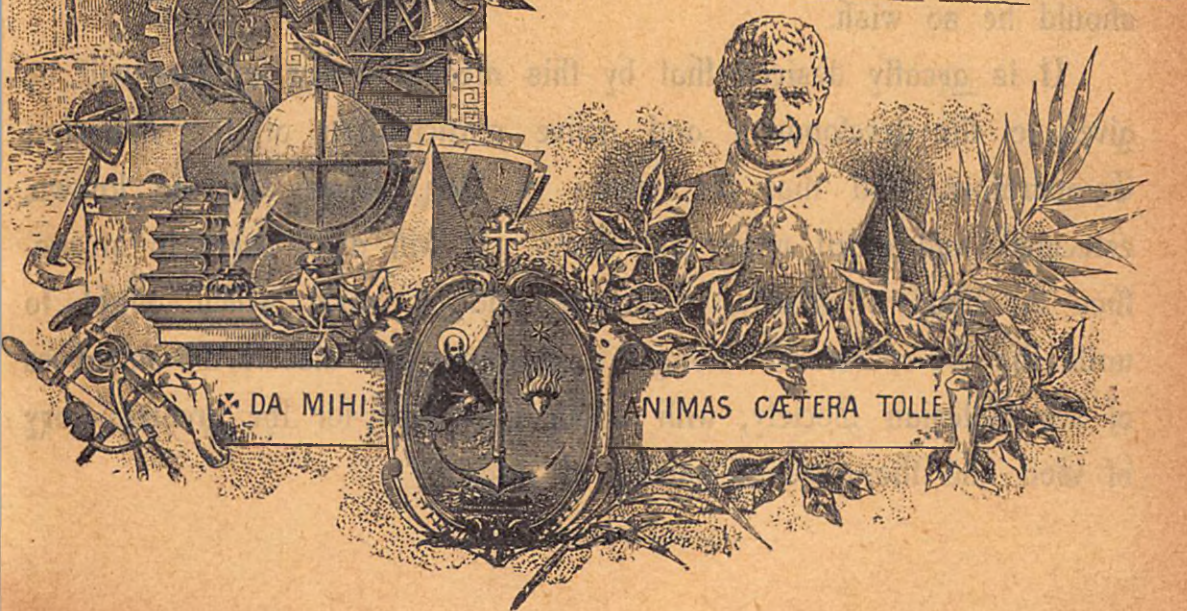


No. 4 - April - 1914

♣ Vol. IX. ♣

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


L. G. S. X. 1112



✠ DA MIHI

ANIMAS CÆTERA 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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ALL HAIL TO MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS!

We welcome with particular joy the fast approaching aurora of April 23 which invites us to prostrate ourselves with greater faith before the blessed Throne of the Celestial Help of Christians! On the 24 of May, which is drawing nigh, it will be one hundred years since the return of Pope Pius VII to Rome — a triumphal return which gave origin to the institution of the Feast of Mary, Help of Christians. The coming solemnity of our holy Patroness is, therefore, a prelude to the grand centennial festivities of next year.

Beloved Co-operators, let it be our common duty to celebrate this year, the Month and the Feast of Mary, Help of Christians with unusual pomp. The "Salesian Bulletin," which, for 38 years is heralding her glories, will joyfully publish the most befitting proofs of love which are to be shown to the August Queen.

But let our exterior demonstrations be an index of the intimate participation of our hearts! Let us animate our devotion by redoubling our energies in doing good, even at the cost of individual sacrifice; and then She, who is invoked as Help of Christians, will multiply upon the Church and the Salesian Society, her maternal mercies!

FOR THE FIRST CENTENARY

OF THE FEAST OF OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS AND OF THE BIRTH OF THE VEN. DON BOSCO.

IN making the happy and significant announcement of the approach of this double centenary, there seems to be an added expressiveness and joy in the very union of the two names, **Mary, Help of Christians** and **Don Bosco**; for this association of names was common even during the life-time of our Founder.

"Don Bosco is nobody!" the servant of God was wont to say; "Don Bosco is the lowly instrument in the hands of God and Our Lady Help of Christians! If God could have found a lowlier instrument less adapted than Don Bosco to perform these works, He would certainly have preferred it, so that it might appear the more convincingly that He was Himself their Author and Our Lady Help of Christians their inspirer..."

Everything, therefore, he attributed to the Mother of God! From his childhood he was an Apostle among his companions; but with a humility, truly edifying, he several times related how the Blessed Virgin had indicated to him in some mysterious dream his future mission. As a young priest, on December 8th 1841, he laid the foundations of his Oratories; but he never lost sight of the fact that it was on the day consecrated to the Immaculate Conception, and that accordingly Our Lady Immaculate had placed the work under her mantle. When he stood in need of assistants in the high mission he had undertaken, he instituted the Salesian Society; and to those who first generously responded to his appeal, he exclaimed in wonder at the sight of what his work portended to become: "What an account Don Bosco will have to render to God for all the graces he receives for the development of the Society. It may be said almost that Our Lady is leading it by the hand. At every step, in every circumstance, see, here is the hand of the Mother of God! It is she who visibly protects it from danger, from every evil power, and who indicates to us all that we have to do, and assists us to accomplish it."

Everything therefore he ascribed to Our Lady.

If the benefactors, admiring his charity and zeal and sanctity made him great offerings, he could not keep himself from exclaiming: "It is Our Lady who is providing for her own work."

If the crippled, the paralytic, the blind, the deaf, the dying

were blessed by him and obtained their cure in a moment, he would say: "Give glory to the Mother of God, see how good she is to you!"

If they attributed such wonderful cures to his prayers or to his blessing, he was deeply grieved, and urgently besought them to beware of saying that Don Bosco had worked or could work miracles; and then he would add again: "Our Lady Help of Christians, she is the wonder-worker!..."

On other occasions, when he heard thanksgivings being offered to Our Lady for the graces and favours obtained, then he could not restrain his satisfaction, and he declared that that was her method of rewarding those who had assisted the Salesian Works.

Between him therefore and Our Lady Help of Christians there were real, close, filial bonds of union; he was her son and devoted Servant; She, the powerful and tender Mother. And this union was profound and so evident that the people at large recognised it, and began to express it with peculiar sagacity by giving to Our Lady Help of Christians the title of the *Madonna of Don Bosco*.

The year 1915 will therefore emphasize this association, this union of the names of Our Heavenly Patroness and that of her great Servant and follower. The 16th of August 1915 will complete a hundred years since the birth of Don Bosco, and on the 15th of September 1915, it will be a hundred years since the institution of the liturgical feast of May 24th in honour of Our Lady Help of Christians; two dates which will be a message of joy and devotion far and wide.

The feast of May 24th is not a simple devotional festivity, but, being the feast of the Protectress of the liberty of the Church, and the powerful Help of the Christian people, it is a pledge of new triumphs for the Church, and of abundant favours for those who lead a true Christian life. Thus also the memory of Don Bosco is hallowed not only in his own country, but in all the world, for in the heroism of his charity, and in his unbounded zeal he embraced the whole universe.

However, among his followers and Co-operators there should be a special manifestation of joyous festivity, and every suitable preparation should be made for the approaching centenaries.

For the First Centenary of the Birth of Don Bosco.

In September 1911 when First International Congress of Salesian Past Pupils met in Turin, this event was hailed with enthusiasm, and it was then proposed to erect a monument on the very spot where Don Bosco had worked such a transformation, where he had placed the headquarters of his Congregation, whence he had founded his now world-wide colonies; the proposal was received with unanimous applause.

The first step in the scheme for realisation was taken in an Assembly of the Past Pupils of Piedmont, held in December 1912. It was therein resolved that if the scheme could be carried out by the Past Pupils themselves, and as a combined act of homage to their common father and educator, it would assume a unique character and importance in the history of education; and as the proposal had originated with them, it was thought most appropriate that they, the Past Pupils, in all parts of the world, should make themselves responsible for its realisation.

Accordingly on Jan. 31st 1913 the Promoting Committee despatched to all the Presidents and members of Clubs and Unions of Past Pupils an appeal for subscriptions, and in March of that year the Executive Committee exhibited sixty-two designs sent in by sixty-two artists in response to the International Competition for the Monument. This same Committee, after publishing the verdict of the Jury, selecting the five best designs, opened a second competition between these five artists, in which Professor Cellini was the successful competitor.

Accounts have already been published of the Monument, its meaning, design and importance, and further descriptions are to come; it will be evident that the primary commemoration for the Centenary will be the imperishable one of the Monument itself.

Other celebrations are in course of preparation; prominent among them will be the Exhibition to be held at Turin, to include not only the Technical Schools and Agricultural Colonies, which on former occasions have provided very successful exhibitions, but will be representative of all the Educational Institutes and the Foreign Missions for the benefit of Emigrants and those amongst the savage tribes. It will give ocular, and even tangible proof of what has been accomplished, and is being done through Don Bosco's work, in the fulfilment of his Providential Apostolate.

For the First Centenary Of the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians.

Besides the Exhibition of the various departments of the work of the Society it is proposed to hold another Exhibition dealing with the *Cultus of Our Lady Help of Christians*: and this for the simple but important reason that the one is the complement of the other. If the first proclaims the far-reaching apostolate in good works appointed to Don Bosco through the patronage of Mary Help, of Christians, the second attests and will always attest the affectionate gratitude which the Ven. Father cherished and inculcated towards his heavenly Patroness. And in order that this homage may be the more eloquent, a Congress will be held in preparation for the celebration of the solemn religious feasts, and at this Congress there will be ample opportunity for making evident the entire dependence of Don Bosco upon his Patroness, as well as a full, practical explanation of what the Devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians should be amongst Catholic peoples, according to the idea and spirit of our Venerable Founder.

Whilst all these affairs were under consideration, there appeared in the *Momento* of Turin, an article on the Feast of St. Francis of Sales, by the well-known writer and Salesian Co-operator, the Marquis Crispolti. During the course of this article he writes: "What is the place of assembly appointed by Don Bosco and his Successors for the homage to be paid by their followers to their Patron, St. Francis of Sales? It is the Church of Mary Help of Christians, of Her in whom St. Francis and Don Bosco found their unconquerable strength.

"Now to this Sanctuary, and to Our Lady to whom it is dedicated, our thoughts

turn more especially at this time, on the approach of the First Centenary of the day, when the Church decreed that the title of *Help of Christians* should be celebrated as a special feast on May 24th.

The decree was issued in 1815, as a perpetual thanksgiving for the return of Pius VII to Rome, which occurred after his long imprisonment at Savona and Fontainebleau, precisely on that day in the Spring of 1814. We are already in the preliminary period of that centenary.....

