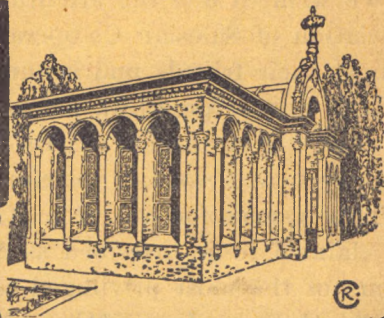


Vol. IV., No. 9

September, 1903



SANCTUARY OF MARY HELP
OF CHRISTIANS



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 person desirous of being enrolled may apply either to the *Very Rev. Michael Rua, Superior General, Salesian Oratory, Valdocco, Turin (Italy)*; or to the *Very Rev. C. B. Macey, Salesian Schools, Surrey Lane, Battersea, London S. W.*; or to the Superior of any of the Salesian Houses.



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.)

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PIUS X.

and the Salesian Co-operators.

THE bereavement of the Church, caused by the death of the lamented Leo XIII., was happily terminated by the election of the Patriarch of Venice, H. E. Cardinal Sarto. It was indeed good tidings to the whole world which had so deeply mourned over the loss of the late Pontiff. A universal sentiment of joy was felt which grew more and more intense and hopeful, the more the personality of Pius X. became known.

The high gifts of mind and heart which adorn him; the eminent services already rendered by him to the cause of religion and of society, the poorer classes more especially; the works of beneficence his

zeal has accomplished; the endearing qualities by which his whole life has been surrounded, gave good reasons from which to draw the most auspicious omens, and marked him out indeed as the worthiest to occupy the most exalted office in the world.

They all dwelt with complacency on his firmness of character, gentle manner, noble mind, goodness of heart, unassuming ways, burning zeal, rare prudence, enlightened piety, untiring activity, shrewd judgment of men and things—all of which pointed out the fit personage to take up the inheritance left by Leo XIII.

The faithful cannot fail to see—and their faith is strengthened by the reflexion—the never-failing hand of Providence in the miraculous preservation of the Papacy—and this becomes more and more wonderful as ages roll by. It is that Providence that singled out the nobly born Joachim Pecci in the troublous times when Pius IX. died, and the lowly peasant boy from obscure Riese, who has now been called upon to continue the glorious traditions of his immortal predecessor.

When Simon, the Fisher of Galilee, was led before the Founder of the Church, before uttering the words by which He changed his name from Simon to Peter—a change foretelling the office to which He had destined him—He looked fixedly upon him—*intuitus eum* (1). Our Lord, in His omniscience, read then in Peter the whole line of the Popes, the unique, the miraculous dynasty that was to follow him, and in the designs of Providence, Pius X. was already singled out and destined to be the Custodian of the deposit of Christ, the Infallible Teacher, the Supreme Pastor of His Church. *Ex funere vita* is never so true as in the case of the Popes: Pius IX. died, the Papacy lived in Leo XIII; and after the demise of Leo., the Papacy continues to live in Pius X.



In the last number, on announcing the election of Pius X., it was remarked that we could not but exult at the thought that he had been for many years a prominent Salesian Co-operator, a munificent patron of Don Bosco's Institutions.

We recall with feelings of deep gratitude the many proofs of goodwill he has shown. Indeed, as soon as he came to know Don Bosco, whom he had visited at the Oratory of St. Francis of Sales, he had

(1) John. I, 42.

become an admirer of the spirit and of the work of that Apostle. He realised the providential mission Almighty God had entrusted to the priest of Valdocco, and was often wont to recall that first interview with a sense of evident satisfaction. He received the sons of Don Bosco when they first went into the diocese of Treviso, and our confrères of the Venetian province unanimously affirm that Mgr. Sarto, and, later on, Cardinal Sarto was for them a most loving father and always had for them marks of special predilection.

An evidence of his great affection and veneration for Don Bosco we have it in the letter which he wrote to Don Bosco's Successor, Don Rua, on the 12th of August 1896. In voicing a common desire of seeing a fuller and authoritative account of Don Bosco's life, he urged Don Rua, almost with a gentle violence, to satisfy this wish in the following letter:

"As the works of the Institute of Don Bosco spread more and more, the need is more keenly felt of knowing the more intimate particulars of the life of the admirable priest, the Founder of the Congregation which seems destined to supply the manifold needs of our times. This has led me to the belief that Your Reverence would be doing a most useful and fruitful work by the early publication of the life of this pacific apostle of our days; for, by manifesting the paths along which Divine Providence led his servant, many will come to appreciate more and more the gifts of heaven, and increase their trust in that Providence which alone could work such abundant blessings."



But not only did he lend all his sympathy and support to the works of Don Bosco; he favoured Salesian Conferences, honouring them with his presence, and pleading their cause in his own persuasive manner; thus adding the weight of his authority to the words of the orators. At one of these held some six years ago in San Salvatore, one of the principal Churches of Venice, the Cardinal Patriarch presided, and after the conference given by Fr. Trione, arose to address the audience. Among other exhortations he said:

"Beloved Children. I heartily applaud and endorse all that has been said with such emphasis and eloquence, in the conference just given on the Institution and Missions of the great apostle of youth, of the great servant of God, Don Bosco, the glory of our age."

"In our times there is need of work, and much work, chiefly on behalf of youth, and an extensive field of action is opened to us by the worthy sons of Don Bosco when we join them as Salesian Co-operators. I congratulate those of our fellow citizens who are already enrolled in this Providential institution, and it is my wish that many more of our dear Venetians may join it.

"But it should be born in mind, that Salesian Co-operation means, not only to pray for the development of the work and mission of Don Bosco, not only to support them and accord them generous aid, but also to copy the spirit, the operosity of Don Bosco and of his followers for the benefit of youth, for the good of the Church and for the social regeneration of the world."

On the eve of the Congress of Bologna, as Cardinal Patriarch of Venice, he sent a participation in the name of all the Bishops of his province then assembled in Venice.

Two years ago, when the project arose of holding the late Congress, Cardinal Sarto heartily took it up and gave all his support to the desire entertained of having it at Venice. The Congress, however, could not then, for reasons independent of him, be arranged to meet at Venice: and when Turin was decided upon, he gave his hearty approval and promised to honour it with his presence. In fact he wrote to the Executive Committee, on the 17th of April, the following note: "I have written to Cardinal Richelmy (Archbishop of Turin) that I have noted in my diary the 15th, 16th and 17th of May, the days fixed for the Congress and the Salesian festivities, and I have promised to do all in my power to be at Turin on that occasion, at least for some days." And as unforeseen events, much to his regret, prevented him from carrying out this promise, he hastened to signify it to the Committee, delegating at the same time the illustrious Mgr. Previtali to attend and act in his stead at the meetings and at the solemnities.



