with a summary of the Indulgences and spiritual favours, and appendices, have been reprinted and bound into a neat volume or manual.

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

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

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

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



The Salesian Bulletin

Organ of the Association of Salesian Co-operators

Via Cottolengo 32, Turin, Italy.

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☐ The Faithful Departed ☐

A prey to intense suffering, separated and kept at a distance from their Supreme Good, tortured by the remorse of having so often offended Him, exiles from their heavenly home — how pitiable is the condition of the Souls in Purgatory! Each one cries out to us, who are still pilgrims of this earth, to stop and see if there be any sorrow like unto their sorrow.

Moreover, to make their pains more keenly felt, is added the knowledge that their sufferings can bring them no merit, no reward. They have no longer at their disposal the means of satisfaction — no more sacraments or sacramentals, no more almsgiving, fasts, indulgences, not even prayer for their own deliverance would be harkened to.

In this pitiable condition, powerless to obtain for themselves the least solace, they turn to us: and how comforting, how consoling is the thought, that we can succour their helpless state, and easily bring to them relief and solace.

Hence we should often, and especially during the course of this month, offer up the fruits of our good works for the speedy deliverance of these holy souls; for "it is a holy a wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from the sins".

THE 1st CONGRESS OF SALESIAN Past-Pupils.⁽¹⁾

Inspiring Assurances of Loyalty. - The letters of Co-operation.

From the day when the First Appeal was issued by the Executive Committee up till the last day of the Congress, letters of participation poured in full of the most encouraging and inspiring assurances. Some brief selections will give an idea of the manner in which the proposal was received.

"I was delighted to receive from the Committee of the Don Bosco Club the invitation to the approaching International Congress for the past-pupils. It is always a pleasure for us to look back on the days when, without hardly knowing it, we were being led up to the ideals of faith, loyalty and duty."

"Do you ask for my participation in the Congress? It could be nothing less than full, sincere and immediate. Whoever, as in my case has passed some eight years in Salesian Institutes; at Castellamare and Alassio, who has remained ever grateful for invariable kindness, assistance and generous devotedness; whoever has heard of Don Bosco's life and work could not remain indifferent to the forthcoming Congress, which will gather together so many sincere and devoted sons eager to demonstrate their lasting gratitude.

"Surely no good wishes from me are required, for though it has my heartiest sympathy and co-operation, it does not need them to be of itself a great success — for in heart and mind and soul we are always with our former Educators in whatever circumstances...

"The proposed gathering at Turin, near the Tomb of Don Bosco and his Successor, cannot but prove an effective bond of union joining in still closer friendship those who regard Don Bosco as a common Father; as it will likewise serve to consolidate and extend the Salesian Work in its great provinces of social improvement and in the diffusion of Christian Faith and knowledge according to its Providential mission.....

"My services are absolutely at the disposal of the Committee for the coming Congress, which I am sure will be a great event. It could not but appeal strongly to one, for it was at the Salesian Institute at Rome that I received my early impressions of the sacerdotal life, that I perceived my vocation and commenced the studies for that career. For that reason I feel it a duty to send

you at once my heartiest congratulations, and my promise of participation."

Some few other documents would deserve a more conspicuous place, and those quoted are from distinguished men who could not, for various reasons, take part in the Congress.

The Bishop of Asti.

...It is like a great yearning of my heart, as I turn my thoughts to the Ven. Don Bosco, as to a revered Father. How many happy memories still haunt me of those years I passed at the Oratory 1866-67-68-69, under the shadow of the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians and in the continual company of Don Bosco. As the Salesian Houses were then few he was not often absent, or not for long together. With us in Church and recreation, and every evening we heard his words of comfort or advice under the old porticoes.

Rather than a Superior he was our friend and father. He was the master of our souls and of our young hearts; and we never seemed to have enough of his company, of listening to him, and of taking into our souls that sweetness of Jesus Christ which overflowed from him, and made him so dear to all.

I have always remembered the little scenes of the morning I was to leave the Oratory to go to the Seminary. After having gone to him to Confession, he said: "You must serve my Mass this morning, perhaps it will be the last time." "I am delighted to do so," I replied, "but I hope it will not be the last." And in fact it was not so, for I served it afterwards several times, both as a seminarist and as a priest. After the Mass, and having taken off the vestments, he said: "Kneel down now, for I wish to give you my parting blessing." Having done so, he kept his hand on my head and pressing it gently said: "Remember that if, by the grace of God, you become a priest, *quaere lucrum animarum et non questum pecuniarum* (2).

Those words and the penetrating look that accompanied them went to my heart so that I never forgot them. They seemed to be a sort of programme for me, the revelation of a high and salutary ideal; they were the programme and ideal of the Servant of God, for whom nothing else mattered but the salvation of souls. *Da mihi animas, caetera tolle*. What veneration, gratitude and love I ever preserved for Don Bosco! There-

(1) Now that space permits, we are publishing a fuller account of the International Congress, of which a short notice was given last month.

(2) Seek to gain souls and not riches.

fore I hope sincerely: 1st that this great Congress will serve to strengthen and direct the world of labour to which the Ven. Don Bosco, by the disposition of God, gave a beginning and life; 2nd that in all the sons of Don Bosco, spread over the face of the earth, there may ever remain the spirit of faith and devotion to duty which he always endeavoured to instil; and 3rd that the day may soon dawn when Don Bosco may be raised to the Altars of the Church, by the decree of the Vicar of Christ.

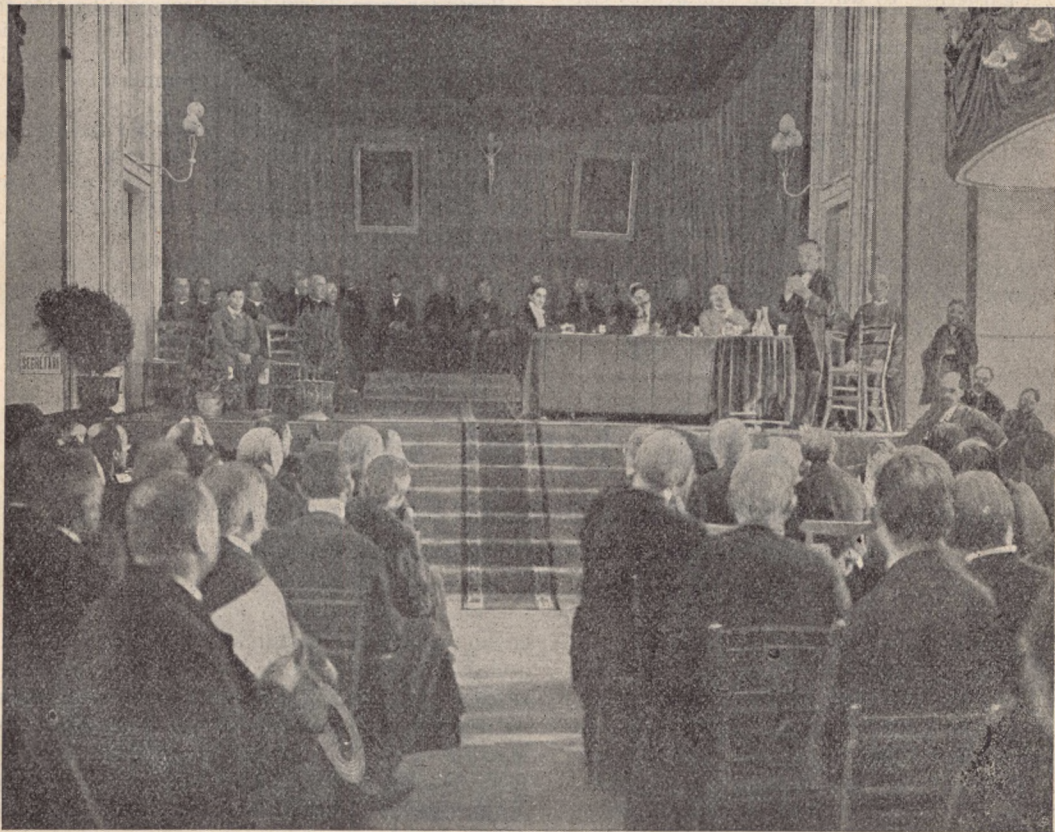
Asti, August 29th 1911.

✠ LUIGI SPANDRE, *Bishop*.

The Bishop of Crema.

I still retain the pleasant memories of the years I passed at the Oratory of Turin, under the gentle influence of our Venerated Father. What a powerful and salutary fascination he had over us! We felt absolutely secure and happy under his paternal guidance, for we regarded him as inspired from on high.

Soon there will be this great gathering at his Tomb — an assembly of his sons from all parts, or of those who have been to his Schools. I trust that all will return to their homes re-



Leaving the Hall.

The Bishop of Novara.

It is certainly a happy suggestion to hold a Congress of the past-pupils of the hundreds of Educational Institutes directed by the Salesians. The fact of being again amid the scenes of early impressions after so many years, in those surroundings where so many good resolutions were made, must be to the great advantage of the past-pupils. I congratulate you on the proposal and am sure it will be blessed with the happiest results.

Novara, August 12th 1911.

✠ GIUSEPPE GAMBA, *Bishop*.
Past pupil of the Oratory of Turin.

newed in fervour, and determined to give the work of Don Bosco a fresh impetus for the good of souls and the saving of society at large.

Crema. The Assumption 1911.

✠ BERNARDO PIZZORNO, *Bishop*.
Past-student of the Oratory.

The Honourable Signor Micheli.

My whole co-operation goes out to this Congress and I hope to be present at it, to represent my old College, Alassio, and together with other friends of the College at Parma where the first Association of Past-pupils, after that of Turin, was founded.

Even more than the desire to see our former

Superiors and friends again, we wish to express to the former our gratitude for all their care in our young days, and to give them a practical demonstration of our loyalty and attachment, the more necessary at present when the sects are at work, as they generally are, against the religious Instructors of youth.

Parma, august 30th 1911.

Dr. G. MICHELI,
Member of Parliament.

The Honourable Signor Longinotti.

It unfortunately happens that, on the date of the Congress, we shall be having at Brescia our Federal gathering, to which their Eminences Cardinals Ferrari and Maffi are coming. Otherwise I should certainly attend the Congress, to which I send my ready participation, and my regret for not being able to attend.

August 17th 1911.

Dr. G. M. LONGINOTTI,
Member of Parliament.

Dr. P. Benassi
Of the Council of Industry.

I had determined to take a few days of much needed rest, far from business affairs; but I have

now to present myself on the 1st of september at the headquarters of the regiment, to complete a course of instruction as a captain in the army. My duty to the colours prevents me from entertaining any hope of having any time to myself, so that I shall have to remain satisfied with sending you my heartiest good wishes, and my assurance of great regret at being absent from your deliberations....