"In the following year, when the Mother of God was invoked as the powerful intercessor and intermediary, who had obtained the release of the Sovereign Pontiff, the human race gave a sigh of relief. In him, justice had gained a victory over tyrannical violence. A little later, after a fruitless re-appearance on the world's stage during the hundred days, Napoleon departed into exile at St. Helena, and notwithstanding the lasting memory of his genius, notwithstanding the fame he had gained amidst his acts of violence, his tragic disappearance from human society was a manifestation of the justice of Heaven, which falls from time to time upon those who trample the rights of God under foot.

"At the very time when the English vessel was transporting the great prisoner to the island in the Atlantic, John Bosco was born on August 16th 1815, the day after Napoleon had attained his forty-sixth year.

"Thus the Centenary of special honour to Our Lady Help of Christians, and that of the birth of her devoted son Don Bosco, occur together and are bound up with the era of great changes which followed the fall of the Corsican eagle.

"Therefore," continues the Marquis, "as the Past Pupils have assumed to themselves the right of erecting a worthy monument to their great Educator and Apostle of the Young, it appears most suitable, that the Salesian Co-operators, whose office it is to share in all that is done in his name, should honour in some practical manner the Centenary of that devotion which is the outcome of his saintly genius and apostolate. A chapel at Becchi, his birthplace, where there is no church, would be a proof and symbol of the intimate connexion between the two centenaries; and perhaps more suitable still, would be a wide co-operation in the scheme for repairing and decorating the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians, the home and centre of the Devotion, so that the two monuments, one raised by Don Bosco himself, and one raised to him by his sons, should appear together in the freshness of their dignity and artistic merit. This is the proposal made."

Two days later, the same paper published a letter of thanks from our Superior General, the Very Rev. Don Albera, to the Marquis Crispolti, and an appeal to all Salesian Co-operators to insure the realisation of the proposal.

The Proposed Restorations in the Sanctuary of Valdocco.

The Oratory of St. Francis of Sales, Turin

Jan. 29th 1914.

Dear Co-operators,

In the letter of January 1st published in the Bulletin, I have already called your attention to the fact that 1915 will be a year of special importance, and in a sense a hallowed year, to the whole Salesian Family; marking, as it does the First Centenary of the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, and also of the birth of Don Bosco. I said that I should write to you later on more in detail, so that you could the better join with us in keeping these two memorable events.

But an authoritative voice (and one most dear to Don Bosco and to myself) invites me to speak at once. The Illustrrious Marquis Crispolti, while applauding again the proposal of the Federation of Past Pupils in regard to the International Monument, asks if it would not be entirely in harmony with, and a completion of, that idea, if the Salesian Co-operators in their turn, should honour in a special manner the Centenary of the Feast of Her who was Don Bosco's greatest and first Co-operator.

He proposes two things: the erection of a Chapel at Becchi, and the renovation of the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians at Valdocco, so as to be in keeping with the new monument to be erected in front of the Sanctuary.

I accept his proposal very willingly, and I regard it as a providential one. I shall take care to notify to you, in due course, the detailed programme of the celebrations, but I am able to state at the outset and in a general way, that in commemoration of the Centenary of Our Founder's birth, there will not only be the erection and unveiling of the Monument in the piazza near the Oratory, but within the walls of the latter there will be held an Exhibition of the main results of his work, coming from his educational centres of every class, didactic, professional, technical or agricultural, and also from the missionary centres and work among the emigrants of various nationalities. Contemporaneous with this, it is proposed to hold a Marian Congress and another Exhibition, which will show clearly the vast growth and results of the Cultus of Our Lady Help of Christians in every land.

Undoubtedly, these commemorations will draw to Valdocco, Valsalice and Becchi a multitude of Past Pupils and Co-operators, and a great number of pilgrims; and it would therefore hardly be proper not to endeavour to make the proposed renovations to the Sanctuary at Turin, and to erect the Chapel at the hamlet of Becchi, lowly in itself, but now grown proud as being the birth-place of Don Bosco.

However, in order to realise these two projects, your generous assistance, Dear Co-operators, will be necessary. The Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians, built by Don Bosco, and decorated in 1891 on the completion of the first fifty years of the Oratories, has been showing the signs of wear, especially exteriorly, to the extent, indeed, of causing grave anxiety. It suffices, in fact, to give but a glance at the building, from the basement to the cupola, and even to the statue of the Help of Christians which surmounts the whole, to see that there is great need of renovation, and that to delay further will be to incur risk, and to be exposed to far greater expense.

You will therefore understand my readiness to accept the proposal and to give it my unhesitating approval and recommendation. And in order that it may be realised in the short time remaining to us, I urge it most warmly upon all the Co-operators, especially those within our own borders of whose love for Don Bosco and devotion to Mary Help of Christians I have daily proofs. May Almighty God bestow His blessings abundantly upon you all, and particularly on those who will co-operate in this most praiseworthy undertaking.

Your obedient and devoted servant

Father PAUL ALBERA.

The Restoration Needed for the Sanctuary.

The Sanctuary of Our Lady Help of Christians, now raised to the dignity of a Basilica by Pontifical decree, was opened for divine service on June 9th 1868; it was re-decorated in 1891 on the occasion of the fiftieth year of the foundation of the Oratories, and now stands in need of repairs in many ways.

It is not intended to call attention now to the slight improvements necessary to

the interior, which is in a fair state of preservation; but only to the very serious condition of the exterior, which shows considerable signs of wear.

The whole covering of the cupola or dome must be repaired if not entirely renewed, together with the supports in wood which sustain it; otherwise the first result will be the ruin of the internal frescoes by the artist Rollini. Moreover the basis of the statue of Our Lady must be consolidated, and those of the angels on the campaniles, and repairs or renewal must be made to the bell-tower, and to re-gild the statue of Our Lady, which now shows very sadly the effect of so many years exposure to the weather. The whole of the roof needs examining and repairing and the slates need renewing in very many places; the connections between the blocks of granite need cementing anew, in order to counteract the effects of infiltration; the gutters all want repairing; the walls require cleansing from top to bottom, including the façade, whose great columns show traces of wear, and fissures here and there. In short, the exterior of the Sanctuary is in urgent need of repair apart from the occasion of the Centenary Feasts.

The Fund for the Necessary Money.

"When the erection of a Sanctuary to Our Lady was under consideration — writes Don Bosco — She herself wished to put her hand to the work, and in order to make it known that it was hers, she wished in a manner to build it herself: *Aedificavit sibi domum Maria...* It seems almost incredible, but it is a fact that one sixth of the sum necessary was given as offerings by the faithful, and the whole of the remainder was provided as thanksgivings for favours received... It may be asserted that every corner, every piece of stone of this sacred edifice is a record of some grace obtained from the Queen of Heaven..." Thus writes Don Bosco.

The same thing practically happened in 1890-91 when the first restorations and decorations were undertaken. There was a re-natal of that wonderful profusion of graces and favours that accompanied the erection of the Church, so that the thank-offerings covered the necessary expense.

Who then will provide the sum necessary for these restorations? We do not hesitate to affirm: It will be Mary Help of Christians! She Herself will speak to the hearts of all her devout clients. She Herself will suggest thank-offerings for favours received in the past or present, and will inspire others to have recourse to her maternal goodness; and all will see with what truth may be repeated to-day the words of Don Bosco when he built the Church and of Don Rua when he restored it:

"This is the opportunity to obtain favours, both spiritual and temporal from Our Lady Help of Christians."

Important Recommendations.

In connexion with these proposed Centenary Feasts, the Very Rev. Don Albera urgently recommends:

I. *That on the occasion of the Feast of Mary Help of Christians of this year, May 24th 1914, there be everywhere held the prescribed Conference for the Co-operators, and that where possible some collective offering be made by the members towards these restorations.*

II. *That collections be made in the Salesian Churches and chapels on the Sundays of May for this same purpose.*

III. *That in all the Churches and Chapels dedicated to Our Lady Help of Christians there be placed a box during the remainder of this year 1914, and a card be placed on it notifying its purpose.*

IV. *The Rev. Fathers who may be Co-operators, whether Parish priests or preachers of retreats are respectfully asked to recommend this good work particularly during the month of May.*

V. *All the permanent Committees of Co-operators, the Confraternities of Our Lady Help of Christians, the Associations under the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians and all the clubs and other societies in connection with the Salesians or the Nuns are to be asked to join in this general contribution.*

The sums collected or offered are to be sent as soon as possible to the Very Rev. Don Albera and marked: *For the Church of Our Lady Help of Christians.*

The Exhibition in Connection with the Cultus of Mary Help of Christians.

(Turin April to October 1915).

The Rev. Father Barberis, Spiritual Director of the Salesian Society, is in charge of everything concerning this Exhibition. He has sent out to all the Houses and Institutes of Our Society and those of the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians the following programme, which now by means of the *Bulletin*, is presented to all the Co-operators and particularly to those in touch with ecclesiastical affairs.

The Exhibition will be held from April to October 1915 at the Oratory, Turin, near the Sanctuary of Our Lady Help of Christians, and it will form an imposing homage to the Patroness of our Works.

I.

HISTORICAL AND LITERARY SECTION.

I. *Monographs* dealing with the Altars and chapels in the Sanctuary of Our Lady Help of Christians, and with other chapels and Institutes under that title.

(a) Matters dealing with their origin, consecration, inauguration, development etc.

(b) Architectural and artistic aspects.

(c) Description of the objects of art therein contained.

(d) The various devotions practised, and their influence on the people in attendance.

(e) The Feasts and ceremonies in connexion with each.

II. *Monographs and Tables of Statistics.*

(a) Of the Confraternities under the patronage of Mary Help of Christians; their origin, members, statutes, and peculiarities.

(b) The associations for children and the young in general, and also of the Ladies of Honour of Mary Help of Christians.

(c) The permanent committees dealing with these associations.

III. A collection of the favours granted by Mary Help of Christians.

(a) Books in various languages dealing with these.

(b) Copies of special manuscripts preserved.

(c) Copies of accounts of the more extraordinary favours, authenticated by the ecclesiastical dignitaries.

IV. *Various other publications* regarding the Cultus of Our Lady Help of Christians.

(a) Books and pamphlets in many languages dealing with this subject.

(b) Periodicals devoted to this cultus.

(c) Discourses on particular occasions.

(d) Musical works; Masses, hymns etc. in honour of Mary Help of Christians.

N.B. There will be admitted to the Exhibition unedited writings whether written in Latin or the modern languages, provided they are properly signed by the author; those adjudged worthy will be rewarded.

V. Works or objects illustrating the devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians, before the foundation of the Sanctuary at Turin.

