



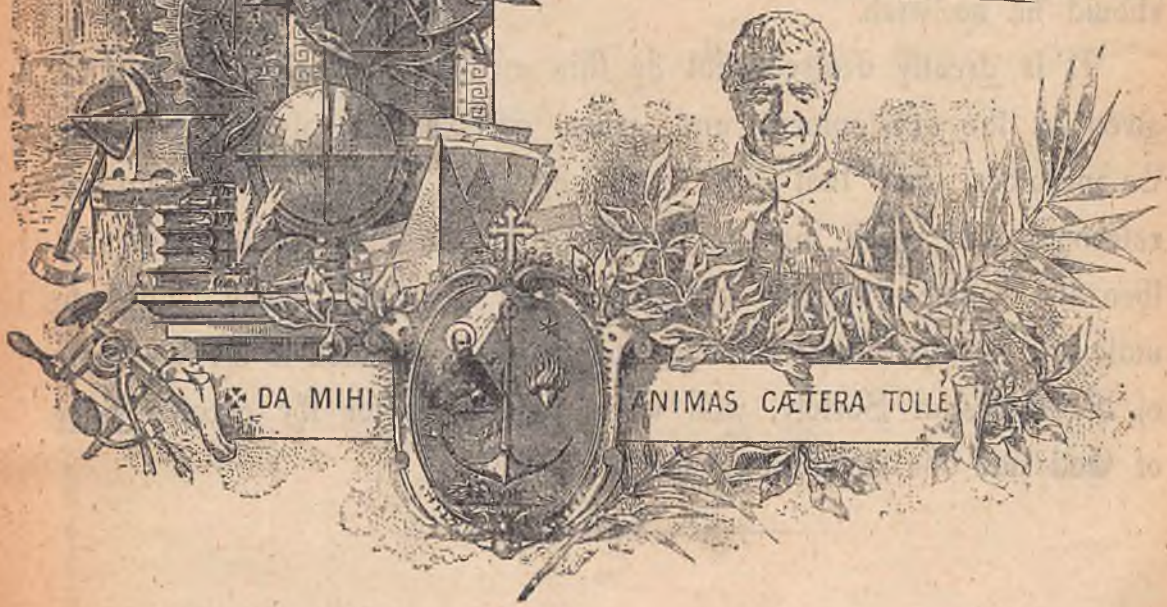
Salesian Bulletin

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Vol. XII

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


Leo XIII



DA MIHI

ANIMAS CÆTERA TOLLE

Important Notice to Readers.

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

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

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

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

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

The Salesian Bulletin

Organ of the Association of Salesian Co-operators

Via Cottolengo 32, Turin, Italy.

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The great Salesian celebrations at Turin.

THERE had never been any doubt concerning the character of the celebrations for the centenary of the birth of Don Bosco. Even though they had been carried out in 1915, when they were due, in the midst of the war, it is likely enough that Turin would have temporarily laid aside its warlike activities to honour its favourite apostle; but wiser counsels postponed the celebrations for one who was essentially a Crusader of Peace. A spiritual and temporal prosperity and a peaceful progress towards higher ideals—these were his aims on behalf of the people at large, through a wise training of the young generations.

And his triumph came in due course. Just five years later, his followers and children and compatriots, the crowds of his past pupils and of his Co-oper-

ators combined to send forth one great triumphal cheer, as his monument was unveiled in the midst of that mighty throng. The composition of the great gathering was significant. The young generations, so dear to him in life, stood nearest to the monument, just leaving enough space to allow the royal visitors to inspect it after the unveiling. Boys of all ages in the uniforms of their various gymnastic companies, girls on the other side under the care of the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians, confraternities and associations of many kinds, with banners flowing, all stood around in their allotted positions.

But this was to be *the day* of the Past-pupils, for it was they who had decided, in their first International Congress, that this monument should be erected to their Father's imperishable

fame. They were present in their thousands and had places allotted to them in the sections to which they belonged. Then there were the Congressists who had been attending the Eighth International Congress of Co-operators. Their badges admitted them to other places on the Piazza, while on the right of the monument, looking towards the Basilica of Our Lady Help of Christians, was erected the covered and ornamented stand, where the royal visitors and other distinguished guests had their places. On either side of these were many of the chief people of Turin, the whole gathering, in its cosmopolitan character, being quite representative of Don Bosco's many-sided apostolate.

The words of the Archbishop of Ravenna, himself a past-pupil, in a message for that great occasion, were most apposite. Referring to the text: "Thy sons shall come from afar," he said one could not help reverting to the famous words: "And thou *Becchi* art not the least among the cities, for from thee has come forth a leader, who has succeeded in gaining over every land by his wisdom and charity." There had come to Turin from every part of the globe so many of his sons and followers, to visit the home of their great father, who still spoke to them as though he would say: *manete in dilectione mea*; i. e. continue to be faithful to me in the Salesian Family...

Sentiments such as these must have been in many hearts on the morning of May 23rd, when his beautiful monument was uncovered. The Piazza and every point of vantage was covered with spectators. The ceremony took place at eleven, but from eight onwards the crowd was available. But order had to be maintained, and for this the civic guards and the volunteer corps lent their aid. The Piazza was divided

up by line of Boys' Scouts and in these divisions were the various representatives from schools and colleges, the Congressists and other Co-operators being just behind them. The composition of the gathering made it picturesque and interesting. The sections of boys were in various colours, and the girls with the Nuns were in their uniforms; flags and banners waved everywhere, and the grand-stand was hung with rich, red draperies.

The chief personages came out from the portico of the Oratory shortly before eleven. The Superior General, and His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Seville came together; they were followed by Their Lordships Mgr. Malan (of the Salesian Society), Mgr. Cambiaso, Mgr. Pinardi who represented the Cardinal Archbishop of Turin, whose continued indisposition kept him from coming in person, and by Mgr. Gamberoni, the Bishop of Fossano.

Then the Authorities of Turin took their places in the special stand. The Prefect of the city represented the government; the royal Commissary and Count Luigi Provana represented the Queen Mother, three Generals represented the military of the city and attended upon the royal visitors; the Consular Service was very largely present, the local magistrates and the Rector of the University.

Precisely at eleven the military band began the royal march which announced the arrival of the Duke of Genoa, who represented the King and who presided at the ceremony. The Duke and Duchess took their places in the centre amid the cheers of the whole gathering; on either side of them were Don Albera and the Cardinal Archbishop of Seville, who was the official representative of the Holy Father.

A bugle rang out; swift silence fell. All eyes were directed to the covered monument. The sun seemed to shine out on purpose at that moment, for as

the coverings fell, the brilliant light threw into prominence the radiant figure of the Ven. Don Bosco, as it stands in the central group of the fine monument. The silence of anticipation only intensified the enthusiasm, and cheers and clapping held sway for some minutes. The band of the Past Pupils then struck up the tune of the Hymn to Don Bosco; a well-known Salesian chorus by one of their own famous

symbolism of the groups explained by the artist himself.

His words upon this are worth recording:

"Above all, I thought it fitting that the figure of Don Bosco should be placed among a little group of boys, for before everything else he was a great benefactor and lover of the young.

Then from him there come, in my design, representatives of others who



On the eve of the Unveiling — May 22nd 1920

musicians, and thousands of voices joined in the great song. It was a real triumphal chorus, offered to the great Father of the multitude, who seemed to smile radiantly from his throne at this vast throng of admirers. The Sculptor and designer of the monument, Signor Cellini was presented to the Duke, and congratulated upon his artistic success. The orations were then made, the parchment which hands over the monument to Turin was officially signed, and the ceremonial was concluded. The royal visitors advanced to inspect the monument more closely and to have the

were so much indebted to him, through the devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and to Mary Help of Christians. It is well-known that Don Bosco was a great champion of these two devotions, and therefore beneath the Sacred Host there is shown one of those, who, having learnt his art or trade in Don Bosco's school, comes in his manhood to the Holy Eucharist for the strength of his spiritual life. There, too, have recourse the past-pupils of the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians; one is in the act of kissing her child who stretches his hands towards the

Most Holy Sacrament, as though she would impress that devotion upon his young heart; another comes in her moments of anxiety as though to present her child to Don Bosco.

Maidens are seen coming to Mary Help of Christians, the Patroness of Don Bosco; a savage also approaches, in an attitude which depicts the victory her devotion has won over his heart; the leper, too, is shown, a record of the supreme heroism of the disciples of Don Bosco.

At the rear of the monument I have tried to show in relief the chief departments of Don Bosco's beneficent work: the professional and the agricultural

schools are represented, and there is a priest representing the Salesians receiving the emigrants.

Finally, as the whole of Don Bosco's work was religious, I have placed in the front of the chief group two figures symbolising humanity which bends to kiss the Cross which is offered to it by Faith."

The ideas of the designer have been beautifully worked out in the bronze groups, and his monument, apart from all other considerations, will rank among the finest of the city, which from its many fine groups has been called *The City of Monuments*.

The Congress.

As we have mentioned previously in passing, the series of imposing gatherings at the Oratory in Turin resolved themselves into three separate Congresses. These were the Eighth International Congress of the Salesian Co-operators, the Second Congress of the Past-Pupils of Don Bosco, and the Second Congress of the Past-Pupils of the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians. All of these combined for the general meetings, such as the great inaugural Assembly of May 20th.

