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SANCTUARY OF MARY HELP OF CRISTIANS



TOMB OF DON BOSCO

THE



ALESIAN,

BULLETIN



DON BOSCO.

SALESIAN PRESS * * * *

* * * * TURIN * * * *

The Association of Salesian Co-operators

We wish to call the attention of the Readers of the *Salesian Bulletin* to the Association of Salesian Co-operators, and ask them to make the same widely known amongst their friends and acquaintances.

It is a most practical, efficacious and advantageous way of carrying out the wishes and exhortations of His Holiness Leo XIII, and notably those contained in the Encyclical *Graves de communi* on Christian Democracy.

This Association was, from its very beginning, warmly recommended by Pius IX who claimed to be inscribed as first Co-operator, and enriched it with the spiritual favours of the most privileged tertiaries.

His Holiness Leo XIII, on his elevation to the pontifical throne, claimed, like his Predecessor, to head the list of the Salesian Co-operators. He, moreover, said to Don Bosco: *Each time you address the Co-operators, tell them that I bless them from my heart; the scope of the Society is to prevent the loss and ruin of youth, and they must form but one heart and one soul in order to help to attain this end.*

Every good christian above sixteen years of age can become a Co-operator, enjoy the numerous spiritual favours, and share in the merit of the good works accomplished by the Salesian Congregation, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, and the Association of Co-operators throughout the whole world.

The membership does not entail any obligation of conscience whatsoever; hence not only all members of a family, but inmates of any institution or college, members of religious communities, confraternities, etc., can join it by means of their Superiors.

Each and all may become active Co-operators by promoting with their good example and according to their means and capacity the practice of Religion and works of charity in their respective places.

Each and all may co-operate in the numerous and manifold works of charity and public beneficence carried on in other parts by the following means:

PRAYER — by praying for the object and intentions of the Association.

ALMSGIVING — by contributing according to their means to the support and development of the many institutions of the Society for the education of destitute youth; also to the support and extension of the Missions among heathens, and on behalf of the lepers.

PROPAGANDA — by making the Association of Salesian Co-operators more widely known and increasing the number of its members; by bringing the works of the Society to the knowledge of well-disposed and charitable persons, by enlisting the sympathy of them and of all who have at heart the rescuing and christian education of youth and the good of civil society.

Any persons desiring to become Members of this Association are respectfully solicited to send their name and address to the *Very Rev. Michael Rua, Superior General, Salesian Oratory, Turin, Italy*, who will be most happy to enrol them and forward their Diploma of Admission, as well as the *Salesian Bulletin* every month.



THE
SALESIAN
BULLETIN

PUBLISHED AT THE "ORATORIO SALESIANO,"—VALDOCCO, TURIN, ITALY.

To your care I commend infancy and youth, zealously attend to their Christian education; place in their hands such books as may teach them to fly from vice and steadily walk in the path of virtue. (PIUS IX.)

A tender love of our fellow creatures is one of the great and excellent gifts that Divine Goodness grants to man.

(St. FRANCIS de Sales.)

Redouble your energies and talents in the rescue of infancy and youth from the snares of corruption and infidelity, and thus prepare a new generation

(LEO XIII.)

Vol. IV., No. 12.

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Registered for transmission abroad.

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To the Salesian Co-operators, Benefactors and Benefactresses of Don Bosco's institutions, the Salesian Bulletin conveys the best wishes for the Christmas Festivities and for a happy New Year.

They are offered to them by the Very Reverend

Don Rua, Don Bosco's Successor,

in the name also of all those who are in any way the object of their benevolence.

These good wishes together with the prayers offered up on this auspicious occasion throughout the whole world, are entrusted to the Guardian Angels of thousands and thousands of boys and girls brought up in Don Bosco's institutions, and of the many savages, who, through your help, have been brought to the knowledge and love of our Divine Redeemer. The Angels will lay those wishes and prayers before the throne of God, and bring down on you His heavenly blessings.

THE ENCYCLICAL LETTER

of His Holiness PIUS X. and the Salesian Co-operators.



THE first Encyclical Letter of His Holiness Pius X. contains a passage which seems to have a particular bearing on the Association of Salesian Co-operators and well deserves their special attention.

After stating how he confidently reckons on the co-operation of the Pastors of the Church, in the furtherance of the cause to which he is determined to devote all his strength and his life itself, the Pope proceeds to point out the means to be used for this great work, and then continues:

“At the same time, Venerable Brethren, it is not our purpose that in all this toilsome task of re-establishing the nations of men in Christ, you and your clergy should have no helpers. We know that God “gave to every one of them commandment concerning his neighbour” (Eccli, xvii, 12). It behoves, therefore, not only those who have devoted themselves to Sacred Orders, but all of the faithful, to labour for the cause of God and of souls; not, indeed, each one by himself and according to his own mind, but always by the guidance and will of the Bishops; for to preside, to teach, to rule, is

given to no one in the Church but to you, whom “the Holy Ghost has placed to rule the Church of God” (Acts xx, 28).

“Our Predecessors have long since approved and sanctioned by their blessing the union of Catholic men among themselves in a society, for divers purposes, but always for the good of religion. We also do not hesitate to honour this excellent institution with our praise; and we earnestly desire that it may spread afar and flourish in the cities and in the rural districts. But we will that societies of this kind should look first and foremost to this, that all those who are admitted into them should constantly live in a christian manner. For it is surely of little profit to discuss many questions with subtlety, and to discourse with eloquence on rights and duties, when these things are divorced from practice. For the times call for action, but for that action which consists in keeping the Divine laws and the precepts of the Church piously and perfectly, in the free and open profession of religion, and lastly, in exercising works of charity of every kind, without any regard for self or for earthly advantages. So many bright examples of this kind given by the soldiers of Christ, will have more power to move the minds

of men and to bear them away, than words or laboured arguments."

In these remarks we have outlined the scope, the spirit and practice of Don Bosco and of his earliest fellow-workers—good christian men and women from the noble as well as from the popular ranks. Their example was imitated and their number increased prodigiously. To increase also their power for good they were banded together and formed the union or Association of Salesian Co-operators, which was approved by Pius IX and so highly commended and favoured by him and by Leo XIII.



And first of all, the members of this union are told to aim at their own christian perfection by leading a practical christian life. Thus a Co-operator sets a good example everywhere, in the bosom of his family and in his parish, within the domestic walls and outside, by an exact fulfilment of the duties of his state, by the frank profession of his religion. His private as well as his public life are, at all times and in all places, inspired and guided by the maxims of the Gospel. Without adding in any way to his obligations of a good christian, he exercises a most efficacious apostolate—that of example, which is better than precept. He works out his salvation, not by withdrawing from the world, but rather by remaining in it as a good leaven.

He is well aware that there is no salvation without prayer. And he prays in the bosom of his family, associating

in this act of religion the members of his household; he adds also some spiritual reading from the holy Gospel or from some other book useful to instruct and to nourish the christian spirit.

The Co-operator chooses by preference his own parish church wherein to fulfil his religious duties, and this for the sake of good example; he promotes the public acts of worship and devotions that foster piety among the people.

Moreover, if he has others in his employ or under his control, he induces them to the practice of Religion and gives them opportunity to do so: bearing in mind that these people are entrusted by Almighty God to his charity and commended to his zeal.

His piety has the traits of that of his Patron, St. Francis of Sales. It has nothing repulsive, nothing indiscreet or untimely: it is robust, gentle and winning. It is simple and unaffected as in Don Bosco.



The good example set by the fulfilment of the duties of one's state, though first and foremost, is not all. And the programme of the union of Co-operators, as described in the first issue of the *Bulletin*, 1876, is a practical way by which every one who truly loves his neighbour gives—not empty promises, sterile lamentations over the evils of the age—but deeds, earnest co-operation. Whilst he approves of, and favours any work of charity and catholic action, he, in the way and measure compatible with his position in life, seeks to promote the practice of religion, fostering

good morals and especially taking care of poor youth.

There is need of instructing the ignorant, of setting errors right, of dispelling prejudices, in order to lead people to listen to the Church, to obey her precepts and keep the divine Commandments. To this end the Co-operator favours the good press, makes known and spreads good literature, books, pamphlets and essays to oppose the bad press and to counteract its pernicious effects.

Our solicitude is to be directed in a special manner to the rescue, protection and education of youth, chiefly of the poorer classes. Hence the Co-operator takes interest in all efforts at safeguarding the faith of boys and girls, at training them and keeping them steadfast in the practice of religion both during their school-years and also beyond that age when, chiefly in large centres, they are so exposed to the lurements of vice. He supports good schools and institutes; he promotes and aids the foundation of Festive Oratories, Patronages, sodalities, parochial catechisms, etc., which work for this noble end. He lends his personal services whenever it is possible and expedient; strives to make them flourish by his support and by seeing that they are well attended. He befriends poor, neglected boys and girls by words and deeds, or tries to do so by the instrumentality of others.

Almighty God often singles out, even from the humbler classes, those on whom he bestows the gifts that fit them to become His ministers. To discover

such ones, to foster the germs deposited in those tender souls, to enable them to follow out this divine vocation and give thus to the Church worthy priests, is a work highly meritorious. And the Salesian Co-operator seeks to multiply in this way the means of salvation.

To all the members of the Association Don Bosco enjoined a complete, docile submission to the Ecclesiastical Superiors. Their apostolate of charity is to be exercised at all times under the guidance of the Bishop of the diocese. The Salesian Co-operators work in harmony with, and grouped round their parish priest, whose authority they respect and uphold, and whom they assist in the attainment of the end of his sacred ministry, the salvation of souls. All works and foundations are undertaken and carried on with the knowledge sanction and approval of the Pastor of the diocese; and, whenever the number of Co-operators makes it advisable to establish a local centre, the Bishop is asked to appoint an ecclesiastic to act as president or director.