VI. Any other work or writing dealing with the subject, but not under the above headings.

II.

ILLUSTRATED SECTION.

I. Photographs or printed representations:

(a) of the Churches or Chapels dedicated to Our Lady Help of Christians, with interior and exterior, and noteworthy points.

(b) Of Statutes or Pictures venerated in some special manner, with the particulars relative to them.

(c) Groups of Associations, processions, festivals etc.

(d) Of Documents referring to any of these matters.

N.B. At the back of each illustration showed be clearly written the name of the subject and of the sender.

II. Models in wood or relief of the chief Sanctuaries and monuments.

III. Statues of Our Lady Help of Christians in sculpture or plaster.

IV. Pictures and other representations.

V. Medals of all sizes and inscriptions.

VI. Various subjects connected with this Section.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

I. The Very Rev. Provincials are requested to send the two following summaries:

(a) One dealing with the Devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians in the Salesian Houses in the province.

(b) A second dealing with that devotion outside their Institutes, but in the countries in which they dwell.

II. Every Provincial, Director, Salesian or Co-operator is asked to forward any matter which may tend towards increasing the Devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians.

III. All the reading matter if not printed should be typed or very clearly written.

IV. Great care should be taken with the packing of everything that is sent, and it should be despatched in time to arrive by Feb. 1915. Notification should be given of whatever is desired to be returned.

Mary Help of Christians, pray for us!

TEXT AND TRANSLATION OF THE DECREE

FOR THE CAUSE

OF THE BEATIFICATION AND CANONIZATION

OF THE SERVANT OF GOD

DOMENIC SAVIO

LAY BOY

Pupil of the Salesian Oratory

It has frequently been pointed out, so that it runs the risk of becoming commonplace, that the Ven. Don Bosco was like many other Founders of Religious Orders, in the fact that he was surrounded by a group of saintly followers and pupils whose virtuous lives were reflexions of his own. Many of these names are household words in the Salesian Society, but among the pupils of Don Bosco, who attained to high degrees of virtue none is so well known as Dominic Savio. His saintly life and death have been under the consideration of the Diocesan Curia for some years and the decree for his beatification and canonisation has now been issued. The progress of this cause has been promoted and watched with interest by the most eminent dignitaries of the church, and the youth has been regarded as holding towards the young generations of our century, the place held by St. Aloysius or St. Stanislaus in former times.

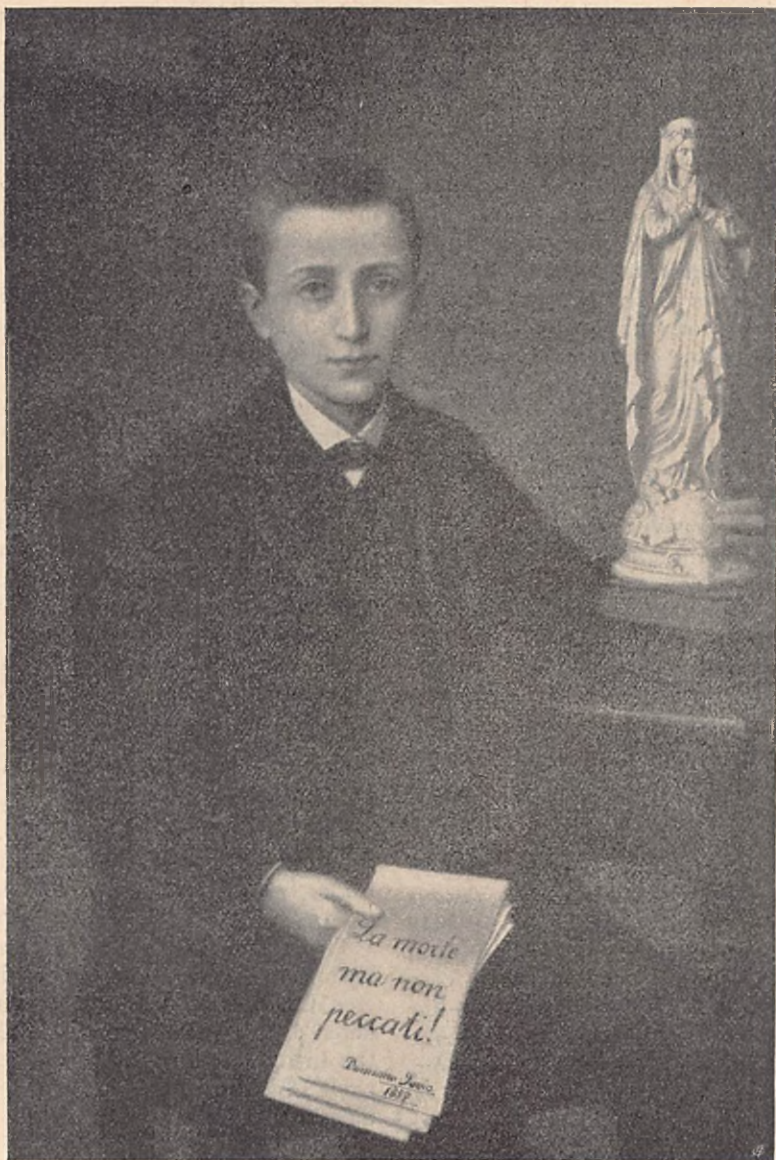
Sodales Salesiani, qui excellentes adolescentulos ab ipsis educatos et eruditos laudibus extulerunt, DOMINICO SAVIO, Oratorii laico alumno, Scripturae sententiam congruere censuerunt: in omni ore quasi mel indulcabitur eius memoria. Revera tradunt DOMINICUM puerum fuisse plenum consilio, pietate erga Deum et parentes conspicuum, modestum, gravem miraeque simul comitatis, acri ingenio supra aetatem, ad studia litterarum aptissimum, seniorum vero virtutes eximie imitatum, ut et matres illum in exemplum suis filiis solitae essent proponere, et ipse Christi bonus odor dici meruerit.

Natus est in oppido Ripae, prope Cherium, die 2 aprilis, anno 1842, patre Carolo, matre Rosa Gajato. Puerulus, utpote non amplius septem annos natus, cum pietatis et innocentiae laude floreret, ad sacram Synaxim admissus est: mox, uti ferunt, eo amore in Ssmam Eucharistiam exarsit, ut, cum anno 1854 litterarum studiis operam daturus in Taurinense Salesianum Oratorium esset receptus, ad tres et amplius horas veluti alienatus a sensibus coram Ssmo Sacramento saepe permanserit. Sanctam Virginem Dei Genitricem ut matrem amantissimam coluit, et auctor fuit ut Sodalitium ab Immaculata eiusdem Virginis Conceptione excitaretur, in quod adsciti adolescentuli fructus vitae perciperent. Quo factum est, ut Superiores magnum animum in puero perspicientes et pa-

The members of the Salesian Society who have highly praised some of the excellent young men who have been educated and taught by them, declare that to Dominic Savio should be applied the words of Scripture: *The remembrance of him is as honey in the mouth.* As a boy Dominic was eminently prudent, conspicuous for his piety towards God, and reverence for his parents; modest and retiring, yet of a wonderful sweetness of disposition; far above the average in intelligence, quick at his studies; often imitated the virtues of those much older than himself, so that mothers often pointed him out as a model to their sons, and he merited being called the good odour of Christ.

He was born at Ripa, near Chieri on the 2nd of April 1842. As a child of seven, even then remarkable for his innocence and piety, he was admitted to the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist; and, after that, it is related, he had such devotion and love for the Holy Sacrament, that in 1854, when he had been received at the Oratory of Turin, to go through his preliminary studies, he often remained for three or more hours rapt in ecstasy before the Blessed Sacrament.

He loved the Blessed Mother of God as his most tender Mother and was the promoter of the Sodality of the Immaculate Conception, the members of which derived therefrom great spiritual profit. It thus followed that his Su-



Domenico Savio.

tientem iniuriarum admirandum in modum, de eo bene considerent: ipse vero nobile exemplar inter aequales haberetur, a quo omnes praeclarum illud didicerunt: Malo mori quam peccatum patrare. Ineunte adolescentia in morbum incidit, quo ab Oratorio invitus discedere et apud parentes se recipere coactus est. Verum, quamvis nihil praetermissum esset quod ad eum sanandum pertineret, morbo in die crescente, quem aequo fortisque animo toleravit, decimo quinto anno aetatis suae nondum exacto, piētissime obdormivit in Domino die 9 martii anno 1857, magnum relinquens deside-

periors had great hopes concerning him, admiring his great soul and his admirable patience under trials; he was regarded as an example to his companions from whom they all learnt that special saying of his: *I would prefer to die rather than offend God.*

In the flower of his boyhood he showed signs of a consuming illness, which necessitated a return to his native air, and he was compelled to leave the Oratory. Although every means was tried to enable him to recover his health, the disease gained ground every day. He bore it with the utmost resignation and fortitude,

rium sui cum fama virtutum. Dum vixit, V. S. D. Ioanni Bosco iucundissimus fuit, qui adolescentulum non aetate sed virtute cum esset metitus, aetas enim senectutis est vita immaculata, post eius obitum historiam scripsit, qua DOMINICUM suum amantissime expressit quasi florem rosarum in diebus vernis et quasi lilia in transitu aquae. Fama sanctitatis quam Dei Famulus in vita adeptus fuerat, post obitum perseverans et crescens, Rmum Ordinarium dioecesis Asten. excitavit ad Inquisitiones sua auctoritate super eadem fama conficiendas. Quibus perfectis, Romam delatis et Sacrae Rituum Congregationi traditis, quum omnia a iure praescripta essent servata, instante R.mo Domino Dante Munerati Societatis Salesianae Procuratore Generali et Causae Postulatore, attentis litteris postulatoriis quorundam Em.orum S. E. R. Cardinalium, plurimum R.morum Sacrorum Antistitum necno Capitulorum, Ordinum et Congregationum una cum laicis utriusque sexus praestantibus, E.mus ac R.mus Dominus Cardinalis Vincentius Vannutelli, Episcopus Praenestinus et Causae Ponens seu Relator, in Ordinario Sacrae Rituum Congregationis Coetu, subsignata die ad Vaticanum coacto, sequens dubium discutiendum proposuit: An signanda sit Commissio introductionis Causae, in casu et ad effectum de quo agitur? Et E.mi ac R.mi Patres sacris tuendis ritibus praepositi, post relationem ipsius E.mi Ponentis, audito voce et scripto R. P. D. Alexandro Verde Sanctae Fidei Promotore, omnibusque accurate perpensis, respondendum censuerunt: Affirmative seu signandam esse Commissionem, si Sanctissimo placuerit. Die 10 Februarii 1914.