And now, raised to the Chair of St. Peter, his goodwill and keen interest towards Don Bosco and his Institutions continues unabated.

But a few days after his election, he deigned to send a special blessing to the sons of Don Bosco and to the Salesian Co-operators with some expressive words by his own hand.

With singular pleasure who reproduce here a fac-simile of the precious autograph.

*Ai Dilettissimi figli di Don Bosco e a tutti
i zelanti cooperatori Salesiani impegnati
con particolare affetto l'Apostolica Benedizione
Vaticano 16 Agosto 1903
Pio PP. X*

To the most beloved sons of Don Bosco and to all the zealous Salesian Co-operators, with special affection we impart the Apostolic Benediction.

The Vatican, Aug. 16th 1903.

PIUS X. P. P.



It is the sacred duty of every Christian to cherish veneration, to yield loving obedience to the Vicar of Christ upon earth. It behoves us, dear Co-operators, to prove grateful and to correspond to so much benevolence that the Holy Father shows towards us. We should pray for his preservation, and have always at heart, and know how to defend, when needed, the interests, the prerogatives, the glories of our common Father, and to instil the same sentiments in those under our charge.

His exhortations, moreover, his example should incite our zeal to increase the number of Salesian Co-operators, to promote and extend the works of the Association, to copy in us the spirit the operosity of Don Bosco; and in doing so we will carry out the wishes of Pius X., and effectually co-operate with him in the triumphs of religion and the good of society.





The fifth General Assembly

IT is the last day, wrote the *Avvenire d'Italia*,—the last day of this memorable Congress which has called forth so many sympathies. Here, beneath the shadow of the Sanctuary of Mary, Help of Christians, surrounded by the holy and genial atmosphere of the laborious Salesian Family, we passed hours both delightful and useful; for one seemed to come out better from each assembly. We were able to meet friends from many parts...

We are therefore most grateful to Don Rua, to the worthy Salesian Congregation for having promoted this Congress; and we, the people of Turin, in a special manner are thankful; for, with this Congress and with these feasts, a new wave of faith, a leaven of religious life has been brought into our city and amongst our people; whilst the abundant fruits which, we hope, will be produced by seeds sown during this Congress, will reflect glory on our city which was the cradle of the vigorous life and surprising growth of Don Bosco's Congregation.

This last day of the Congress—as is the case with all things beautiful and endearing when they draw near the end—was even more thrilling and animated. The number of members present was greatly increased and the vast Hall was crowded.

The Blessing of the Holy Father.

AFTER the usual prayer, Fr. Trione announced the arrival of H. E. Cardinal Ferrari, Archbishop of Milan; he then gave

out the order of the day and read the following telegram from Cardinal Rampolla with the blessing of the Holy Father:

Cardinal Richelmy, Turin. The Holy Father, gratified at the homage rendered to him by the Salesian Congress assembled at Turin, and in confirmation of the sentiments of benevolence expressed in his august Autograph to Don Michael Rua, blesses again all those who assist at this important assembly.—M. Cardinal Rampolla.

On Emigration.

PROFESSOR Olivi of the University of Modena then ascended the platform to discourse on emigration. He treated the subject in a masterly and comprehensive manner, touching on the time when it originated and its determining causes. It presents two phases: the permanent and the transitory. In the first case it is a displacement and in the second a splitting up of the family. Both called for an expansion of christian charity which embraces all, and displays itself in new ways according to the ever changing circumstances; and both phases were aided by means of charitable institutions.

In order to cope with the need of the first stages, special instruction was given to the intending emigrants to strengthen the moral and religious elements so as to keep up the good disposition in those who are far from their native land.

But an ingenious charity also found means of accompanying the travellers on their

journey, and to extend a helping hand to them when arrived at their far off destination, giving them a protection for their faith and religion and advancing even their material interests.

He then referred to the excellent work being done in this direction by the illustrious Mgr. Scalabrini, Bishop of Piacenza, urged on by the double motive of zeal for the faith and love of country. He has renewed in our own days the Apostolic labours read of in the *Acts of the Apostles* and the *Epistles of St. Paul*, as though he were himself another St. Paul working amongst us.

No one can fail to see that emigration by its rapid marches is assuming colossal proportions, and there is good reason to regard its development with some apprehension, as no proper provision could be made for it. But in spite of all that, we may still be hopeful if we raise our eyes to Heaven; and the Sons of Don Bosco have, on their part, earnestly set themselves to this great task.

Here he dwelt on the net-work of institutions on behalf of immigrants chiefly in South America, a work catholic to an eminent degree.

The question concerning emigration is but one of the considerations in the all absorbing social question, which is at bottom that of daily sustenance. And the food and support we beg of God in the *Our Father*, bread understood in its supernatural, previous to its material meaning, will find a solution of this difficult question.

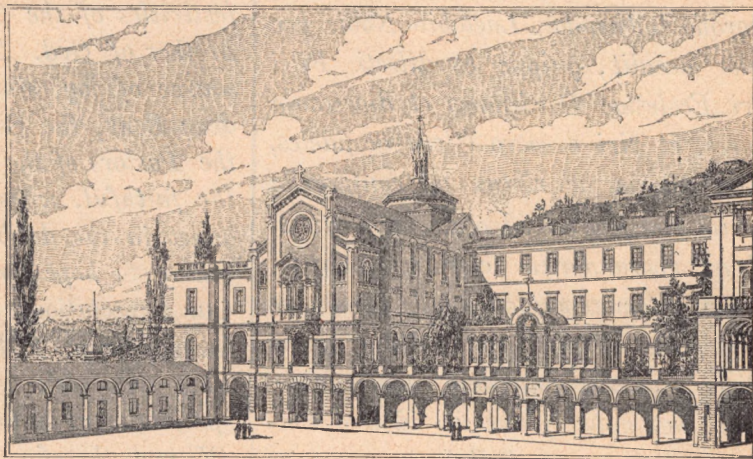
His final words were an eloquent plea on behalf of emigrants, to arouse in the hearts of his hearers an active interest in the good works undertaken for the amelioration of their condition and placing before them the pattern of Our Blessed Lord Himself who became all things to all men.

The Rev. Fr. Trione next communicated to the assembly that the Holy Father had given a fresh token of his fatherly concern for the

Salesian Congregation and the Association of Salesian Co-operators, by sending to the Very Rev. Don Rua, Superior General, a precious Autograph letter which was accompanied by the following letter from H. E. Cardinal Rampolla:

Very Rev. Father.