The Co-operators, on hearing the news wrote in much the same strain. We give one from a Senator of the Kingdom.

Dear Rev. Father,

Being far from Turin I shall scarcely be able to assist at the Congress of the past pupils. There is no need for me to profess my sorrow, for you already know the bonds of devotion and esteem which bind me to the Salesians.

However I hope you will remember during the meetings my constant attachment and my profound respect for the society, and my most cordial wishes for the success of the Congress.

Villanova Solaro, october 1st 1911.

ANTONIO MANNO,
Salesian Co-operator.

The first day

Inauguration — Speech the President of the Executive Committee — Don Albera's speech

THE WORK BEGINS — REPORT ON THE FIRST SUBJECT

Mgr. Morganti closes the first meeting

It took place at half past four on the 8th of September, Feast of the Nativity of Our Blessed Lady. The aspect of the courtyards of the Oratory, decorated with the flags of all nations, thronged with hundreds of Congressists, presented a thoroughly festive and picturesque appearance. Amidst the white head gear and bright garments of the multitude one noticed ecclesiastical costumes and military uniforms. In the courtyard of Mary Help of Christians — nearest to the entrance — was heard the band of our good artisans; but in the others also — amidst the hundreds of groups exchanging cordial greetings and engaged in pleasant conversation enlivened with a thousand recollections — reigns the most perfect harmony of hearts!

At the Office of the *Salesian Bulletin* — where the Executive Committee has recently established itself and carries on the work of the Committee of receptions, presided over with wonderful tact and self abnegation by Professor John Bairati — there is a continual

cession of simple Congressists and of Patrons and Delegates of the Congress to obtain their tickets and the gifts which accompany them: — a copy of the short *Life of Don Bosco* by Marquis Crispolti, presented to each one by Don Albera; a Guide to Turin given by the Municipality; a small book of Free Tickets of Admission to the town Museums, including a Ticket of Admission to the *International Exhibition* given by the Committee of the same Exhibition.

But leaving the courtyards let us wend our way to the place where the Congress is held. Two banners waving from lofty poles at each side of the passage leading from the courtyard of Don Bosco to that of St. Francis point out the way. There, before us, we see the theatre and on its porch, decorated with green shrubs, and simple festoons, stands out a large shield with this inscription: INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF FORMER PUPILS OF THE SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO.

The appearance of the great hall unites ele-

gance with simplicity. The stage has been converted into a splendid room draped with purple hangings on which hang the portraits of Don Bosco and Don Rua, at each side of the Crucifix. Around the vast area one reads the names of the States where the work of Don Bosco has been established and their flags hang from the galleries decorated with crimson festoons fringed with gold. Right above the principal box is inscribed the first line of the Hymn to Don Bosco set to music by the Professor Pagella, the words by Don Ruffino: *Let us sing the glories of Don Bosco....*



Prof. Peter Gribaudo
President of the Executive Committee.

It was 4 o'clock. Entering the hall were to be seen Delegates from every part of Italy and France, from Tunis, from Spain, from Portugal, from Belgium, from Switzerland, from Austria-Hungary, from Egypt, from Brazil, from Argentina, from Chili, from Bolivia and Peru, from Ecuador, from Colombia, as well as those of the Former Pupils of the Republics of Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras and of the United States of North America. An enquiry is made as to whether there are any objectors to the discussion of the subjects arranged by the Executive Committee or to the proposals of the various reporters.

A unanimous assent being enthusiastically

given, the hall is opened to all and whilst the Congressists crowd the pit, the public fill the first gallery. The entrance of the Most Reverend Mgr. Pasquale Morganti, Archbishop of Ravenna, and of the Very Rev. Don Albera is greeted with loud and prolonged applause. Beside them take their seats the Members of the Honorary Committee of the Congress and of the Superior Chapter of our Institute, Don Rinaldi, Don Barberis, Don Cerruti, Don Ricaldone, Don Lemoyne, Mgr. Muriana, Mgr. Anfossi, Canon Bertone, the Salesian Provincials Don Fascie, Don Conelli, Don Laureri, Don Saluzzo of Milan, Don Tomasetti of Rome, the Provost Don Olivieri of Genoa, etc. etc. The Doctors Peter Clerico and Orestes Marino kindly take it in turn to be ready in the hall for any emergency.

Meanwhile from the courtyard are heard the first notes of the Hymn performed for the first time by the Band of the young Artisans and by a few students remaining at the Oratory for the holidays. All present have in hand the words and music. The effect of this beautiful and splendid hymn is doubled by the circumstances in which it is sung and will increase a thousandfold when it has become popular in the Salesian Institutes.

The speech of Professor Gribaudo.

The President of the Executive Committee Professor Piero Gribaudo then began his speech. He greeted most affectionately the friends gathered from all parts of Italy and all the foreign Delegates, especially those from France and from the Argentine Republic. "Freemasonry" — he cried — "has succeeded in driving even the Salesian Society from France; but it has not succeeded in banishing the spirit of Don Bosco!" With admiration he recalled the *American International Assembly of the Former Pupils of Don Bosco* held last year in Argentina, which may be looked upon as the first encouragement to the summoning of the present Congress. Calling to mind the dying Don Rua who commended to him the Federation of Former Pupils, he was proud to affirm that the Federation between the Unions of Former Salesian Pupils was not only an accomplished fact but had already borne fruit, first of all in this Congress, of which the scope is not only a vindication of rights, but a study of the serious duties of every Former Pupil towards himself, towards the Work of Don Bosco, towards Society in general. He returned thanks to all who had laboured for the success of the Congress: "and now", — he concluded — "let

us set to work! In the sittings let us preserve a tranquil mind, with our eyes fixed on our Superiors and on Heaven, whence Don Bosco and Don Rua are looking down upon us. Once more a greeting to all! In the name of the Executive Committee, in the inspiring name of Don Bosco, I proclaim the opening of the Congress!"

The applause which burst forth during the discourse — especially at the names of the different countries whose representatives were present — at the last words of the orator culminated in vociferous and persistent cheering. Calm being restored Professor Gribaudo resumed :

"I have spoken as President of the Executive Committee. Now, as a member of the Municipal Council, in the name of the Mayor I offer to the Congress the greetings of the city (*prolonged applause*) which esteems itself honoured in beholding within its walls the representatives of so many illustrious nations who have learnt to pronounce with special affection the name of Turin, whence they have received the fruitful seed of the Salesian Institutes (*Cheers*).

The applause being ended, the names of the Presidents are announced.

HONORARY PRESIDENTS: Don Paul Albera, Rector Major of the Salesians. — Mgr. Pasquale Morganti, Archbishop of Ravenna. — The Barrister John Longinotti, member of Parliament. — D. Pius Benassi, of the Superior Council of Labour — Theodore Champaignain, of Lille — The members of the Superior Chapter of the Salesians.

ACTING PRESIDENT: The Hon. Dr. Joseph Micheli, Member of Parliament.

Vice-Presidents: Mgr. Dominic Muriana — Ferdinand Segovia of Buenos Ayres — Augustine Navarro of Oran (Africa) — Matthew Bracale, Barrister, of Savona.

Chief Secretary: Don Felix Cane, Salesian.

Secretaries: Arthur Poesio — Ernest Barolo — Victor Kinast of Santiago — Vincent De Limone of Caserta — Prosper Battú of Turin.

Then Don Albera stood up to speak.

Speech of Don Albera.

An indescribable enthusiasm prevailed: from all parts of the hall and from the tribunes there arose a burst of cheering. It was the universal homage of those present to the Successor of Don Bosco.

"Don Albera came forward — writes *La Stampa* — received with an ovation that lasted several minutes. Don Albera speaks with an

exquisite sweetness, with a lofty eloquence which cannot be reproduced. He recalled the spirit of Don Bosco in a meeting permeated therewith: he recalled it in plain, simple, unadorned language, this last adjective signifying only that the words of Don Albera were not clothed with any esthetic charm to render them more convincing, they were the expression of his feelings, of a mind marvellously lucid and pure. And his words penetrated the hearts listening to him with eagerness."

The following is an abridgement.

The applause with which you have greeted me, beloved friends, are an echo of your attachment to the memory of Don Bosco and of Don Rua. Assuredly they are not addressed to my poor person, except for the post which I, unworthy, occupy, and as such I accept your words.

I greet all our friends assembled for this Congress. Gazing around I see that you are all oblivious of the titles of which you might elsewhere boast — beginning from the Archbishop who presides — and all are proud only of the title of Sons of Don Bosco. Already in times past you were drawn hither to demonstrate to Don Bosco and to Don Rua (who was so bright a mirror of his virtues) your love, your gratitude and your veneration. They have left us orphans, but you, brethren and friends, still come here in great numbers. The idea of superiority has disappeared, but affection remains: you see it in the Superiors who welcome you; as I see it in you, my brethren and friends, in your looks and in your enthusiasm.

You have come from afar, and we thank you also for this. Some have come from France, from Spain, from Belgium, from America, disregarding all difficulties so as to take part in this Congress. When I visited the Salesian Houses in America, I marvelled at the attention shown when I spoke of Don Bosco. Don Bosco never went to that country, yet it was full of the sound of his name. Something of the same sort takes place even here. The distance and difficulties have not diminished but increased your affection and you have come to see again, or to make acquaintance with the Superiors, to prostrate yourselves at the feet of Mary, Help of Christians, to visit the tombs of Don Bosco and Don Rua at Valsalice. What has enkindled these sentiments within you? The holiness of Don Bosco: for we honour the Saint, not the man. That you have come here at the cost of so many sacrifices is a sign that you appreciate highly his work. Some do this out of gratitude; but in the world how rare is gratitude! It is said that an artist desiring to depict beneficence embracing gratitude painted it amidst celestial splendours, be-

cause on earth such a spectacle is never seen. If such an artist had assisted at this assembly and others of this Congress, he would depict Don Bosco in his ordinary attitude, surrounded by his sons and looking upon them with intense love! This Congress is something new, it is a prodigy, the meeting of beneficence and gratitude!

We owe all to Don Bosco! What could we have done, if Don Bosco had not received us into his Houses? Today so many teachers of youth assemble to examine by what means they can best fulfil their mission, but I think that to Don Bosco alone has it been given to see the results of his education. Now this Congress alone is sufficient to confute those who would separate education from the practice of religion.

I rejoice in the thought that the good already accomplished will go on increasing. The Congress will come to an end but the good effected by it will not end, since its object (as Professor Gribaudo has so well said) is to revive the spirit of Don Bosco in us, and to diffuse it through the whole of Society. Each of us should become an Apostle; we can indeed count up your numbers, but the results of this Congress cannot be reckoned (loud applause).