It was an imposing spectacle. The auditorium was crowded with Co-operators and Salesian past-pupils; the first circle or gallery was allotted to the ladies who were past-pupils of the Nuns; the second was crowded with spectators of every sort. At the back of the platform was the central group of Cellini's monument—Don Bosco and the boys beside him. It was the original from which the cast was made.

In front of it was a select gathering of Co-operators, both ecclesiastic and lay the members of the executive Committees of the three Congresses, and representatives of twenty-three nations; on one side was the table for the presidents, on the other the place for the speakers. The nations represented were: Italy, France, the British Isles, Spain, Belgium, Portugal, Poland, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Jugoslavia, Turkey, Palestine, Egypt, United States, Brasil, Uruguay, Pararguay, Argentine, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, and Mexico.

The Royal March was played as Don Albera—the second Successor of Don Bosco—entered the hall. He was accompanied by their Lordships the Bishops of Alba, of Albenga, of Matto Grosso (Mgr. Malan of the Salesian Society), the Co-adjutor to His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Turin.

Don Albera opens the proceedings.

The Successor of the Ven. Don Bosco was the first speaker. He extended a most hearty welcome to all the Congressists, many of whom had undergone the considerable inconveniences of long journeys to do honour to Don Bosco; he extended his thanks firstly to their Lordships the Bishops, then to the Salesian past-pupils who were the principal promoters of the present festivities, and then the young ladies, the past-pupils of the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians, who were rivals of the Salesian past-pupils in bearing aloft the banner of Don Bosco.

He then recalled for the general interest some words spoken by the Venerable Servant of God in 1876, and also some others spoken at the end of his life; in 1876 when he announced to his immediate followers that he was about to establish the Association of Salesian Co-operators, and foretold, to the amazement of his listeners, the great development it would have in a very short time; and the others spoken just before his death: "We could not have done

anything without the Co-operators: they are in our regard, the messengers and instruments of Divine Providence."

To the past-students he recalled the words of Don Bosco spoken to them in all humility, in regard to the success of his educational system: "I am grateful to you for the affection you still show to Don Bosco, and for the honour you bring him by your own successful lives."

To the past-pupils of the Nuns he recalled how Don Bosco spent hours in prayer before taking the decision to found the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, and the great hopes he had founded upon the apostolate of the Catholic women. He then continued:

"At his first Mass, Don Bosco asked for the special grace of efficacy in word, and he obtained it in a high degree. Many of you here present have personal proofs of what wonderful results his words obtained. To me it seems, that now that he is dead, he obtains a special efficacy for those who speak of him; and I believe that the very sight of his monument in the Piazza of Our Lady Help of Christians will do good, especially to those who, like you, are endeavouring to work with him, and under his guidance, for the good of the Church and of Society in general.

The President's words of inauguration.

When the applause had died down, Mgr. Condio undertook the general presidency of the Congress. He welcomed the Co-operators in the name of the Committee, pointing out the great field of labour which present-day conditions opened to them, and re-affirming their gratitude to the great Apostle, whose teaching had been such a source of blessing to modern society.

He then referred to the various Congresses which would hold their sessions on that occasion, and to the great achievements which it would be possible to derive from them. "It was," he said, "a great distance from the 8th December 1841, and who could have foreseen the extraordinary developments of that apparently simple step. From the very soil upon which Don Bosco laboured from the beginning, there now went forth the great hymn of gratitude and affection." He then formally declared the Congress opened.

The opening scenes.

Don Trione, who has been closely associated with the labours of previous Congresses, and who is the general organiser of the Co-operators was in charge of the direction of affairs. His first duty was to read the message from His

Eminence Card. Gasparri, who is the Protector of our Society in Rome, and as such his words should be given *in extenso*.

The Vatican, May 5th 1920.

Very Rev. Father,

The fine monument, which the Pupils of Don Bosco and of his Sons have erected in Turin to that incomparable educator of the young is at once a manifestation of gratitude on the part of the pupils, and a solemn act of homage to the wonderful power of the Master.

A new and admirable fact in the history of education, and an evident proof of the power Religion are provided by these numerous Associations and Federations of the Salesian Past-pupils and of the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians, both of whom hold frequent local or regional gatherings, and are now about to hold their Second International Congresses.

It was a happy inspiration too, which decided to call together at the same time the Eighth General Congress of Co-operators, who will thus form part of the great family assembled around the Monument of their Father; they will thus derive new vigour for their labours in the vast field of Salesian activities, under the wise direction and noble leadership of their great Founder.

As an admirer of the Ven. Don Bosco, as a long-standing Co-operator, and as the Cardinal Protector of the Salesian Society, I send my heartiest wishes for the success of the coming celebrations; and I take the opportunity of reassuring you, Very Rev. Father, of my sincere esteem.

Yours most devotedly in Christ,

P. CARD. GASPARRI.

To the Very Rev. Don Albera,
Superior General of the Salesian Society.

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A very large number of letters and telegrams were received from persons of the highest distinction in Church and State, among them being ten Cardinals, nineteen archbishops, and sixty bishops. It was while reference was being made to these messages and letters, that His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Turin entered the hall, and was conducted to the platform amid the acclamations of the great assembly.

As soon as he had taken his seat, the inaugural address was begun by Commendatore C. Barberis.

He dwelt upon the deep significance of these great manifestations by the Co-operators and the past-pupils, and of the gathering of representatives of so many peoples, who were scarce-

ly yet entirely emerged from the throes of the war. He then gave a rapid sketch of Don Bosco's undertakings; how he had first of all spread the beneficence of his apostolate over Turin, and how it gradually passed to country after country and to Lands beyond the ocean. He touched upon its simple yet firm lines of organisation, which allowed of rapid expansion and adaptation, and thus could look forward to a continued progress. The speaker then dwelt upon the growth of the Co-operators themselves and of the yet unknown victories

which they were yet to win; upon the nature of their co-operation, upon the great achievements of the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians.

He concluded by referring to the glory which was now inevitably attached to Don Bosco's name for the work he had accomplished. How many faces would now be upturned to his monument, and what a source of inspiration it would prove to all his admirers. It would then enable them on their return, to put their hand to work with new zeal in the fulfilment of their own apostolate.

The Sessions of the Congress.

There were now given very hearty welcomes to the Representatives of the various nations, as they successively delivered a brief message on behalf of their local Associations. Those in languages not likely to be understood by a majority of the listeners, were read in translation by the executive president.

The address from the British Isles.

Among other salutations to the Congress was one in English read by Mr. Reilly, who was one of the band of nearly twenty persons who represented the Salesian Co-operators in the British Empire. It was the first time that we had been represented at these international Congresses, and that gave additional importance to the appearance of our Delegates upon the platform, two of whom sat with Fr. Provincial and with Fr. Rabagliati, the principal organiser of the Delegation from our Co-operators. Mr. Reilly's address was as follows:

The Representatives of the British Isles gladly welcome the opportunity of saluting this vast Congress of Salesian Co-operators. The fact that this is the first time that the English-speaking Co-operators have been able to come to the Congress is in itself a proof of the real advance that is being made, in spite of the difficulties that naturally attend a work of this sort in Protestant countries.

However, the combined efforts of Salesians and Co-operators have been blessed by our Venerable Founder, and the Salesians have made establishment in England, Ireland, South Africa and India, and the Daughters of Our Lady Help of Christians are making similar progress.

The Co-operators have not much facility for united action, for they are spread up and down the country; but they are in touch with the Superior General by correspondence, and as their numbers

increase it is hoped to establish regular conferences among them. They desire to combine with the Co-operators from all over the world in the great act of homage to the Ven. Don Bosco, and to express the hope that the Congress will be eminently successful. The English-speaking Co-operators all over the world will rejoice to hear that it has accomplished great things, and will readily unite in striving to realise its proposals.

This message was received with great applause by the immense gathering, which was renewed when the salutation was interpreted in Italian by the executive President.

The Eighth International Congress had many reasons for its special importance, but its promoters and directors hope that its particular significance will arise from the fact that it laid down more definite lines for organisation of local action. In fact the Committee declare that this Congress will go far to realise the plain words of the Ven. Don Bosco: "A time will come when the two names of Co-operator and good Catholic will be practically synonymous. The Co-operators will everywhere be the great promoters of the Catholic spirit. The more the Holy See is harassed, the wider unbelief seems to spread, then the Co-operators must raise on high the flaming torch of their practical faith".