On receiving the communications sent by you on the 9th of this month, I lost no time in placing in the hands of the Holy Father the one destined for Him. I have now the great pleasure of signifying to you that His Holiness, acceding to the desire expressed by you, has deigned to grant His paternal benediction to the



Salesian Institute at Valsalice.

Salesian Congress which will commence to-morrow in your city, and it has also pleased Him, in order to enhance this favour, to send it to you by means of His own precious autograph.

In sending you such a valuable Pontifical document I am glad to be able to express anew the sentiments of sincere regard with which

I remain

Very Rev. D. Rua

Affectionately Yours in J. C.

CARD. RAMPOLLA.

Rome, 13th May 1903.

To the Very Rev. Don Rua, Superior General of the Salesians of Don Bosco, Turin.

Autograph Letter of His Holiness to Don Rua.

Dilecte Fili, salutem et Apostolicam benedictionem.

Progendum proxime significabas Salesianorum ex omni terrarum orbe conventum, eumque, Deiparae Adiutricis ope suffultum, solemnibus iri conclusum declarabas eiusdem Magnae Dei Matris insigni corona induendae. Laetabile Nobis hoc facinus accidit, quippe et dilecti Filii Nostri Ecclesiae Cardinales et dioecesum Pastores, et viri e sacro Clero ac fideles, quorum pietas ac virtus ad conferenda vobiscum consilia est advocata, non unam praebent sperandorum causam bonorum. Nostram autem expectationem summopere alit Opiferae Virginis praesidium, quam sodalicio maxime Salesiano adspirantem propitiae novimus; planeque idcirco confidimus magno cum Religionis commodo atque quidem cum institutae a vobis iuventutis emolumento id omne fore extitutum, quod Maria Mater et Virgo tueatur ac muniat.

Auspiciem interea coelestium gratiarum Apostolicam Benedictionem tibi ac ceteris, qui in coetum una tecum convenient, peramanter impertimur.

Datum Romae apud S. Petrum die XII Maii MCMIII, Pontificatus Nostri anno vicesimo sexto.

LEO XIII.

*Dilecto filio Michaëli Rua
Moderatori Generali Sodalitatis Salesianae
Augustam Taurinorum.*

Beloved Son, Health and Apostolic benediction.

You have informed Us that an International Salesian Congress was soon to assemble under the protection of Mary, Help of Christians, and that it would be brought to a close by the solemn festivities of the Coronation of the Great Mother of God. This event is for Us a source of joy, since the presence of Our dear Sons, the Cardinals of the Church, the Pastors of the dioceses, the clergy and the faithful, whose piety and virtue will assist in the deliberations, gives Us good reason to hope for most consoling results. Our expectations are greatly increased by the patronage of Mary, Help of Christians, who, We well know, looks down with special favour on the Salesian Congregation. We rest, therefore, fully confident that all this will prove most advantageous to religion, and especially to the youth educated by you. Deign Mary, Virgin and Mother, to obtain all this and render it lasting.

In the meantime, as a pledge of heavenly graces, We most lovingly impart to you and to all those present at the Congress Our Apostolic Benediction.

Given at Rome, at St. Peters, on the 12th of May 1903, in the 26th year of our Pontificate.

LEO XIII.

*To our beloved son Michael Rua
Superior General of the
Salesian Congregation. Turin.*

The reading of the Pontifical document was listened to with religious attention and followed by an outburst of applause and a long ovation to Leo XIII.

For the support of the Missions.

It had fallen to the Rev. Prof. Carmagnola to treat of the Salesian Missions; but as Mgr. Cagliero and Fr. Albera had already spoken at length upon this subject, he would only add an appendix in the shape of an appeal for their support.

Christian almsgiving is doubly beneficial; for it is advantageous to the donor and the receiver. Titles of rank add no glory in the sight of God, before Whom there is only one title which will recommend the man that appears before Him—that of being a child of God, a christian—and what better proof of being one than Christian Charity?

The orator commended those zealous parish priests who had promoted the conferences in favour of the Salesian works. He held up as a pattern the example of one Archbishop who declared himself fortunate that in his diocese they might hold as many conferences and re-unions as they could in aid of the missions; attended, as they are, by a re-awakening of faith and religious sentiments among the people. He made a passing allusion to the charity of St. Thecla who enabled St. Ambrose to come to the aid of the needy, and urged the Co-operators to continue to make some material sacrifice, mindful of the sacrifice of life and all, made by the missionaries in far-off lands.

At the allusion to the illustrious Bishop of Milan, St. Ambrose, whose Successor in that See was present, the sound of applause was heard throughout the whole assembly.

The higher classes of religious instruction.

THE Right Rev. Mgr. Alessi of Padua observed that Don Bosco excelled all the great conquerors whether in science or in war. He sought for the secret of success in his peaceful victories. The work of Don Bosco was pre-eminently that of education, and it was directed to the conquest of the young souls, through the medium of the school in its widest sense. He referred in a

special manner to schools of religious teaching for youth, both boys and girls, and described the anxious forebodings of mothers who saw their boys returning from godless schools, whose faith is often shaken already in tender years.

The cause was to be sought in the misproportion of the level between scientific and religious training. The two do not go hand in hand, hence the grave evils resulting in loss of faith. The lamentable results are described by him in glowing language and supported with the sayings of grave authors.

He then touched on the programme of the advanced classes of religious instruction which follow the ordinary scholastic course. It was not irreligious disposition, but the lack of sufficient religious instruction that was chiefly at fault in some places. He made a warm appeal to the younger generations who formed the hope of the new century.

The next part regarded the training of the teachers themselves, who held an office in society akin, in a sense, to that of the priesthood. He pointed out the necessity of their possessing sound religious knowledge and deep piety. He referred to the so-called popular Universities which may prove an instrument for bad or for good, hence the need of a watchful vigilance over their syllabuses and their tendencies, and supply the good where needed, so that the youth trained in them may learn not to demolish but to sustain society in justice and charity. He then directed his attention to several of the classes in Don Bosco's Institutes and showed the good fruits already reaped by them. His was certainly one of the most important and successful speeches and closed amid great applause.

The Agricultural Colonies and Popular Universities.

THE well known lawyer and agronomist M. Bocchialini from Parma spoke of the Agricultural Schools and the developments attained in several of them in the practical application of the latest agricultural methods. He bestowed a well-merited tribute of praise on Stanislaus Solari whose experiments in

this direction have brought about marvellous results, as witnessed in some of the agricultural colonies established in Spain.

The lawyer M. Mauri brought the greetings of Catholic Milan and of the committee of that town. He treated of the popular universities and their influence on present social movements, touching on the methods of infusing into them life and vigour so that they may be a real benefit to the country and not degenerate into means of dissolution, of decay.