Nor can it be otherwise, for we are assembled in the name of the Holy Father, who has blessed us in an affectionate telegram. His blessing will not fail of its effect, for the spirit of Don Bosco and the spirit of Don Rua are hovering over us, and our resolutions will all be animated by the spirit of Don Bosco. Your attachment to Don Bosco is well known to us and is most encouraging; how often we say to our boys: — "Now that you are little, very likely you do not think much of the instructions we give you, but, if you could only see how the Former Pupils recall them and with what enthusiasm!"

Dear friends, you are the glory of the Salesians; you are our helpers in diffusing the spirit of Don Bosco throughout society; in your programme there is one point which touches me profoundly, that in which you resolve to be the supporters and defenders of the Work of Don Bosco (prolonged applause).

I can only offer you my thanks, in the name also of the whole Salesian Society, and, with this expression of gratitude, promise you a daily remembrance in our prayers.

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The telegram of the Holy Father, to which all listened, respectfully standing, was to the following effect.

Very Rev. Paul Albera, Rector Major of the Salesians — Turin — On the occasion of the First International Congress of delegates of

Former Pupils of Salesian Institutes, the Holy Father cordially sends to the Congressists the desired apostolic benediction including Your Paternity, the brethren and pupils of the numerous Houses of Don Bosco. Card. MERRY DEL VAL.

The Congress at work.

With loud cheering expressive of grateful and tender filial love to the Father of all Christians the Congress began its labours.

In the absence of the Hon. Micheli, the Barrister Bracale of Savona presided over the first sitting, first of all greeting those present and then explaining the scope of the Congress: "Here, at Valdocco, where all speaks of Don Bosco, we must steep ourselves once more in his spirit, that we may the better diffuse it in our families, our cities, throughout the whole of Society!" and he concluded by offering once more special thanks to the Mayor of Turin, Count Theophilus Rossi, and to the other Civic Authorities who had been so generous to the Congress in their sympathy and anxious to favour it in every way.

The General Secretary suggested sending a telegram of greeting and respect to His Lordship Mgr. John Gamberoni, former pupil of the College of Lanzo and of the Turin Oratory, the new Bishop of Chiavari, who on that day was making his solemn entry into his diocese; and he gave a summary of the sympathetic messages received, from which we select the following telegrams.

ASTI. — Congress Former Pupils, Don Bosco's Oratory, Turin. — Salesian Former Pupil sends cordial greeting to beloved confreres, wishing abundant fruit to Congress. — ✠ SPANDRE, Bishop.

NOVARA. — Don Albera, Salesian Superior, Turin. — Hindered from participating in Congress of Former Pupils of Don Bosco, I send affectionate greetings, desiring that present assembly may deepen in all hearts those Christian sentiments so wisely impressed on youth by the immortal Educator, living again in Your Reverence, the worthy inheritor of his spirit. — ✠ JOSEPH, Bishop.

MASSA. — Very Rev. Don Albera, 32. Via Cottolengo, Turin. — I am in spirit at the Congress. I salute the Prelates, Yourself, the Presidents. Greeting and blessing to the beloved Former Pupils assembled in their Father's House, where affection is revived, faith strengthened. — ✠ MARENCO, Bishop.

LUGANO. — Congress of Former Salesian Pupils, Turin. — Lamenting impossibility of attending Congress, I cordially take part therein in spirit, greeting the Congressists and wishing success to the meeting. — MOLLI.

MADRID. — Federation of Salesian Former

Pupils, 2. Via Consolata, Turin. — Madrid Club of Ven. Don Bosco sends to International Congress of Former Pupils cordial greetings, union of spirit. — PRESIDENT.

MATARO. — *President Congress Former Pupils, Salesian Oratory, Turin. — Salesians, pupils Former Pupils Mataro join enthusiastically International Congress. — CALAZANZ.*

CADIZ. — *Congress Salesian Former Pupils, Turin. — Former Pupils College St. Ignatius, Cadiz, join heartily in Congress, wishing prosperity to the Federation of Salesian Former Pupils. — PRESIDENT.*

CIUDADELA (Minorca). — *Salesians, Via Cottolengo, Turin. — Reunion of Former Pupils, Minorca, greet their companions in Congress, uniting unreservedly with them. — CATALA.*

LONDON. — *Salesian Oratory, Turin. — Former Pupils England greet Congressists, salute Superiors, wishing success to deliberations promoting religious liberty and moral social progress in furtherance of Don Bosco's ideals. — MACEY.*

MUNICH. — *Don Albera, Rector Salesians, Turin. — Regret non appearance at Congress — prosperity and success to the proceedings. Hope to attend next. — MEHLER.*

PERNAMBUCO. — *Salesian Oratory, Turin. — In union with Congress Former Pupils best wishes, participation.*

MEXICO. — *Gribaudo, Salesian Oratory, Turin. — Former Pupils Club Mexico unites with solemn Congress. — AGUILAR.*

After the foregoing preliminaries, began the

Report on the 1st Subject.

“Of the moral and economic utility of the Unions of former Pupils and of the means for strengthening the bonds of fraternity so as to facilitate the reciprocal acquaintanceship of members in different cities and countries, the better to preserve the fruits of the education received and render mutual assistance more easy.”

The speaker, Dr. John Mondada, who was a pupil of the Salesian Oratory, Turin, from 1874 to 1878 developed his subject with suitable illustrations for over half an hour and was followed with the greatest attention. He began with a pleasing statement:

“An illustrious Scandinavian philanthropist, Nobel, amongst the other prizes founded by his generosity to reward the persons who have most contributed to social progress, has also founded one for peace and our race should rejoice that this was lately conferred on an Italian. But when these prizes were founded, had Don Bosco been alive, I think, assuredly, that the prize would have been assigned to

him (*cheers*) since probably no man during the second half of the last century has done more to promote union and brotherhood between nations than he; if in addition to individuals the Nobel Prize were conferred on Institutions the Salesian Society would occupy the first place.”

Then in order to throw more light on the social fruits of the Christian spirit, he declared: “In this matter here is a gratifying fact of which we may well be proud. It is the result of statistics collected by me for some years and which have not been made in vain. Of the pupils in Colleges or Institutes under the charge of priests or Religious Associations, the greater percentage of those who, cast into the vortex of worldly pursuits, keep faithful to the teaching and education received, is given to the pupils of the Salesians. Whence this remarkable fact?... Assuredly, because the system itself best responds to the needs of our age.”

He insisted on the urgent necessity, that to the union and solidarity of the wicked should be opposed true Christian Brotherhood; and in the International Federation of the Unions of Salesian Former Pupils he recognized a serious and vital effort to form an International Catholic Organization.

“Various attempts have been made and others are promised of International Catholic Federations: the last, that of the Women's Associations at the Eucharistic Congress of Madrid. But none, to my mind, has a greater probability of success than ours whose works reach down into the common life of the pupils and the common life of the professors and masters, today here, tomorrow, fulfilling their mission — beyond the seas.

“What other Federation has at its disposal what I may call “agents” — trained in Turin and working in Paris, in Lisbon, in Madrid, in Vienna, in Zurich, in Buenos Ayres, in Rio Janeiro, in Santiago de Chili, in Bogotà di Santa Fè, at New York, at the Cape of Good Hope, at Macao, at Jerusalem?”

“It seems to me that the other Federations should not only take from us an example but our principles also.”

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When Dr. Mondada had concluded his speech, frequently interrupted by applause, the Chevalier Arthur Poesio, Secretary to the Treasury, gave his conclusions showing that the chief merit of Don Bosco as educator was that of having found the way to the hearts of the young — leading them pleasantly along the

path of sanctity, as shown in the lives of Dominic Savio, Michael Magone, Francis Besucco, and of Don Andrew Beltrami. — And then he proposed for the greater glory of God and of his Venerable Servant — the following resolution.

"The Congress of Salesian Former Pupils having heard that the Salesians of Argentina intend to present to the Ecclesiastical Authorities the Cause of Canonization of the Patagonian youth Zefferino Namuncurà, son of the principal and fiercest Grand Cacique and head of the Pampas tribes, applauds this grand project and expresses the hope that after having educated for Christ this beautiful flower of the desert they may see him placed on the altar of God having merited so well of the generous American race, trusting the Ecclesiastical Authorities will welcome a proposal showing once again that the Church of God 'circumdata varietate' is wonderful in her Saints."

During the reading of this vote a wave of emotion passed over the assembly and at the end it was unanimously applauded.

Signor Augustine Navarro then ascended the tribune and offered to Don Albera and to the Congress the greetings of the Former Pupils of France. At each interval the attractive and convincing speech was greeted with rounds of applause.

The sitting was closed with a few

Words from Mgr. Morganti.

La Stampa writes: — "Called upon by earnest and prolonged applause and at the invitation of the President of the Congress, Mgr. Morganti, Archbishop of Ravenna, mounted the tribune. The eminent Prelate is fluent and speaks with conspicuous simplicity and cordiality winning his audience by his attractive manner, conquering them by his eloquence, the more persuasive from its kindness, full of sincerity. To repeat, to reproduce his words is unnecessary; their special force was due to the surroundings, amongst persons specially influenced by them and whose hearts were thus specially fitted to understand them."

We however, gladly present a brief report of them — feeling sure that they will give pleasure to our readers.

I am not called upon to pronounce a discourse like that of the President, but at Don Albera's invitation I am here to give the blessing before this meeting separates. Nevertheless I will say a few words to explain what I am thus asking for you.

I implore of God that this Congress may at-

tain the end for which it has been convened and that the fruits may be abundant and salutary.

In the first place I ask that we, visiting for the first, or the hundredth time the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians and this home of our work, may be renewed in the Salesian spirit; that is, that we may be saturated with the spirit of our Venerable Father Don Bosco. It is clear that in the Christian arena we encounter continual obstacles; but as an engine halts to take in fresh supplies of coal and water, so we, in our struggle against so many obstacles, should from time to time stop to refurbish our machinery. This is an opportunity for renewing in ourselves that fundamentally Catholic spirit imbibed from the heart of Don Bosco. We should leave Turin like so many sponges full of the spirit of Don Bosco!

I see over there a beautiful bunch of flowers, a band of bright faces, of beloved souls, who are now in the spring time of their life. They are our supplanters!.... No, dear boys! as you were the delight of Don Bosco, the delight of Don Rua, you are also our joy and delight! You have one defect, which you will speedily correct; that of being young!.... Well may my blessing obtain for you the grace to comprehend that which is before your eyes, to understand clearly the meaning of this unique assembly. Here you see the veterans who, in spite of their occupations and business, do not forget but glory in being ever the Sons of Don Bosco! We are always thinking of Him and thanks to this remembrance in the midst of a corrupt and corrupting world we keep ever alive that Faith in which he educated us. What a great example for you! You are often told: Going into the world, you will find yourself in the midst of many dangers! It is true; but all these whom you see before you have overcome these dangers, and you also can conquer them. And doubtless you will succeed if you allow yourselves to be influenced by the holy spirit of Don Bosco, if from this hour you resolve from the depths of your heart: "I also will be a worthy son of Don Bosco!"