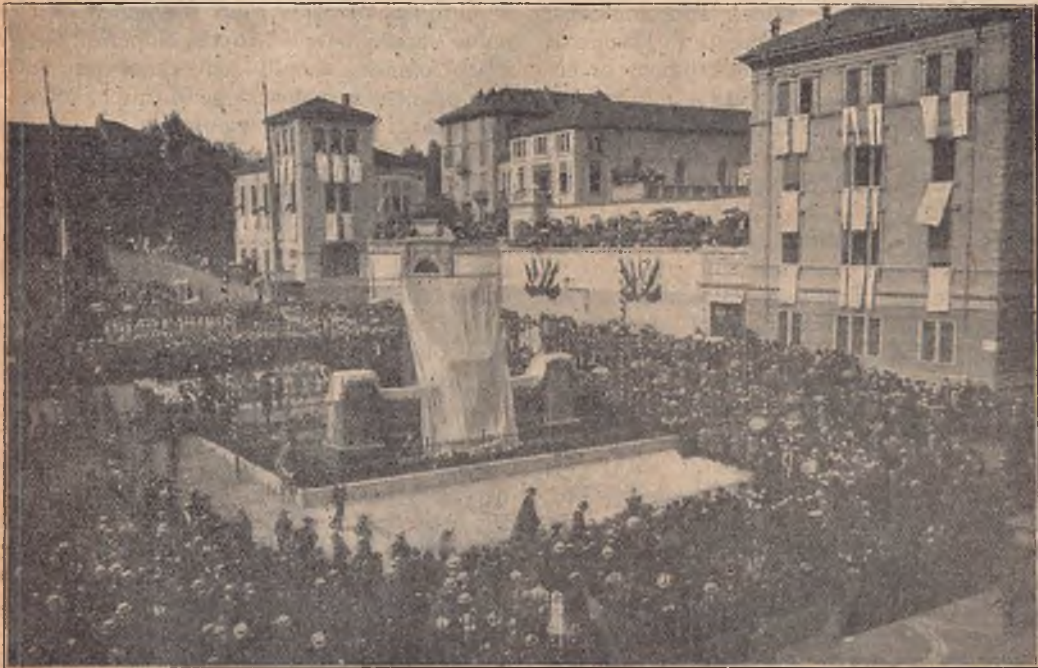
The first day.

The Co-operators met in the theatre of the Oratory. The Prefect-general of the Congregation represented Don Albera. The Provincial of the Houses in Piedmont was the chief speaker. The discussion was on the organisation of the Co-operators.

Their fundamental object is to give material and moral aid to the Salesian Work; they are to be exemplary Catholics themselves and

apostles of good in the midst of society, diffusing around them the spirit of Don Bosco. So far the work of the Co-operators had been great, but lacked the union and consolidation which was an important part of the Founder's idea. He had not been able during his busy life to put into operation the whole programme he had traced out for them, but his frequent presentation of this ideal of fervent and zealous Catholics, and subsequently dwelt upon by his Successors, has moved Don Albera to state that, wherever the Co-operators are sufficiently organised they should now endeavour to develop local action according to the spirit of Don Bosco, and in

Bosco, amid scenes of great enthusiasm, but also for the new impetus given to the Association of Co-operators. Like other works of real and lasting power, that of Don Bosco has the gift of a wonderful fecundity, which enables it to be reproduced everywhere, because its main lines of action are drawn with a large and simple outline by a master-mind. Thus it is both adaptable and progressive. New circumstances find it prepared to meet their demands. The speaker then briefly reviewed the present constitution and conditions of the Association of Co-operators and finally presented the following as the chief lines of organisation and action:



The Piazza a few minutes before the Ceremony.

addition to what they do to aid the general work of the Congregation.

To secure this, the organisation must be made more compact, so that the Central directive body may be in closer touch with every part of its co-operating members. Other similar bodies, such as the Third Orders, usually depend almost entirely upon local direction; but Don Bosco's plan was that the Co-operators, whether as individuals or as constituted into a regional body, should follow the directions of the Superior General of the Salesian Work, and should get their methods of action from one central source.

The Rev. speaker declared that the year 1920 would be notable in our annals, not only for the unveiling of the monument to Don

1. The Director General of the Co-operators is the Superior General of the Salesian Society, who presides over it and directs its action:

a) by means of the *Salesian Bulletin*, which is the official organ of the Association;

b) by means of a Central Directing Council, depending upon him, with subsidiary offices in every Province and Salesian House;

c) by means of the Diocesan and local Directors.

2. The Central body issues the necessary instructions in regard to all movements that concern the Co-operators as a whole.

3. The Provincial bodies, with the concurrence of the Central Council and the approbation of the Bishop, nominate their Diocesan Director; they arrange for the conferences pre-

scribed on the Feasts of Our Lady Help of Christians and on that of St. Francis of Sales, and for other conferences when suitable; all local action should first be approved by the Provincial Director. The Provincial body also lays down the lines for local movements, so that the spirit of Don Bosco may be maintained throughout; it also arranges at need for provincial or regional Congresses.

4. The Diocesan and local Directors have the general direction of the activities of the Co-operators in their districts. They undertake the formation of a Committee among the more active Co-operators, and thus they endeavour to secure in every center someone to look after: a) direct aid for our works and missions; b) social and religious movements in favour of the young; c) vocations to the religious or ecclesiastical state; d) the cultivation and spread of what is usually called the *Good Press*, or in other words, edifying and instructive literature; e) the care of the young chiefly by Sunday Oratory work.

6. Where the organisation is not yet complete the Superior General will nominate a national, instead of a local Director; but all directors should send an annual account of how affairs stand.

7. The Co-operators, in accordance with the fundamental idea of Don Bosco in founding the Pious Association, should send their own offerings to the Superior General, either for our work as a whole, or for the Salesian Missions, for the *Bulletin*, for special needs, and for the promotion of beneficent works in other places where Salesian activity is called for. They should also support any local action proposed by the local committee or director. The *Bulletin* is sent to various persons who, although not actually enrolled as Co-operators, are favourable to the work of the Ven. Don Bosco.

The second day.

The second meeting of Co-operators dealt with the various forms of activity. The chief speaker was a Canon of the Cathedral of Casalmoferrato, who has long been a leading-light in the Association. He showed how the beneficent work of Don Bosco was in the very beginning dependent on the Co-operators, and how the great advancements since made have made it more necessary than ever that their support should be regular and general.

After various explanations and discussions, the following directions were passed as forming part of the new Rules for the Co-operators:

1. To be a Co-operator, according to the Ven. Don Bosco's own declaration, it suffices to

promote the Salesian Work whether by prayer, offerings, or by personal service. The local efforts of any group of Co-operators are directed by a Committee selected from among themselves.

2. In addition to what the rules of the Association already lay down, it was agreed that all Co-operators should aid the Salesian Work by prayer, by making it known to others especially by means of the *Bulletin*, by sending their own offerings and by endeavouring to make new Co-operators.

3. The Directors should be particular in arranging for the prescribed conferences on the feast of Our Lady Help of Christians and of St. Francis de Sales, and the collections then made should be sent to the Superior General. The Directors should also endeavour to put into operation some scheme of propaganda. In the greater centres of population separate committees or associations for ladies should be formed; in the smaller ones a local Director or a Promoter, whether lady or gentleman, will perhaps suffice to keep the Co-operators in touch with the Superior General and with the other centres.

4. The local activities are directed towards such objects as the promotion of the general religious and social movements, courses of advanced instruction in Christian Doctrine, the catechism classes for the young, particularly where difficult circumstances make it more necessary, and other movements on behalf of the little ones. There are also the various Confraternities to assist, and in short whatever can promote Catholic interests and the advancement of religious practice was, in Don Bosco's idea, the Co-operator's field of labour.

5. They should be great promoters of the Devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians, especially of the practice of keeping the 24th of the month in her honour.

6. They should above all try to promote vocations to the ecclesiastical state, and for that purpose should keep the Directors of Salesian Houses in touch with boys and young men who may show signs of a vocation. Don Bosco's words are in this the special guide to us all: "If we can manage to secure a vocation we are presenting the Church with a treasure; it does not matter whether the young man becomes a secular priest, or a Missionary or a Religious; the Church is always enriched thereby." This special work of promoting adult vocations has been particularly dedicated to Our Lady Help of Christians.

7. The diffusion of edifying and instructive literature is also part of the Co-operator's apostolate, and they should moreover exert special

vigilance over the matter which is read in their own homes, and in those places over which they may have influence.

8. But above all, the care of the young should make a special appeal to them. Where they can, and where parochial circumstances can be made favourable, they should endeavour to assist, or even to establish, the Sunday Oratory and the classes for Religious instruction. And in general, whatever good works are carried on for the betterment of the young should find ready assistants and patrons in the Salesian Co-operators.

The discussion on the above points were full of valuable suggestions. We may quote some: Speaking on the promotion of vocations, for example, it was related that a pious father, seeing that his only son had taken to irregular courses, made a promise to pay for the education of a boy to the Priesthood, and almost at once he had the happiness of seeing his son return to a good Catholic life. Again, a mother and father, having lost their sons in the war, decided to offer in suffrage for them the means for the training of a vocation to the ecclesiastical state. Two others, celebrating their golden wedding, surrounded by a numerous and prosperous family, resolved to make a thank-offering for the maintenance of an ecclesiastical student, so that he might remember them at the Altar.

These and other practical instances aroused the sympathy and enthusiasm of the audience; as a little souvenir of this discussion on the young generations and on vocations, Don Rinaldi, our Prefect-General, presented to all the Congressists a little work by Fr. A. Cojazzi, S. C.; D. Litt. It is entitled: "Don Bosco used to say this," and illustrates Don Bosco's method of dealing with the young.

The part of the discussion which treated of Christian instruction for the young was also illustrated by interesting practical details, and certainly showed that the zealous assistance or initiative of the Co-operators had been wonderfully efficacious.

It must be remembered that there were three Congresses proceeding simultaneously: that of the Co-operators and that of Our Past Pupils were held in the Oratory, while that of the young ladies who are the past-students of the Nuns was held in the theatre of the Convent. The three classes of congressists combined on each of the three evenings for the general meeting.