When through age or infirmities one is disabled from lending personal action, or is prevented from taking direct part in it by duties of his state or special circumstances of life, he can still cooperate and assist in furthering this good cause. We can always give our prayers, fervent and persevering—the prayers that draw down God's blessing on the labours of others and make them bear fruit.

Moreover, we can co-operate by contributing, according to our means, to the support of these institutions by alms-deeds. No better use could be made of what God in His goodness has given to us than by employing it in bringing many others to the knowledge, love and service of Jesus Christ.

On the 1st of Jan., 1883, Don Bosco wrote to his Co-operators: "See what purpose your charity serves, what effects your alms-deeds can bring about. It serves to gather in so many poor children and place them in safe keeping; to give them food for both soul and body, instruction in their religion, a training in some honourable employment, and thus bringing them up as good christians and upright citizens. It serves to give useful members to society, faithful Catholics to the Church, and future citizens of heaven. It serves to train worthy teachers of youth, zealous priests for catholic populations, brave missionaries for the yet savage nations. It serves to raise sacred buildings in which to gather the faithful for instruction in religion, to administer to them the Holy Sacraments, to sing the praises of God thus atoning for the blasphemies and outrages of the impious. It serves to publish and diffuse thousands of good books spreading sound principles, combating error, strengthening the faith of all christians, supplying good thoughts to the fallen. It serves in fine to extend the kingdom of God on earth, and cause Jesus Christ to reign in individuals, in families, in towns, in nations; to make Him known and loved, were it given to us, all the world over: thus bringing

about the fulfilment of the prophecy: he shall rule from one sea to the other: *dominabitur a mari usque ad mare.*"

And is not this exactly *to restore all things in Christ*, proclaimed by His Holiness Pius X.?



In a previous number, mention was made of the sentiments of Pius X. towards Don Bosco and his works, and especially towards the Association of Salesian Co-operators. We recalled his words and exhortations which showed forth his appreciation of them and his eagerness to see them extending more and more.

We gave the affectionate message which, soon after his elevation to the pontifical throne, he penned with his own hand and sent to the whole Salesian Family, imparting with special affection the Apostolic benediction.

We should, therefore, dear Co-operators, regard this pontifical document, which sets forth the Holy Father's designs and wishes, as a further sanction on our labours; lay to heart the admonitions contained therein; do our utmost to conform our life to its teaching, to endeavour to increase the ranks of the Association and make it more widely known.

Thus we will effectually co-operate with the Vicar of Jesus Christ in bringing about this renewal of christian life in the world.



Don Rua's Representative in America

(Extracts from his Secretary's Correspondence)

(Continued)

In one hour and a half we crossed the splendid bay of Rio Janeiro, then walked to the station for the train to the summit of the hill where Petropolis is built. Here is the ordinary residence of the diplomatic body, and here also the principal men of business come to spend the night; as, on account of the yellow fever it would be dangerous to remain in Rio.

In Petropolis we called on the Apostolic Nunzio, Mgr. Macchi. He had been so good as to spend two days in our House, and now he insisted on our accepting his hospitality: the attentions which he showed towards Fr. Albera were such as cannot be easily forgotten. This illustrious and learned Prelate cherishes the affection of a Father for Don Bosco's children. During his stay at Nictheroy he deigned to express how highly gratified he was at being in our midst, and exhorted the pupils to profit by the good education that is given to them. "The Pope," he said on one occasion, "is well acquainted with all that is being done by the sons of Don Bosco, especially in South America; and he is at ease when a work is entrusted to their zeal." "Great indeed is the benevolence of this Prelate, who has already endeared himself so much to the peoples of Peru and Chile where he was before, and is now so highly esteemed here in Brazil. On leaving the Nunzio we called on Mgr. Maia the Bishop of the diocese. Like his lamented predecessor, Mgr. Lacerda, he is our first benefactor in Brazil. It is his delight to go, from time to time, to spend a few days among those whom he calls his beloved children of Nictheroy.

* * *

On the 15th of August, on one of the elegant boats, capable of carrying 500 passengers, which ply across the bay, a numerous pilgrimage arrived from Rio Janeiro. Most of the pilgrims were

members of the Conferences of Saint Vincent of Paul, and were anxious to close their retreat with this act of faith and strengthen their good resolutions, by receiving holy Communion at the monumental shrine of Mary Help of Christians adjoining the Santa Rosa Institute at Nictheroy. It was indeed an edifying spectacle to see magistrates, officers, patricians, and men of the people, associated in a brotherly manner, singing the litany or reciting the rosary. I cannot forget the impression made on me by a Major-Colonel devoutly going up the hill—an ascent painfully difficult for him suffering from asthma and compelled to halt every now and then for breath.

Many of those pilgrims asked go to confession, and four priests were at their disposal, here and there in the adjoining wood. To be in sight of all, Fr. Albera said mass on a platform in front of the monument, and distributed about three hundred communions.

When the religious service was over, they all partook of some breakfast together; and at the end of it Dr. Augustin dos Reis, Professor at the Polytechnic School of Rio Janeiro, rose to speak. I had heard this gentleman speak when in thrilling, inspiriting accents he had welcomed Don Rua's Representative; but now his voice is veiled, his words betray deep emotion. He mentions the good example it had been to him the sight of the pupils who had assisted at the ceremony devoutly recollected, with serene, joyful countenance and with an excellence in discipline which would have done honour to an army corps. He points out how it was wise and far-seeing on the part of the Superior to have his 420 pupils assisting at this public and solemn manifestation of faith; for, thus, whilst he gave to some, there present, the consolation of seeing their children, he taught the boys how they must behave when once outside the college walls.

But all wished to hear some words from Fr. Albera; and he complied with their desire by stating the close relation that always existed between the Conferences of Saint Vincent of Paul and Don Bosco and his institutions. In many towns of America also, he said, the members of the Conferences were those who had opened the way to the Sons of Don Bosco. He ended by recalling the intimate friendship of Saint Vincent of Paul and Saint Francis of Sales, and exhorting their followers to imitate the noble examples of these Patrons.

Later on, also the Minister of Public Works came to see the monument and pronounced it a fine piece of art. He saw with pleasure that it was becoming a favourite resort of pilgrims, though the ascent is rather steep and too difficult for many. Hence he arranged with the Superior of the Institute to have a railway communication established. A committee of engineers has been accordingly formed of which the Minister himself is the Chairman and the works have been since started. They expect to open it solemnly on the third of May, the feast of the Finding of the Cross and the anniversary of the discovery of Brazil. It will afford to many devout people the means of satisfying their piety and further the devotion to Mary Help of Christians.

There are many more things about this place well worth recording, but they must be passed by. Fr. Giordano, the Provincial of North Brazil, who has come to fetch Fr. Albera, is pressing insistently and we must needs go with him.

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On the 25th of September the pupils and confrères of the Santa Rosa Institute had met to bid Fr. Albera the last farewell.

"Other Institutes," their spokesman said, "other boys, other sister republics are anxiously waiting for you. Go then, we will accompany you with our affection, we will pray for you. But, before departing accept this present. It is simple, yet precious: even more so than the victories of Alexander, of Cesar, of Napoleon; for they conquered others, whereas we have conquered ourselves—our imborn restlessness, our evil tendencies. Here are the certificates of good conduct and of progress in study we have earned during your stay in Brazil. Look, they are as numerous as our affection for you is great: accept them—they are our present."

We left at 2 p. m. for the port of Rio Janeiro whilst rain was falling in torrents. When it stopped raining, we ventured in a boat with our luggage. We were seven in number, and we reckoned on reaching the French steamer *Bresil* in about ten minutes: but instead we ran risk of missing it for ever.

Was it the fault of the unskilful boatmen, or through excessive weight, or because the sea was rather stormy; the fact is that one of us had to work as hard as he could to lade out the water flowing in. Our feet, of course, were all wet and our backs were splashed by the waves and thus luckily prevented more water coming in. Some one wished to signal for assistance, but the boatmen would not hear of it; aye, one of them by way of comfort, kept saying that he had been wrecked three times already and he was still alive—I could not say whether that was for our ill luck. Meanwhile the sea was surging more and more, the boat steered in a zig-zag direction to avoid the billows; and the steamer was always looming far away. One hour had passed and our situation looked no brighter.

A confrère of ours of strong faith, whilst he wielded the helm with one hand, with the other occasionally dropped a medal in the sea. Fr. Zanchetta, turning his eyes in the direction of the monument of Mary Help of Christians that could be descried far away on the horizon, broke the silence by saying: "There is our Mother!" And I am sure all hearts at that moment were raised to the Star of the sea.

Fr. Giordano felt strongly inclined to give the two sailors a piece of his mind for venturing thus to place so many lives in jeopardy. But better counsel prevailed, namely to wait till we were in safety. No doubt, he felt greatly distressed in seeing the life of our Superior in so great danger.

Fr. Albera kept silent all the while. At last we reached the steamer *Bresil*. We at once put off our drenched clothes and handed them to a servant to have them dried. Then we followed with our eyes the confrères who were returning to shore, on a steamboat however, and no longer on that ill-fated barge.

(To be continued.)



MATTO GROSSO (Brazil)

I.

After a year of labour.

Colony of the Sacred Heart
Barreiro (Cuyabá-Matto Grosso)
January 18th, 1903.