Another thing I wish you to understand. I owe a special debt of gratitude and of praise to the worthy Don Lemoyne who in his important volumes of the Memorials of Don Bosco (loud applause) throws special light on one of his virtues, his remarkable gratitude. I have made a collection of similar examples in reading the lives of the Saints, but in Don Bosco I found this virtue in so singular a degree, that I might say, gratitude in him seems to have been a natural gift. Having grown up in his school, all the Former Pupils repeat, together with the protestation of their ancient faith, the affirmation of the

most heartfelt gratitude to him who has enlightened their minds and trained their hearts. You have heard what has been already said. The speakers united in a hymn of gratitude to Don Bosco and to their teachers! From henceforth be you also grateful! Seeing the gratitude of the Former Pupils, make this resolution:

"I will be grateful to Don Bosco and to the Sons of Don Bosco!"

"At the end of his speech — says the above mentioned paper — Mgr. Morganti gave the blessing.

"The crowds dispersed. This inauguration had a character of simplicity and kindness which impressed us greatly: a character not to be found in any other Congress, but which was here predominant: a character of sound and pure democracy."

The second day.

THE TWO SESSIONS CROWDED AND INSPIRING.

The homage to the Delegates and Representatives from abroad. The visit of Cardinal Richelmy.

THE RECEPTION BY THE MUNICIPALITY.

The morning session.

The vast hall was again full when the hour for the morning session arrived. The Vice-President Cavaliere Poesio was asked to preside in the much lamented absence of the President, the Honourable Signor Micheli; having therefore read the rules of the Congress he immediately opened the discussion of the theme. Dr. I. Mondada was in the tribune. The results only of the many debates can be given. Many distinguished speakers gave their views on the subject propounded the previous day. They were at last approved *en masse*, and some slight additions suggested. The Directive Council announced that as soon as possible it will issue a special *Bulletin* for the Past-pupils as the official organ of the Federation; and it was pointed out, that though living in towns where there are Salesian Institutes and being in close connection with them, yet the past pupils should hold an independent position, so that they may be the better able to defend and take public action when necessary.

It was also proposed to introduce a membership card for the whole Association which should have on it, in order to obviate difficulties and abuses, the photograph of the possessor and the signature of the President of the branch to which the member is affiliated.

The following were in brief the

Conclusions of the 1st discussion.

The First International Congress of Past-pupils: considering that it is a need and a foremost aspiration of the present day society to foster the

sentiment of fraternity according to the Christian ideals, as the first and principal guarantee for the consolidation of peace among nations;

considering that such fraternal sentiment is consolidated not less by common aims and aspirations than by the tie of blood, and that, moreover, having been begun in College, in the Professional Schools or Oratories, it ought to be preserved as much as possible in after life wherever the past pupils may happen to live;

considering that the methods of Salesian education — corresponding to the aspirations of the time, and sanely democratic — might be spread to the general advantage;

remembering that for the continuity and permanence of the bonds of fraternal charity a very efficacious means has been found in the Associations of Past-Pupils, through which mutual help may be rendered and harmony of methods promoted; noting particularly that the benefits obtained in early experiences of the Associations give well-grounded hopes for great results when the organisation is more complete;

this Congress affirms not only the suitability of the Associations and gatherings among the past-pupils wherever the Salesian Work is carried on, and of their local and national federations, but particularly their international Federation determined upon at Turin in the Assembly of past pupils in July 1909; and it indicates the following means to be adopted:

1. Local, national and international gatherings, the expression and practical demonstration of homage and attachment to the Work of Don Bosco, and to one's former superior;

2. The spread of the knowledge of the Federation, of its meetings and doings, by means of the daily and periodical press;

3. *The interchange among the Unions themselves of circulars and pamphlets dealing with their work or special circumstances;*

4. *The Institution of a special committee on each Association to which Directors of Salesian Houses may send the young men leaving their schools so that they may be inscribed or receive necessary information or guidance;*

5. *The introduction of a general card of membership, to be used when moving to different localities or going to different countries; such card*

members to make as much use as possible of the prestige and the affection which the name of Don Bosco had in the hearts of those even who had forgotten his precepts.

— Let us strive to meet and influence them — he said — these brothers of ours. You speak to them of religion, they do not care to hear about it; but mention the name of Don Bosco, their hat is raised in a moment, and they remember that they are still his sons...

The President read a telegram of thanks to the



Groups of foreign Representatives.

to be issued with the precautions to be determined by the General Council of the Federation.

* *

But our account would be lacking in colour and tone if we omitted to mention the enthusiasm, ardour and brilliance which characterised these discussions and gatherings. It will take some time to obliterate the impression made by the eagerness of the younger members, the zeal of the more experienced, and the excellent spirit that pervaded the whole. This was particularly apparent at such moments as when the Provost, Fr. Andreoletti, past pupil of the Oratory at Turin, recommended the

Holy Father His Holiness, PIUS X. — Rome.

The members of the Salesian Congress of Past pupils; grateful for your paternal benediction, a pledge of the divine blessing on their efforts, beg to thank Your Holiness, promising to follow constantly the wise counsels of the Ven. Don Bosco.

Signed Don ALBERA, Cavaliere POESIO.

The next telegram was from the Honourable Signor Micheli at Castelnuovo Monti. It was received with great applause, but there were some feelings of misgiving at the reference to the epidemic (1).

(1) It will be remembered that there were fears of a general outbreak of cholera in Italy about the time of the Congress. Ed.

Castelnuovo Monti. — *For some days past I have been taken up with the arrangements for the epidemic, already appearing in three districts about here; hence although I had intended to be present, I cannot leave. My salutation to the Congressists, and I hope it will be determined to mark the approaching centenary of Don Bosco's birth by the erection of a monument in the piazza Maria Ausiliatrice; an international committee of past pupils might be suggested to realise the project.* — MICHELI.

The President, Cavaliere Poesio, commended the magnanimity and generosity of the famous past-pupil of the College of Alassio; and proposed the following reply. *The International Congress of past-pupils, regretting the enforced absence of its illustrious director, is proud of the further proof of indefatigable charity which has already earned for this worthy Son of Don Bosco universal admiration, and the name of the heroic comforter of Messina.*

Don ALBERA, Cavaliere POESIO.

The tribute of the Co-operators.

Professor Rodolfo Bettazzi, the indefatigable champion of public morality in Italy, then ascended the platform, and addressed the assembly on behalf of the Cooperators.

"I am here," he said, "as a Salesian Co-operator, and my message is to bear the salutations of the Co-operators to the past-pupils of Don Bosco.

I salute you first as a Catholic, because all of you are full of the religious sentiments of those two saintly men who rest in peace together at Valsalice (1). I cannot help rejoicing at this sight, thinking of what you have done, and shall do in the future. You are all spreading a good influence in the world; but there are those here who participate to a greater degree in the Salesian Work, giving their whole lives to Don Bosco's Institute: the missionaries, the nuns, the masters, the heads of workshops: those who are familiar with the dangerous forests of Matto Grosso, and the Steppes of Patagonia or the tumultuous life of New York, or the monotony of a little school in some unknown village, or perhaps the labours of some far off hospital. Rather than presume to salute these I bow my head before them, as to the martyrs of Religion, I who am of the number of those Co-operators, who, to bear this distinction, sometimes send an offering or give some occasional service, and are in consequence covered with affectionate gratitude as though they had done something.

I have called them martyrs and not at hazard. For not only those are martyrs who are suddenly deprived of life for Jesus Christ, but also those who voluntarily die a slow death inch by inch; and

such are those priests and nuns who in the schools and workshops consume more energy than they can spare, contract illness and incurable diseases, working away in silence for the interests of Almighty God; those too are martyrs who for the sake of their faith and their principles suffer daily persecution, sometimes open, sometimes subtle and disguised. Martyrs all of them: and to this band of past-pupils I offer in the name of the Co-operators a reverent salutation.

In your deliberations you have declared that you desire to diffuse the spirit of Don Bosco in the training of the young. Then you must strive to save the young from the many dangers to their faith and their morality, by using Don Bosco's means. Give them the three great gifts which he recommended: devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus to Our Blessed Lady, and to the Pope.

These were also Don Rua's recommendations as he lay dying. I had the privilege of being present when he received the Holy Viaticum. Before receiving Our Blessed Lord he had himself raised on his pillows, and addressing himself to those in the room, and through them the whole Salesian family, he spoke with such strength that it seemed miraculous in one so attenuated by his long labours and wearied out by illness. He called to mind Don Bosco and the recommendations he had made so often to his sons: and they were exactly that I have stated to you. Having given these last injunctions he was silent and then received Holy Viaticum. What was it, if not miraculous, that he should have had so strong and clear a voice just for those recommendations and should have lost it immediately afterwards! To me who then approached to kiss his hand he did not say a word, but made the sign of the Cross.

Hand down therefore these last injunctions to the young, and make use of them in trying to save them. You should not rest satisfied with rejoicing in the good fortune that you have been Don Bosco's pupils; but you ought to hand on to others the advantage you have received. This is only plain Christian teaching: to save oneself is good; to assist in saving others as well is better. You must now become the benefactors of others! As we separate we shall feel ourselves still united in heart and mind, and our voice will ever repeat the three names with which we have become religiously familiar: Don Bosco, the Blessed Virgin, whose figure gleams in the sunlight upon the cupola, and her Divine Son, our Blessed Lord, to whom she leads us. All honour to Don Bosco! Blessed be Mary Help of Christians! Praised be Jesus Christ for evermore!

The third subject of discussion.

The barrister Signor Saverio Fino, Member of the Turin Council, then took up the discussion of the third topic;

"The necessity and the manner of promoting the private and public schemes which

(1) The Ven. Don Bosco, and Don Rua, his Successor.

have as their object the support, and if need be the defence, of the manifold efforts which are carried on for religious and social improvement by the Works of Don Bosco."

The well-known public speaker opened his subject by remarking that the topic which he had been asked to deal with, was important enough to call for lengthy treatment; the more so — he said — since in this very week and here in Turin, at the Congress of teachers in Italian Schools outside the country, there had escaped calumnious insinuations against the Salesian Work in Italian spheres outside Italy. But these suggestions were made by those who could not but realise keenly the poverty of their own work, when confronted with the scholastic results obtained by the Salesians; it was well therefore that this Congress should raise a protest, so as to make it clear that here in Turin, the home of the Salesian Work, they had no share in such opinions or insinuations, for it was common knowledge that the name of Italy had been ennobled by the Work of Don Bosco everywhere.