The closing words of H. E. Card. Ferrari.

THE Cardinal Archbishop of Milan, who was greeted by long applause, offered his thanks for his cordial invitation to the Congress, for which he was grateful to Turin

to Don Rua and the Salesians who were giving him such help in Milan. His Eminence likened the works of Don Bosco to the Church, who, if she has a spring, summer and autumn, knows, however, no winter. He spoke of his journey through Palestine and the beneficial works accomplished there among the people by the same institutions. He augured a wide extension of the work of Don Bosco and exhorted the Co-operators to persevere in their support which was so necessary a factor. He then expressed his hopes that the good results of the Congress would be copious and lasting.

H. E. Card. Richelmy thanked the Archbishop who had to leave for Milan and asked for his blessing; and the Successor of St. Ambrose most willingly imparted it on the kneeling audience.

The last General Assembly

A BRILLIANT sky—a most gratifying reappearance, after it had been hidden from view for some days by suspicious clouds—lent its welcome aid in rendering the last gathering of this memorable Congress more joyous and hopeful. An enthusiastic ovation greeted the Cardinals and Bishops while the musical strains of the band resounded on all sides. The usual opening ceremonies performed, the sitting was commenced. The Presidency recommended the congressists who had taken part in the various sections, to bring before the Committee all the observations and resolutions, so that none might be omitted in the Acts of the Congress, which will be issued with the approbation of the Ecclesiastical Authorities.

The protection of girls.

PROF. Rodolph Bettazzi, the illustrious Professor who adds to his profound scientific studies an enthusiastic zeal in the noble, civil and most christian cause “the safe-guarding of girls”, addressed the members on this subject.

“It is with joyful hopes,” the orator said,

“that I ascend this platform to plead the cause of innocent and defenceless little ones who arouse in our hearts the most delicate sentiments.

It is surely not out of place to treat of such a topic here in this Congress, where the sons of Don Bosco are able to testify to the great influence Mamma Margaret had in forming the heart of Don Bosco.” Developing his argument he pointed out the dangers and snares set to entrap the young in the streets, in factories and shops, and the cruelty of those who under the guise of help, lead them to perdition. The orator’s words inspired by his own noble ideal visibly touched his hearers. But his chief exhortations were to the christian mothers whom he recommended to lend eagerly their aid in the protection of the young, saying: “Hasten to afford your succour in the perils that surround them, save them from error lest they afterwards become the causes of the ruin of family and society. Woe to that society which makes no provision and lets corruption spread.”

Rising then to a higher order, he pointed to Our Blessed Lady as the highest model of

christian mothers, co-operating in the redemption of the world, and closed by saying "While H. E. the Cardinal is crowning Our Lady tomorrow, promise her to prepare another crown—that of our young children's souls."

The international welcome.

Loud cheers welcomed the appearance of the Rev. Prof. Simonetti. "As I must take care of the minutes" he said "I will make no preludes. I am sometimes called a *magician*. If I had a magic wand I would wish to make Salesian Institutions rise in every city from one end of the world to the other. I am also said to be a *tribune*. If such were the case I would wish to draw the multitudes round the Salesian Houses, and kindle in them the social spirit of Don Bosco. But I am neither a magician nor a tribune; and I am here only to offer the greetings of the Co operators of Italy to all the other Co-operators who have come as representatives from every part of the world."

The orator greets France whose sorrowing for the present state of persecution was echoed in the words of the illustrious Marquis of Villeneuve.

He said that the sight of the exiles recalled the sublime words of Calvary: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." With equal enthusiasm their greetings went out to Spain and their noble representative D. Manuel Pascual y Boffarul; which greeting extended to their sister-country Portugal whose sovereigns were examples of catholic sentiment.

A hearty welcome to Belgium which shows to Europe the example of a Catholic Government that knows how to work out its social reforms with due regard for authority and within the limits fixed by the liberty of its subjects.

A salutation to the catholics of Austria, Germany and Great Britain which show forth how well progress harmonises with faith and that there is nothing in the world

more lasting, certain and unassailable than the Charity of Jesus Christ. He did not pass by the representatives from Asia and America, and concluded by a reference to Don Bosco who embraced all peoples in his unceasing works of charity.

Don Rua's vote of thanks.

THE President of the Congress gave his warmest thanks to their Eminences, the Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops to whom was due in a great measure the success of



Before the Tomb of Don Bosco.

the Congress. He then expressed his gratitude to the Executive Committee, the orators, the press, and all the Co-operators, exhorting all to co-operate earnestly and perseveringly by their prayers, personal and material assistance so that the Salesian Family may continue to carry on the mission of their Master and Father Don Bosco.

The closing words of Cardinal Richelmy.

WITH his accustomed gentleness and benignity His Eminence gave the parting word to the assembly. As the Con-

gress had been, through the protection of Mary, Help of Christians, so splendid, he recommended that all should join in the hymn of thanks that would be raised to her on the morrow.

"While I am placing the crown on the brow of Mary, Most Holy, accompany me with your prayers. Be mindful of me as I will be of you. We should never let the memory of the coronation fade so that having been here present at the Coronation of Mary, Help of Christians, we may one day merit a crown from her in Paradise." The closing prayers followed and His Eminence gave his blessing. Then, amid cheers for the Pope, the Cardinal and the sounds of *Viva Don Bosco!* this memorable Congress dispersed.

The Visit to the tomb of Don Bosco.

A WORTHY sequence to the Congress was the visit made to the tomb of Don Bosco in the Institute of the Missions at Valsalice, by the Prelates and other members of the Congress. The delightful weather and beautiful surroundings added to the joyful dispositions, and produced a holy calm and peace suitable to the object of their visit.

At five o'clock in the evening the Prelates approached under the avenue that leads to the House accompanied by the Salesian band, and by the Superior General the Very Rev. Don Rua.

The doors leading to the tomb were opened and all knelt in prayer for a few minutes. Mgr. Blandini then addressed a brief but earnest discourse to the crowds gathered religiously around.

Being requested by His Eminence the Cardinal, the Bishop said he regretted that the task of speaking on such a solemn occasion, had fallen to the lowliest Bishop of far-off Sicily, and that it should be his lot to interpret the sentiments that filled the hearts of all. He had come from the slopes of the burning Mt. Etna to Turin to venerate the tomb of Don Bosco.

It had been said that the soul is elevated to great deeds in the presence of the burial urns of the noble sons of the earth; but in a christian sense it could be well said that the resting place of Don Bosco had become glorious, *et sepulcrum ejus erit gloriosum;*

that his memory shall last eternally, *in memoria eterna erit justus*. To Don Bosco, to whom the passing ages offer their tribute of fame, might be applied those words in reference to God's saints: *Sancti mei volabunt et non deficient*.