VERY REV. AND DEAR DON RUA,

It is a year to-day since we arrived in these forests, the haunt of ferocious animals and overrun by fierce savages. You may imagine with what heart-felt gratitude we returned thanks to Almighty God for His protection accorded in so visible a manner, and implored Him to continue His favours. What should we do in these inhospitable regions, abandoned to ourselves and to our own strength? We feel confident that the Sacred Heart of Jesus will continue to watch over us, and that Mary Help of Christians will ever be a tender Mother to us.

But you, also, dear Don Rua, come to our aid with your prayers and recommend us to those of our Co-operators.

Here is a short account of what, through the grace of God, we have been able to achieve in the course of this year.

Around the two large huts measuring sixteen and a half yards by seven, of which I spoke to you on a former occasion, we have already put up five smaller ones for the Indians who are coming shortly to stay with us. You will remember that our first meeting took place on August 8th, and that it was so satisfactory to both sides. One of that number was the Cacique himself. They all promised to return after *two moons*, and they

kept their word. Six weeks had hardly elapsed, when, on the 24th of September, the Cacique returned together with four of his men. It occurred to me that they had come in order to feel their ground: I took care to treat them with every regard. They spent two days with us helping us in our works, then they departed, highly pleased with the few things we had given them as presents. I asked them to return again after *two moons*, hoping that our Provincial would, in the meantime, arrive without fail and bring us some help. From their own account I gathered that these Indians come from the banks of the *Roncador* and the *Rio dos Mortes*.

Two months passed and, in November, with clock-like punctuality, the same Cacique returned with sixteen men of his tribe carrying bows and arrows, to be exchanged for clothes, knives, and various other articles of which they are extremely fond. What was to be done? Fr. Malan had not yet arrived and we had scarcely anything left. I told them I was unable to satisfy them although I greatly wished to do so, because no one had yet arrived from Cuyabá; I felt very sorry for the poor fellows when I saw their disappointment. Not wishing to lose what little influence I had acquired over them, I parted, for their sake, with a few remaining knives and some fishing-hooks, handkerchiefs and other small articles; although we ourselves stood in great need of them. The Indians were greatly delighted. They stayed two days longer with us and gave us much valuable assistance. We were as yet without a cart, and consequently found it well nigh impossible to transport heavy timber required to build our new tents. Well, if you had seen, dear Father, the way these poor Indians went to work, you would have not only been pleased, but astounded. Their strength is herculean; and it would be an evil day for us if the devil were to succeed in turning them against us. Things

would very soon be all over with us. This is why we stand in need of much and continuous prayer. This, however, is not sufficient. Implements for tilling and cultivating land are badly needed, and also tools to make the tents a little more steadfast and reliable. We want, besides, many other objects both useful and pleasing to the Indians together with clothes to cover them. Up to the present I have only been able to make big promises. They were satisfied with the tents prepared for them, and slept in them, thus taking possession of the new Colony of the Sacred Heart.

On the day after their arrival, I wished them to assist at Mass. They remained staring, lost in astonishment from beginning to end. When I gave them the blessing I was greatly touched to see them so recollected, and I already seemed to behold the consoling spectacle which, through the help of the Sacred Heart, this new Mission will soon present to the world, to angels and to men. But I repeat once more, we need help: should this fail we may lose in a moment the fruit of all our labours.

How painful it is, meanwhile, not to have anything wherewith to clothe these poor Indians. While they were staying with us, we did our best to entertain them, and we got Mr. Bodestein the Surveyor—of whom more presently—to take a few snapshots which I enclose and hope they will please you. Perhaps, before presenting them to the readers of the *Bulletin*, it may be necessary to touch them up a little, for, to tell the truth, they are still a little too natural. They went away promising to return after *three moons*. We shall be in a nice fix if they return before we have received the supplies from Cuyabà. We must hope and pray.

I mentioned just now Mr. Bodestein. In order to place the fruit of our labour on safe footing, Fr. Malan applied to the Government for a plot of 10,000 acres which we have selected and measured in three different places. It will remain, for the time being, the property of the mission; and later on, of course, of those Indians that become civilized. We wish to secure for the colony all possible safety that could be had from a legal point of view, hoping that Our Lord, in His goodness, will do the rest. Here is an

incident that took place when the land was being measured.

We were camping under the blue canopy of heaven, on the banks of the *Gazza*, when, one night, our poor surveyor uttered a cry of despair. I immediately awoke and saw him on his feet, looking much frightened and writhing with pain. What had happened? A species of venomous serpent had crept on to his chest, and very soon raised a swelling which went on increasing until eventually a terrible inflammation ensued. The poor man suffered intensely, the pain being cen-



A Cacique of the tribe of Coroados (Matto Grosso, Brazil).

tred principally on the side of the liver: it was also to be feared that his heart would be affected, for it was already beating so heavily that the palpitations were noticeable at some little distance. In dread of a fatal issue, I turned with confidence to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and asked my kind friend to do the same. He willingly accepted my advice; and in a short time, to our mutual astonishment all danger had passed and the illness disappeared. Mr. Bodestein is a

protestant, but he is greatly attached to us and shows himself the best of friends. May Our Lord reward his charity by bringing him to the one true faith.

The kind surveyor also took a snapshot of me whilst in the act of offering up holy Mass in the open air, and in the very act of elevating the Sacred Host. If it is successful I shall not fail to send it you as a souvenir.

Ere long the poor savages will have returned : the *three moons* have now nearly passed. I derive some pleasure at the sight of the lovely field of maize now ripe, which we have planted for the use of our future neophites. How often, before now, we have been obliged to scour the forests, like the Indians, in search of food and we had to make shift with such scanty fare as we could find ! How greatly one's confidence in God increases under such circumstances ! And, indeed, the Sacred Heart of Jesus has never abandoned us.

To supply our wants then, and those of our dear guests, we have tilled a large portion of ground and sown several crops of corn. Besides the wheat, we have planted rice, beans, potatoes, gourds, melons, mandioca, sugar cane etc. etc. In this manner we always have something to reap : but here again it is the case to repeat : *quid hæc sunt inter tantos?* The Indians will come and settle with us ; the first caravans will be followed by others. We shall have to make new tents and welcome them all in the Name of God Who shows us, in a most visible manner, that He has decreed their conversion. May His holy grace help us ever to correspond to our vocation, to Work for His greater glory and the salvation of souls.

In the name of all I kiss your hand, dear Don Rua, and appeal once more to the charity of your prayers and generous help for our material needs. Kneeling in spirit at your feet I solicit for myself a special blessing.

Believe me, dear reverend Father,

Ever your affectionate son in *Corde Jesu*

JOHN BALZOLA

(Salesian Priest and Missionary.)

II.

Colony of the Sacred Heart,
Barreiro (Cuyabá-Matto Grosso)
January 18th, 1903.

VERY REV. AND DEAR DON RUA,

Saint Francis of Sales, our Patron, has sent us a present on his feast day. The day before yesterday, fourteen grown up Indians and a girl arrived at the Mission, led here by their own cacique. The latter looked disappointed when he heard that we had not yet received the things so long expected ; but he cheered up again when he was told the cause of the delay, and, moreover, that I had still a good knife, a pair of trousers and a blanket for him, while something would also be found for the others.

Yesterday they all assisted at Holy Mass, and I fervently recommended them to Saint Francis of Sales. They told me that they would have come a few days earlier, had they not been fighting with the *Cajapos*—a tribe living on the banks of *Rio dos Mortes* in the direction of *To-cantin*. And they presented me with three arrows, with a heavy pole and other things left on the field by the routed *Cajapos*. They wanted us to go with them in order to destroy that tribe.

This time also they rendered valuable services. The cacique wished particularly to see the spot where his hut is going to be erected, and assured me that in April, he and two other chiefs would come to live with us. How many will they be ? He gave me to understand that their number is considerable—many more than we can accommodate conveniently. Since, however, no cacique ever quits his tribe but wants all his men with him, I raised no objection. We will see what Divine Providence disposes.....

Meanwhile, just fancy in what an embarrassing situation we are likely to be. Let us hope that, by that time, the supplies from Cuyabá will have arrived : but even then, will they be enough ? You, also, dear Don Rua, hasten to our assistance. As you see, we ask nothing for ourselves, but only help for these poor savages. They come to us and we receive them : but in order to succeed in converting them we stand in great need of immediate assistance. Dear Father, this

is the reason that prompted me to take up the pen again after so short an interval.... I rely on the generosity of your paternal heart.

Bless us all, dear Father, as in the name of all I kiss your hand.

Believe me always your most affectionate son in J. & M.

JOHN BALZOLA

(Salesian Priest and Missionary.)

PATAGONIA

(TERRITORY OF NEUQUEN.)



Pastoral Visit and Mission of His Lordship Mgr. Cagliero Vicar Apostolic of Patagonia.

(Continued)

From the river *Agrio* to *Agua del Paradiso*.—In the valley of *Loncopuè*.—Edifying sight.—A souvenir of the Mission.

At daybreak on the 27th January the good people of *Quili-Malal*, together with several Indians, who had passed the night under the shelter of the surrounding trees, came to hear once more the word of God and to receive from the Bishop a last blessing. Having celebrated the Holy Sacrifice and given Holy Communion, His Lordship delivered his final discourse, blessed them and bid them an affectionate farewell. He then resumed his journey accompanied by his Missionaries. These good people with the Indians kept him company for some distance, being unwilling to part with their beloved Pastor.