The Salesian Past Pupils made their congress a great triumph for Don Bosco. They had to contend against many inconveniences in order to come to Turin, but the gatherings complete-

ly surpassed all expectations. Twenty-three nations were represented among them. Those present numbered about a thousand, and the various races and places from which they came threw into prominence the fact of the international character of Don Bosco's work. The first Congress was in 1911, and between the first and the second, two great things had been achieved: the monument to Don Bosco was erected and the previous isolated Associations had been consolidated into a progressive Federation.

Professor Gribaudo opened the Assembly. He outlined the object of the Congress and welcomed the members from abroad who, as he said, must make themselves at home, and feel as though they were coming to their native air. He afterwards proceeded to the work of the meeting, by recalling the propositions made by the preceding Congress, and showing how the Association was to be perfected in its organisation, and should draw up a complete constitution. The traditions of Don Bosco must show them how to impart an element of sane, healthy activity into modern conditions.

An important letter was next read from a member of the Italian Parliament, a Past Student, the one in fact who had been a leading promoter of the scheme to erect a monument to Don Bosco in Turin. His parliamentary business prevented him from leaving Rome just at that time. The Secretary also gave an account of the many letters and telegrams received, and announced that, so far, Spain led the way by having twenty separate groups participating.

* * *

The discussion of the main theme was then continued. It dealt with the formation of the International Federation of Past Pupils, which is composed of the local group combined into Provincial bodies, these into national associations and these latter into an International Federation. The discussion of ways and means was participated in by some first-class speakers, and the final scheme was agreed to as follows:

1. The local and regional Associations should be combined into one international Federation.
2. The local Associations should have a properly elected Council or Committee, with President and Secretary. The Provincials are to be the guides and advisers in their own Provinces.
3. The International Federation is ruled by a Council, formed by the presidents of the national Associations; it has an executive Committee of five, nominated by the Superior General, one of whom is chosen as President. The period of their office will be six years. All matters concerning the erection and affiliation

of members and of regions are decided ultimately by the Council.

4. The Federation has its own organ, entitled *The Review for the Young*. It is also proposed to endeavour by registration and reports to keep the parts in closer touch, and to enable Directors to obtain more definite information in regard to the state of the Federation. Many very interesting illustrations were given of the formation of societies of Salesian Past Students, even where there was no Salesian College or House to gather them together.

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On the second day, the President announced in his opening discourse, that their fellow Past-Student, whose letter had been read the day before, was that morning being received by the king on his appointment in the Cabinet as Minister of Agriculture. It was at once decided to send him a telegram of congratulation. The discussions were then continued. The chief points concerned the special forms of activity to which the Past Students should devote themselves, and their resolutions were as follows:

1. That all Associations of Past Pupils should make it their chief object to keep in being and to strengthen the spirit of practical catholicism which Salesian Schools strove to inspire; that they should thus be exemplary in all religious duties; and should co-operate in that Christian renovation, to which Don Bosco and his Society devoted their labours.

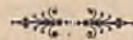
2. That the Associations of Past Pupils should endeavour to second the labours of the Salesians themselves, and promote some particular work which the circumstances of each place may make suitable.

3. They are urged also to attend the special feasts of the School or College to which their Association belongs; to have a yearly meeting among themselves; to maintain some form of social and intellectual culture, such as a literary or debating or dramatic club; to endeavour to send pupils to the Salesian Schools or Sunday Oratories, and to promote a fund for a scholarship at one of the Schools; they should also endeavour to act as friendly counsellors to the young students who are beginning their careers in the world.

These and other such proposals were discussed and illustrated by many speakers. During the afternoon session, Don Albera paid a visit to the Congress and received a great ovation. Replying to this, he spoke with that effective and direct simplicity which reminded some of Don Bosco's own method of speech. "I am very pleased," he said, "to see in what large

numbers you have come to the Congress. We have never before seen such a gathering of Past-pupils, come from all parts of the world. An artist once painted a picture representing the meeting between beneficence and gratitude, and he portrayed them as meeting in heaven because he thought it impossible for them ever to meet on earth. If that painter were here he would have grounds for altering his opinion because each one of you is a proof that gratitude does exist on earth. I thank you for the affectionate terms in which you speak of your former Superiors, and from this close union I hope that great fruits will come. I assure you that you are never forgotten in our prayers. If the Superiors can do anything to help you, come and ask them; they will be most willing to assist you. We should be sorry to think that our care and interest only lasted for the few years you spend in our Houses; our affection continues and will never cease. I wish the Congress every success, and hope that it will mean a forward step in your endeavour to spread the spirit of Don Bosco in the world. To his own Past-Pupils Don Bosco used to say: 'I am pleased to be here again in your midst for it is you who do honour to me; and so you need not speak to me of gratitude, it is I who ought to thank you.' And I am now in the like situation, and I say: I tender you my thanks, this imposing Congress is the clearest manifestation of your love." The final session was then brought to a close, and all adjourned for the last general meeting of the Congress of Co-operators.

On the following day at one o'clock, after the great scenes of enthusiasm which marked the unveiling of the monument, there was the lunch for all the Past-Pupils. More than 800 sat down to their places, and at the table for the presidents and guests there were another fifty. The meal was a pleasant scene of joy and intimate fraternisation. There were present His Eminence the Card. Archbishop of Seville, the Very Rev. Don Albera, the Senator Count Rebaudengo, the Sculptor of the Monument, sig. Cellini, and many other distinguished people. The speeches were by representatives of the various Associations, and one of the most welcome announcements was that the honour of knighthood had been bestowed upon the sculptor of Don Bosco's monument, an announcement that brought resounding applause from the assembly.



The Second International Congress

of the Past-Pupils of the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians.

While these events were proceeding, other important gatherings were being held in the theatre of the Convent next to the Oratory. The ladies who were past-pupils of the Nuns had gathered together from far and wide, and their numbers and splendidly-conducted meetings were evidence of the first-rate work, which

Nuns and her principal assistants; among the Delegates were representatives from England.

The executive was in the capable hands of the lady-principal of the Royal Normal School, and she had a very effective band of assistants. Her opening speech was worthy of the occasion and worthy of a place here, it being the first



Just after the unveiling.

is carried on by this second foundation of Don Bosco the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

Nearly a thousand were there. They came back from many countries and many circumstances, from homes, schools, business—a fine display of gratitude to their former mistresses, and to that spirit of zealous interest which the Nuns have learnt from the Master and Founder, the Ven. Don Bosco. But this large number was but a representative group of many other thousands, for no less than two hundred and fifty-five associations had replied to the invitation, and telegrams came in sheaves to the Lady President of the Congress. Two of the Salesian Fathers had been deputed by Don Albera to form part of the Presiding Committee, and with them was the Mother General of the

time that our *Bulletin* has published a speech by a past-pupil of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

“It is privilege for me” she said, “to offer you a salu ation full of affectionate rejoicing, of hope and consolation, and I seem to feel that from his place in heaven Don Bosco sends down upon our gathering his paternal smile and blessing. And with him and us there rejoice also the Mother General, the Mother Provincials and Superiors and all the Sisters of Mary Help of Christians, because this, our International Congress, is an imposing act of homage and a mark of affectionate gratitude towards that master among Educators; at the same time it is a splendid manifestation of the work of those holy principles which formed our training, a promise on our part of a real and lasting moral

progress, a purpose to be always animated with, and apostles of the doctrines of Don Bosco; from their interior impulse all our activities will receive life and inspiration, and we shall thereby be strengthened to co-operate efficaciously with constancy and zeal in the realisation of Don Bosco's apostolate. He took stock of his time and foresaw its needs, and sought, as he himself expresses it, *to unite all good Christians in one aim and work, the promotion of their own and their neighbour's salvation*; and, he adds, *to do this by labouring on behalf of the young, upon whom the future prospects of society rely whether for good or evil.*

Society in general is now passing through its critical period; the troubles are laid by most people at the door of the recent conflict, but their causes are much more remote. It was sought to de-christianise the family and the school, the tribunal and the university, the office and the work-shop, and now all values and relations are cast into melting-pot. The balance between the most vital powers is destroyed, between capital and production, between the soul and intellect, between mental and manual labour; it is even stated that human society is afflicted by a gnawing cancer, corroded by sectarianism and the frantic struggles of bolshevism, so that one has the impression of treading on a volcano which may at any moment involve everything in ruin.

Now we, who are ex-pupils of the Nuns, do not for a moment wish to pretend that we can change the face of the earth; but in the presence of these very grave circumstances, in the resolving of these heavy problems which the new era imposes upon the universal conscience, and in the endeavour to restore virtue, honesty, morality, justice and charity to their place of honour, even we have a part to play; and, as being strong in numbers, we should be able to do much, if we had a true sense of our duty, and know how to take a decided stand in its fulfilment; if, moreover, we had the courage that faces difficulty and mortification; if we could give proofs of our serious purpose, our disciplined activity, our moderation, justice and love.

The time when women were confined entirely to household duties is past; the precious burdens of their domestic hearth still have their ties and their obligations; but we, in following the very lines of our training, and the traditions of the zeal of Don Bosco, must know how to overcome our natural shyness and our innate aversions to certain public duties; for the women of today, must not only know how to fulfill the duties entailed by their home and family, but also new social obligations; and they can only do so by preparation and organisation, by a

reform that begins with one's own character and by a courageous yet humble resolutions; for often enough duty means sacrifice and even pain.