From his tomb a solemn voice is heard. He is dead, but not so his life's work which he confided to the Queen of the Apostles who was the defence of the primitive Church, and is its lasting shield against heresy.

His work could not but appeal to Mary, Most Holy, who desires the continual extension of the kingdom of her divine Son. The age infected by the touch of godlessness was in great need of a speedy cure.

The intellect demanded a remedy for the bane of the spirit of pride which makes men become like the demons themselves, and of the bane of immorality which brings man to the level of the brutes.

Don Bosco was chosen to carry out God's designs in Turin which had become, through him, the home and centre of this redeeming work, and the seat of a well organised modern democracy.

He hoped that the Salesian work, by its influence on mind and habits, would aid in curing the frightful social calamities, and that it would extend especially in his diocese, as had been for a long time his fond desire. His well adapted words were eagerly listened to and applauded loudly. The visit was brought to a close with the Cardinal's blessing on all present.

Conclusion.

To render this account less incomplete mention should be made of the special religious services held each day of the Congress in the Sanctuary of Mary, Help of Christians.

On the evening of the first day, Cardinal Svampa, Archbishop of Bologna gave a discourse to an immense audience dwelling on the approaching coronation and the world-wide homage that it would bring to the Queen of Heaven. He then gave solemn benediction.

In the evening of the second day Mgr. Cagliero preached on the spread of this devotion in America and specially in Patagonia. Solemn pontifical benediction was

then given by Mgr. Blandini, Bishop of Noto.

On the third evening the Archbishop of Vercelli, Mgr. L. Pampirio, O.P., spoke on



Comm. Manuel Pascual y Boffarull

the glories of Mary with all the eloquence of a worthy son of St. Dominic. Pontifical benediction again followed. In many other churches of the town, moreover, special services were held in connection with the Congress and with the presence of some of the Right. Rev. Bishops.

Mention should be made of the unanimous applause which hailed the proposal of signing a petition to the Holy See for promoting the cause of the beatification of Don Bosco and of his saintly guide and spiritual director Don Cafasso.

Before bringing to a close this sketchy account we feel it a duty and a need to make again here a public acknowledgement to the distinguished members of the Executive Committee, to whom the high measure of success of the Congress is largely due; to the eminent physicians Drs. Albertotti, Nota, Battistini, Maccone, Peinetto, Nizzi and Ferrero who generously placed their service at the disposal of the Committee; to the Ecclesiastical Authorities for the manner in

which they promoted religious functions and added to the glory and solemnity of the occasion; to the Civil Authorities likewise, for their courtesy in making special arrangements in favour of pilgrims, rendering their journey and stay more convenient and enjoyable; to the Catholic press who have at all times been among the foremost advocates, and have willingly devoted their columns to the publication of the various reports and communications, and from whose ranks two distinguished champions, the late theologian Margotti, founder of the *Unità Cattolica*, and the illustrious Don Albertario of the *Osservatore Cattolico* of Milan received honourable mention during the Conferences.

These and all who have co-operated in bringing about the remarkable success of the Congress will be ever gratefully remembered among our chief benefactors: and the Sons of Don Bosco will never fail to invoke Divine blessings on those who have promoted



The Marquis of Villeneuve.

the triumphs of Mary, Help of Christians, and they may be assured that she will ever extend over them her maternal protection.



The new Archbishop of Westminster.

EVER since the death of the late revered Cardinal Vaughan, the minds of the Catholics of the Archdiocese, nay of all Great Britain have been engrossed with the thought of who would be called upon to fill that See—one of the most important in Christendom. This suspense has now been happily closed by the choice of the Right Rev. Mgr. Bourne, Bishop of Southwark.

His late subjects cannot but rejoice at the honour conferred on their beloved Pastor, but it is no doubt with feelings mingled with regret that they offer him their congratulations on his entry into the high office to which he has been destined in the designs of Providence, and pray that he may long be spared to fulfil the duties of his high calling.

The *Salesian Bulletin* has often had the pleasing duty of registering tokens of exceptional benevolence on the part of Mgr. Bourne, and in how many ways he has befriended the Sons of Don Bosco in England from the very beginning. Hence on this occasion it wishes to offer once more its hearty congratulations in the name of Don Bosco's Successor, our Superior General, Don Rua, and of the whole Salesian Family, which has ever looked upon Mgr. Bourne as one of the most prominent and benevolent among the Salesian Co-operators.



The Cardinals and the Salesian Congress.

IN the accounts already given of the Congress and the feasts of Mary, Help of Christians, it was not possible to insert a

list of the Cardinals and Bishops who were represented or sent letters of participation. There is a double motive for doing so now: first to offer to these Eminent Princes and Prelates of Holy Church the homage of our unfailing gratitude, and also to give to the friends of Don Bosco's works in distant lands an idea of the vast importance of the Congress. It would be impossible to quote all the letters and testimonials sent from Cardinals and Prelates, but parts of these interesting and valuable documents will be given in the *Bulletin* from time to time.

Letters and telegrams were received from their Eminences Cardinals Mariano Rampolla Secretary of State and Protector of our Society; A. Manara, Bishop of Ancona; S. Casañas y Pages, Bishop of Barcelona; V. L. Lécot, Bishop of Bordeaux; A. Capeceaturo, Bishop of Capua; J. Francica Nava di Bontifè, Archbishop of Catania, who was also represented; U. A. Fischer Archbishop of Cologne; J. Puzyna, Bishop of Cracow; J. Boschi Archbishop of Ferrara; F. M. Richard, Archbishop of Paris; L. de Skrbenski, Archbishop of Prague; J. M. Labouré, Archbishop of Rennes; J. J. Katschthaler, Archbishop of Salisburg; B. Bacilieri, Bishop of Verona who was also represented; A. J. Gruscha, Archbishop of Vienna; C. Gennari, Archbishop of Lepanto; also Their Eminences Cardinal Patriarchs; Joseph Sarto of Venice (now His Holiness, Pius X), who sent his representative; J. S. Netto of Lisbon; and the Apostolic Nuncios, H. E. Card. A. Aiuti at Lisbon; Mgr. J. Macchi in Brasil; Mgr. A. Bonetti, Delegate at Constantinople, Mgr. Bavona Apostolic Delegate, and Envoy extraordinary to Ecuador, Perú and Bolivia.



Brescia.—A letter worth relating.