After about an hour's march through flowery meadows and fields covered with ripe crops, we reached the stream *Norquin*, whose waters irrigate the pleasant valley of the same name. As I wrote before, this is a large and fertile valley resembling an amphitheatre. The soil is of blue clay, producing excellent pasturage, especially a kind of grass called *mallin*, used for fattening cattle. The land is well watered, but the fre-

quent frosts, even in summer, are a serious hindrance to agriculture. The rapid course of the torrent frightening our horses, they upset the baggage cart, the shafts broke, placing the good soldier, who was driving, in a dangerous position. Fortunately the rest of the caravan rushed to his assistance and averted a fatal accident; then with strips of leather the cart was repaired, enabling us to continue our journey. On the banks of the river *Agrio*, when we were nearly burnt up with the sun's tropical rays, Divine Providence



An Indian of the Coroados tribe (Matto Grosso, Brazil).

sent us some charitable Chilians, who two days earlier had attended the Mission at *Quili-Malal*: these offered us a drink of cold water and delicious milk so that our thirst was assuaged. In addition they made us a present of a large cheese and a block of rock-salt which they had picked up on the Cordilleras—a present most useful for our cooking.

The waters of the stream *Agrio* (the largest affluent of the Neuquen) have an acid flavour, as they contain a solution of sulphate of alum: it takes its rise on the slopes of *Copahué*, an extinct volcano. A spoonful of sugar in a cup of this

water makes excellent lemonade. It is a torrent full of rocks and boulders brought down by its waters from the mountains. We were obliged to ford this dangerous stream on horseback. On reaching the opposite side we got some shade from the marshy plants growing on the lofty bank. The soldiers prepared the traditional *asada* (roast meat) which, with the cheese presented to us and some biscuits, was more to our taste than a sumptuous banquet. The stream offered us a glass of its own liquor, and although we were more than thirty miles from its source we found the water quite acid.

An hour later we were traversing the vast plateau of the *Escorial*. This romantic spot owes its name to a collection of volcanic boulders of strange forms, resembling ruined castles, wizards' grottoes, columns, lofty battlements, dilapidated houses and turrets. Whilst we contemplated with admiration these natural beauties, another panorama, no less wonderful, was presented to our view—the slopes of the Cordilleras, whose summits crowned with perpetual snow reflected the brilliant colouring of the heavens. At sunset we reached the pleasant valley called by the Indians *Guenencò* (water of Paradise). The stream is beautiful, as fresh and clear as crystal.

We continued our journey towards the valley of *Pino*. An extensive plantation of pine trees has given the name to the surrounding district.

The attention of travellers is attracted by the view of the fields covered with golden grain and rich pastures—a fertility due to the abundance of water. The descent caused another mishap: for the second time the conveyance was damaged and with great difficulty we managed to drag it to the neighbouring country house of Mr. Emmanuel Sepúlveda. He had made the Bishop's acquaintance during the first Mission which he gave at Neuquen in 1887: he had the honour, at that time, of giving hospitality to the Vicar Apostolic of Patagonia in a poor hut on the banks of the river *Rinhileo*. On this occasion he received him with even greater demonstrations of affection and veneration, and we were to him and his whole family the most welcome of visitors. He offered at once

of his best to adorn our temporary chapel. A few minutes later the Indians and many Christians began to arrive from all sides, all anxious to have their children baptised and confirmed; some came for Confession, others to have the Church's blessing on their marriage. A worm-eaten door, in a retired spot, served as Confessional until a late hour of the night.

The following morning His Lordship said Mass early, many boys and girls as well as adults making their First Communion. Confirmation was then solemnly administered. Having finished this little Mission we were packing our baggage and preparing to start when another family with four or five children to be baptised and confirmed made their appearance. We had to postpone our departure and fulfil our charitable office.

In ascending the opposite bank of the river, which was very steep, the mules began to rear, and became so unmanageable that we were obliged to dismount and climb to the top, whilst the soldiers and several Indians were occupied in bringing the unruly beasts to reason. After three hours of a fatiguing and dangerous march, we beheld in the distance emerging from a deep valley, more than twenty men riding hurriedly to meet us. Mr. Pietro Nazarre, owner of a large *estancia* (farm) called *La Argentina*, accompanied by his friends and the authorities of *Loncopué* were coming to welcome their beloved Pastor. Their arrival was providential, for without the help of these good friends we could not have accomplished in safety the descent of the rugged and precipitous *Hualcopén*. Accustomed to the route, with surprising rapidity they removed the largest boulders from the path, and whilst we followed them on foot, they dragged the wagonette and the luggage cart. The natives name this valley *Hualcopén* from the numerous green and shady *chacayes* (a Patagonian tree) under whose shady boughs we rested a while. On the verdant slope, watered by many rivulets, there is a store constructed of pine planks and roofed with zinc. It belongs to an Italian whose acquaintance the Bishop made at *Carmen de Patagones*.

We were well received, as well as the twenty

members of our escort, who assuaged the pangs of hunger with an appetizing *asado*. The waters of a limpid stream, falling from the rocky heights, furnished us with clear white *champagne*, so that we did not miss the *paquéhue* of Chili or the *Bordeaux* of France.

When it was again time to set out the spare horses forded the deep and rapid stream and then ascended the steep hill opposite; they were followed by the mules drawing the vehicles, and the Missionaries with the Bishop and our friends, all on horseback, brought up the rear. At the top of the hill the conveyance once more came to grief and His Lordship in spite of his fatigue was obliged to continue his journey on his docile steed, travelling the whole afternoon under the rays of a burning sun. Before reaching *Loncopué* there was a quarter of a mile descent, so steep and dangerous that the very sight of it terrified us. We made it on foot, but... with what difficulty!

Finally, after many halts, our caravan reached the fertile and romantic valley of *Loncopué*, watered by the torrent from which it derives its name. In the distance we beheld a pretty chapel, a small school, the telegraphic station and the charming country house of Mr. Nazarre, the ground carpeted with clover and other flowers and grasses and sheltered from the wind by groups of poplar-trees. Art and nature seem to vie with one another in the adornment of this spot. And here I must gratefully acknowledge that the wonderful progress of this new colony is due almost entirely to the wise government of Mr. Nazarre who, by his kind and affable manners, has gained the love, not only of the Europeans, but also of the natives. This good man at once offered us hospitality in his *estancia*, wishing to keep us in his own house; but the Bishop chose rather to occupy the little sacristy of the Chapel, so as to be ready to hear confessions and administer the Sacraments. The Missionaries took up their abode in a large room at the school in the midst of benches and tables.

On entering the Chapel our attention was attracted by the splendid niche in the apse, where a statue of the Blessed Virgin of the *Pilar* is venerated. The Tabernacle is very beautiful and

the altar was decorated with flowers and handsome candelabra. All this care in the adornment of God's House is due to the piety of Mr. Nazarre's wife and daughters.

The important Mission of *Loncopué* was opened with the usual prayers and a fervent exhortation. Eight days of unceasing and truly apostolic labours were blessed by the conversion of many sinners and pagan Indians who all came daily to Mass and to listen to the word of God. For the convenience of those to be confirmed and to prevent over-crowding the Bishop administered this Sacrament three or more times a day. Our zealous confrère Sanbernardo was busy from morning till night filling up the Certificates of Baptism, Confirmation and Matrimony.

To the morning and afternoon Catechism the children came eagerly, and they were accompanied by their parents who were also desirous of reviving in their minds the truths of faith. During the intervals between the services, two of the priests heard Confessions, whilst the others administered Baptism and blessed the marriages. At sunset the Rosary was solemnly recited, hymns were sung and a meditation given on one of the Four Last Things. The Confessions then recommenced and lasted until midnight. Most of these poor people spent the greater part of the day in Church; and at night on the banks of the stream, after their supper, they gathered round the camp-fire and lay down under the thick foliage of the *cortaderas*, or *gignerium argentinum*.

The Procession of Penance took place in the evening of February 3rd; and, on the site of the future cemetery, a large cross was erected in memory of the first Pastoral Visitation and Mission of Mgr. Cagliero. Early on the following morning His Lordship celebrated the Holy Sacrifice, distributing the Bread of Angels to the devout faithful as on the previous days. For the last time he addressed them and then bid them farewell before starting for *Las Lajas*, a distance of nearly forty miles, where other members of his flock were awaiting him.

(To be continued.)



The fiftieth anniversary of the definition of the
Dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

ON the 8th of December 1854, His Holiness Pius IX solemnly proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. The immortal Leo XIII, who was the last survivor of the Cardinals and Bishops present at the proclamation, took the initiative in the commemorative feast of the forthcoming fiftieth anniversary of that memorable day. To this end he had appointed a commission of Cardinals who were to make the necessary arrangements. In the letter addressed to them on this occasion he said among other things; "Devotion towards the blessed Mother of God, has not only been one of our tenderest affections from our earliest years, but we regard it as one of the strongest aids granted by Divine Providence to the Catholic Church. In every age, in every persecution and trial, the Church has turned to Mary, and ever found in her a comforter and a shield of defence. And as our own age is so stormy and so threatening for that same Church, it gives great joy to our heart and increases our confidence to see the faithful unanimously turn on this occasion to Her who is styled *Help of Christians*."

His successor Pius X., shortly after his elevation, wrote to the members of the Commission confirming them in their office, and said: "We are penetrated with the same sentiments of devotion towards the most Holy Virgin, and persuaded that in the saddening outlook of the times, there can be no other aid but from Heaven, and for this we fully rely on the intercession of the Queen of Heaven who has always been the *Help of Christians*. We therefore confirm you, as members of the Commission; assured that your zeal and solicitude will result in a great

triumph for the Mother of God. We hope also that those willing helpers who have so eagerly come forwards on other occasions, will do so in this, working under your supervision and guidance." He issued at the same time a beautiful prayer in honour of Mary Immaculate, enriching it with 300 days indulgence, to be gained once a day.