We must not be backward in this urgent need for reform and for a broader justice which can act without destroying social order; we must be in the van in the endeavour to secure greater honesty, seriousness of purpose and regularity of life; towards securing a higher respect for personal dignity in ourselves and in others, a dignity which shows itself in all our exterior relations; and for that end, we must not allow any false shyness or backwardness spoil the efficacy of our action, or restrict our sphere. None of the past-pupils of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, who are patterns of zeal, should be backward in this apostolate, which, through the good it does to ourselves and to others, is an honour in itself.

And if it should prove difficult, let us remember that Christianity has worked much greater transformations, not destroying everything in its path but wisely renovating and restoring. We should pray with fervour, labour with an efficacious activity, educate both ourselves and others, and have a great confidence in our Patroness the Help of Christians, and then hope for the best.

In declaring the Congress open, and wishing its labours every success, I send our friendly greetings to those who cannot be in our midst, but who are with us in heart and mind; and I am sure we all hope that the Congress will be a source of new life and vigour to all the affiliated sections; so that their flourishing may aid the spread the kingdom of Christ, the one source of our true welfare, the one factor of true progress, and the unfailing promise of our eternal joy.

Great applause marked the course of the speech, and was redoubled at its close. The Mother Provincial of the Piedmontese Houses expressed the welcome of the Sisters to their old pupils, and then the business of the Congress was begun. An important statement was read, showing the position of the Federation, in which it was shown that there are 255 affiliated sections, with a total of 66,487 past-pupils.

The main discussion then treated of the idea and spirit of the Association as it affected every class of past-pupils, and the advantages which each should derive from membership. It proceeded to show the formation of the sections, their character of a family gathering, the social activities they should promote and the means for keeping them in vigour, etc. etc.

Don Albera visited the Congress during the second section and spoke of the union that should exist among the past-pupils of whatever

section, all being children of the family of Don Bosco.

Another discussion dealt with the apostolate among the young, and the many ways in which the past-students can have their share in its labours and rewards; and in this discussion, the combined duties of home and social life, referred to by the President, were thoroughly explained and illustrated. At its close Don Albera paid another visit, principally to announce to the Congressists that His Holiness Pope Benedict XV, had been pleased to send them His representative in the person of the Cardinal Archbishop of Seville. The announcement evoked great applause, and then our Superior General went on to congratulate the lady-congressists on the happy spirit that pervaded their gatherings, a spirit which was always so pleasing to their venerable Father.

"The growing interest in Don Bosco, both in men and nations" — continued Don Albera — "is quite extraordinary; wherever one speaks of him, the more they wish to hear about him. When I visited the Salesian Houses in America I was surprised to see with what attention all listened when I spoke of Don Bosco. He had never been in those countries, but they were all full of the sound of his name. Books, pamphlets, papers in large numbers are now insufficient to meet the demand to know all about him, and his work. I have met Cardinals and political men, who, having read through the life of Don Bosco, began at once to re-read it, so as to grasp it more thoroughly and to feel the influence of his gentle spirit; a spirit of

Christian charity; a spirit of loving foresight, of profound piety, free from the least ostentation, spontaneous and joyful like the love which inspired it. Don Bosco delighted in joyfulness which is one of the fruits of divine grace; he wished all his followers and children to be ever in happy spirits, according to the Christian concept; and as he desired the Salesians and the Nuns to inculcate a love of tranquil piety; he desired also that their pupils they should act upon the maxim: *Servite Domino in laetitia* and he always urged people to confidence in God and encouragement from prayer and the Sacraments.

"You also, my dear children, are called to do much good in society. Your mission will be very fruitful if you delight in a happy serene piety according to the spirit of Don Bosco. Your words and example will then be like rays of light which bring restoration wherever they penetrate. May Mary Help of Christians bless and strengthen your good will."

The words of Don Bosco's successor were gathered up in the hearts of his listeners like a precious treasure, and a filial ovation was accorded to him.

The deliberations of the Congress were then continued and many propositions were embodied in the statutes of the Federation, which will now have a complete constitution. Many ladies spoke on the points proposed and had suggestions of their own to make, many of which will be adopted in the programme of the Federation, and can be applied as needs or opportunities arise.

The Second General Meeting.

We must now return to the main operations of the Congress of Co-operators. The second general meeting was another vast assembly, and its proceedings were inaugurated by the reading of the Pope's autograph letter to Don Albera, a letter which we reproduce on another page. It was listened to standing, and with great attention, many passages being excellently adapted to the labours of the Congress.

There were three main themes to be presented to the Delegates: the *Work of Don Bosco and Emigration*, by the Hon. C. Nava; *Don Bosco and The School*, by the Cavaliere Bettazzi, and the *Work of Don Bosco and the young Artisan*, by the Hon. F. Marconcini.

The need of special care for the emigrants of all nations has long been a recognised fact by those who are in touch with emigrant life; the more so when there is such danger of reli-

gious difficulties and indifference, when emigrants find themselves without friends in a strange land, with strange tongues and customs all around them. Don Bosco was a pioneer in the movement which sought to remedy this state of affairs, even before the state had given any thought to it, or had even begun to keep statistics of its emigrants. Things had much changed since then, and the Salesian priests abroad found one of their chief missions in the care of the emigrants and their children. In so doing they were following in Don Bosco's own lines, and giving an example of the immense charity which inspires their work.

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The second subject was one of special importance, since the welfare of the young is always uppermost, wherever the programme of Don

Bosco is being discussed. The speaker dealt with our Venerable Founder and the education question. He analysed the youthful character, showing its strong and weak points, its merits and failings. Don Bosco was endowed with unique gifts in the handling and fashioning of the young, and hence the wisdom of following his guidance.

The school should be free so that parents can rest assured that their children are being educated on Christian lines. The lack or insufficiency of religious instruction must be made up for by the classes for Christian doctrine, and the

Then there was read a telegram which it was proposed to send to His Majesty the King,—an announcement received with great applause.

The Committee for the Monument to Don Bosco which will be inaugurated on Sunday, in union with the Co-operators and Past Pupils coming from twenty-three nations, beg to send dutiful homage to Your Majesty. The President.

His Majesty the King replied: *To the Right Honorable Senator, Count Rebaudengo. Am pleased to announce that His Majesty the King has delegated H. R. H. the Duke of Genoa to represent him at the ceremony which will take place*



His Eminence the Cardinal of Seville leaving the Piazza.

advanced schools of Religion, and by the Festive Oratories. The teachers themselves should be united into a league with definite ideals and methods, so as to secure the greatest advantages for the young. They should ever be mindful of Don Bosco's idea on this point that the soul's interest must come before everything else.

At the close of Professor Bettazzi's speech, the President announced that the following telegram had been despatched to His Holiness the Pope, in reply to His autograph letter to the Successor of Don Bosco:

Your Holiness' august and paternal message received with acclamation and filial veneration by the General Assembly of the three Congresses. From it, all derive encouragement and inspiration, confident in the beneficent results to be obtained. Paul Albera.

tomorrow in Turin to celebrate the memory of Don Bosco. General Cittadini.

The last theme of the evening was then taken. It dealt with Don Bosco's apostolate among the young workmen; and as present-day conditions are so intimately associated with labour troubles, the speech was listened to with great interest. Don Bosco's plan of securing a close union between the various classes of society, and of promoting mutual respect, would go a long way to heal the quarrels and stem the rush of revolutionary movements.

There were also several subsidiary meetings. One was held by the Lady Patroness of Don Bosco's work, presided over by Don Albera himself and addressed by the Countess Maria Teresa Camerana, and by Signora Bettazzi, the conference being on the share that women

should take in the work of the Ven. Don Bosco.

Another Conference dealt with the approaching sixth centenary of the death of Dante, for all great educational bodies have an interest in that event. These minor conferences led up to the final general meeting which was in every way a fitting close to do many memorable scenes.

The Closing of the Congress.

The last General Meeting, as had been anticipated from the preceding events, was the great triumph of the Congress. Some three thousand persons packed the theatre. The Cardinal Archbishop of Seville, as the Representative of the Sovereign Pontiff, was the president and around him were gathered a distinguished group of eminent personages.

The final reports were the subject of the speakers, and chivalry demanded that the lady, who spoke for the Nuns' Past-pupils, should address the meeting first. She was fully equal to the occasion, and her words breathed a fine, filial devotion to the good Nuns who had educated them, and a true insight into the special relationship which exists throughout the whole *Famiglia Salesiana*, though composed of very diverse elements... Her description showed that their Association had already accomplished great things for the Past-Students, and that their very practical resolutions would make them a force of very efficient co-adjutors, and even of pioneers, in the sphere of Catholic women's activities.

She was followed by a much esteemed Past-Student of the Salesians, Cavaliere Poesio, who has a high post in the Treasury. As the great spokesman of the Old Salesian Students, he dealt with the ideals of the Federation, and of the filial pride which animated them as they saw the preparations for the unveiling of the Monument to their Father and Educator. The whole of the 350,000 past-students, who were represented in the Federation, would feel a glow of highest satisfaction and joy, at the realisation of their much cherished scheme. It would bind them ever closer to him and to his sons, and they desired nothing more than to work under their guidance and inspiration in securing the fullest realisation of Don Bosco's noble ideals.

He, in turn, was followed by a Co-operator, who dealt with the achievements of the Congress from the Co-operators' point of view, and very skillfully described their gatherings at the Mother House of the Salesians as a miniature League of Nations, which had consulted together in

true peace and fraternisation. Don Bosco had achieved his triumph in the scenes before their eyes, even before the sounds of acclamation should hail the inauguration of his monument. The work they had done, and the new enterprises they hoped to undertake, would both combine to secure great advantages to Holy Church and to innumerable souls.