The speaker then in his own brilliant manner proceeded to deal directly with his theme, showing that the Salesians on their side, by means of Exhibitions had demonstrated in the clearest fashion the value of the instruction and training given in their Institutes. The accusations and insinuations of adversaries however were not at all surprising; they were a section of the attack made the wide world over by enemies whose object was to overthrow the foundations of Society by dechristianising it: consequently their natural foes were the Salesians whose work sought to spread and strengthen the faith throughout the world. Their personal attack had a twofold aim: to diminish the prestige of the Salesians before the popular mind, and to bring them into disfavour with the authorities.

A strong defence therefore should be organised. And a system of continual aid is demanded, even though no attacks were made, in order to keep the work going constantly forward in its manifold developments. The work of Don Bosco, continually renewing itself as it does by its inherent qualities is like a shoal of fish (laughter), constantly multiplied, following up Society in its every evolution, in all its conquests, so that if the aeroplane should one day carry society to heaven, the work of Don Bosco would go there to seek it on aeroplanes. But it must have the means for this constant adaptation to the rising needs of generations, and in this, the past pupils should be active Co-operators. You must enlist as

soldiers in the defence and assistance of the work. The harvest being cut down every year, there is need of new seeds and fresh planting; and you who are the fruits of former years, must now provide the seeds for years to come.

And how will you assist it. Don Bosco's motto was clearly set forth: *Quod superest, date eleemosynam*. How many indeed might remember his words but fail to make them practical. Give to the work of Don Bosco out of your superfluity!... *Quod superest!*

To pecuniary aid moral support should be united. The *Salesian Bulletin*, which deals with the work and the spirit that invigorates it should be diffused by members. The past-pupils, even though they may not in some cases be the fervent Catholics they were as boys, will always feel some pride in the new advancements made, as though they were in some way actually connected with them, feeling themselves still bound by a sort of family tie to their old associations; and this feeling will be the hidden fire which will keep their faith alive, and their life upright. Let them respond to the general or local appeals and let them endeavour to secure the aid of others of all classes; they should seize opportunities for spreading the knowledge of the work of the Salesians in its various departments, whether religious, patriotic, scientific, literary; and these would include its educational work, professional schools, its contributions to ethnography, meteorology, geography, its work in the interests of emigrants and the missions.

Developing some of these the speaker showed how, for example, the work of promoting the industries of the country, in training the young, was eminently patriotic. If there is no economical development — he said — we shall not be able to maintain a national independence. And the Salesians who were the first to bring the gifts of education to the peoples they had newly civilised, have been the first also to give them a voice among the Congress of Nations.

Our defence must be an effective one. You, who are outside the Institutes, must perform the part of the watch-dog, that barks at the sound of danger, and is faithful to his charge. You should be the fourth page to Don Bosco's folio, making use of every means that opportunity may provide; not forgetting if need be the arm of the law, for Don Bosco founded his work according to law, and by the law it should be defended. It should be defended even by popular demonstrations, before friends and enemies. But the best defence will be this: Be personally unimpeachable. The badge of

Don Bosco's past pupils should be an upright life; carry this badge everywhere. The fall of one may be ruinous to all. An upright life disarms calumny, because it will be clear that it is the work of sectaries or enemies. Insults are offered by those who are unknown and irresponsible, or by others who when called to account for their actions prefer to put forward a plea of insanity in order to escape hard labour.

But let the serpent hiss and spread his poison! Let the locomotive also send forth its victorious sound even to the skies; it carries out a message of life and energy.... Thus the great locomotive of the Salesian Work, sending forth its sonorous voice will smother the hissing of the serpent, and will pursue its triumphal way spreading its benefits on all sides amid the popular approval.

The words of the speaker were punctuated with applause, and loudly cheered at the close.

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The morning session of the second day was closed by a brief address by Mgr. Pini of the Catholic University Federation. He said he bore to the Congress congratulations from the University Students; he showed how Don Bosco's educational work was the complement or continuation of the Institutes raised up by Providence in other ages, and urged the adoption of Don Bosco's methods as widely as possible.

The reception of the Delegates.

It was an excellent idea of the Executive Committee to give invitations to lunch to all the Delegates or Representatives of various bodies or associations. This was held at the *Hôtel Gambirinus* at one o'clock and was a most enjoyable and successful gathering. About a hundred gentlemen had places, the posts of honour being occupied by Archbishop Morganti, Don Albera, and Mgr. Muriana. There were subjects of conversation in plenty. The Ven. Don Bosco, known to most of them, his Successor, the Salesian Works far and wide, their School life in our Institutes from about twenty different nations. It was a hundred, thoroughly representative of the Congress of a thousand, and the spirit that animated all could not have been surpassed for cordiality and good fellowship.

The *Momento* said:

The time for the speeches had come. The confusion of tongues and languages gradually quieted down, and all were ready to honour the

toast of the Salesians and the Salesian Work. It was a moment of exaltation and the various national representatives were eager to do justice to their country.

They were opened by Professor Gribaudo, President of the general Committee of the Congress. He it was who had to welcome the Delegates and point to the significance of the internationality of the meeting and none was better suited to the occasion.

He was followed by Dr. Mondada, the well-known speaker of languages and he had a brief salutation for each representative in his own tongue. To the Italians he spoke of the pleasure it was to revert for a short time to the scenes and doings of boyhood; to the French he recalled their promise to endeavour to bring back the Salesian Work to their towns; to the Germans he spoke of the Work in general and the advantages accruing from it, to the Spaniards and Americans he referred to the great works they had initiated on behalf of the young nations in South America, and the valour of those who were bearing the Cross of Christ to the savage tribes. His readiness in speech caused some natural admiration and he was applauded vociferously. It would be impossible to give even a résumé of the speeches of the other delegates, much appreciated though they were. Among others there were brief addresses from Cavaliere Poesio, Dr. Pace from Alexandria in Egypt, the Sculptor M. Bestran from Bolivia, M. Avian from Goritz in Austria, Professor Giardini, Signor Chauvin from Marseilles, Don Graña from Spain, and the Editor-in-chief of the *Momento*.

Although varied in style and form there was in all the same display of loyalty to their Cause, an equal enthusiasm over present and past successes, the same admiring reverence for the Ven. Don Bosco and Don Rua.

Our Superior General, the Very Rev. Don Albera, was evidently much moved when he rose to reply — moved by the evident attachment to the Congregation and its works displayed by this large representative gathering, which had arisen out of the past. He referred to his journeys in many states to visit the Salesian Houses, and was reminiscent of the very Schools from which the representatives had come. He said that this demonstration from their pupils of former days was ample proof of their good-will towards the Salesians, and that they themselves might rely as much upon the Sons of Don Bosco now, as they had done when they were boys at School.

Archbishop Morganti one of the most distinguished of the old Oratory students then di-

rected the attention of the gathering to the important topics they had yet in hand, and invited them, now that they had considered the needs of the body, to devote their energies to the things of the mind.

The afternoon session.

At four p. m. the hall was again crowded. His Lordship Mgr. Tasso, Bishop of Aosta, a past pupil of the Oratory at Turin, was received

Janeiro, and one from San Benigno Canavese; the former suggesting a fund for mutual aid, the latter inquiring what should be the action of the past pupils in regard to the laws of their district, when that district had extreme political tendencies. In regard to the motion from Rio the president said it would be passed on to the Directive Committee for consideration, in regard to the latter he thought the wisest plan for them was to call a local meeting and determine on what should be most prudent in the circumstances.



Mgr. Morganti about to leave.

with cheers, and was escorted to the platform, on which the Presidents immediately afterwards took their seats. Signor Fino conducted the discussion to which there contributed Professor Gribaudo, Cavaliere Rubino and other foremost men.

The points were all adopted. In reply to a question Professor Gribaudo said that in relation to general Catholic movements the policy of our associations should be to assist and complement them and to mix freely in all Catholic action; so that when a policy was started they were not to adopt parallel action, but rather fall in line with that already initiated.

Two motions were presented, one from Rio

The conclusions of the third subject.

The First International Congress of Past-pupils of the Salesians:

considering that, *it being characteristic of Don Bosco's work to extend and adapt itself to the needs of the times, making use of every suitable means to obtain its ideals whether religious, social or patriotic;*

affirming that it is regarded by this gathering of past-pupils to be a duty of gratitude and a moral obligation to further the work of Don Bosco;

remembering that, as was shown in the second discussion, there is more need now than ever of adopting every measure to secure the christian character of the family, in the cause of patriotism;

considering finally that past events and unmistakable signs of coming endeavours prove that, to accomplish social disorder, there will be a furtherance of the movement to abolish teaching by the clergy, not excluding the Salesians, in order to prevent the attainment of christian ideals:

This Congress urges the past-pupils:

1st. To enrol themselves as Salesian Co-operators, to circulate the organ of the Association among their friends and to send to the headquarters in Turin the names of persons who may be able to assist;

2nd. To take up the appeals that are sent out by the Directors of the various branches, dealing with general matters or needs, whether regional or local;

3rd. To strive by means of the press, or conferences, or lectures to make the true character of Don Bosco's work familiar to the public, and to show its many claims upon Society, according to its various departments of activity;

4th. To support and protect the Festive Oratories, and the many Institutes for the young which are now established in connexion with the centres of Salesian Work, and which are intended to complete the training of the Oratories and Professional Schools;

5th. To refer to the Superiors of Salesian Schools any extraordinary needs that may arise in certain districts; to endeavour to cope as soon as possible with special circumstances, so that new movement may be initiated by those who can turn their influence to good account;

6th. To inform the Directive Committee in Turin of any attacks or calumnies or threats against the work of Don Bosco, disclosing plans or sending documents so that a defence may be prepared and reparation demanded.

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Before passing to the conclusion of the Second Theme, Cavaliere Poesio read out another proposal sent by the past-pupils of Rio Janeiro, which was accompanied by two hundred francs; it was for the placing of a tablet near the Tomb of Don Bosco as a commemoration of the Congress. The idea was welcomed, and it was decided that at the end of the meeting two members should receive any subscriptions towards the realisation of the proposal; at the same time the sculptor Umberto Beltran, the Delegate from Bolivia, offered his services for the carving of the tablet.

"Then there only remains," put in Professor Gribaudo, "the inscription for the Tablet, and for that we cannot do better than approach Don Francesca (1) (Applause).

(1) Fr. Francesca S. C. is a recognised master of literary style.

However this was not quite the end of the matter; for on the following day the President announced that Fr. Barbieri, a past pupil of the House at Spezia, and now at the Cathedral of Carrara had offered the marble necessary.

The Rev. A. Lambertz di Wandre gave the salutations of the past-pupils of Belgium. He referred to the brilliant success that had so far attended the Congress, and declared that had Don Bosco and Don Rua themselves been present it could hardly have been a greater triumph. He added that the Delegates should visit Belgium before their return, and that they would find a ready welcome.