The Salesian Co-operators will, beyond doubt, second to the best of their ability the measures that the Ecclesiastical authority will suggest, for a worthy celebration of this memorable anniversary.



The new Cardinal Secretary of State.

IN the month of October the Holy Father appointed His Grace Mgr. Merry del Val to the office of Secretary of State, and in the Consistory of November 9th, created him a Cardinal.

The numerous messages of congratulation and pleasure, as the Holy Father remarked, which the new Cardinal received from all quarters, plainly showed the universal esteem and admiration which he had already won. But the highest eulogy was that expressed by the Pope himself, when he said in the course of his address, that the new Cardinal, by his virtue, learning and prudence, had merited his entire confidence, and that he hoped to avail himself of his valuable services in the government of the Church for the whole time of his pontificate.

* Through these columns we beg to offer to the new Prince of Holy Church the homage of our respect, and hope that he may for many years occupy the exalted position to which he has been called by the Vicar of Christ.

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The Fourth of November at Battersea.

IN a communication from London a correspondent says: At a short interval from the anniversary of the dedication of the Church (the account of which appears in another column) comes the now traditional feast of the 4th of November, St. Charles, the Patron Saint of the Very Rev. C. B. Macey, Superior of the House and Provincial. From many parts grateful minds turn to Battersea on that day, and each year sees the family gathering increase in number.

The musical and literary entertainment held on the eve of the feast, gave a favourable opportunity for giving public expression to the sentiments suggested by the grateful memory of kindly deed and dutiful reverence. A new feature this time was the contribution of the printers, who brought out the lyric of the occasion in a most elegant dress.

Each year that rolls by—as was pointedly remarked—leaves some record, a landmark in the progress of the house; and this one leaves a record in a most welcome and substantial addition of a chapel, for the use of the Community and pupils.

The structure, which in 1896 was found a stable and a hay-loft, after being turned to sundry uses, has now undergone a startling transformation. Thanks to the solicitude of Fr. Macey and the artistic talent of Fr. Fayers, the old edifice has, almost exclusively by domestic labour, been changed beyond recognition, and become a pretty devotional chapel. The south-east wall and buttresses, crowned with battlements, would greatly mislead the beholder as regards the former state and usage of the building.

Very thoughtfully the choice of presents had been made among articles required in the new place of worship.

The dramatic performance of the evening brought the day to a close. A sequel not to be passed by was the repetition of Wednesday's entertainment for the inmates of St. George's Home. For some months now, a connection has sprung up between that institution and Battersea, and the lads showed themselves not indifferent to it. One of them had been deputed to be their interpreter at the literary entertainment of the evening preceding the feast; and Fr. Provincial, in acknowledgment, invited them to spend a pleasant evening—an invitation which was gratefully accepted and much appreciated.

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In honour of Mary Help of Christians.

THE East and the West joined in the tribute of honour rendered to Our Blessed Lady Help of Christians during the solemnities of this memorable year. We have a remarkable instance of it in the account which a Co-operator kindly forwarded of the celebrations held at Smyrna, Asia Minor.

Devotion to Our Lady, he says, is a precious legacy we have received from our illustrious Martyr Saint Policarp; and the town of Smyrne has always been renowned for it.

This year, to the great joy of the Salesian



Natives of Neuquen Territory (Patagonia).

Co-operators, a picture of Our Lady Help of Christians has been set up for veneration in the Cathedral. There the May devotions were performed, day after day, and a special novena in preparation for the feast was observed. The twenty-fourth of May was kept with great solemnity. Over one thousand went to holy communion, and at ten o'clock a solemn High Mass was Sung by the Right Rev. Mgr. Rusica at which a large number of the faithful attended. A solemn procession took place after the Vespers, during which the image of Our Lady Help of

Christians was borne in triumph through the streets. At the return of the procession, Fr. Longinotti preached in Greek the discourse of the occasion.

The close of the month of May saw a repetition of these solemn functions. The zealous Fr. Longinotti finished on that day the course of sermons he had given during the whole month, by asking Our Blessed Lady to take under her special protection the clergy and faithful of the diocese, nay all the inhabitants without exception, and being about the longed-for union of the dissident Churches and crown the labours of the immortal Leo XIII.

Indeed, the great devotion entertained by Greek and Armenian schismatics for the great Mother of God, gives good ground to hope that this prayed-for union may be accomplished.



The Prelates and the Salesian Congress.

TO the names of the Cardinals and Archbishops who sent participations to the Congress already given in previous numbers, should also be added those of a hundred and fifty five Bishops from all parts, in order to give a more complete idea of the world-wide interest and importance of this assembly.

From the eastern Prelates communications were received from, among others, the Apostolic Delegate of Constantinople, who, while expressing regret at not being able to come to the Congress, wished its meeting every success in promoting the development of Don Bosco's work so eminently social and christian.

Another, His Grace Paul Aby-Murad, Greek Catholic Archbishop of Damietta, and Patriarchal Vicar of Jerusalem wrote as follows:

Having heard of the Third Congress of Salesian Co-operators, I most willingly and cordially send you my participation, as I shall not be able to attend personally.

I heartily wish the Congress every success, and, at the same time, earnestly desire that it may be fruitful of great results for the Pious

Association and of that Congregation, which, dispersed now in every land, proves so beneficial to all classes of society.

I cannot help admiring such good works, since the Greek Catholics also experience the advantages derived from the zeal and charity of the Salesians. In their Houses in Palestine, and especially at the Orphanage at Bethlehem, they harbour many Greek Catholics, who without their charity would be in great danger of falling back into schism: besides this, they provide the Church and maintain the priest who, through the assistance of the Sons of Don Bosco has care of those schismatics who being converted, have now persevered for more than a year in the bosom of the Catholic Church.

I send a special blessing to all the members of the Congress, so that by the Help of God they may arrive at such resolutions which will serve for the greater encouragement and development of Don Bosco's works.



Battersea. The bazaar in aid of the Schools.

If the goodness of a cause, ingenuity and




Indian Cemetery in Neuquen.

painstaking industry in its promotion, were always the measure of success, one could have easily foretold that this bazaar would have most gratifying results. As, at the moment of writing the sale is still rapidly going on, a detailed account of the proceedings must perforce be held over; and that also in justice to the many friends, who have interested themselves in this good work.

The bazaar was under the patronage of His Holiness, Pius X. The Holy Father, on being apprised of its object by H. E. Cardinal Merry

del Val, readily and willingly concurred with a munificent gift; showing thus how much he has at heart the cause of good education. He sent a beautiful alabaster casket—a present doubly precious for its having been in the special use of the great Leo XIII. It need not be said how deeply grateful we all feel towards the Holy Father for his benevolent condescension; we crave to express here publicly these sentiments towards the August Donor, and also our indebtedness to His Eminence for the kindly interest he showed on behalf of our schools.

The bazaar was opened on Thursday 19th by Lady Turner, and was favoured on each day by a considerable number of visitors. An elegant guide-book contained a tempting digest of harmless devices contrived to inveigle and entrap willing victims; moreover, a daily publication—a rather novel feature—under the title of “Bazaar Record” chronicled all the noteworthy incidents and features down to the latest stop-press news, aiding to lighten the mind... and the purse of the amiable visitors.



*Distinguished visitors at the Salesian Institute
Cape Town.*

DURING the past year, writes a correspondent, the Institute has been honoured by the visits of many distinguished persons who in many practical ways showed their appreciation of the work which is gradually developing within its walls.

We feel it a duty to publicly express our thanks to all, and in a special manner to Mr. Winne, M. L. A., who, during the sitting of Parliament, brought several members to visit the workshops of the school; among them Messrs, Slater, Wilmot and Frost.

General Louis Botha, late Commander in Chief of the Boer Forces, and his wife, a descendant of Robert Emmet, accompanied by Mrs. C. C. de Villiers also paid a visit.

The General, in the course of a few remarks, said that helped in supplying a great want by fitting the youth of South Africa to do the work of their native land; and he expressed the hope that the institution may flourish and spread. Other distinguished visitors were Mr. Daverin of Port Elizabeth and Baron Ramburg, the Austrian Consul.

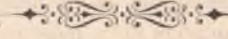


The Salesian Co-operators in Hungary.

IT is gratifying to note the steady growth and spreading of the Association of Salesian Co-operators; since, it is evidence of an active christian spirit which is, in its turn, fostered by it and rendered more vigorous. For, what is the object of the Association, what is its programme if not: “That action which consists in keeping the Divine laws and the precepts of the Church piously and perfectly, in the free and open profession of religion, and, lastly, in exercising works of charity of every kind, without any regard for self or for earthly advantages?” The action, namely, which the Holy Father, Pius X. has described in these very words in his Encyclical, and said it to be the action called for by the times we live in?

Since 1900 the Very Rev. Dr. Zaffery has held, from time to time, Salesian conferences in various towns of Hungary and especially in the Capital, Budapest. These conferences were followed with increasing interest. In the month of April of this year, the same priest, after leading the Hungarian pilgrimage to Rome, visited those places again and gave forty-six conferences in less than a month; and his labours were blessed with consoling fruits.