Don Albera's closing words.

The Successor of Don Bosco then addressed the great gathering which hung upon his words as though coming from the Venerable Founder himself. He said: "In these last few days, I have read over again the manuscript in which Don Bosco speaks of the trials and labours he had to undergo in his young days and in the beginning of his Apostolate. What great difficulties he had to overcome in his endeavour to become a priest! What contradictions and struggles in the founding of his Oratory! What sufferings from the very people who ought to have assisted him! Yet he was ever calm and tranquil. One day when he seemed more pleased than usual, someone remarked: 'How happy Don Bosco seems today!' 'Nevertheless,' he replied, 'today I have had one of the greatest disappointments of my life.' Could he have lived till today, he could at last have had something to console him, seeing that a period of peaceful activities and of comforting events have come in their due course. And who has brought this period of consolation? Our Co-operators, both ladies and gentlemen, our Past-Students, and the Past-Students of the Nuns. I tender you all my sincerest thanks and if I may give any special thanks, it would be perhaps to our Past-students, who so generously glory in having been the pupils of Don Bosco. I recall, even now with deep feeling, the little episode which occurred at the placing of the remains of Our Venerable Founder in the tomb. Dr. Tomaso Bestente, who was present officially, was asked what was his title or qualification. He replied with a fine spirit: 'I am a son of Don Bosco!' His sentiment, I think, is shared by the the Past-Students here present.

I have recommended them to be exemplary Catholics, and I renew the recommendation to all. When Don Rua wrote to the Archbishop of Vercelli, saying that he wished to initiate the Process for Don Bosco's Beatification, the venerable Prelate gave his benediction to the proposal, and said: *The best proof of the sanctity of Don Bosco are the holy lives of his followers.* Let the example of your practical catholicity and the zeal of all who walk in Don Bosco's steps be the best proof of the sanctity of our Founder.

I congratulate you on the accomplishments of the Congress and on the wise counsels you have taken; the labours of these three days have been indeed fruitful. Let us go forward now in the name of Our Lady Help of Christians and of Don Bosco... And may the day soon come, when there will be another *Festa*, more beautiful even than tomorrow's will be, the day when Don Bosco will be raised to the honours of the Altar."

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The words of Don Albera moved the audience deeply, and their applause was mingled with emotion.

The Executive President then briefly reviewed the results of the Congress, and his eloquent and practical words were very effective. Among other points, he said: "During these labours of ours the spirit of Don Bosco seemed to preside over us. Splendid Orators have quoted his words and repeated his teachings and maxims. We have seen his representation flit across the theme of their words. But his special maxim, the one that synthesised the whole of his work, is that written on his crest: *I desire souls; all else counts for little.*

Words replete with wisdom. Elsewhere matter is omnipotent, economic questions are all supreme; but here we have sought to look into the spirit of things, we have been considering the saving of souls, especially of the young.

His speech breathed a hopeful and even a triumphant air, and created an enthusiastic atmosphere for the coming event of the morrow.

His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Seville closed the great scene. He spoke of the special blessing Pope Benedict had sent through him to the Congress; of his great personal veneration for Don Bosco, which had begun when he was a boy; of the support he had tried to give to the Salesian work, which has seven Houses in his Archdiocese. Lastly he referred to the solemn Feast of Pentecost and expressed the hope that the Congressists, when they left Turin, would do so with the firm resolution of helping on the great Christian resolution under Don Bosco's guidance, as the Holy Apostles parted after Pentecost to again the whole world to Jesus Christ.

Long applause greeted the words of His Eminence who then imparted the Apostolic Blessing which was like a sacred seal upon the labours, and the triumph of the Eighth Salesian Congress.

The Unveiling of the Monument.

In the opening pages of this issue, we have referred to the great and moving scenes which made the inauguration of the Monument to Don Bosco so memorable an occasion. An event of such historic importance from our point of view may well be given some further consideration.

Having now described the Congress and the busy scenes of May 20th, 21st and 22nd, it will be readily imagined that all were expectant with an impatient fervour for the vision of the Ven. Don Bosco, as presented in the Monument. The somewhat disturbed state of the transport in Italy had retarded the arrival of the bronze mouldings for the completion of the group; happily, however, they arrived just in time and by superhuman efforts on the part of the sculptor, Cavaliere Cellini, and the architect, who is a member of our Society and of the men under their charge, the monument was ready, and beautifully surrounded with grass plots and palms and flowers.

The main features of the monument do not need any further description. The most attractive feature, and one needing no interpretation, is the central group, which is the admired

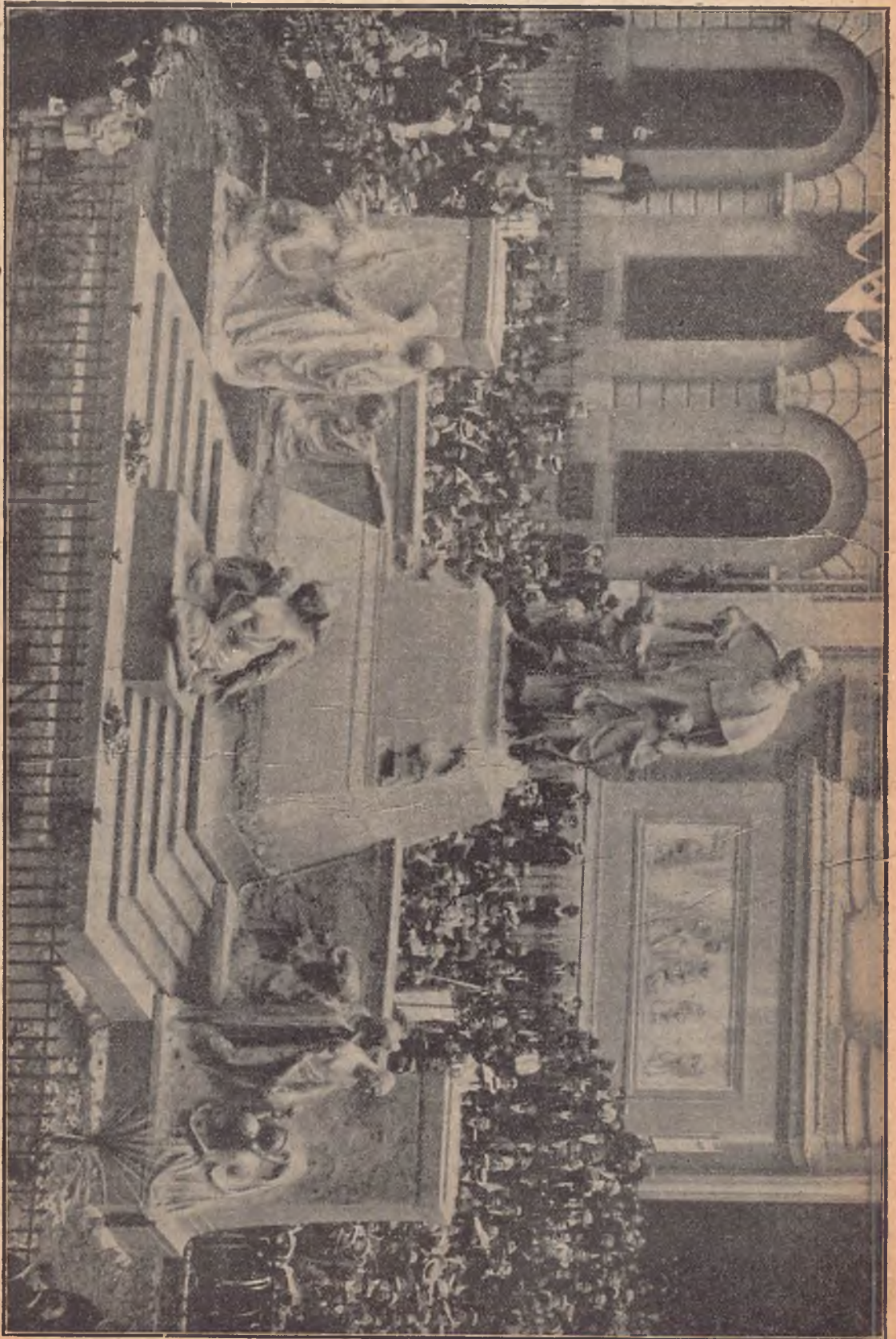
of all admirers. The gentle figure of Don Bosco does not seem to notice the homage that ascend from all around; he is absorbed with the little boys who are his adopted children. In fact he appears to be intent on listening and replying to a boy who is gazing up at him, and the symbolism of that one group seems to interpret his whole apostolate. The other bas-reliefs are beautiful but have more symbolism and their appeal is therefore not so direct.

The whole is a work of exquisite inspiration and finely modelled; an achievement and an honour to the artist who put in every detail with his own hand; to Turin already so richly endowed with monuments, to the Past-Pupils who organised its erection, and to Don Bosco himself, who with his gentle and paternal figure, will ever inspire all who come to gaze upon it, to higher and noble ideals.

For Cav. Gaetano Cellini the sons of Don Bosco will have a deep sense of gratitude and lasting affection.