ON the eve of the third Salesian Congress, the Very Rev. Don Rua received a touching and unexpected letter. It was from the seminary of Brescia where twelve deacons were nearing the day of their sacerdotal ordination. They implored the aid of Mary, Help of Christians and desired to enter on their priestly duties as zealous Co-operators. Our Association promotes at all times novenas, tridiums, spiritual exercises, catechism, the cultivation of ecclesiastical vocations and the special care of youth. Who cannot see the immense good these ministers of the Church will have in their power to do, and what golden opportunities are opening before them? While assuring them of the maternal protection of Our Lady Help of Christians and her direction in their arduous undertakings, it is a pleasure to offer their noble example to our readers:

Very Rev. Father—Hitherto we have been Salesian Co-operators rather in spirit than in deed, but we have eagerly looked forward to the day when we might also have greater opportunities of working in accordance with the spirit of the Association.

On the 6th of the coming month, Our Divine Saviour, by the consecration of the Bishop, will incorporate us, so to say, into his eternal

priesthood; and, filled anew with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we shall commence our labours for the salvation of souls. But we wish, Rev. Father, that our sacerdotal career may bear the impress of zealous Salesian Co-operation. And to this end, we know no more happy auspices under which to enter upon our priestly life, than by



The New Archbishop of Westminster.

imploring the aid of Mary, Help of Christians and your paternal benediction.

Raise then, Very Rev. Father, your hand in blessing on this group of deacons kneeling in spirit at your feet. Accompany us to the altar of Mary, Help of Christians and cover us with her

mantle; and do you, or one appointed by you, offer up the Holy Sacrifice for us on the day of our sacerdotal ordination, so that one and all may be till the end devoted sons of the Madonna of Don Bosco and true Salesian Co-operators.

The enclosed sum is an offering for the Mass which will be offered in honour of Our Lady, Help of Christians on the ordination day.

When we leave the seminary, it will be our chief care to leave some of our fellow students enrolled as Co-operators, so that every year the Church of Brescia may receive the aid of many priests devoted Co-operators of Don Bosco.

Awaiting your reply which will assure us of your blessing and the favour implored, we beg to remain. Your devoted sons in Christ, N. N.



Cape Town. In aid of the Building Fund.

THE vigorous development of the Salesian Institute at Cape Town calls for a larger and more convenient building which is to be raised on a site already acquired. The Co-operators and friends of Don Bosco's works in that town are making great efforts to meet the demand and among other things have arranged an entertainment which was in every way a brilliant success. One of the principal halls was engaged, and all preparations made, when the news of the death of Sovereign Pontiff arrived, and the fixture was postponed till August 3rd as a mark of respect.

The chief burden of the whole was very generously borne by Mr. D. Wilkie and Miss Florence Crowley to whom the Institute, through the medium of the *Salesian Bulletin*, makes public acknowledgement of its gratitude. Our hearty thanks are also extended to the Patrons of the Institute, among whom are some of the best known and most highly respected names in the city, including His Excellency, The Governor, Sir W. Hely Hutchinson; His Worship the Mayor of Cape Town; Right Rev. Dr. Leonard; Gen. Sir Ed. Brabant; Col. Schermbrucker; Hon. A. Wilmot M. L. C.; Hon. J. D. Logan M. L. C.; Mr. Amos Bailey M. L. A.; Mr. James Wynne M. L. A. and Dr. I. Muir. C. M. G. F. R. S. The programme was in the form

of a dainty pamphlet, an elegant production from the Press of the Institute.

Some of the South African papers gave lengthy accounts of the evening. Among them were *The Cape Times*, *The Cape Argus* and *The South African News*, the last of which said:

St. Aloysius' Hall was crowded last night by an audience that evidently enjoyed the musical and dramatic entertainment provided by friends of the Salesian Institute, in aid of which the performance was given. The principal item was Andrew Halliday's two-act farcical comedy, "Checkmate," and the amateur performers who took part in its production were rewarded with hearty laughter and plenteous applause. Mr. G. A. Clarke Mr. Dave Wilkie, Miss Alice Crosby, and Miss Florry Crowley took the chief parts in the play, and they were all to be heartily congratulated upon the success that attended their efforts.

Needless to say that Mr. Dave Wilkie was responsible for much of the mirth the performance called forth, but the other members of the quartette of characters mentioned, deserve no little praise for the excellence of their several roles which showed but few traces of amateurishness. Preceding the comedy, songs were given by Mr. W. Charlton; Miss Madeline O'Riley and Miss Scholtz. Mr. McCausland's recitation, "Lascar," was a welcome item in an altogether attractive programme, and was deservedly applauded. The band of the institute played during the intervals, and were specially successful in their rendering of George's "Golden Dreams." The funds of a deserving and excellent institution are likely to benefit considerably by the entertainment.



In honour of Mary, Help of Christians.

THE devotion to Our Heavenly Queen under the title of Help of Christians is spreading far and wide; nay, we might almost add that Don Bosco's words are already realised, that it would soon become a household word in every Catholic home. The innumerable marks of her power and goodness when invoked under that name have led

to an increase in faith and devotion of the Catholics throughout the Church, and her late coronation in the Sanctuary of Mary, Help of Christians in Turin by command of His Holiness Leo XIII was a signal impetus to the devotion of her clients.

And since the Coronation, the late Holy Father, writing to the Commission of Cardinals formed for the celebration of the jubilee of the proclamation, of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception said: *In every age, in every combat, in every persecution the Church had recourse to Mary and never failed*



The Miracle of the Blessed Sacrament.

*to obtain comfort and defence. And as our own times are so fraught with peril, and so threatening for that same Church, we rejoice and are filled with buoyant hope at the sight of the faithful, who on this propitious occasion, are turning with eagerness and confidence to her who is called **Help of Christians.***

Another instance of the increasing spread of this devotion lies in the fact that, under this inspiring title, the August Mother of God has been chosen as special Patroness of towns and countries, and recently, of Australasia as we gather from the following extract from the *Australian Messenger* of July 1903:

The Blessed Virgin Mary, under the title of Our Lady, Help of Christians, has been chosen as the Patroness of Australasia, and her feast, as such, is celebrated on the 24th May as a double of the first class, with an octave. This title of Help of Christians has been bestowed by the Church to mark the singular benefits derived in periods of public calamity and peril from the Virgin Mother's intercession before her Son's throne. It is fitting that Catholics in New Zealand and Australia should habitually invoke her under this title, which now belongs in a special manner to them, and that in their temptations and trials they should say, with all confidence: "Holy Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us." It would be well not to confine such prayer to one's own private wants; it ought to embrace all public necessities or trials of the Church in these lands beneath the Southern Cross.



Commemoration of a great Miracle.

THE Eucharistic festivities alluded to by H. E. the Cardinal Archbishop of Turin in his letter in preparation for the Congress and in his opening address, followed shortly after the feast of Mary Help of Christians.