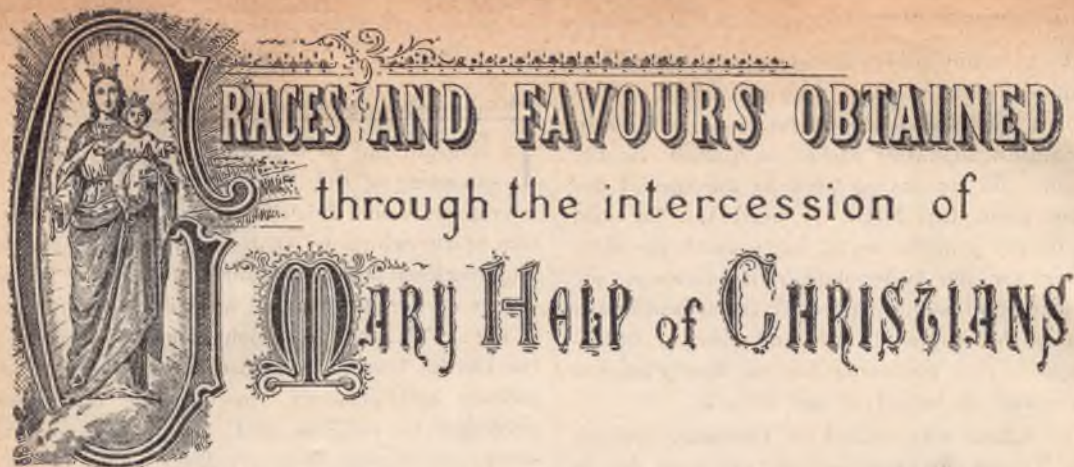
In order to favour this movement and strengthen the bond of union among those Co-operators, an edition of the *Bulletin* in the Hungarian language has been started, which was quarterly at first and will soon be issued monthly. Another step that promises well for the extension of Don Bosco's works in that country is the school for Hungarian students at Cavaglià (Piedmont) where candidates are prepared and trained for this field of labour.



The Salesian Bulletin

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Salesian Oratory, Turin, Italy.

This Magazine is sent 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.



GRACES AND FAVOURS OBTAINED
 through the intercession of
MARY HELP of CHRISTIANS

The most Holy Virgin has by unmistakable signs constituted herself in a special way the Patroness and Protectress of poor neglected children, and in her quality as such, she obtains for those who are their benefactors here, numerous and extraordinary graces, not only spiritual but temporal as well.

(DON BOSCO in his last letter to the Salesian Co-operators.)

Dewsbury (ENGLAND).—Mrs. F. wishes to return thanks to Our Lady Help of Christians for favours granted through her intercession.

October, 1903.

Vettersburg (WESTERN AUSTRALIA).—In these far off regions also, Our Lady Help of Christians graciously bestows her powerful assistance. In the early part of this year I was suddenly attacked one evening by a very dangerous illness, I was afraid that it would prove fatal, and my chief sorrow was the thought of dying without the priest and the comforts of holy religion. In those moments of anguish I had recourse to the intercession of Mary Help of Christians with a promise of publication. Our heavenly Mother answered my prayers in a most wonderful way and restored me quite miraculously to perfect health. I now fulfil my promise of making the favour known and send a small thank-offering.

G. B.

February, 1903.

Basingstoke (ENGLAND).—I would ask you to publish a thanksgiving in the *Salesian Bulletin* for temporal favours received through the intercession of Mary Help of Christians, St. Joseph and St. Antony. I enclose an offering for a Mass in thanksgiving and would ask your prayers

for another special intention very much desired.

M. S.

October, 1903.

Belfast (IRELAND).—After being ill for some time, I was told by the doctor that an operation would be necessary if my cure was to be obtained. On hearing this distressing news I began a novena of prayers in honour of Mary Help of Christians, and almost immediately felt some relief and improvement. On being again examined by a specialist, it was found that the operation was now unnecessary, he declared that I would be much stronger than before the illness came on. I enclose an offering for masses in honour of Our Lady Help of Christians.

A CHILD OF MARY.

October, 1903.

Tipperary (IRELAND).—I wish to return thanks to Almighty God for a favour granted through the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians, after a Novena in her honour and a promise of publication in the *Salesian Bulletin*. I enclose an offering for a Mass and regret I cannot send a larger one.

A CLIENT OF MARY.

November, 1903.



Casalmonferrato (ITALY).—I had hardly recovered from the grief caused by the death of my husband when I was visited by a new trial. The younger of my two little children, not yet ten years old, was on the 4th May last, suddenly brought to death's door by a sharp illness bringing high fever and painful contortions.

In great anxiety I immediately sent for the best doctors, who made every effort to stay the illness; and eventually, the little sufferer was freed from all pain and seemingly fully restored to health. This change gave great joy to me and to the friends who had shared my former grief, but just as unexpectedly, a relapse came: this time attacking the heart as well. The sharp pains were renewed with even increasing severity, and consternation fell on the family. The little one was soon at the last extremity.

The most experienced physicians gave her up as lost. But I was unable to bear the thought of parting, and turned in my anguish to Mary, Help of Christians for consolation. The little patient received the Holy Viaticum on the evening of the day before the vigil of the feast of Mary, Help of Christians. From that moment the child began to improve; the deadly symptoms disappeared, and within a month, the little girl was running about as bright and cheerful as though no illness had ever been felt.

One of the doctors who had tried every means to save the child's life, as he gave permission for a visit to the church, said: "You may well take an ex-voto to the Madonna, so that you may give thanks to Her who has worked the miracle." I willingly publish this signal favour, resolving to take the earliest opportunity of paying homage in the Sanctuary at Valdocco.

July 1903.

C. C.



Belfast (IRELAND).—Three Co-operators (Mr. M., Mrs. McG. Mr. C.) wish to make a public acknowledgment of favours received through the intercession of Mary, Help of Christians, in whose honour they have also made a thank-offering.

September 1903.



New Orleans, La. (U. S. of America).—Enclosed please find one dollar in thanksgiving for a favour received through Novena made

in honour of Mary Help of Christians for my son's restoration to health.

MRS. A. B.

November 10th, 1903.



Hartlepool (ENGLAND).—A client of Mary Help of Christians returns sincere thanks for favours received through her intercession after promise of sending an alms and of publishing the grace.

October 12th, 1903.



Tottenham (ENGLAND).—Will you be so kind as to say Mass in thanksgiving to Our Lady Help of Christians for favours received, and for a happy ending to present difficulties. Please remember me in your good prayers.

A. T. G.

November 7th, 1903.



Kerry (IRELAND).—Some time ago a kind friend of ours was in much trouble on account of an unjust sentence pronounced against him in a law suit. We promised that, should the sentence be reversed, and his character cleared in the higher court to which he had appealed, we should have four Masses said for the Poor Souls at the Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians, and ask you to publish the favour (which thank God, has been granted) in the next issue of the *Salesian Bulletin*.

S. M.

November 7th, 1903.



Belfast (IRELAND).—In fulfilment of a promise made to Our Lady Help of Christians I beg to enclose you £ 1. 3s. I ask your prayers for a special favour I wish to receive.

I have obtained very special favours through the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians, and ask you to have a Mass celebrated in her honour.

ANONYMOUS.

November 2nd, 1903.



To obtain favours needed, Don Bosco recommended the frequent use of the Sacraments and the practice of a Novena consisting of the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father three times daily to Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament, with the Hail Holy Queen, making at the same time a formal promise of sending an alms according to one's means to the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians.



Various Gleanings

BAHIA SAN BLAS (RIO NEGRO TERRITORY—PATAGONIA).—The future of San Blas—A short but fruitful Mission.—Writing from Viedma to our Superior General Don Rua, the Salesian Missionary Fr. John Beraldi gives the following interesting details concerning Bahia San Blas—a promising place situate nearly one hundred and twenty miles from Patagones and forty five miles from the mouth of the Rio Negro—where, in the early part of this year, he had gone to give a short mission.

San Blas was once the head-quarters of certain Patagonian tribes; the centre of their fishing industry; the arsenal where their deadly implements of war—knives, stone-axes and the fatal poisonous arrows—were manufactured.

This beautiful territory has been always thickly populated and much resorted to by the Indians. There still exists an ancient cemetery, and tombs strewn with weapons and planted around with their symbolic shrubs.

The remarkable fertility of the soil, the rising industry and commerce, the easy access to the sea by the Atlantic coasts of San Blas, with their splendid bay and deep, safe, picturesque harbour, will soon attract the attention of emigrants from Europe. The small, struggling town of to-day will probably rise, in the near future, to prominence among the great maritime towns of South America.

Very fine, valuable gravel is thrown up on to the beach by the ocean, and ships chartered by the Argentine Government, have lately carried away some 300,000 tons of it to use in building the fortifications of the military fort Belgramo. An English Company has invested a capital of 1,200,000 pesos to erect an establishment for the exploitation of the saline, found some nine leagues from the shores of San Blas. This saline is a lagoon with several salt springs, and its water is conveyed to the factory by nearly thirty miles of tubing. Upwards of a hundred men are employed in the preparation of the salt. The factory and the springs

are placed in communication by a telephone. The salt is conveyed by rail to the quay, and thence shipped to different parts, principally to Buenos Ayres.

At Bahia San Blas, there is also a government telegraph-office and important stores owned by Messrs. Mulhall

In a recent report to the Government, an engineer of recognised authority, Mr. Corthell, stated the need of deep harbours for the anchorage of the large vessels now employed in international commerce. And Bahia San Blas is one of these harbours—the finest, perhaps, of all the Argentine Republic. On his return to England after visiting these localities, Admiral Kennedy, Commander of the British squadron in the Atlantic, reported that among American harbours, San Blas is second only to Rio Janeiro.

The owners of San Blas, whose property extends several leagues along the bay, are Messrs. Mulhall Bros., who, besides an immense fortune, have inherited from their father a widely respected name.