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The ceremony itself has already been described. The unveiling was at once followed by an



address or speech by the executive President, who at the opening said:

"This monument, an expression of affectionate veneration and of undying gratitude, is due to the initiative of the Past-pupils of Don Bosco, who in their Congress of 1911, at the suggestion of Signor Micheli, then only one of the Past-Pupils, now one of the Ministers of the State, decided upon its erection!"

His speech was replete with illuminating passages, and it was his duty, as the representative of the Executive, to present the expression of thanks to the distinguished guests who had made the occasion so worthy of an honourable page in the annals of the city and of the State.

The prime minister had sent Commendatore Paolo Taddei to represent the Government. He addressed the great gathering immediately after the Executive President. He said:

"The recent difficult times, through which the Government has passed, did not allow the Prime Minister to spare a member of the Cabinet to represent him here today; and therefore he has requested me to act in his stead and to represent officially the Government of the country at the unveiling of Don Bosco's monument."

He then briefly reviewed the characteristics of

his work that made such a ready appeal to all, especially its universal charity and its power of developing and adaptation to so many special needs. Don Bosco stood out before them as the Apostle of Charity.

The Marquis Crispolti then delivered his discourse for the occasion. He gave in outline the origin and significance of the Monument, and enlarged upon the poetical beauty and special fitness of the symbolism that the artist had worked into the representations. The monument was in some ways a seal upon Don Bosco's work, but it was also, and in a larger sense, an inspiration to co-operate more and more in his apostolic labours.

The formal consigning of the monument to the city of Turin was then made to the Royal Commissary. The parchment had been illuminated by one of the members of the Society at Valsalice. It contained a description of the history and design of the monument, and the names of the principal persons concerned with its erection. From it we learn that there were fifty-nine competitors for the design, from which the Committee chose five, and ultimately, that of Signor Gaetano Cellini.

The chief representatives signed the parchment and the inauguration was complete.

The Great Celebrations.

As the Readers of this issue will have already seen, there were special reasons why this year's celebration of the Feast of Mary Help of Christians on May 24th would be one of the great occasions in the history of the devotion. The Festival was the culminating scene in a splendid pageant. The triple Congress, had prepared the way for the unveiling of the Monument to Don Bosco, and all these events ushered in the Feast of the Queen and Patroness of the whole complex scheme of Don Bosco's works, from whom in great part they took their initiation.

The sounds of music and cheers around the monument of Don Bosco, where crowds lingered until midnight, had scarce died away, when the celebration of the festival had already begun. It has been found necessary in recent years to keep the Basilica open all night, in order to satisfy the enthusiasm of the clients of Mary Help of Christians. And on this occasion the people merely left the monument in the Piazza to enter the Sanctuary, and offer the first-fruits of the great day to the Mother of God.

But from the very beginning of the month, especially at the evening services, the Basilica was crowded to its utmost. The people stayed on in prayer until a late hour, displaying great faith and devotion. Three special preachers addressed the populace every day. Their theme were on the one great topic, but tended in different ways to draw the faithful to the Altar of God. Morning, evening and night there were crowded congregations, and as the month wore on the approach of the festivities brought an ever increasing devotion.

The Novena was opened by His Grace the Archbishop of Damascus, who celebrated Mass for the students and gave an exhortation after the Gospel. Every day there were visits by the various Salesian Oratories and Schools in Turin and its neighbourhood, who all came in turn to offer their homage and petitions to the Mother of God, whom they know in an intimate way as the *Help of Christians*.

The distinguished visitors for the Congress now began to make their appearance. The Bishops presided at the functions in the Basilica while the Holy Sacrifice was offered on

every altar continuously until nearly midday. The 23rd of May was the date of the inauguration of the monument. If the Piazza was not nearly large enough to accommodate the crowds, the church likewise proved far too small for the congregation that flocked to the Mass of thanksgiving, at which their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Genoa assisted with all their suite.

In the evening the whole of the façade of the Church was illuminated with some thousands of electric lamps, making an attractive and resplendent view, witnessed by thousands of onlookers, who were also entertained by the excellent band which played till a late hour.

Thus the dawn of the Festival of the 24th was ushered in. The people stayed all night, and after the devotions of the early morning Holy Communion was given. Holy Mass was celebrated from dawn onwards, and on that day and the vigil more than 20,000 persons received Communion. That fact alone suffices to show what a powerful factor in promoting piety is the devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians.

The Solemn Mass was celebrated by the Archbishop of Puebla in Mexico, His Eminence the Cardinal of Seville assisting pontifically. This was the crowning scene of the month's preparations in the Basilica, and the faithful filled every available inch of space and all around in the vicinity of the Church. All day long the people remained in crowds, services being held at short intervals for the benefit of the pilgrimages, or for those who were concluding their novena. At night the front and Dome of the Sanctuary were again illuminated and the day drew to close amid the sounds of music and hymns.

The octave was likewise kept with great devotion, and during it many distinguished Prelates paid a visit to the Sanctuary. Among them were His Eminence Card. Bégin and three Bishops from Canada, His Grace the Archbishop of Santiago in Cuba (a member of our Society) His Grace, the Archbishop of San Francisco, His Lordship Dr. Cantwell, Bishop of Los Angeles and His Lordship Dr. Hallinan, Bishop of Limerick, who has recently received both the Salesians and the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians into his diocese. These visits served to add to the importance of an event which had in many ways surpassed the great triumphs of preceding years, and the octave brought to a close a brilliant and memorable period in our annals.

Autograph letter of His Holiness Pope Benedict XV.

To Our beloved son, the Very Rev. Paul Albera, Superior General of the Salesian Congregation of the Ven. Don Bosco, from Benedict P, P. XV.

Beloved son, Health and the Apostolic Benediction.

The announcement you have made to Us concerning the Congress of the Salesian Co-operators at Turin, which will be crowned by the unveiling of the monument, erected by the gratitude and piety of his sons to the memory of the Venerable Don Bosco, has been received by Us with great joy. And this particularly because, to Our mind, it is a very opportune moment to gather together from all parts the noblest energies of the faithful, so as to arouse them to the fullest effort on behalf of the good cause; and especially towards the achievement of Don Bosco's ideal, the salvation of the young.

In the farseeing work you have undertaken, we see a further proof of the vigilant and prudent activity of the great Salesian Family, and of the practical sense which guides you in these generous and pious undertakings, which follow so well the leading of your illustrious Founder.

We have no doubt, therefore, that as in the case of preceding Congresses, this great Assembly will serve to further consolidate the Association of Co-operators, to give a new impetus to their zeal, and new force to their manifold works, through which the Salesian Society has, like a gigantic tree, spread its roots into nearly every part of the world.

The programme traced out by the Ven. Founder of the Co-operators was prompted by wisdom and sanctity; and therefore it could not but be of great usefulness to the people at large, as indeed it has proved, and fruitful in the works of eternal life. Hence, We cordially hope that the Congress will succeed in its deliberations, founded upon the needs which are so prominent in our time; and we are confident that the figure of Don Bosco, as it now stands out in front of the Basilica of Our Lady Help of Christians, will serve to infuse his spirit into all his followers, so that there may be increased in them the devotion to Mother of God and love for the Most Holy Sacrament, the fount of clarity and of life.

To this end We impart with all affection to you, beloved son, and worthy Successor of Don Bosco, to your confrères, to the Sisters of Mary Help of Christians, to all the Co-operators and to all the Salesian Works, and especially to all who shall participate in the labours of the Congress, the Apostolic Benediction.

BENEDICT PP. XV.

The Life of the Venerable Don Bosco

By G. B. LEMOYNE, of the Salesian Society.

CHAPTER XXI.

Joys and sorrows.

The work of the Oratory now entered upon upon a course of prosperity. In the town of Turin its fame was spreading, and nothing but good was said of it; all classes were in accord for once in bestowing their benediction, and the Senate and Government began to show an interest in it. A certain minister urged Don Bosco to place his Institute directly under the protection of the Government, and although the Servant of God had not agreed to do so, this gentleman, acting on his own initiative, put forward a demand to the Secretary for Home Affairs for a grant to be made to the Oratory.

The Senate decided to make some preliminary investigations, and therefore nominated a Commission of three of its members to proceed to the Oratory and to report to them. It was on a Festival in January 1850 that the visit was made. They saw the crowds of boys at play and at religious instruction and afterwards at the service in chapel. They had not been long upon the scene before Don Bosco perceived them. He came forward and led them to his room where he explained everything to them; he spoke of the means of attracting and amusing the boys, of rewarding good behaviour and preventing wrong-doing, of the varied instruction given by himself and his assistants, and of the wonderful results already obtained.

Some questions to a boy, who now came to speak to Don Bosco, elicited the fact, that there was also at the Oratory a boarding house for those boys who were at work in the city but had no home to go to at night. Having learnt all they could, the three gentlemen went round the various sections, and remained throughout the religious functions. Then they left, expressing their wonder and admiration for this new work and for the zeal and charity of Don Bosco.

The Marquis Alfieri was presiding in the Senate on March 1st when, among other things the Oratory of Don Bosco was discussed. The Marquis Pallavicini, who had been one of the Commissioners, was in charge of the motion, and so effectively did he handle it, that the

Senate decided to forward a recommendation to the Secretary for Home Affairs, to provide a subsidy for the new Institute from the public funds. This recommendation from the Chamber was of the first importance, for it placed the Oratory upon a favourable footing with the Government, which occasionally did it good service, either by granting subsidies or privileges, or by recommending it as a suitable place for the education of boys. In the April of that year Don Bosco wrote to Don Antonio Rosmini: "The Government and the Authorities of the city, who desire to provide for the general education, are showing the best dispositions towards our work, and desire to have day-schools established in connection with our three Oratories, but on account of lack of personnel I cannot accede to their request."