They have been carried out in a manner well worthy of the piety of the people of Turin, and this city has once more asserted her title to be called the *City of the Blessed Sacrament*. They were held to commemorate one of the most stupendous and best attested miracles which took place there on the 6th of June 1453.

Whilst a war was raging in Savoy and North Piedmont, some sacrilegious robbers entered the parish Church of Exilles, a village in the Alps, stole the remonstrance with the consecrated host; they wrapped it in a bundle which they placed with other things on the back of a mule, and proceeded on their journey towards Turin. Here the hand of God awaited them. On the 6th of June 1453, about 5 o'clock p. m., as they passed before the Church of San Silvester, the mule carrying the precious load stopped on a sudden and fell to the ground. All the efforts of the mule driver could not make it stir. Mean-

while the bundle becomes undone, the remonstrance is raised high in the air, and there it remains suspended in a halo of light. In an instant, numbers of people are drawn to the place to contemplate the new wonder. A Priest, B. Cocono by name, goes to acquaint the Bishop, L. Romagnano, of the fact. The Bishop hastily assembles some canons, and in procession they betake themselves to the place. There with the people prostrate in adoration, they entreat our Blessed Lord to remain with them. The remonstrance had fallen to the ground, and the Sacred Host only remained suspended more brilliant than the sun. The Bishop holding a chalice in his hands raised up, continued along with the people in his supplication: and lo! a short time afterwards the Host gradually descending, came down into the sacred chalice. It was carried processionally to the Cathedral where it was preserved for some time.

The Members of the Municipal Council had a chapel erected on the spot that same year 1453. This having become too small, by a deliberation of the Municipality was, in 1521, replaced by a larger one enclosing the ground where the miracle had taken place. By a new resolution, and as a thanksgiving for new favours, a larger and more sumptuous one was begun 1607; this is the present Collegiate Church of *Corpus Domini*. In the middle there is an enclosure covered with a slab bearing the following inscription: HIC DIVINI CORPORIS AVECTOR - JUMENTUM PROCUBUIT - HIC SACRA SE SE HOSTIA SARCINIS EMANCIPATA - IN AURAS EXTULIT - HIC SUPPLICES IN TAURINENSIVM MANUS - CLEMENS DESCENDIT - HIC ERGO SANCTUM PRODIGIO LOCUM - MEMOR SUPPLEX PRONUS - VENERARE AUT VERERE - DIE VI JUNII ANNO DOM. MCCCCLIII.

There is ample documentary evidence in support of this fact—first and foremost the original documents of the municipal deliberations still extant.



A command and a prophecy.

THE miracle related above, with other details, had been the subject of a popular pamphlet which Don Bosco edited in 1853,

on the occasion of the fourth centenary, in order to help the people to make suitable preparations and to revive in them the spirit of faith and of christian piety. This same pamphlet has been re-edited this year for the same purpose by the Successor of Don Bosco, Don Rua, who, in the preface, gives a reason of doing so which is more than that of its usefulness—it is the fulfilment of a command given him fifty years ago. We quote his own words:

When in 1853, great feasts were being prepared in Turin for the centenary occurrence of the Miracle of the Most Holy Sacrament, our good Father Don Bosco wrote this pamphlet in order to prepare the people for it. I was then sixteen years old, and was acting as amanuensis or copyist to him.

Some months after the festivities, we were one day returning from the villa of our valued friend the Rev. Professor M. Picco, where Don Bosco every year used to betake himself for a few days in order to attend to his literary work in the quiet country, and avail himself of the extensive literary, historical and scientific knowledge of that learned Professor. When we were not very far from the Gran Madre di Dio (a church erected by the king of Piedmont on his return to his Dominions after the Napoleonic wars) the conversation turned on the centenary feasts and on the favour with which the pamphlet had been received, and widely circulated.

Then Don Bosco, turning in thought to the future, said to me:

"In fifty years time, in 1903, when this anniversary will be kept again with special solemnity, I shall no longer be alive, but you will: and from this moment I charge you to bring out this pamphlet again."

"Most willingly will I carry out this injunction. But, what if death were to play me some trick, and send me out of this world before then?"

"Be at ease: death will play you no such trick, and you will be able to carry out the order which I give you now."

On hearing him speak with so much assurance, I put aside a copy of it to preserve for 1903.

Since then I have run several risks. For several years I suffered from periodical fe-

vers. Together with Don Bosco and some of my school-fellows in 1854, I was able to take part in assisting the cholera-stricken people in the Lazaretto not far from the Oratory of St. Francis of Sales, and in the houses where the contagion was raging most violently. For a long time I suffered from severe headache, and in 1856 I was so emaciated that several friendly people thought I was going into consumption. Thank God I got over it all; and whilst my mother was often greatly distressed about my health, Don Bosco never showed any sign of alarm.

In 1868, after the consecration of the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians, I fell dangerously ill, so that one day, thinking that my last hour was near at hand, I asked for the last Sacraments. I was then Prefect at the Oratory and acting in Don Bosco's stead when he was away.

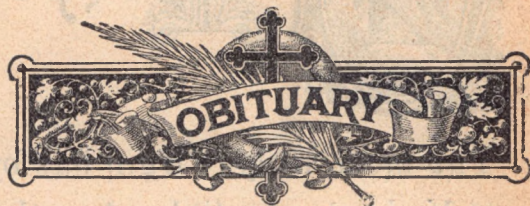
Don Bosco that day happened to be away from home, and owing to my serious state, those of the house were not a little distressed. As soon as he returned, he met at the door a considerable number of boys much concerned, who told him of my dangerous state and begging him to come at once to visit me and give me the blessing of Mary, Help of Christians.

Don Bosco, with perfect composure and without hastening his steps in the least, answered simply: *Don't worry: I know Don Rua, he will not quit this world without my permission.* And he let a considerable time pass before calling on me.

I was suffering from acute peritonitis—my sickness was long, and my convalescence longer still. Through the intercession of Mary, Help of Christians and the prayers of her servant, eventually I recovered completely, and even got rid of the frequent and violent headache. When 1903 drew near, I looked for the copy which I had set aside; but unfortunately it must have been lost in the changes and removals from place to place which had happened since. How shall I manage? said I to myself. Luckily I remembered that faithful and careful keeper and custodian, that dear Confère of ours, the Very Rev. Professor Durando. I turned to him and asked him if perchance he had a copy. I was right in my surmise: he soon produced the copy which

he had faithfully preserved and kindly offered it to me.

In an additional chapter Don Rua shows the good and lasting effects of the Eucharistic festivities of 1853, the revival of christian spirit they have produced. It may be confidently hoped that the recent commemoration may prove no less beneficial.