An Irishman by birth, Mr. Edward Mulhall was the founder, and for years, Editor of the "Standard"—the first English paper published in Buenos Ayres which has still a large circulation amongst the English-speaking families of the Republic. Whilst staying at his residence at Bahia, in February 1896, he fell into a state of physical prostration that seriously endangered his life. He was assisted during his illness by Fr. Garrone, M. D., and Director of our Hospital at Viedma, who, at his request, also accompanied him to Buenos Ayres. He died eight days after his arrival, surrounded by the members of his family.

With his illness originated the warm friendship now existing between the Mulhall family and the Salesians. The distinguished lady Doña Beatrice M. E. Buckland, daughter of Mr. E. Mulhall, seems as if chosen by God for the noble apostolate, of spreading the Catholic faith, and is an example of christian charity among the people of San Blas. She prefers to live with her family at *Estancia de la Bahia* than at Puntarenas. Her sister, Mrs. M. Buckland, is living with her also. They take a

keen interest in our Missions, and Mgr. Cagliero, or any other Father always receives a hearty welcome whenever, on their missionary journeys, they may happen to call there. Indeed, so great is their kindness that no one was ever known to be refused help at *La Estancia*.

This hospitality has drawn many blessings on them and on their affairs: in them are fulfilled the words of Holy Writ: "Some distribute their own goods, and grow richer: others take away what is not their own, and are always in want." (Prov. xi, 24).

Fr. Boido had promised Messrs. Mulhall and Buckland to give a short mission at San Blas in February last, but his removal to the Territory of Santa Cruz prevented him from keeping his word, and the result was that it was to be undertaken by Fr. Baglietto and the writer. On the day appointed, having received Mgr. Cagliero's blessing, we were ready to start, but we found the mail cart already so packed that there was no chance of travelling by it: so our departure had to be put off. This untoward incident, however, turned to our advantage, for, only a few leagues from Patagones, the old cart broke down to the great inconvenience and danger of the travellers. A week later I started alone *in nomine Domini*.

The journey was in some parts easy and comfortable enough, but very difficult at others; for, besides other drawbacks, the wading of the river Javali at high tide is peculiarly dangerous and almost impossible. The Patagonian plains present a charming panorama of gently undulating country stretching away like a boundless ocean. Nature is seen here in its richest robes and lovely to behold. There is a succession of fresh and verdant valleys dotted here and there with the huts of the Indians, and with the *ranchito* of the shepherd; flocks of sheep and herds of horses and cattle may be seen grazing in the wire-fenced estancias.

The hare and the guanaco bound off before the traveller and the *armadillo* and the *viscacha* rush to their hiding places. High up in the clouds, as on his throne, the bold and haughty monarch of the feathered race surveys with piercing glance the plains below, whilst the lark, the *chimiango* and *carancho*, hover and carol above one's head.

I spent the night with a good French family, where I baptized a child dangerously ill and on the morning resumed my journey. After a day of pleasant travelling I arrived in front of the *Estancia of Bahia*, situate on a strip of land between an inlet of the sea and the river Javali.

On my approaching, the three little sons of Doña Beatrice ran to meet me greeting me most affectionately; and their parents had for me the kindest regard all the time that I spent at their delightful residence. Everything in that family is done with order and regularity. The teaching and training of

the children is entrusted to a pious and accomplished Irish lady. At twilight the ear is charmed and the soul elevated by the sweet music of hymns accompanied with harp, violin, flute and piano. "Oh, how beautiful is a chaste generation in the splendour of its virtues! *Quam pulchra est casta generatio cum claritate!*"

For the short mission, the parlour was turned into a pretty chapel with an altar neatly arranged and decked with candlesticks, flowers and a picture of Saint Blase. Elegant curtains, rich carpets, ornamental plants—in short everything good and precious at their disposal was used to decorate this improvised Sanctuary.

The mission was attended by the Buckland and Mulhall families and lasted three days, which were well filled with a judicious distribution of the practices of piety. At the mass of the general Communion on February 8th, the little chapel and ground outside were packed with people.

The young lady of the house, little Eloisa Eleonor Buckland, made her first communion at the closing, and great preparations had been made to enhance the solemnity of this great act, well calculated to make the devout child remember this day as the happiest of her life. The parents and relations of the first Communicant, her governess, and the ladies of the household accompanied her to the holy table. The retreat closed with a farewell sermon in which some practices were suggested to render the fruits of the mission lasting.

At the banquet given in honour of the first Communicant, Messrs. Mulhall and Buckland decided to have a public chapel built in San Blas.

At sunset I bid those good friends adieu, and set out for Patagones: on the following day I was once more in the midst of our Community.

Dear Don Rua, remember us all in your prayers, and bless in a special manner these good Co-operators and benefactors of Bahia San Blas.

BATTERSEA (LONDON).—The tenth anniversary of the consecration of the Church of the Sacred Heart.—It is ten years since the Vicar Apostolic of Patagonia, Mgr. Cagliero, consecrated the Church of the Sacred Heart. This circumstance seemed to lend special importance to this year's commemoration and even recall memories and invite comparisons. The good wishes expressed by the consecrating Bishop on the eventful day, have not all come true yet, nevertheless there is much for which thanks should be rendered to Divine Providence.

One of the preachers on the occasion of the festivities (then Rector of the diocesan Seminary, now His Grace the Archbishop of Westminster) had said: "Six years ago, in the midst of the damp and fog of a November day, really amid great poverty, a seed was cast into the soil, and we see

around us already a wonderful and mighty growth, before long to be surpassed by further gifts of the Providence of God." And these words have received year by year further confirmation.

The services were carried out also this year with the splendour of great solemnities, for which the church of the Sacred Heart of Battersea is already very favourably known. The Very Rev. Fr. Spink, Superior of the Saint Andrew's Institute, Barnet, the worthy successor of the late Father Bamfield, was the celebrant at the High Mass, and the Rev. Fr. Campana from St. George's Home preached. In the evening after the solemn Vespers, the Very Rev. Fr. Spink, delivered the sermon of the occasion from the words of Genesis (xxviii, 17).

"To-day," he said, "is a day of great joy for all Catholics who live in this part of London, for it is the anniversary of the consecration of your Cathedral (1), the representative and Mother Church of the whole diocese. But to you, who live in this mission, to-day is a day of greater joy than elsewhere, for it is also the anniversary of the consecration of your own church. Think what this means.

For long centuries Catholics have been compelled to hide away from their fellow-men, to hear Mass and receive the Sacraments at rare intervals, with great difficulties, and at the risk of imprisonment or even death. Now, our churches stand forth boldly in the light of day, so that all men may see them, and Mass and Sacraments are at hand for Catholics, without any difficulty whatsoever. And this your Church towering aloft is a sign to faithful alike and to unfaithful.

Let us go back to very early times, when the holy patriarch Jacob, fleeing from his brother Esau, lay down to rest, and saw that vision of a ladder reaching from earth to heaven and Angels ascending and descending. Awaking from sleep, he cried out in the words of the text: "This is no other but the House of God." And he called the name of that place Bethel. "House of God," yet there were no walls, no building; but there was an altar, for Jacob set up the stone on which he had rested and consecrated it with oil.

Again at a later period, we read of the Tabernacle made of fine linen cloths and skins, with everything most precious and costly; and within the Ark of setim wood overlaid with pure gold. "How lovely are thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts," sang the Royal Psalmist 400 years later, when the Tabernacle was to pass away, for Solomon his son was to accomplish the work withheld from David, of building a Temple to the Lord God.

But all these, Bethel, Tabernacle, Temple, were but types of the Catholic Church. Can we have a higher type? Yes, Mary the Mother of Our Saviour, truly the House of God, having Him within her womb and at her breast. Well did the Angel say: "The Lord is with thee."

And your Church is like to all these. Like to Bethel, with its altar and the Angels of God ascending and descending, bearing upwards yours prayers, bringing down God's graces and mercies. Like to the Tabernacle with the Ark, having here on your altar, not the Tables of the Law, but Christ the Lawgiver; not the Rod of Aaron miraculously blossoming, but the Virgin's Son of miraculous birth; not the pot of manna, but the Living Bread, the Bread of Angels which comes down from Heaven. Like to the Temple with its daily sacrifice, its choral services, its lavacrum-likeness of Font and Confessional, its Lamps, its heavenly presence, not of Angels but of the Lord of Angels. Like to Mary the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit and of God Incarnate,

But alas, Jacob adds the words: "I knew it not." And how many there are of our fellow-countrymen who see this church and pass it by. They know it not; they know not the heavenly doctrine, the perfect worship, the beams of divine Grace, which abound in the Catholic Church. And, alas, how many, even Catholics pass it by as if they know it not, neglectful of Mass and Sacraments; Catholics in little more than name.

On a day like this how ought we to thank God for so coming near to us, dwelling in our midst, making all things so easy to us. And how ought we to strive unceasingly, by word and example, to bring back the neglectful Catholic, and instruct the ignorant non-Catholic, so that God's House may be filled with guests, and the King going in may be well pleased. And may we all by God's mercy and through the prayers of our Mother Mary be brought to that heavenly banquet which is the reward of faithful service here below.

CAPE TOWN (SOUTH AFRICA).—A trip to Robben Island. — On Saturday morning, Sept. 27th, writes a correspondent, the band and choir of the Salesian Institute left Cape Town for Robben Island—a settlement for coloured lunatics and lepers some eight miles off the Cape. The sea was fairly calm, and the voyage made pleasanter by the playing of the band.