Facta postmodum de his Sanctissimo Domino Nostro Pio Papae X per subscriptum Sacrae Rituum Congregationis Secretarium relatione, Sanctitas Sua rescriptum eiusdem Sacri Consilii ratum habens, propria manu signare dignata est Commissionem introductionis Causae Servi Dei DOMINICI SAVIO, adolescentis laici et alumni Oratorii Salesiani, die 11 eisdem mense et anno.

FR. SEBASTIANUS Card. MARTINELLI,

L. ✠ S.

Praefectus.

† PETRUS LA FONTAINE, Ep. Charystien.,
Secretarius.

until, before he had completed his fifteenth year, on March 9th 1857, he died a most happy death, leaving a great sense of loss and a wide reputation for sanctity. While he lived he was regarded a most dear son by the Ven. Servant of God John Bosco who, judging him not by his years but by his virtues *for an immaculate life is a long life*, wrote, his life after his death in which with great affection he portrayed his Domenic as a flower in the spring-time, and a lily by the running stream.

The reputation for sanctity, which the Servant of God had gained during life, increased after his death so that the Bishop of the Diocese of As'i instituted official inquiries as to the grounds for that opinion; these having been completed, were taken to Rome and laid before the Sacred Congregation of Rites. The Rev. Father Munerati, of the Salesian Society, our Procurator General, and Postulator of this Cause, put forward the many letters from Cardinals, Bishops, the heads of Religious Orders and lay persons of both sexes; so that His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Vannutelli, Bishop of Palestrina, who is in charge of the Cause, proposed at the meeting of the Congregation of Rites held at the Vatican the following motion: *Whether the Commission for the Introduction of the Cause should be signed in this case and for this scope?* The Very Rev. Fathers assembled, having heard all the evidence from the Relator, and the reasons of the Promoter of the Faith, decided in the Affirmative, namely that the Commission be signed if it so pleased the Holy Father. Feb. 10th 1914.

This was laid before His Holiness on the following day; and all the proceedings of the Sacred Congregation of Rites having been considered by him, he signed the Commission for the Introduction of the Cause of the Servant of God, Dominic Savio, the young student of the Salesian Oratory.

Sebastian Card. Martinelli

L. ✠ S.

Praefect of the Congregation

† Peter La Fontaine, Bishop.
Secretary.

This is the completion of the first step in the proceedings for the canonisation of Dominic Savio, one of the first fruits of Don Bosco's training, and one of a number of saintly youths whom the great Educator helped to rise to the heights of the virtues of the Saints.

Don Bosco at the Death-bed of the Comte de Chambord.

—◆ (Continued). ◆—

Regarding the malady of our beloved Prince, the doctor's first impression had not been good. He recognized his incredible vitality surviving after that month of violent pain and strict diet. Without coming to a definite decision, he believed the diagnosis of his colleagues to be correct regarding the existence of cancer in the stomach. "This malady may go on a long time, if the invalid is able to keep up his strength by taking and digesting food." On that very day, July 15th, the Prince had consumed a cup of milk, which he had not done for a long time. He had besides endured great fatigue from the visits and conversations which had been going on since four o'clock in the morning, and he did not feel tired. During the day he took some more milk with good results. Doctor Vulpian reckoned that he had taken at different times nearly a pint of milk. It was incredible! From the beginning of his malady, a month ago, one spoonful of liquid caused the invalid atrocious pain and immediate vomiting.

How happy was I on that day! Full of hope I breathed the air of Frohsdorf, which I had so often longed for during that month of anxiety. I had, in truth, never doubted as to the recovery of the Prince; but were we really seeing the accomplishment of that hope? The exclamation of the Comte de Chambord: "My dear, I am cured, once more I shall escape!" continually returned to my mind.

During the day Don Bosco spent a long time with the Prince, and his wife also conversed with the holy man; audiences were also granted to the Count and Countess de Vanssay and to General de Charette. Doctor Vulpian also was received. This happy day was a striking contrast to the preceding.

At half past four in the afternoon, as usual on Sunday, there was Benediction. At the request of the Castle Chaplain, Don Bosco said a few words. Don Bosco is certainly no orator — his words are simple, unaccompanied by any gesture and he has some difficulty in expressing himself in French; — nevertheless he attracts the masses, because the grace of God is with him. That evening I found him admirable, enchanting. He spoke of Mary Help of Christians, of the innumerable graces God granted through Her intercession and of the firm

hopes he had that she would restore life and health to our Prince." He will come to Turin to offer thanks to the Blessed Virgin in her Sanctuary; I await the honour of his visit." Such from a man so reserved, so humble and so positive, filled me with astonishment and confirmed my impressions of the morning, all the more that the inexplicable improvement of the Prince began whilst the sleepless nights of the journey afforded Don Bosco special opportunities for prayer. On the other hand what he actually said was such a contrast to his sad and disheartening words in Turin that I could not help being greatly impressed by them.

The words of this holy priest naturally excited considerable emotion in some of his hearers, who spoke to me of it, begging of me to question the venerable companion of my journey on this subject which I did on the following day.

That evening Dr. Vulpian was absent from dinner as he wished to rejoin his family at Vienna. As it was the feast of St. Henry there were sixteen invited guests; they were fairly cheerful, the Princess presiding with her accustomed dignity and affability, but he who was the life of Frohsdorf was wanting. The meat had been served and the champagne poured out when I caught sight of Valerand and Louis Obry the servants standing opposite the open door of the dining room; I saw them, I say, as it were turned to stone, their eyes fixed on the rooms beyond. At that moment one of the guests, who was sitting on the same side, exclaimed:

— "My God! here is Monseigneur!"

Turning towards the door I glanced at the Princess' face, so expressive and touching that I can never forget it; surprise, stupefaction, fear of the consequences of such imprudence, at first; then joy, tenderness, hope. These sentiments attracted her irresistibly to her royal consort whose hand she took and kissed. Old servants like me could not restrain their emotions at such a spectacle; the Prince was really there in his dressing gown carried in an easy chair.

But alas! how thin and wasted was he! Nevertheless his fine face was beaming and the tone of his voice was as usual, when he said:

—"I did not wish that my health should be drunk without being present."

My eyes were full of tears; this apparition seemed to me that of a phantom. When in bed Monseigneur had not seemed to me the same as I saw him now; around me I heard them speaking of the poor Prince's good looks... He had certainly done what would have been thought impossible during the past days; I had absolute confidence in his recovery; but his alarming emaciation, more conspicuous seated in the chair made an unfavourable impression.

The energy, the kindness, the natural vivacity of our beloved Prince manifested themselves in his desire to give us a joyful surprise.

After speaking as above, Monseigneur asked for a glass of champagne; de Charette hastened to offer his own to the Prince who accepted it with that gracious and royal manner he manifested in all he did. Monseigneur said: "To you first, my dear wife; Gentlemen, I drink to your health." First presenting his glass to Madame, then he turned to all in succession. He stopped a quarter of a second looking at the Viscount de Puget, who did not belong to the royal household, and whose presence, inside the castle, had not been made known to him. The Prince raised the glass to his lips, returned it to de Charette, and giving his orders to be carried back to his apartment, he joyously exclaimed:

—"You are eating iced cheese; I also would like to have some!"

The night was calm, though almost without sleep following the excitement of the previous day. At four o'clock in the morning Don Bosco celebrated Mass in the Prince's room; it was the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. During the morning Don Bosco had a long and intimate conversation with the Prince and his wife; the rest of the time he placed at the disposal of the members of the household who came to ask his advice, or at least a blessing.

Monseigneur kindly had me summoned; he spoke of many things, and showed, his surprise at having realized, the day before that *the castle was invaded*: "There is an immense number of people here." Any one familiar with the Royal family knew that the Prince did not like such *invasions*. He asked me if I was acquainted with the plans of each regarding their departure...; and added:

—"As for you, what are your plans?"

—"It is my intention," I replied, "to leave to-morrow evening. Now that I have seen Your

Highness and the improvement which fills me with the brightest hopes, I am greatly comforted. With all my heart I thank you for having summoned me. My one desire is not to have to leave you to accompany Don Bosco and his companion on their return. However I do not know whether, being unable to speak or understand German, they will have the courage to travel alone through Austria on their way home. I shall place myself at their disposal; and if they are afraid to set off alone, I will return to Italy with them, in which case I shall start to-morrow morning. If not, with your permission, I will remain till the evening."

—"Do as you think best. I am glad to be able to speak to you of the alms I think of giving them; tell me frankly what you think of it. I propose to give 15,000 francs, and my wife 5,000, making 20,000; do you think that is sufficient?"

I replied that I was convinced these good priests did not expect such large alms for their work.

He repeated:

—"Tell me frankly if you think it sufficient. I wish to give generously and am prepared to go as far as 30,000."

—"It seems to me that 20,000 francs are quite appropriate; it is a very generous and suitable offering."

The Prince then spoke of Doctor Vulpian and his honorarium. To the Count de Blacas this business was committed and I was charged to make known to Don Bosco the Prince's offering, and to enquire whether he would prefer to receive it at Frohsdorf itself, or at Turin through a banker.

∴

M. du Bourg also gives these words of Don Bosco: — "*Monseigneur will not come to the throne; but I hope the Blessed Virgin will restore him to health.*"—He also gave strong recommendations to guard the prince from any attempt on his life: and in the subsequent pages he speaks of the cure, of the unexpected catastrophe, and afterwards of the result of the post mortem examination, which clearly showed the absence of any kind of cancer, and the certainty of poison criminally administered. Thus Don Bosco's warning seemed to be based upon a prophetic knowledge of the subsequent violent end of the Comte de Chambord.



The Wonderful Growth of Don Bosco's Work in Argentine, Chili and Brazil.



In a former issue we had occasion to refer to some reports sent home to Europe from America by Fr. Trione, the Organiser of the Co-operators. His journey to the Argentine Republic has resolved itself into an extended visitation of our work in the principal States of the South American Continent, and has embraced a far larger field of activity than was at first contemplated. His letters to Our Superior General have been replete with interesting impressions, and have certainly confirmed the statements from other quarters, that the whole system of our educational and religious work, branching out into so many directions and affecting such varied sources of activity, and penetrating into the lives of such a vast number in every state, has become a mighty force influencing the new Republics in the most beneficial manner.

Fr. Trione has undoubtedly been most favourably impressed. Leaving the Argentine he remarks: "It was with real emotion that I had to separate from our confrères and friends at Buenos Aires, the capital of a State so rich, enchanting, and full of so generous an enthusiasm, that the travellers cannot but be deeply affected.