Soon after this the horizon became cloudy. This was the period of reaction against Papal authority and against the Church in general, and several laws were passed against ancient ecclesiastical right. The Archbishop of Turin had ever shown himself a staunch supporter of the dignities of his See, and soon after the passing of the law which abolished all ecclesiastical immunities, he issued a Pastoral to his clergy, instructing them how to act under the new regime. The police judged this to be prejudicial to the State, and cited the Archbishop to appear before the civil courts. He answered that he had sent to Rome to ask leave to do so, but the magistrates judged this to be no valid reason for delay and condemned him in his absence to a fine and a month's imprisonment. On May 4th, the day which in Turin is the occasion of the veneration of the Winding Sheet of Our Lord, preserved in the Cathedral, the Archbishop was taken to prison. The grief of all good citizens was intense. The Major, to whom this unenviable task was appointed, could not restrain his tears, and the Commandant was courteous enough to allow visitors to have every access to the Prelate. The previous kindness of the Archbishop to the Oratory has been already related, and it is therefore no surprise that Don Bosco was one of his first visitors in the citadel. There were other troubles as well between the ecclesiastical and civil authorities, in which the influence now possessed

by Don Bosco was used to good purpose. But in so doing he began to be regarded himself as an enemy of the new regime, and the extreme anti-clericals got up a demonstration by the scum of the populace against the Oratory at Valdocco, on August 14th.

The Senator who had promoted the cause of the Oratory in the Chamber, on the occasion above described, warned Don Bosco of what was coming and urged him to leave the neighbourhood. Don Bosco, however, discussed the matter with his mother, and assured her that on no account would he leave Turin. But on that day and the next nothing happened. The warning seemed to have been a mistake. What happened was this. The mob had gone to the Church of the Consolata, to make a demonstration, and then proceeded towards Valdocco to find Don Bosco. But on the way, one of the men who had received some kindness from the Servant of God, harangued the people to the effect that Don Bosco was a friend of theirs and of their children, and when another added his persuasion, the mob turned away to vent its feelings against the Dominicans and Barnabites.

Moreover, just at that time the Government had confiscated the property of the Servite Convent, and they sent some of it to Don Bosco, thinking it would be useful at the Oratory. Don Bosco accepted it, and sent a message to the Superior of the Servites who was staying in the vicinity that he should send to the Oratory for his property. Thus the Servites recovered their goods; by arrangement a table was kept for the use of the boys.

It must also be remarked that at this period the great statesman, Count Cavour, was entirely in favour of the Oratory; and it is a strange state of things which shows the enemies of the Church as supporters of a priest's work. At first sight it may seem that their benevolence would place in jeopardy his fidelity to the Holy See and his religious principles but Don Bosco with a heroic courage, and without even a shadow of human respect, was always a most faithful supporter of the cause of the Church and of God.

Count Cavour was thus a great friend of Don Bosco's, and not only went to visit him frequently, but every now and again invited him to his house for lunch or dinner. In regard to this Don Bosco says:

"I was not very eager to go to the Count's house for dinner, in spite of his pressing invitations; but as I sometimes had very important business to discuss with him I then had to agree to go to his mansion, or to his official apartments. On several occasions, and when he was already

Prime Minister, he declared that he would only receive me in audience if I came to breakfast or lunch with him, and that if I wanted to consult him at any time there was always a place for me at his table. 'At such times,' he added, 'we have more liberty, and can discuss things in peace.' His brother, the Marquis Gustavus, would only agree to the same arrangement, and thus I had to yield to what was a very inconvenient procedure for me. Once I thought to escape it by presenting myself in the office for the general business; but Count Camillus sent an official to take me to the drawing-room, and thus I had to wait for lunch, when the Count granted my request." It is thought that some of these important meetings were in connection with the Archbishop, who was now in prison at Fenestrella, and hither Don Bosco occasionally went. The Prelate was in great need of some confidential friend to transact business for him. Later on, by order of the minister, Massimo d'Azeglio, Mgr. Fransoni was exiled from Italy. He resided at Lyons, where his faithful people presented him with a pastoral staff, and whence he directed the affairs of his Archdiocese till his death.

On May 13th 1850, the Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul were founded in Turin on the lines of those established by Ozanam in France in 1833. Count Bianchi had come from Genoa, where the Conference was already established, to arrange for one in Turin, and Don Bosco gave him every assistance. The Sacristy of the Church of the Martyrs was the place of inauguration, and Don Bosco, by general invitation, took the chair. The interest he showed in the first meeting never decreased, and for many years he attended the general meetings as one of the chief supporters of the work. It is interesting to note that in 1900, the fiftieth year of the Conferences in Turin, the event was celebrated at the tomb of Don Bosco in Valsalice, Cardinal Richelmy presiding. More than 400 Brothers were present. About this time he also set on foot his "Society for mutual aid" among Catholic workmen, as a counterattack against the masonic societies; and this organisation was the forerunner of numberless "Societies for Catholic workmen" which were formed in all parts of Italy.

As would seem natural in one, whose every act was guided by Faith, devotion to the Vicar of Christ was quite a characteristic of Don Bosco. In 1849 "Peter's Pence" was begun, to aid Pius IX in his exile at Gaeta and Piedmont was by no means behind the other parts of Italy in its generosity. Don Bosco invited his boys to make a collection, and their *soldi*

amounted to the modest sum of thirty-three *lire*. This was consigned to the Committee in Turin, who gave it to the Apostolic Nuncio. Thus it came direct to the hands of the Holy Father. The Vicar of Jesus Christ was much moved by this devotion and generosity. He sent many messages of thanks and a special blessing to Don Bosco and to the boys. He bade Cardinal Antonelli put to the offering enough money to buy 700 rosaries. These the Pope blessed and despatched to Don Bosco saying that they were a sign of his paternal love. They were distributed to the boys in the chapel of the Oratory on Sunday, July 21st, Canon Ortalda coming especially for the presentation. There were cheers for the Holy Father when the boys filed out of the Church.

In the September of that year he took a hundred boys to the Seminary at Giaveno for a few days retreat, and on the 16th he again visited Stresa, where was the Mother-House of the Institute of Charity. His purpose in going there was not only to renew his acquaintance with the Abate Rosmini, but also to study the method of conducting the new Institute, for he had now decided to form an ecclesiastical society for his own work.

He reached Santhia about midnight, and the first thing he did was to hear the confession of the driver of the coach, with whom he had conversed on the way evidently to some purpose. He had intended to go from Arona to Stresa by boat, but he was met by the Marquis Arconati, a friend a great supporter of his work, who proposed that they should go together in his carriage and call upon Alessandro Manzoni on the way. Don Bosco accepted this courteous invitation. They stopped at Lesa where Manzoni had his country house and had lunch with the great writer. The latter showed Don Bosco some of his manuscripts, and he noticed that they were covered with corrections, which fact sufficed to convince him of the wisdom of careful revision.

On arriving at Stresa he was very heartily welcomed by Rosmini and by the Father residing there; he stayed some days, holding long conferences with the Abate, who was one of his earliest benefactors. In December he went to Milan. He had been invited to address the boys of the Oratory of St. Aloysius, and this was his first care. Milan had been passing through some stirring times. The Austrian authorities were endeavouring to stamp out by harsh measures any signs of disaffection and had placed a watch also over the preachers in

the Churches. Hence scarcely any dared to ascend the pulpits to announce the Jubilee which the Pope had just granted, so Don Bosco told the parish-priest of San Smpliciano that he was quite prepared to preach for him. The priest observed that to give a discourse to the boys in a private Oratory, and to address a crowded church were two very different things, and that he could not consent to Don Bosco's preaching in his church, until the Archbishop had been consulted.

To this Don Bosco replied that he himself would go to the Archbishop and ask for the necessary permission. He went to the palace at once. The Prelate was on very good terms with the Court of Vienna, and was at first disposed to make difficulties; but seeing the courage of Don Bosco he replied:

—I have no objection to your preaching, but it will be entirely upon your own responsibility; if you get into trouble don't rely upon me. You are aware of the dangers to which we are exposed. I neither counsel nor command you, but I willingly give my permission. However great your prudence, you cannot have too much in the present circumstances.

Don Bosco began his course of sermons. From the very first they were attended by great crowds, eager to hear the stranger. He preached as the sacred orators have always done. He invited the sinners to penance and the Sacraments; whatever seemed to be demanded for the reform of morality in general he insisted upon quite openly and frankly; but in regard to the burning questions of the day, and in regard to which the Government was so vigilant he gave not the slightest hint, nor brought forward any parallel or incident from history which could be construed as unfavourable to the regime in power.

The Milanese were greatly moved by his preaching, and he was invited to give sermons in several other churches, invitations which he readily accepted as opportunities of doing good. Everywhere he went, large numbers went to confession to him and Milan never forgot the visit of the preacher from Turin.

OBITUARY.

The prayers of the Co-operators are desired for the following members:

Mrs. John Butler, Raheenduff.

J. S. Doraisamy Pillai, Kuala Lumpur.