The Second Topic was now due. Its subject was:

"How to diffuse among society and among the families that compose it the spirit of Don Bosco, particularly with regard to the religious and secular education of the young."

The Rev. Professor Fr. Giornani, a past-pupil of the Oratory at Turin, after giving the greetings of the past-pupils of Venerato, opened his argument on the above theme. But he was interrupted at this point by the entrance of His Eminence, Cardinal Richelmy, the Archbishop of Turin, and always a friend and father to the Salesians.

Cavaliere Poesio immediately rose. "I am proud," he said, "to offer the combined homage of the Congress to His Eminence, whose presence is a privileged honour. Don Bosco has taught us that the presence of the Pastors of the Church is a pledge of divine blessings; and for this reason our welcome to you is the more cordial." He resumed his seat amid a great shout of greeting to the revered Prelate.

Fr. Giordani then continued: We are face to face, he said, with a colossal blunder, the blunder of materialistic teaching, and with the educational sterility of our country. Notwithstanding the advance of syllabuses and methods the modern era does not educate; it may instruct, but the man who is instructed without being educated has been described as a serpent adorned with diamonds, so that he may be the more insinuating and consequently more fatal... The purpose of the School is not only to make the pupils familiar with facts and figures; its destiny is a higher one... The School must teach man that most difficult art, of knowing how to live uprightly, and to fulfil one's duty constantly and faithfully. Whether the modern school accomplishes that, is no longer an open question. The answer is to be seen in the ruins it has produced — ruins that our enemies themselves have acknowledged.

And what is the cause of the blight that has attacked the modern educational system. It is the abandonment of God. The speaker then went on to show at length how fatal the consequences were to the family and hence to Society; how necessary therefore a real christian training — the benefits of such a system as that realised by Don Bosco. "Gratitude" he observed, "is one of the best proofs of a successful education; and while we hear frequently of unseemly complaints against certain Professors and masters, here we see a great manifestation of affectionate regard and thankfulness. We here are but a mere section of a vast multitude, who are now directing their thoughts hither; and that for the same purpose of expressing their gratitude and regard.

Coming to practical suggestions — "Gentlemen" — he said — "Having before us the baneful consequences of materialistic teaching, and the advantages of Don Bosco's method, what should be the resolutions of this Congress. They are simple but most practical and within the reach of all. A demand is made for Example, for Propaganda, for Action. 1st. Example! Remember that before beginning to teach, it is necessary to act, that certain sermons are not given by words but by deeds. Example will then be our first active movement against the tide. Let us have all the past-pupils conformable to what they have learnt from Don Bosco, and duty and virtue will flourish more. Whether you be educators, officials, professional men, fathers of families, what an influence the teaching of Don Bosco could have on the world around you.

If only all were worthy sons of their father, soldiers of their captain, and carried on in their own circle, among their dependants, his precepts, and had his watchword ready, then we should soon see the approach — the mountain-tops would be rosy-tipped — with the Restoration in Christ dreamed of by Pius X.

2nd. But example is not all-sufficient; you must be apostles as well; today there is great fear, that those who cease to be apostles to some extent, may become apostates. Prose-lytism is natural to all ideals, good works are diffusive, the heart that loves makes efforts. Tertullian, as ardent as his burning African Sands, demanded but one thing of the persecutors — not to be condemned without having their cause made clear. His cry is uttered by all reality.

Materialist education triumphs, because christian education is not known. Ignorance in this as in other things is our great enemy. The general strife against the religious factor in

the education of the young finds its origin in a wide spread, disastrous forgetfulness of first principles. We must therefore spread the true principles, and illuminate the minds of men with the teaching that will save. Let Don Bosco's precepts and writings become familiar in our homes and Institutes, and new ideas will be instilled.

3rd. The Congress has something more to ask from those who live amid the daily strife of thought and labour. Our papers often express regret for our absence from the field of battle. The times in which we live are beset with ignorance and misconception and perversion of views; that is agreed by all. But we must also be alive to the fact that our age is one of marvellous activity. Every branch of human learning is pursued with activity. The Press has every day some new publication, pamphlet, booklet, or work dealing with the most varied problems; and every year the various societies hold their meetings to consider the year's doings, its changes and its demand for new methods. And where are the Catholics in this onward movement and this discussion of the position. Absent usually, and therefore they are condemned without a hearing, and in ignominy.

Word and pen most therefore be at work. Education is the *ubi consistam* of Archimedes; the Press is the lever in the motion. Don Bosco was so much convinced of the efficacy of the Press that notwithstanding his gigantic labours during the day and night, he yet found time to publish over a hundred educative works. A striking example to be followed by all who can make the opportunity.

Many, too, can use their gift of Oratory. Wherever there is a meeting of an educational or social meeting, there the followers of Don Bosco should proclaim his gospel of christian training....

Address from H. E. Cardinal Richelmy.

Cardinal Richelmy arose after the applause had died away.

"I should very willingly remain till the end of the Session," he said, "were it not for urgent duties that call me elsewhere. But I felt bound, at all costs, to spend some time with the Congressists in their important deliberations, so that, however unworthy, I might ask God for a special blessing on the Salesian Society, and upon those in general who are engaged in leading the young to God. My presence here indicates my regard for both.

It is also an earnest of my particular desire to see the memory of Don Bosco kept as fresh as possible.

A good many, doubtless, among you had not the opportunity of knowing him, while I had the good fortune to meet him frequently; and, though in his late years, I rejoice to think that I had him by my side on the very day when the goodness of God deigned to raise me to the Episcopate.

Honour then to the memory of Don Bosco. The Church has dispensed us from the duty, however difficult it seemed in his regard, of offering suffrages for his soul. Our suffrages have passed on instead to Don Rua, whom we all remember and revere as the worthy Successor of Don Bosco.

My salutations also to each member of the Salesian Society, from its distinguished Superior General and Chapter, down to its humblest novice, who may yet perchance be destined to accomplish great things for the Congregation, whose foundation and rise has been so wonderfully accompanied by manifestations of Divine assistance.

My congratulations, too, and my best wishes to all the Co-operators and to all the past-students, particularly to the present great gathering, of which many have come from a long distance at no little trouble. My blessing on the young who are growing up in the Catholic Religion under the banner of Don Bosco.

I give my best wishes for the success of the Congress, which should be animated by the spirit of Don Bosco. It happens that in some Congresses, even Catholic ones, there are expressed various sentiments which are not conformable to the doctrines of the Catholic Church. But that could not be possible under the aegis of the Ven. Servant of God, Don Bosco. And I would send my blessing to all good Catholics so that they may maintain undiminished and unconditioned their attachment to Jesus Christ who said: Discite a me quia mitis sum et humilis corde! (1).

The whole Assembly then knelt and the Cardinal gave his blessing in due form, after which he was accompanied to the door amid cheers.

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Signor Segovia from the Argentine then spoke on behalf of the numerous and flourishing Associations of past-students already formed in South America and combined into a Federation. These he said would now be merged in the International Federation in which he pointed out there would thus be a far greater power for good. If the First International Congress

had revealed such strength and such proportions, there was no saying what advances in influence and numbers a Second Congress might display.

The lawyer Signor Miglioli, Member of the Cremona Council, and a past-student of the College of Borgo San Martino, closed the discussion by drawing the attention of all to a question which is becoming more and more vital in every district. "Such a Congress as ours" he said, "ought not to deal with politics, but those politics can surely not be regarded as forbidden which treat of the defence of the Catholic Schools against the attacks, whether open or secret, of freemasonry; we must have free education if our young generations are to be safe."

Mgr. Morganti, Archbishop of Ravenna, dismissed the assembly with a parting word and his blessing.

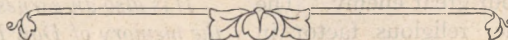
The Reception by the Municipality.

At 9. p. m., the sumptuous hall of the Artists' Club was the scene of the reception of the Congressists by the Municipality of Turin. In the name of the Mayor the honours were done by the member of the Council, Professor Gribaudo, himself one of the organisers of the Congress. He gave the members a formal welcome in the name of the City and of the Mayor, Senator Rossi, remarking that Turin as a whole had ever shown a practical sympathy with Don Bosco's work, recognising that the city had become known far and wide through the Salesian Society.

Signor Battù responded, asking Professor Gribaudo to convey their expressions of gratitude to the Mayor for the cordial reception they had everywhere received. It was seconded by M. Chauvin of Marseilles, and closed by Signor Segovia of the Argentine, who offered to the city, which was the home of Don Bosco's work, the homage of hundreds of cities of far away which have benefited by it. After these brief discourses the orchestra very suitably gave the Marseillaise, which was greeted with cheers and then the Argentine National hymn which aroused similar enthusiasm.

Supper was afterwards served and the meeting was closed by brief proposals of thanks by Signor Miglioli and Signor Barberis.

(1). Learn of me, for I am meek and humble of heart.



The Closing Day OF THE CONGRESS.

The last discussions - Proposals for the centenary of the birth of D. Bosco, and of the Feast of Mary Help of Christians

CAVALIERE POESIO'S DISCOURSE — DON ALBERA'S THANKS.

The gathering at Valsalice.

By the morning of the third day the badges that had been approved by the Committee were in circulation, and though a thousand had been distributed there was still a demand, for more members were continually coming. Some had come from Venice and the extremity of Liguria, and to the great regret of the distributors they could only issue tickets for admission instead of badges. Some managed to borrow the badges of Congressists who had already secured them, but found themselves unable to attend the Session.

About seven o'clock the corridors of the Oratory were already occupied with members. It being Sunday many had fulfilled their obligation of hearing Mass even before that hour; still at 7.30 many hundreds were in the Sanctuary of Our Lady Help of Christians, which resounded with music, and was lit up by brilliant lights. Our Superior General, Don Albera, celebrated the Mass, and many approached the Altar.

By nine o'clock a vast concourse had gathered in the Courtyards of the Oratory and a scene of animation was witnessed, which defies description. At 9.30 the Delegates and Representatives from abroad held their meeting for the nomination of the Directive Council for the Federation. At 10 the hall was opened for the members. Every available space was eagerly seized, and the President announced the discussion and conclusions on the Second Theme. The speaker of the previous day, Fr. Giordani occupied the Chair. Many distinguished men took part in the discussion. Great stress was laid on the importance of the First resolution and it was clearly insisted upon that the educative system of Don Bosco is based upon the practice of religion. In the presence of such opposition to Catholic teaching in many parts it was also clearly demonstrated that every available means must be adopted to defend the liberty of the Schools in that regard.

After some minor proposals, dealing with details, the resolutions were stated.