"My first public appearance in Buenos Aires was in the great Church of *Mater Misericordiae* and there also I bade my adieu. It was the feast of the Holy Rosary and after a magnificent procession my discourse was due. It could not have been delivered under more favourable conditions, and the presence of the Pope's Representative added zest to the proceedings.

That same evening I went on to La Plata to preach in that fine capital of the State of that name. It contains 90,000 people, through it was the merest village in 1882. Our confrères have built up a splendid work, including a Boarding and Day School, both elementary and secondary, a commercial School, evening Schools, a Sunday Oratory, club for the young and for adults, and a large Church dedicated to the Sacred Heart. Attached to this is now being built an immense *campanile* which is to be the finest monument of sacred art in the State.

At its summit is to be placed a great Cross in memory of the Constantine Centenary. This

will be ornamented with electric lights which will produce every evening a conspicuous display of the Cross visible by the whole city. A lady benefactor is bearing the whole cost of this addition to the *campanile*.

I visited our Institutes in the towns of Rosario, Cordoba Mendoza, Bahia Blanca and Ensenada, all of them greatly flourishing. Rosario itself has 200,000 inhabitants, and its commercial life is ever evolving new developments. At Cordoba the buildings of the School are becoming inadequate to the demand and the educational needs, though the School is vast and its accommodation great. Moreover, a new Church of Our Lady Help of Christians is proposed, as well as a new Church and Schools in a growing suburb. This rapid development in fact is the dominant note in the Salesian work, as well as in the commercial growth of these rising Republics.

At St. Nicolas in the house of some long-standing benefactors I found religiously preserved in a glass case a long letter, written by our Founder the Ven. Don Bosco to the Co-operators of St. Nicholas, which boasts having the first Salesian School in the Republic. Mendoza, nearer to the Cordilleras, has 50,000 people and has been rebuilt since 1861, in which year an earthquake destroyed the town in four seconds. Hundreds of people were flocking from the principal church, where a Jesuit Father was preaching the Lenten Course, and none of ours thought of the impending catastrophe. The district is an enchanting one, and largely given up to the production of wine, so that vineyards are quite a feature. Besides the ordinary schools here we have also a vast agricultural school with a large stretch of land for the practical work.

At Bahia Blanca Fr. Trione met among other officials the consular Agent for Italy and discovered that he was an old pupil of the Oratory of Turin, having frequented it during the lifetime of Don Bosco. In this town again there is the same wide programme being carried out by the Salesians. They have two centres in opposite quarters of the town, and both have large Churches and Schools and Festive Oratories

clubs and such like extensions. Bahia Blanca is a flourishing port, and bids fair to rival Buenos Aires itself.

"I was now", says Fr. Trione, "at the gates of Patagonia, and had received the most pressing invitations from the Superiors of the various missionary centres in that vast vicariate. How much indeed I would have given to have been able to visit those vast missions, which I had so often described in my Conferences, but never actually visited. But I was not at liberty to do so, for circumstances had already compelled me to far outrun the limits previously proposed for my visitation. I had therefore to return to Buenos Aires. Of this town and our work there I have said little. Yet it deserves the first place from many points of view. Our Institutes include the College Pius IX. the most important of our Houses in the Argentine, the Collegio Don Bosco in via Belgrano, of St. John the Evangelist in via Olivarria. of Leo XIII, in via Dorrego, of Don Bosco in via Solis, of St. Catherine in via Brazil, and the church in via Moreno. Each of these schools also means the addition of a Church and Sunday Oratory of clubs and associations, so that it is not surprising that between them the pupils run into several thousands; and the parishes conducted number their inhabitants by hundreds of thousands."

These statements by the visitor to Our Houses have been anticipated more than once in the columns of the *Bulletin*, and demonstrate most clearly the phenomenal growth of our work in South America, to which Don Bosco sent his sons certainly by inspiration. A résumé of his visitation, and of his impressions of the main features of the immigration question was given by Fr. Trione in Rome before a most distinguished audience. But of this a separate notice must be given subsequently.

INDULGENCES

which may be gained by the Co-operators.

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

Every month.

1. On any one particular day at the choice of the Associate.
2. On the day when members shall make the exercise for a happy death.
3. Whenever the Co-operators shall say five times the *Our Father*, *Hail Mary* and *Glory be to the Father* for the welfare of Christendom, and once the same prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father, they may gain the Indulgences of the Stations in Rome, of the Portiuncula, of Jerusalem and of St. James of Compostella; these indulgences, moreover, are all applicable to the Holy Souls in Purgatory and can be gained by the Co-operators as often as the prayers are said.

From April 15th to May 15th.

1. May 3rd. The Finding of the Holy Cross.
2. May 8th. The Apparition of St. Michael the Archangel.

It must be borne in mind that the present Holy Father has re-enjoined the daily recital of the *Our Father*, *Hail Mary*, and *Glory be to the Father* for the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff, and also the invocation *St. Francis of Sales, pray for us*. These prayers are the only ones enjoined on the Salesian Co-operators at the time of their enrolment in the Third Order.

THE SALESIAN BULLETIN

Printed and Published
at the Salesian Oratory, Turin, Italy.

This Magazine is sent gratis to Catholics who manifest a desire to become Members of the Association of Salesian Co-operators, and concur in helping our Society in any way whatsoever.

If you are aware of any "SALESIAN BULLETIN" which is misdirected or is going astray, please notify:

*The Very Rev. PAUL ALBERA
32 Via Cottolengo, Turin, Italy.*

You will thus be rendering the Salesians a highly appreciated act of kindness.



Salesian Notes and News.

London. This month brings the close of the Term at the Salesian School at Battersea. However, it is never regarded as bringing any sort of conclusion to Scholastic work or effort, but rather as the prelude to the great period of the year ushered in by the Third Term. It has proved, nevertheless, an important period in itself; numbers have gone on increasing, and in fact there would seem to be no limit to the numbers available, if accommodation were equally obtainable. This however is not so easily provided, so that vacancies will be few in number and applications should accordingly be made some time beforehand.

The Scholastic programme has been carried on in its normal course, slight modifications being introduced only to meet the variations of syllabuses, or the re-arrangements for growing numbers. Early in the new term there will be despatched to parents the entrance forms for the Examinations, for those boys who reach the required standards of age and intellectual attainments. In the beginning of April the Religious Examination of the School will be given by the Diocesan Religious Inspector.

Twice during the term we had the honour of welcoming His Lordship the Bishop of Southwark. The first time, he came simply to spend an evening at the School, and presided at the first performance of this year's play. On the second occasion, it was combined with the visitation of the Sacred Heart Church, and the administration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. But His Lordship found time to go through the various studies and spoke to all the forms, from the First to the Sixth, a visit that was much appreciated by all, both masters and boys. He gave the boys an extra half-holiday, to commemorate his visit. About thirty of the Students were confirmed in the Sacred Heart Church together with the candidates from the parish.

On the Monday before the beginning of Lent the School play was performed before a very large audience, composed of the parents of the boys and friends of the School. The reception given to the play was most hearty and the highest praise was bestowed upon it. And this indeed

it deserved, for the parts were very well sustained, principals and chorus were in good form, there was movement and life in the whole, and the orchestra gave excellent support and a beautiful accompaniment. It was its best performance so far, yet of a previous presentation a most competent critic wrote: "We thoroughly enjoyed the play and appreciated the various excellent artists who made it such a brilliant success. The scenery was worthy of His Majesty's theatre: and cannot say more."

During Lent the only relaxations were for St. Patrick's Day which is naturally a traditional Festival. During Holy Week the term closes for a brief holiday. The reports of the Term's work are sent out as soon as possible. All references to the School or Applications should be made to the Very Rev. C. B. Macey, Salesian School, Battersea S. W.

**Wandsworth
St. Mary
Magdalene's.**

At East Hill the School attached to the Church of the Salesian Fathers has had a successful term, and its numbers of pupils, especially the day-scholars, for which it is mainly intended, are steadily rising. We hope to announce that in the coming term the century will be approached, if not attained.

The Church services have been more than usually well attended on the Sundays in Lent, the evening Sermons being delivered by Father Rankin S. J. from Wimbledon. We hope to be able to announce in our next issue that continued advance is being made with the fund for the church debt, which has been under a gradual process of reduction for some years, and which it is desired to wipe out with all speed. To all who are so generously co-operating in this work of sacrifice and devotion, the Fathers desire to extend their heartiest thanks and deep appreciation.

**The Eucharistic
Congress**

The Eucharistic Congress in Bogotá, Colombia, South America, extended its influence also to the Leper Colonies in Agua de Dios, where

the Salesian Priests gave their protégés a short retreat, in preparation for the concluding day of the Congress, when there was to be a general Communion. Two Committees were formed to deal with the celebrations in the leper colony and they met with ready participation from all the people, there being over three thousand Communions on the closing day. Holy Mass was celebrated in the open air on that day, for want of any building large enough to accommodate so many, and in the evening there was a general meeting at the Salesian Institute.

At Bogotá, the Capital there has recently been

great reception accorded to the ex-President Mr. Roosevelt, on the occasion of his visit to the Argentine Republic. The Committee in charge of the arrangements for the entertainment of the distinguished visitor approached the Provincial and the Director of Our School, requesting them to include a gymnastic display by the boys to be given before the ex-President. Fifteen hundred boys, therefore, from our Schools in the town, were selected for the display, which was witnessed by all the authorities of the place, and the Provincial and Director had places beside the guest. Col. Roosevelt complimented the



Catholic Orphanage of Bethlehem.

held an Exhibition of work executed at the Salesian School of Leo XIII. It drew large numbers of visitors including the President of the Republic and His Grace the Archbishop. The exhibition is described by a local paper as quite opening the eyes of the population, as to the very varied programme carried out by the School and as to the exceptional ability displayed by the young apprentices in the technical departments.



Col. Roosevelt in Buenos Aires. From Buenos Aires an interesting item is forthcoming. The Press, both in England and America, gave a prominent notice of the

boys, and spoke in the highest terms of the educative and social movement initiated by Don Bosco. The boys then paraded before the Government Buildings to do homage to the President of the Republic.