The priest in charge of the mission, the Rev. Fr. Leeson, who had kindly invited us, gave us a hearty welcome on our arrival [at the Catholic Church. Through his good offices also, Mr. Pears, the Commissioner of the Island, placed a house at our disposal for the time of our stay. The sound of the band soon attracted the villagers, who, as

(1) The anniversary of the consecration of St. George's Cathedral, Southwark, falls on the same day.

in return for the agreeable surprise, vied with each other in kindness and generosity and supplied plentifully for the wants of the party.

In the course of the afternoon, from three to five o'clock, the band played on the cricket field of the Island, to the great amusement of the lunatics who enjoyed a little freedom under the vigilant eyes of their warders.

Sunday was a red-letter day. High Mass was sung for the first time in the Island. The celebrant was the Rev. Fr. Leeson, and the Rev. Fr. Tozzi Superior of the Salesian Institute, preached a very appropriate sermon from the Gospel of the day. The choir did its best to enhance the solemnity by rendering well some sacred music. Both the morning and evening services were well attended: indeed, the chapel was quite full.

In the afternoon the band performed some selections in the ground of the Residency, in honour of the Commissioner—it was a slight acknowledgment of his kindness for which we feel very grateful. Later on, it was again in attendance on the jetty where it entertained a large number of people.

Monday morning was devoted to a visit to the part of the island set apart for the lepers.

There are there about eight or nine hundred of them. We had then before our eyes the gruesome, loathsome ravages of that dire disease; and I feel sure, none of us ever felt so thankful to Almighty God for the blessing of a sound body. Then also it went home to us, as never before, how heroic must be the sacrifice of those who devote themselves to the service of the poor lepers—chiefly where this disease is of even more malignant a nature.

You may imagine the effects of the cheering strains of the band in such a place—the home of gloom and misery. The poor creatures nearly went frantic with delight. They clapped their hands—or rather, made earnest efforts at clapping with what stumps of hands they still possessed. They sang and even tried to dance. On their approaching, one could hardly help experiencing a sense of shuddering and loathing; but for their sake, we tried to conceal it and to look cheerful and pleased.

The entertainment was closed with the national anthem, after which the lepers essayed to show their pleasure and thankfulness with more clapping and by giving three lusty cheers for the band.

The patients who, on account of the advanced stage, are confined in the Hospital, were not forgotten: we halted there on our return.

The pitiable sight that met our gaze on every side, made a deep impression on us all. It was no small satisfaction and recompense to have brightened up—even for a short while—those dismal

surroundings and to have rendered less unhappy so many of our fellow-creatures.

In the afternoon the party assembled on the jetty, where the band played for the last time; then all sailed homeward to Cape Town.

It was a memorable trip; one destined to live in our mind as an unprecedented experience of pleasant and sobering impressions."

A reference to the outing related above appeared in the *Cape Times* of Oct. 2nd, which it ran thus:

The band of the Salesian Institute and Industrial School at 59, Buitenkant street, proceeded to Robben Island on Saturday, and in the afternoon, to the great delight of the patients from the different asylums, a varied selection of music was executed on the village green. On Sunday afternoon there was an hour's playing on the jetty, which was much appreciated. Later on the boys performed in the grounds of the Residency. The most pleasing feature of the visit was the apparent delight of the poor patients in the female leper compound at Murray's Bay. The music seemed to make them forget for a time their miserable plight, and they laughed and sang, and some even danced.

PORT STANLEY (FALKLAND ISLANDS).—A tribute to the Priest of the Mission.—A friend of Don Bosco's Institutions and a Salesian Co-operator, has sent us the following communication which appeared in the *Falkland Island Magazine*, under the date of July 28th, 1903, in reference to the Salesian priest who for several years had charge of that mission.

Dear Sir, to the readers of your magazine who knew Father O'Grady and still expect to see him coming back to resume charge of the R. C. mission here, it will be a disappointment to learn that, being placed by his superiors in one of their largest Colleges in Switzerland, he is not returning to the Falklands.

The life of a missionary in these Islands is arduous and trying in the extreme, and the experiences of Fr. O'Grady were no exception to the rule; still, for twelve long weary years he struggled on bravely, and so endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact, without distinction of class or creed, that he is said to have been the most popular priest that ever came to these Islands.

His appeal for aid to enable him to erect a chapel suitable for the increasing number of his flock, was most generously responded to, and how neat and orderly he kept it, he himself sweeping floor and dusting and even acting as sexton. Truly could he say with the Royal Psalmist: *Domine dilexi decorem domus tue et locum habitationis gloriæ tue*: "I have loved, O Lord, the beauty of Thy house: and the place where Thy glory dwelleth;" and what joy was his on being able to say before

he left here, that his chapel was at length free of debt.

In addition to all this, he conducted a school of some 250 or 60 children, and instead of enjoying a well earned rest on Saturdays and Sundays like secular school-masters, these were his severest days; being taken up with the above mentioned duties, and visiting his people; so that he had little time for preparing his Sunday sermons, and yet his instructions carefully interspersed with apposite quotations from S. Scripture and delivered with unction and earnestness, were most effective.

The labourers at the Naval works here carry with them grateful recollections of Fr. O'Grady's kindness, but also in frequently acting as their letter-writer and interpreter, for which he was well qualified, knowing, as he did, five or six languages.

With the Officers and men of H. M. Warships, that came here periodically, none stood higher than Father Pat, as they affectionately called him.

It is not surprising that the departure from amongst us of one who possessed so many sterling qualities, who was the very soul of generosity and hospitality, should be deeply felt as it is. It must be gratifying to him to know that he is followed to the new scene of his labours by the hearty well-wishes of his numerous friends in the Falklands.

NICTHEROY (BRAZIL).—The President's birthday and Santa Rosa Institute.—On the occasion of the birthday of His Excellency Dr. Rodriguez Alves, the noble President of the United States of Brazil and a great benefactor of the works of Don Bosco, the Superiors of the above Institute planned a visit of all the pupils to the Palace: it was intended, in this novel fashion, to publicly manifest their gratitude towards a generous benefactor—the Head of the Republic.

Ideal weather favoured the intended outing. At half past nine in the morning all were seated in the trams which ran down to the harbour. There, a special steamer waited to convey the party across the magnificent bay which separates the town from Rio Janeiro, the densely populated capital of Brazil.

On landing, all lined up in perfect order and, headed by the band, marched across the handsome spacious square which opens out in front of the pier, and down the finest avenue of the city, to the admiration of the people and to the delight of many parents who saw their sons amongst them.

The goal of the journey was soon reached. Every one was in high spirits as he eagerly waited for the appointed hour. All entered into the inner park in full view of the Palace and were in a few minutes arrayed in front of the fine terrace: there, at one o'clock, the hour fixed, the Head of the Brazilian Nation was to appear. The position was well chosen for a full view of the whole mass of the boys.

At the exact moment Dr. Rodriguez Alves came out and was greeted by the boys with enthusiastic and prolonged cheers and loud clapping and by the stirring strains of the national anthem from the band of the Institute. During this, His Excellency most cordially entertained the Very Rev. Fr. Superior and spoke with his ministers and generals who stood around their chief. The members of his family were also in attendance. The national anthem closed amid another warm outburst of cheers, then addresses and musical selections followed, all of which were ably rendered and highly appreciated. A presentation was also made to His Excellency consisting of a book printed in the workshops of the Institute and entitled *Ramalhes Patriottico*. This work had been awarded a gold medal at the Rio Janeiro Exhibition in 1900.

The proposed demonstration was now at an end. It had given great pleasure to that distinguished company and especially to the President himself, who in a few happy expressions, showed his warm appreciation. As he returned into the palace loud applause followed him.

By special permission of the President the young visitors returned crossing the park and down to the sea by his private bridge; the party were soon in full steam across the harbour back to Nictheroy. Many good impressions and pleasant recollections remained of this visit, and did much to foster true patriotism and gratitude to him who worthily bears the burdens of government.



The prayers of the Co-operators are kindly requested for the repose of the soul of:

MR. JOHN GEERAN late of Castletownroche Co. Cork, who died in Mowbray near Capetown.

MRS. AUGUSTE HOEFELE who died in Umtalo, Cape Colony.

The Salesians of Capetown have lost in the deceased two benevolent Co-operators, and they would express here again their sentiments of deep sympathy to the relatives in their bereavement.

R. I. P.

PERMISSU SUPERIORUM

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It contains the communications of the Superior General, the successor of Don Bosco, to the Co-operators, friends and benefactors of the Salesian Institutions.

It gives a report of the progress of the works of the Society, of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, of the Salesian Co-operators; also interesting accounts from the Missions and various matters of edification and encouragement connected with the objects of the Association.

It is sent to all the Co-operators, friends and benefactors who desire to receive it.

All communications concerning change of address, or when the sending of it is to be discontinued through any cause whatsoever, should be addressed *To the Editor of the Salesian Bulletin, Salesian Oratory, Valdocco, Turin, Italy*; or, when received from other Houses, to the Superior of the House from which it is sent.

There is no fixed charge or subscription for the Magazine, but the amount which anyone may wish to devote towards defraying the expenses in connection with its production and distribution should be addressed as above.

To our friends and Co-operators, who would like to make Don Bosco's works more widely known, we strongly recommend the circulation of a pamphlet entitled: *Don Bosco's Apostolate and other Sketches*. As many copies as are requested will be forwarded in return for any offering. Apply to the *Editor of the Salesian Bulletin Salesian Oratory, Turin, Italy*; or to the *Very Rev. C. B. Macey, Salesian Schools, Surrey Lane, Battersea, London, S. W.*

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