The First International Congress of past-pupils of the Salesians,

Noting the deplorable decadence of the family training and the consequent decline of modern society given over to materialistic education, based on irreligious and anti-social principles;

Considering the great value of Don Bosco's educational system, already demonstrated by striking results during some seventy years of experience in every part of the globe, and recognised as of special value by well-known scientists and sociologists, both Catholics and non-Catholics;

Convinced therefore that its action is at the same time eminently religious, civil, and patriotic, by spreading the system and ideas of Don Bosco;

This Congress resolves:

1st. *That the past-pupils of the Salesians — according to their various social positions and opportunities — shall strive to form an intelligent, upright conscience both for religious and civil duties in the young generations of their districts, basing their educative work on the practice of Religion, reasonableness and gentleness, and strengthening their action by their own example both in public and private life;*

2nd. *That they should read and diffuse the educational works of Don Bosco, the current works that deal with educational methods and religious thought, which are in harmony with his teaching, and adapted to the latest social needs.*

3rd. *That writers, public men, speakers and lecturers among the past pupils should frequently call the attention of the public to and gain favour for the educational work of Don Bosco; that the daily papers, and periodical journals be utilised for this purpose, and that it be endeavoured to take an active part in all conferences and debates which may be on this or similar subjects.*

* * *

The President then read out the result of the elections held just before the Assembly, for the membership of the Board of Directors of the International Federation. Three gentlemen of

Turin were chosen one from Spezia, two from Faenza and one from Marseilles.

According to the statutes seven members were to be resident in Turin, and to the above three there were joined the four following officials: The President of the *Unione Primaria*, Canon, Cavaliere A. Berrone, the President of the Don Bosco Club, Professor Gribaudo, the President of the Association of the past-pupils of the First Festive Oratory at Turin, Signor A. Gorgellino; and the Representative of the Superior General of the Salesians, Father Felice Cane.

General satisfaction was manifested at the declaration of the names, all the officials being well-known promoters and organisers of various departments of Salesian Activity.

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Cavaliere Poesio then referred to the matter named in the telegram previously read from the Honourable Sig. Micheli, concerning the erection of a monument to Don Bosco in the Piazza Maria Auxiliatrice; on the occasion of the centenary of his birth August 16th 1915.

The Assembly was loud in its acclamations of approval. To carry out the proposal an international Committee was decided upon, representing all the nations where there are Salesian Houses, and all the Co-operators throughout the world; for it was to be a demonstration of filial regard from all the nations, to an Apostle whose charity has embraced the whole world.

Mgr. Morganti's recommendation.

The zealous Archbishop of Ravenna, an Oratory past-pupil, having given a brief sketch of the masterly methods of modern science in the conquest of the forces of nature, warned the Congressists not to forget the supreme force of the spiritual order, that of grace; and announced the approach of another important date, in connection with which the following resolutions were put:

The Congress, in view of the approaching centenary of the establishment of the Feast of Mary Help of Christians, (1915), of whose devotion Don Bosco was the ardent promoter and propagator;

Considering that devotion to Mary Help of Christians — always dear to the Christian people — has spread most wonderfully during the last few decades to all parts of the world, to the no small advantage of Religion and the faithful at large;

Remembering that the Feast of Mary Help of

Christians is now celebrated in practically every diocese of the Catholic world;

Desires that the First Centenary of the Feast may be signalised by its establishment in the Calendar of the Universal Church; and to that end it proposes:

That their Lordships the Bishops, and the Dignatories of the Church among the Past-Pupils of the Salesians, in conjunction with the Bishops who have been chosen from the Salesian Society, should constitute a Commission to obtain from the August Heads of States and distinguished personages, from the Eminent Princes of the Church and Archbishops and Bishops, who are among the number of the Salesian Co-operators petitions to that effect to be presented to the Holy See.

With this tribute to the Heavenly Inspirer and Patroness of the Salesian Works, the Congress was officially closed.

Fr. Trione, the secretary and organiser of the Co-operators recommended prayers for the speedy Beatification of Don Bosco and for the introduction of the Cause of Dominic Savio, Don Bosco's saintly pupil, which is already passing through the local curia.

Messages from the Delegates.

There were yet however various messages from abroad to be conveyed to the Congress. The first was by a young student from Quito who brought the homage of Ecuador to the members. After speaking of the work in that state he confirmed his own loyal sentiments by announcing that for the present he was not returning to Ecuador, as he was to stay at the Mother House to receive the clerical habit of the Salesian Congregation.

The venerable figure of Professor Costa Sena was then seen on the platform as he asked a brief hearing. He was the Commissioner General of Brazil to the International Exhibition at Turin, and speaking in Portuguese he paid a high tribute to the work of the Congregation in that state. There was a deep silence as the aged man was speaking and all recognised that he spoke with authority when he said: "I had the privilege of receiving the first band of Salesians who set foot in Brazil, and now I am happy to state in the name of the Government I represent, that our sincerest gratitude is offered to the Work of Don Bosco."

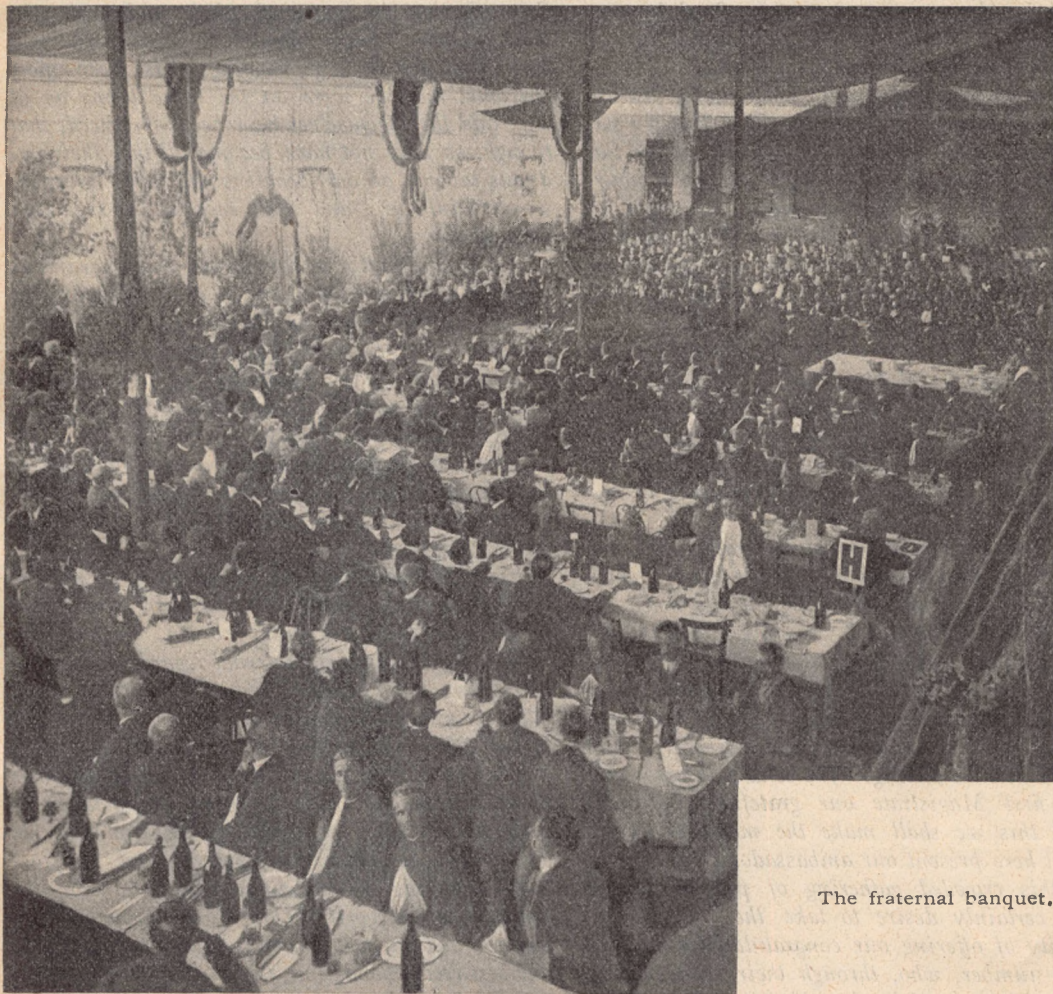
There were messages also from France given by M. Chauvin from Marseilles and from the past students of Spain by the Rev. Fr. Graña. When these had been listened to with great interest and loudly applauded Cavaliere Poesio, the President, rose to give his closing discourse.

The speech of the President.

Swift, as all the joys of this life, have these three days gone from us; and we have already arrived at the hour for the dissolution of the Congress.

Such an imposing assembly had indeed been worthy of a more capable President than the one who was induced to take that office; but since the honour of directing your deliberations has fallen

motives, no expectations of human advantages or dreams of ambition have brought you here in such numbers, but solely the intention of accomplishing some lasting good. There have been no vain discussions during your sessions, no intrigues, or disputes; but a harmony of sentiment, rectitude of intention and perfect concord; if any rivalry there was, it was that of zeal, generosity and enthusiasm.



The fraternal banquet.

to me, you will allow me to say, that although the position could have been honoured by many a more worthy name and a more experienced mind, it could not have found a heart more penetrated with affectionate devotion to the Ven. Don Bosco and the salesian Work.

While I assure you that these three days will always be one of my most cherished memories, I must thank you for your indulgence, and for the splendid examples you have given me of faith and generosity and practical judgment.

It has been amply manifest that no unworthy

Having secured then such a splendid completion of our work it is a pleasing duty for me, as your representative, to interpret or to echo the sentiments that must fill your hearts at this moment.

Our first act is one of grateful salutation to the common Father of all peoples the Roman Pontiff. Let us profit of the last moment of our being together to offer our unanimous homage of filial veneration. Mindful of the teaching of Don Bosco and Don Rua, we proclaim aloud that now and always we shall give the first place in our

hearts to the vicar of Jesus Christ, and it will be always an honour to labour with and for him, in perfect adhesion to his dispositions and desires.

We must next offer our respectful homage to all the Rulers of those States who are represented at the Congress by past-pupils; and particularly to the President of Brazil, whose distinguished official Representative has honoured our Assembly by his discourse. The charity that underlies Don Bosco's work knows no distinction of peoples or races, is not confined by seas or mountains, but embraces all peoples in one desire for progress, prosperity and peace.

This homage we offer with particularly loyalty, to our own Sovereign of Italy, Don Bosco's native country, and the scene of the rise of the Salesian Society; and in doing so we are honouring not only the Representative Sovereign of the land in which we live, but also the descendant of those distinguished Sovereigns who gave their protection and favour to the work of Don Bosco in its very early days.