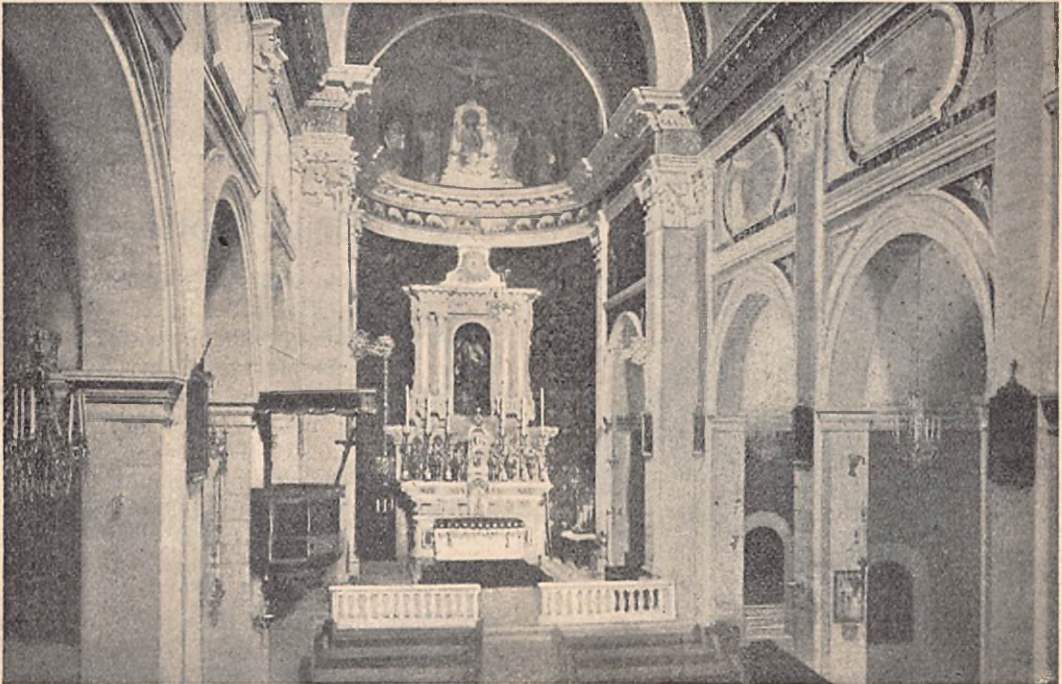
For the D. Bosco Monument. In the official organ of the Past Pupils Association the editor gives some additional notes concerning the Monument to Don Bosco. After the first and second competitions had been decided, and Professor Cellini had been adjudged the winner, there were further sittings of the Commissioners to consider to whom the contract should be allotted for the sculpturing of the

groups and the constructional work involved. This was not decided until Jan 31st of this year, when the President of the Executive, the Right Honourable Baron Manno, formally appointed the above-mentioned Professor Cellini for the execution of the Monument.

The sculptor has undertaken to consign to the Committee all the architectural part, and the two principal groups by May 1st 1915, these are the two groups including that of Don Bosco and the allegorical one of *Humanity* inclining to kiss the cross offered to her by Faith. The marbles to be used will be chosen both according

are left without a home or support in the uncertain conditions often prevailing in those parts. He had gathered together large sums of money and erected schools for orphan boys of all creeds and races, and in few parts of the world are there found such varied strains of nationality as in this meeting place of the East and West.

When the work grew in his hands, and years told upon his energies, he laid the whole of his undertakings in the hands of the Superiors of our Society, who have gradually built them up into the present flourishing Institutes and Schools.



Interior of the Church.

to their appearance and the atmospheric conditions, and some slight modifications in the structure may be found necessary so as to harmonise completely with the façade of the Church and to allow of the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament being given to the crowds in the square on special occasions.



Half-Century Charitable Works. An important half-century of work has been completed in the Holy Land. The Institutes, now well organised and successful, were initiated fifty years ago by the Very Rev. Canon Belloni, who was devoted to the interests of the young children in Palestine, so many of whom

It has been computed that during those fifty years from 1863 to 1913 many thousands of poor boys have received a home and education, and a thorough training in some handicraft, so that they can be self-supporting; and that in the schools of Bethlehem alone more than 2,500 passed through the day-schools.

A report of the work was sent to the Holy See, and at the celebrations held for the fiftieth year, when all the ecclesiastical and civil authorities were assembled, the special blessing of the Holy Father was received, amid enthusiastic demonstrations. The work indeed has grown so much that further efforts are being made to extend the workshops in the near future.



**Don Bosc'o
Anniversary.**

Last year, for the commemoration of our Founder, the Venerable Don Bosco, there was the special consideration of its being the 25th year since his passing away. But there is never much likelihood of its being necessary to introduce temporary considerations to keep his memory green. Year by year there is a further manifestation of his greatness in one way or another, and this year in fact zest was given to the proceedings by the remembrance that 1915 will usher in the centenary year of his birth, and there was naturally a good deal of speculation as to the celebrations for that event.



Rev. Antony Canon Belloni.

It was only to be expected that a great gathering would be attracted to the Oratory at Turin, for the proceedings are always attended by distinguished ecclesiastics and laymen, who are themselves active supporters of Don Bosco's Apostolate. The chief guests included His Eminence Cardinal Richelmy, Archbishop of Turin, and His Lordship the Bishop of Aosta. The discourse dealt mainly with the many-sided programme of the Salesian Work, and how the many movements initiated by Don Bosco were great innovations in his time, but innovations which the public generally now recognise as not only in keeping with a progressive and changing era, but as indispensable to it. Yet whatever he planned out for the benefit of the young or of people at large, was based upon the

solid soil of a good Christian life; and, as the Bishop of Aosta remarked, he forestalled two of the great religious practices urged upon the faithful, that of the recital of the Rosary, by Leo XIII and of frequent Communion by the present Pontiff. These two important factors in the spiritual life of the people he had long ago pressed into his educative system, with remarkable results, both in regard to the young people under his care, and as a means of bracing up the religious side of the adult congregations who flocked to hear him.

At Milan there was another typical gathering of Co-operators, and a striking discourse was given by a distinguished public man, whose words were re-echoed in the daily papers. In a hundred other places there were similar commemorations, all marked by enthusiasm for the cause in hand and for the prospects of the approaching centenary year.

Brief Notices.

In connection with other celebrations, there have been many displays by the Sunday Oratories, particularly for the season just before Lent. The comparatively new Oratory at the Testaccio Quarter of Rome already numbers more than five hundred boys and at a recent prize distribution His Eminence Cardinal Bisleti went to the School to preside. At Milan, again, and many other towns the Oratories held their annual displays, showing a vigorous development, increasing year by year. At Pisa for the Feast of Our Patron Saint, His Eminence Cardinal Maffi presided at the conference, given by a Missionary from China. In view of the increasing work that our own Missionaries are doing in that land, the conference was devoted to the status of religious thought in China, where fantastic religions have such a strange hold upon the native populations.

Amongst the cooperators there are many, whom in this life, I have never been able to see. Let such find their consolation in the thought that in Paradise we shall all of us know each other, and that throughout all eternity we shall rejoice together over the good which, with the assistance of God's grace, we have been able to accomplish in this world, in behalf more especially of poor children.

Ven. Don Bosco.



News from the Missions.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Journey through Neuquén.

Ethnographical Notes of the Territory.

(Letter from the Provincial Fr. Louis Pedemonte).

Viedma, Nov. 1, 1913.

Very Reverend Don Albera,

AFTER a long silence, caused by continual journeys, which from last March until now have kept me constantly employed before undertaking anything else, I wish to give you, a resumé of impressions received whilst traversing the immense *pampas* and the mountainous districts, already seen and traversed in a way unknown to us by our Venerable Founder Don Bosco.

It was immediately after Holy Week that I started for *Neuquén* where our Confrères were expecting me. It is of this journey I propose to give you a special account.

Neuquén is nearly 400 miles from *Viedma* in a straight line. The Apostle of Patagonia, our confrère Mgr. Cagliero, in his time, had to traverse this and other districts on horseback or in conveyances that were not very convenient, to say the least. Now, on the contrary, thanks to the progress pretold so clearly by the Ven. Don Bosco, this long journey is made with greater ease and rapidity.

In five hours rapid transit by motor-car I reached *Fortin Mercedes*; thence about seventy miles by train took me to *Bahia Blanca*, and from there in twelve hours again by train I reached our house of *Roca*, which is only some thirty miles from the confluence of the two great rivers *Limay* and *Neuquén*, whose limpid waters, descending from the heights of the Andes, form the majestic *Rio Negro*, which discharges an immense volume of water hourly into the ocean.

Our Confrères of the Agricultural School of St. Joseph had horses in readiness for us to continue our journey and the House of St. Michael provided me with a comfortable vehicle here

called a *sulky*. I was accompanied by an invalid cleric, in need of mountain air and by a youth born at *Chosmalal*, a former pupil of ours, acquainted with the paths.

Early in the morning of the 2nd of April we started. In order to lighten our burden we had regretfully to go without many desirable things. It was necessary to make in haste a journey of not less than 600 miles, across sandy plains, valleys, hills and mountains. During the hours of scorching sun it is impossible to travel and one has also to avoid very carefully being overtaken by the night chills, otherwise one runs great risk of being left without the animals for transit. To an inexperienced person, it may happen—that after riding many miles, his horse is tired and covered with perspiration especially on certain days of high temperature which are rendered more trying by the reflections from the sand and pebbles of the route. At sunset, the cold currents from the snowy summits of the Andes descend to the *pampas*; these suddenly arrest the perspiration and thus cause maladies of various kinds, and often the death of animals, which are obliged to spend the night in the open air with their riders.

Our first ride was of about sixty miles and lasted five hours; we reached the small town of *Neuquén*, the capital of the vast territory of that name.

The capital, built on the sands in the angle formed by the wash of the two rivers above mentioned, is poor in appearance and will require great efforts to make it habitable. This is already being done, and by means of irrigation it is hoped that the difficulties, hitherto insurmountable to the two thousand inhabitants, may be overcome.

There is no resident priest in this town; one from the house of *Roca* goes there every Sunday and attends as well as he can to the parish, the sick and the prisoners, and he catechizes the children.... When shall we be able to provide for the religious needs of a town in the making, already supplied with all modern equipment; public schools, a bank, railway, flourishing mercantile establishments, a small hospital, and a telegraphic centre in which eight Morse ma-

chines and a double mechanical transmission are at work day and night?

The physical aspect of the territory of Neuquén is somewhat curious; it is hilly, but has also extensive plains.

On entering the territory the traveller is struck by its desolate appearance, especially in the years of prolonged drought or of little snow. For two or three days of travel he sees nothing but low thorny bushes, sands and pebbles indicating a probable marine origin.



Some Jivaros with a Salesian Missionary.

When, however, he approaches the Andes, he beholds on a sudden a total change of scene. Here valleys with rich meadows and all kinds of herbage, streams of water flowing on all sides, perfumes scented the air, varied landscapes... More to the west woods are to be seen or rather forests, many miles in extent, reminding one of the forests of the tropics; whilst thousands of crystal streams gladden the slopes and valleys awaiting the hand of man to convert them into an inexhaustible source of wealth; rich mines of coal and of precious metals lie sleeping, trodden under foot by the roving animals.