From our hearts we offer a salutation to the illustrious Prince of the Church, the Archbishop of Turin. By honouring the Congress with the splendour of the Purple, with his paternal sympathy, his enlightened wisdom and his pastoral benediction, he has acquired a special title to our gratitude.

After the Pastor, we must naturally offer our tribute of homage to the noble city itself, which has opened its gates to us with all its noted generosity and traditional courtesy. Piedmont, of which Turin is the heart and mind, has inscribed its name on some of the most brilliant pages of history, displaying at all times an inherent power to combine a manly pride of spirit with the most delicate feeling. We send to Turin, and to its first Magistrate our grateful salutation, and of this we shall make the members of the Council here present our ambassadors.

In this crowded gathering of past-pupils we should certainly desire to take the unique opportunity of offering our congratulations to those of our number, who, through their excellence of mind and heart, and by the training of Don Bosco have been raised up as leaders in Israel, the chosen Pastors of the Church of God. We therefore offer a tribute of homage to the Salesian Bishops, and especially to the first Salesian Bishop, Mgr. Cagliero, who in his indefatigable zeal, has borne to far off regions those remarkable abilities and burning charity which he learned by long familiarity with the Ven. Don Bosco.

Having fulfilled our duty to the Authorities of Church and State, we may open our hearts to more intimate and familiar greetings. Above all, our expressions of gratitude and filial attachment

go out to our Superiors, to Don Albera the worthy Successor of Don Bosco and Don Rua, to the Members of the Superior Chapter, Provincials and Directors who by their presence in Our Congress have given proof of their paternal interest in our regard, as strong as of old.

We are gathered together here, in fact, in these places identified with sacred memories, to recall the affectionate care of the Ven. Don Bosco, and by contact with our Superiors we have found that that affection is preserved whole and entire in their hearts. They themselves have seen that their presence at our meetings has been most welcome, that we were on the same terms as of old; and they themselves have been convinced, that though we may not have become all that their arduous labours on our behalf would have merited, we certainly are, and shall ever be, devoted and grateful sons.

Our congratulations, unreserved and unanimous to the Executive Committee, to whose labours the whole Congress must be attributed. The highfelt praise we can give them is to recognise and declare that they have shown themselves of true Salesian character, of untiring ability, and of exquisite and spontaneous cordiality.

A vote of thanks to all the correspondents of the various journals, who have devoted their energies to the description and publication of the acts of the Congress.

Finally, I am sure of interpreting your sentiments correctly, when I offer a hearty salutation to all our Delegates from abroad, united with us here in the bonds of fraternal regard. This manifestation of loyalty and co-operation from other countries and continents has been in fact one of our chief consolations in the Congress.

The consolation which all must feel at this moment will be the chief treasure to be taken to your homes as a souvenir of the Congress, to which will be added the comfort and satisfaction of having worked in combination for the triumph of the work of Don Bosco throughout the world. Let us bear in mind, and this shall be our last recommendation, that it is each one's duty to labour for that end. The work of Don Bosco would miss its aim if its effects were restricted to the limits of the Institutes in which we were educated as boys.

The apostolate of our Venerated Father is directed towards the christian regeneration of the whole of Society; and one part of this work he has entrusted to us. In vain shall we proclaim ourselves sons of Don Bosco if we withhold our ready co-operation with his work. Let us resolve therefore, that when we leave this Assembly, being enrolled in the Federated Association of past students, we shall use our every effort that

the teaching and spirit of Don Bosco may be brought to every family, to every nation, to the whole human race.

With this resolution I announce the conclusion of the Congress, and I invite you to return thanks to God for its success. To Him glory and honour for whatever good has been done, from Him we expect the grace and efficacy to promote His interests in the future."

The eloquence of the speaker and the enthusiasm of the audience were responsible for the many bursts of applause which accompanied the President's address. Don Albera was to give the parting words. As he came forward to speak, the great assembly rose and listened with respectful eagerness to his every word.

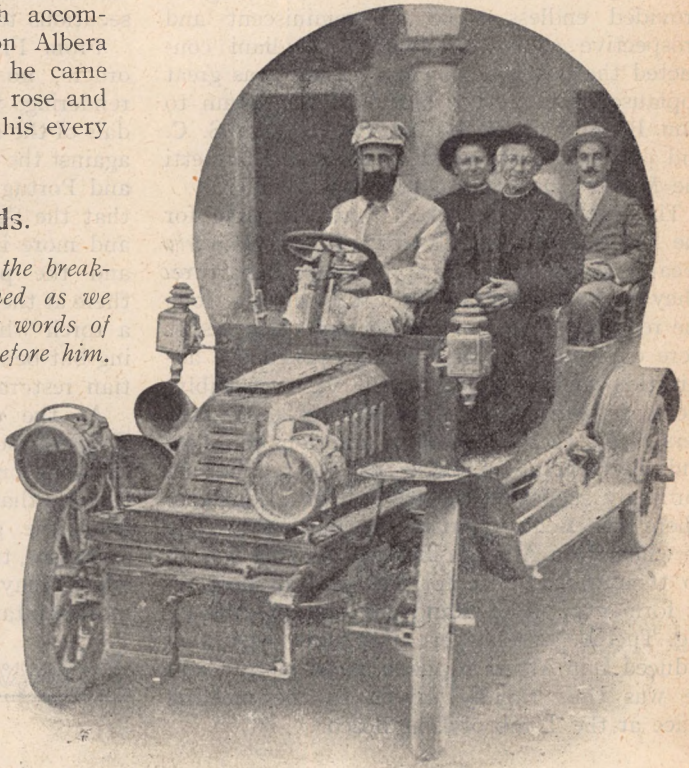
Don Albera's Farewell Words.

I regret to have to give the signal for the breaking up of this joyous gathering, charmed as we all are by the consoling and inspiring words of the President and the other speakers before him. It seems almost a pity that the three days have flown by so rapidly and that the separation of so many friends must now take place. But you must first allow me to thank you in the name of the whole Salesian Society which has received such consolation from the scenes of the past few days. It would seem that we had assisted today at a new Pentecost. All the languages that we have heard have had but one topic, either directly or indirectly, the extollation of the Ven. Don Bosco. This is surely the realisation of what he used to say when we thought him mad. He had not even a square yard of ground where he might build his first Oratory, and yet he declared that he would one day have a House in every part of the world. His dream has come into actuality. We see here the representatives of the pupils educated in those Houses and we have heard them declare their loyal sentiments. They themselves have proclaimed it: "This Congress has been a triumph for Don Bosco."

Don Bosco then has had true sons, worthy of the care that has been lavished upon them. The Congress has revealed that in its clearest light, and its date will be among the imperishable records of Our Society. Have you not suspected that even we ourselves have been eclipsed, in a sense, during the past few days, by our own pupils, who seem to have interpreted the spirit of

Don Bosco and his programme better than we ourselves? Could we Salesians have put the case better than it has been expounded here.

It is a source of rejoicing for us to have such convincing proof, that notwithstanding our lowliness, Divine Providence has used us as means to accomplish far-reaching good. May thanks be always rendered to God for his graces, and afterwards we offer them to you and to your absent associates. Tell them on your return that they



An ex-pupil drives Don Albera to Valsalice.

are all remembered daily and recommended to Almighty God, to Our Lady Help of Christians and to Don Bosco. He has certainly assisted at Our gathering, and given it that unity of mind and action that we have all admired; we pray that he may continue to bless you, your families and all your undertakings.

The Banquet.

The Congressists left the hall for a short time before the lunch at 12.30. Every one was in the highest spirits. Don Albera had invited all to stay for some refreshments with him

before setting out on their return journeys, and they eagerly accepted the opportunity of enjoying for a few moments longer the illusion of being still in their youthful days. There had been a transformation scene, and the whole of the garden that had previously been used for a lawn by the visitors to the last Exhibition, was now covered in for the occasion and tables arranged. The gathering was at the same time a distinguished and a homely one. More than 800 were accommodated, and the Congress provided endless topic for reminiscent and prospective converse. Maestro Dogliani conducted the music personally. There was great applause again at the sound of the hymn to Don Bosco, written by Maestro Pagella S. C. and put to concert score by Maestro Vaninetti the Musical Director to the Civic Bands.

The *Momento* remarked that the time for the toasts unfortunately arrived: *unfortunately* because it sounded the approaching departure. They were commenced by Fr. Francesia, long the recognised poet of the Society. His wishes were expressed in verse which evoked the admiration and applause of the vast assembly. He was followed by other distinguished speakers. But there were other functions to follow and the General Secretary, Fr. Felix Cane, accordingly suggested the wisdom of adjourning. There was Benediction in the Basilica at 3.30 at which Don Albera officiated; and he was to go then to Valsalice for the general meeting. A former pupil of Randazzo and of Alassio, Sig. Tuccate, the lawyer, after some persuasion induced Don Albera to make use of his car, and he was thus rapidly driven to the meeting place at the Tomb of Don Bosco.

The Meeting at Valsalice.

At 5 p. m. the spacious courtyards of the College of the Missions were full of Congressists. They all passed into the Chapel near the tombs of Don Bosco and Don Rua whom they had come to honour in Turin, and the memorable scenes of animation and mirth were concluded by this solemn act of homage. When the band of the Turin Oratory had played the past pupils' chorus Signor Miglioli gave the oration.

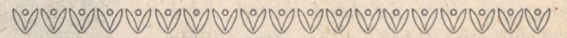
He commenced by saying that no meeting at the tomb of Don Bosco was nowadays to be characterised by sadness; over that tomb there was no longer the prayer for peace, but the hymn of exultation and life. The tomb of

Valsalice is a monument that arouses nobler emotions than the inauguration of mausoleums to national heroes; for there you have the homage as of subjects to their king; at Valsalice it is the affection of sons towards a father.

He then gave in outline Don Bosco's chief virtues for a practical lesson to all his followers, and passed on to the record of the progress made since many of his listeners were boys in the Oratory or at other Salesian Houses; nor did he omit mention of the difficulties and persecutions to be overcome, *per aspera ad astra!*

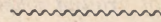
From France which has discarded religious orders, no matter what services they were rendering, to Italy where they had the scandals of the anticlericals, to the last disturbances against the religious educational bodies in Spain and Portugal, he gradually passed on to show that the Salesian Work was yet gaining more and more in the estimation of the Authorities and the popular favour. He declared that there at the tomb of Don Bosco they would light a torch which would show no signs of flickering but be a column of light to carry the Christian restoration throughout the world.

At the end of the discourse the *Tantum Ergo* was sung, and Don Albera gave the Benediction from the Chapel above the tomb; and thus by that solemn Blessing, as though coming from the great Founder and his illustrious Successor, the Congress closed, amid impressions which may well be regarded as among the most salutary and lasting of a life-time.



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.

During the month of December.

1. Dec. 8th, Immaculate Conception.
2. » 25nd, Christmas.



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.



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