An old engineer, Signor Luigi Dell'Isola, who knows almost the whole of Argentina,

having been employed in prospecting for forty years, said to me:

—“Neither in Argentina not elsewhere have they an idea of the riches lying hidden here!”

The shores of the lakes are truly enchanting, but I will not venture to describe them lest I should be thought too enthusiastic.

This territory is inhabited by thirty thousand men, and according to the figures of the official census just concluded, more than a third of the population are natives, whilst another third consists of poor Chilians and the rest are Europeans.

The natives no longer clothe themselves in guanaco skins, but imitate the appearance of the *gaucho* with his *poncho* and *bombachas*, and in place of the bow and arrow they make use of their *jacon*, a large steel knife about half a yard in length. When sober, they are good and harmless; but if they have taken too much brandy, which is often supplied to them without limit they are dangerous; quickly drawing their deadly weapon; the prisons of *Neuquén*, *Río Negro* and *Chubut* are the most impressive proof of what follows. In general they speak broken Spanish; but amongst themselves they speak a native dialect and are very distrustful of the whites; and, although they depend upon them, they keep as far away from them as they can. In many cases they are right, it is better to be alone than with the untrustworthy.

From the capital there will soon be a railway carrying goods and passengers as far as the region called *Zapala* about a hundred miles to the west in the direction of the Andes. The inauguration of this line of railway will give an impetus to agriculture and cattle raising which are the principal sources of wealth, and to mining operations; we shall then be able to visit more frequently our *Confrères* of *Chos-Malal* and of *Juin de los Andes*, who, since the visit of Fr. Ricaldone, of the Superior Chapter, have not seen the face of a confrère.

As we left *Neuquén* at two o'clock on the afternoon we were enveloped in a dust storm, caused by the wind which prevails the greater part of the day.

It was with difficulty that we reached *Laguna del toro*, where there is a hotel with a natural mosaic pavement. There are many comfortable rooms, but the furniture of the liquor bar, where trade is most active, baffles description. Four empty hampers nailed to planks of willow, hold bottles of gin, brandy etc. etc. Here should be preached a crusade against drunkenness.

Arroyitos was our next stop. Its climate is very mild, enabling peaches to ripen for several

months. From *Arroyitos* we ascended slowly a barren hill, from which scarcely a sign of vegetation was to be seen. It is a district of fully eight leagues without a drop of water.

At half past five in the afternoon we reached the ridge of *Chocon*, whence we had a splendid view of the valley of the *Limay*, which in its capricious windings forms little islands of luxuriant vegetation. The descent is dangerous. Fragments of broken carts and crosses erected here and there attract the attention of the traveller, recalling the numerous accidents which have happened on this route. The declivity, steep and formed of red rock skirts the dry

The following day we arrived about mid-day at *Cabo Alarcon*, the most beautiful spot on the banks of the *Limay*, where in picturesque fashion the valley of the river joins that of a tributary.

Here agriculture has an assured future and not far distant, for there is an abundance of good land and facilities for irrigation. *Cabo Alarcon* is also the natural centre of meeting of the two most important trade routes in the Territory.

Having replenished our store of grain for the animals, we resumed our journey without however reaching our appointed resting place, and



Tierra del Fuego. — A School for Boys.

bed of a torrent, deep and dangerous, hollowed out by the rain.

We deemed it prudent to spend the night on an island, rather than in a house near it. Whilst we were making a fire and preparing some food, a boy about nine years old, unknown to his father, who has lost his faith, came up to us, and without getting off his pony, made his confession in a most edifying manner. Whilst his mother, who is a good woman, wishes him to be a Catholic, he is obliged to hear his father blaspheming all that refers to Divine Worship. I thought of him for a long time under the willows, where, wrapped in a guanaco skin which keeps out the cold, I rested peacefully, stretched on the soft sands of the island shore.

another small island gave us comfortable quarters about three leagues from *Pantanitos*.

This is an establishment along the river for agriculture and the raising of cattle.

At the head of this establishment is Signor Pietro Curuchaga, always most courteous to travellers, especially to the missionaries, who have in him a true friend.

Saturday, the 5th of April was a very hot day and we experienced what travelling is like across the sands and in the ravines under the scorching rays of the sun at mid-day. Our animals being wearied, and ourselves exhausted, we were obliged to approach the banks of the river at an inconvenient spot, and make use of the waters of a muddy pool which produced injurious

effects, both in ourselves and our animals. So, for many hours we suffered from thirst, with water at our very feet. However the Missionary must be prepared for such experiences.

On the following Sunday we remained without Mass, but the reading of the day's Gospel gave us spiritual comfort and was an occasion for explaining some portion of the Life of Our Lord to the persons we found at *Fortin Nogueiras* and at *Piedra del Aguila* where we passed the night.

Piedra del Aguila, a new town amongst rocky and volcanic hills, surrounded by a fertile plain with abundant streams of fresh water, is the property of a Salesian Cooperator Don Joseph Agezza, who has an estate, of very vast area.

In the *ranchos* I found half naked children; two of the most necessitous I took to the stores of the Spaniards Elorriaga Rodriguez Co and these good friends gave them flannel shirts. Here, as elsewhere, it was easy to see that the Missionaries were, in reality, sowing good seed which, if watered by more frequent visits would produce the harvest of a Christian life. But these families lament that for years the Missionary has not visited them. It is a sad fact. What can four priests do for thirty thousand souls scattered over a region of 80,000 square miles!

I baptized Signor Elorriaga's little girl and I had the opportunity of teaching the catechism to a good number of children and explaining the Gospel to their elders assembled there. The men numbered about fifteen, and amongst them were several Europeans familiar with the objections which serve as pretexts to those who reject the yoke of the divine commandments. They did not keep silence and the conversation became apologetic and interesting. The difficulty was in adapting the explanation to those who knowing the truth will not conform their lives to it, and to those in ignorance who, for the first time, hear an explanation of some passage of the Gospel. But we were so far successful that the weak faith of the greater number should not suffer; and the unreality of the difficulties of scientific appearance was so apparent, as to catch the admiration of all for the teaching of the Church of Jesus Christ, attacked in so many ways and ever victorious. The conversation lasted until nearly midnight to the visible satisfaction of all.

In the morning we set off for *Sañoico*, a fertile region with a promising future, inhabited by Messrs. Zingoni, great friends of Mgr. Cagliari and of all our Missionaries.

From there, by valleys and hills to a height of 5,000 feet above the sea, we reached the valley of *Collon-Curá*, the principal affluent of the *Li-*

may, abounding in cold and limpid waters, which at certain points is of very great depth. Here we were in danger of losing our guide, and also one of the animals, through the obstinacy of a mule which refused to cross the water; but a touch with a rope administered in time saved the life of the boy which was in peril. On such occasions there is need of more than human assistance.

Having crossed the river, we arrived by sunset at the hill on the banks of the *Chemehuin*. The steep descent was made on foot in about half an hour. We were lodged in the house of Mr. Putkammer, where the Missionary always finds a hearty welcome. Here I instructed several children, but was unsuccessful in my endeavour to persuade an Indian to have his little girl baptised. He alleged for excuse that the whites of his acquaintance were not good Christians, and it is a fact, that bad example is one of the worst hindrances to the work of the Missionary.

Early in the morning we had a short catechetical instruction, at which with his companion the Indian *Payalen* himself was present. He kissed the Crucifix, though he would not allow his daughter to be baptized, nor would he be baptized himself to regularize his marriage.

We reached *Jumin* on the 12th; there I celebrated Holy Mass and enjoyed being with our confrères again and brought my journey to an end for the present.

This extensive region of the Neuquen will undoubtedly be the scene of great missionary development and commercial enterprise in the near future, and arrangements for it will soon be imperative. In the meantime I ask your blessing on our work and remain

Your devoted son in J. C.

LOUIS PEDEMONTE.
Salesian Missionary.

CHINA.

The Needs of the Mission.

(Letter from Fr. Pedrazzini).

Sack-Kei, October 30. 1913.

Very Rev. Don Albera,

DIRATES AGAIN! you will exclaim on opening this letter of mine. No; thank God, we have not had another visit from these gentlemen. But our Christians have had a bad time; a typhoon and floods have brought desolation to these poor villages.

The Mission of *Po-Fong* has suffered most. This is a curious village with its bamboo huts mirrored in the waters of the river *Sin-Sam*.

A storm of wind and rain which had raged the whole night, broke through the embankment of the great river which poured through the little village, knocking down the huts and turning every thing upside down.

Truly a heart-rending spectacle! Amidst the huts overthrown by the flood the people struggled in desperation. The mothers, up to their necks in the water, forgetting their own danger, handed their children to the brave fishermen,

If only this poor Missionary had a store of money with which to rebuild that village! But unfortunately our means are so scanty that we have daily to witness a thousand miseries without being able to alleviate them. On one side entire villages of lepers in ruinous huts, exposed to the inclemency of the weather; on the other, gloomy barracks which in certain seasons are filled with plague-stricken or cholera patients; here the blind without any food, their villages infested with robbers...

As if to corroborate this sad picture of these poor people, a Christian showing signs of terror arrived and said:



A Group of Jivaros Chatting at our Gualaquiza Mission.

who on boats or rafts, or clinging to the large tree trunks, endeavoured to help all. Heaven blessed their efforts and there were no victims of the catastrophe.

Still their condition is deplorable. Their houses destroyed, their few domestic animals and their crop of rice totally lost. They have nothing left, as far as this world's goods are concerned.

The Missionary who visited this poor village was much edified. He was received in a temporary erection, with their usual cordiality; and whilst they offered him some fish (the only food they had) a good old man, in the name of all repeated the words of Job:

"The Lord hath given, He hath taken away, blessed be His Holy Name!"

— "Ah! Father, our sins have excited the just anger of the Lord!"

— "Why do you say so? What has happened?"

— Taking the cup of tea I offered him, he swallowed it in haste and shaking his head, he said:

— "Our village of *Pa-Cong-La* is utterly destroyed." How is that? Was it the typhon or the rain?

— "The rain had done much damage to our huts, but we had repaired them, when on a sudden, our village was invaded by robbers. Beating us with the butt end of their guns, they forced us to leave our huts, and then ordered us to hand over our money. We had nothing to give. The last rains destroyed the harvest.

The oldest amongst us explained our state of destitution, but he fell a victim to duty. After him two others were shot dead and eight were wounded. At this sight we all fled across the rice fields trying to hide ourselves. From a distance we were helpless spectators of a sad sight."

—"These robbers are not men; they are wild beasts! They set fire to our huts and then decamped."

—"So the large hut which serves as a chapel was burnt?"

—"No, we succeeded in subduing the flames before they reached it."

—"Well now, go and take some food, and we will then see about succouring the wounded. For the rest God will provide."

And God, I trust, will move the heart of some good Co-operator, so that he may take this poor Chinese Mission under his care!

How much indeed there is to be done! Here at *Scak-Kei* the present chapel is quite too small for the Christians; at *Jan-Mu* a small school for boys and girls is absolutely necessary, also a small playground for the boys, and so many other things are needed. But what can we do without means, without altar furniture, without vestments?

We ask you to recommend to your Co-operators the development of our Mission in China. We place our trust in their generosity and in your fervent prayers.

I remain

Your affectionate and devoted son

JOHN PEDRAZZINI.
Salesian Missionary

Gleanings.

From India. — The Director of the Orphanage of St. Thomas of Mylapore (Madras) wrote on the 24th of last December:

".....Here we traverse the streets of the city, crowded with pagans of many different sects, marked on the breast and the arms with various colours and in many different shapes; all these people make way respectfully for us and give us the salutations due to their great people. Even, wonderful to relate, some days ago I met in in one of the most crowded streets of Madras, a *guru*, a pagan priest, who bowed to me, to which, through, inadvertence, I did not respond and he threw himself on his knees saying to me:

"I, also, am a good man!" and to satisfy him I had to give him my blessing!

"In the School we are progressing, but not rapidly: the boys are always increasing, the house is more than full and our good Bishop has decided to enlarge the premises, so that we may be able to accommodate a hundred and forty where now we have eighty-five.

"On the 8th of this month with the Feast of Mary Immaculate, we had in this city the closing of the Constantinian Jubilee, preceded by a triduum of sermons and visits to the churches. The functions of the 8th were solemnly celebrated in the Cathedral.

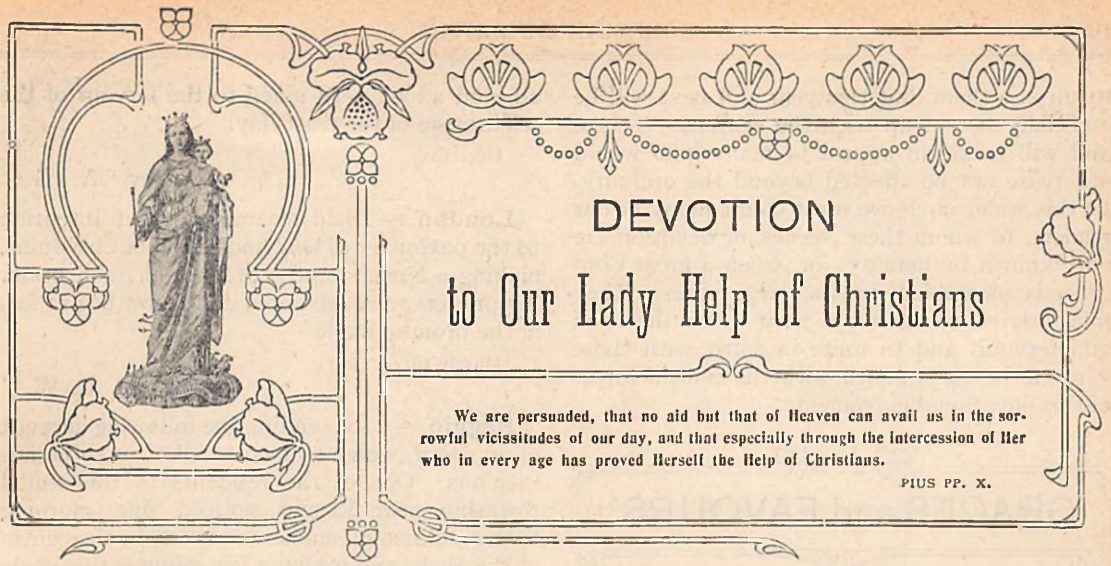
"On the same day we had a very successful entertainment in our house. The magnificent hall which serves as a dormitory for our boys (where two years ago the Eucharistic Congress was held) had been turned into a theatre. On the platform were seated the Archbishop of Madras, the Bishop of Mylapore, and other distinguished Ecclesiastics; the hall was crowded not only with Catholics, but also with Protestants and pagans, friends of the house and very kind to us. After a piece of music played by the band, which on this day made its first appearance, Mr. K. Warmington rose, and gave a splendid discourse on Constantine and his work in relation to the Church. He was frequently interrupted by enthusiastic applause.

"The Feast of the Immaculate Conception was also a great day for our Association of Mary Immaculate, to which all the Catholic boys in Mylapore belong. After the Mass of General Communion all came to breakfast at the School. His Lordship the Bishop presided; and at the end were read several compositions showing the ever-increasing progress of the Association and the excellent spirit of the boys belonging to it."

Communications and offerings may be addressed to our Superior General:

The Very Rev. PAUL ALBERA
Salesian Oratory,—Turin, Italy.

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Those who have already enrolled themselves among the clients of Our Lady Help of Christians will find particular interest in the proposals mentioned on a preceding page of this issue. There is seldom any lack of support when the condition of some historic building is such that it gives rise to fear lest decay should set in and collapse should follow. The Sanctuary of Our Lady Help of Christians can certainly claim historic importance, for it is intimately bound up with the foundation, growth, and development of Don Bosco's work, which has itself become of world-wide proportions. It was the scene of many of those miraculous occurrences, which were almost the daily accompaniment of the life of the Servant of God, and were a constant manifestation of the important part taken by Our Lady in the spread of this devotion, and in the work of her chosen servant Don Bosco.

Moreover it was the home and centre, where those were nurtured and reared, who were to be the bearers of her message to distant lands. Even in Don Bosco's time this great outflowing had begun, and a constant stream has been kept up, whereby the knowledge and practice of this devotion, together with the higher ideals of a Christian life and all that it stands for, have been carried to far away lands, which would otherwise probably be still in the dark ways of heathen superstition.

The Sanctuary of Our Lady moreover is associated with all the great events in the development of our work. It has seen the great solemnities on each succeeding festival of May 24th particularly the epoch — making events of the Pontifical coronation of the figures of Our Lady and the Child Jesus, and the Congresses accompanying these events. It has witnessed the grand displays of sympathy and devotion for


the obsequies of its Founder and of his first Successor, after they had been instrumental in spreading the devotion and in the miraculous interventions so often experienced within its walls.

For these reasons as well as for the wonders connected with its erection, referred to on preceding pages in Don Albera's letter, it will be easy to see that the historic and religious associations of the Sanctuary will make it ever sacred in the eyes of the world, and will secure for it immunity not merely from decay but from any diminution in its grandeur and inherent worth.

It is common knowledge that the Church was built and furnished from funds received by Don Bosco, almost entirely in a miraculous manner, provided, in fact, by Our Lady Herself, through the favours she bestowed upon his co-operators. It has been computed that five-sixths of the cost was given in thanksgivings for graces; the remaining sixth being provided by voluntary offerings. The Very Rev. Don Albera also states that the repairs and decorations carried out fourteen years ago were wholly covered by thank offerings, in return for favours and promises of co-operation in the work. He therefore very naturally expects Our Lady to be as interested in the necessary restoration of the Sanctuary as She was in its building and decorations, and it will be without surprise that his expectations are speedily realised.

In the meantime the month of May approaches, and it is expected that the celebrations connected with it will go far to secure extensive co-operation in the proposed schemes. Apart from all other considerations, the usual celebrations are accompanied by scenes of devotion and practical faith that it would seem impossible

to surpass them; but this year and next will be especially bound up with the centenary feasts, and will make an appeal to many who would otherwise not be affected beyond the ordinary. In this wider circle we must count many of our readers, to whom these scenes of devotion are only known by hearsay, or when a great Congress is assembled in the large cities. They must strive to increase their own devotion and fervour, and to unite in spirit with those who are in closer touch with the central forces of this devotional movement.



GRACES and FAVOURS (1)

Accrington.—Our little child had contracted a dangerous affection of the eyes which, according to medical advice, might permanently injure the sight. We placed our confidence in Our Lady Help of Christians; an offering was made, and we promised publication of the favour, if the child should be cured. Immediately after the promise was made, the eyes began to improve and were soon completely cured. With gratitude to Our Lady Help of Christians we now fulfil the promise of publication, and enclose a thank-offering.

Jan. 1914.

J. T. P

Wernsee.—One of the boys of Our College had been confined to a bed of sickness for four weeks, suffering from acute rheumatism; it caused him intense pain and prevented him almost entirely from moving. As the Novena in preparation for the Immaculate Conception approached, we renewed our prayers to Our Lady Help of Christians to obtain his cure, and when the Novena began the boy received Holy Communion every day. However, there was no sign of any improvement right up to the very day of the Immaculate Conception, but the mother of God had reserved the favour for that feast day.

After a night of great agony, the boy suddenly felt that all pain had ceased; life and movement had returned to his limbs, he got up without any assistance, and went down to the chapel to offer his thanksgiving. His unexpected appearance made a great impression upon

(1) In regard to these favours it is not intended to attribute to them any higher authority than that arising from certified human testimony.

all, and added very much to the fervour of the celebration of the feast-day.

Dec. 1913.

Rev. A. G.

London.—I had recommended an intention to the patronage of Our Lady Help of Christians, making a Novena and a promise of publication. My prayers were answered and I now beg to fulfil the promise made.

March 1914.

(Per.) M. E. W.

Reggio.—I am sending the following account of an event, which seemed to all of us to be miraculous. One of the residents in this small township near Reggio noticed one morning that a volume of smoke was rising in the centre of the place, and within a few minutes the whole was threatened with the conflagration. Every one was immediately alarmed, and every endeavour was made to stem the progress of the flames and save the surrounding buildings. But all seemed in vain. The fire spread rapidly and there seemed no hope of saving anything, and consternation grew.

Under these circumstances I urged the people to join in having recourse to the Help of Christians and I promised a thank-offering and publication. This gave new life and courage to the community, and immediate success seemed to attend their efforts to limit the area of the flames and to subdue the fire completely. The firemen declared that no human power could have brought this change about.

In the name of all the families saved from the ravages of the flames I send our thank-offering, and beg for a remembrance that we may continue to have the blessing of Our Lady Help of Christians.

Dec. 1913.

E. B.

≡ OBITUARY. ≡

The prayers of the Associates are asked for the following recently deceased members:

The Right Rev. William Turner, Bishop of Galloway.

William Fitzgibbon, Ballyforan.

Mr. D. Kelly, Kimberley.

The Very Rev. Canon McCartney Peebles.

Mr. Sullivan, Kinsale, Cork.

Mrs. Kelly, Dublin.

Mrs. Mary Macdonnell, Castlebar.

Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

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