The Rev. Joseph Andreis.

ON the 20th of July, the Rev. Joseph Andreis died in his 69th year at Baltimore where he had been Pastor of St. Leo's Catholic church. He was a native of the province of Turin, Italy. He had gone to Baltimore thirty years ago as a missionary priest, and laboured in several places, leaving bright examples of priestly virtues. The affection and esteem in which he was held in life, the *Catholic Mirror* of Baltimore remarks, was evident at the funeral. Thousands of persons came from all parts of the city to pay their respects. At the final obsequies the church was crowded and the streets of the vicinity were filled with those who could not gain admittance into the edifice. Many men, prominent in business circles representing other faiths than that of the deceased, were present.

The Rev. J. Andreis, we must add, was for years one of our most zealous Co-operators. During his stay in Turin he had opportunities of knowing Don Bosco, and he appreciated the good accomplished by his works and became a staunch supporter, always striving to make them more widely known and to further their progress.

We recommend all the members of the Association to join with us in offering suffrages for the soul of this good Co-operator.

R. I. P.



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.)

Wimbledon (ENGLAND). Not long ago our youngest son lay in a dying condition in one of the large London Hospitals, rapidly wasting away through a most serious disease.

The specialist, on examination, considered the case a very grave one, and said that unless an operation was speedily performed our dear son could certainly not be expected to live. On the other hand the operating surgeon, taking into account the extremely reduced state and feebleness of the child, was very doubtful as to whether the operation would prove successful.

In our deep grief, we had recourse to Our Lady, Help of Christians, that by her all-powerful intercession on our behalf, she might mercifully obtain the life of one so dear to us all.

The novena was commenced with great fervour, and to our unspeakable joy, before its close, the operation had been performed with every possible success. Our son within a month after showed sure signs of improvement. The food he took, previous to the

operation only served to augment the malady, but now gave nourishment and vigour.

He has now almost entirely recovered, and though the cure is not yet entirely complete, we are fully confident that Our Heavenly Mother will finish the work she has begun, and not permit our son to become again a prey to so grievous a disease.

With heartfelt gratitude to Our Lady I hasten to publicly acknowledge the favour through the *Salesian Bulletin*, and enclose an offering begging you to say a Mass in thanksgiving.

June, 1903.

E. R.



Belfast (IRELAND). Kindly say a Mass in honour of Our Lady Help of Christians in thanksgiving for favours received, and which I promised to acknowledge in the *Salesian Bulletin*.

July, 1903.

N. N.



Scarborough (ENGLAND) An enfant de Marie wishes to acknowledge with deep gratitude favours obtained through Our Lady, Help of Christians. She had had a Mass offered for her intentions and invoked Our Heavenly Queen. She would wish it to be published in the *Salesian Bulletin* as had been promised.

July 17th 1903.

C. Mc. M.



Spezia (ITALY). Last year in the month of May, my little child John, only three years of age, was struck down by a most dangerous complicated disease. The little boy had every possible aid from his father, a doctor, who left no means untried to work the child's cure. But all efforts proved vain, the disconsolate parent did not pretend to conceal the impending calamity and sought consolation in submission to the Divine Will. Many prayers had been unceasingly offered up while we assisted the dying child with aching hearts, when we thought of having recourse to the intercession of Our Lady, Help of Christians. We promised publication in the *Salesian Bulletin* and prayed fervently and constantly.

The favour was not long delayed, for we were quickly consoled by a turn for the better, which improvement daily continued bringing a complete cure. Mindful of the promise made, for the greater glory of God and of Mary, Help of Christians I fulfil my vow and send the enclosed offering.

May 1903.

C. M.



Clonakilty (IRELAND). I desire to render public thanks through the *Salesian Bulletin* to Mary, Help of Christians for favours received through your prayers and those of your orphans. I herewith forward a small offering for a Mass in thanksgiving and for your good works.

Thanks be for ever to Our Lady, Help of Christians.

June 29th 1903.

M. D.



Waterford (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 the poor lepers and shall not fail to do all in my power in thanksgiving for this grace.

I would ask your prayers and those of your children for another favour which I hope to obtain through the all powerful intercession of Mary, Help of Christians.

July 1903.

A CLIENT of MARY.

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 invocation Mary Help of Christians, Pray for us, and 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.





A Son of Don Bosco.

1850 — 1893

LIFE OF MONSIGNOR LASAGNA,

Salesian Missionary, Titular Bishop of Tripoli.

CHAPTER XVII (*Continued*).

The Bishop was willing to replace him, but he was at a loss to find one to send; so great was then the scarcity of priests in that Republic. He, accordingly, entreated the Salesians of Villa Colon to take charge of the parish which he would hand over to them altogether. Besides the presbytery, Mgr. Vera promised also an adjoining house, suitable for schools for boys and girls. The good Prelate felt confident that the Salesians would not refuse him to undertake a work which he would regard as a personal favour, and thus remove a grave trouble from his mind.

And what obstacle would there be so great as could prevent complying with the request of so kindly-disposed a Bishop? Fr. Lasagna undertook to lay before Don Bosco the wishes of Mgr. Vera, and he pleaded the cause so well, that, notwithstanding the dearth of personnel, Don Bosco agreed to the proposal of the Bishop of Montevideo. And this was also one of the reasons that induced Don Bosco to prepare a new band of Missionaries.

In fact, Don Bosco had been thinking for some time how he could get his Missionaries

to go and evangelize the savages of Patagonia, when, in July 1877, the Oratory of St. Francis of Sales in Turin was honoured with a visit of the Archbishop of Buenos Ayres, Mgr. F. Aneyros. His Grace had crossed the Ocean in order to kneel at the feet of Pius IX on the occasion of the Pope's Episcopal Jubilee. When he had attested to the Vicar of Christ his loyal attachment and offered him costly presents, the zealous Archbishop felt drawn to visit the Salesian Oratory of Turin and confer with Don Bosco on this very project, viz. to make the necessary arrangements for sending missionaries in the Pampas and in Patagonia. So marvellously did the aspirations of the two servants of God agree.

But to carry out this vast plan a good number of Missionaries was required, and Don Bosco, without delay, chose some among those who had eagerly volunteered to go in those far away regions. It was thereupon agreed that they would set out on the fourteenth of November, 1877, and with them also a few others destined to assist Fr. Lasagna at Villa Colon and in the new house to be opened at Las Piedras.

As usual, Don Bosco's activity was not arrested by the many and very grave difficulties that beset this undertaking. He made an appeal to the charity of his Co-operators to provide what was necessary, and on the seventh of November, the citizens of Turin were invited to assist, for the third time, at

the touching ceremony of the departure. This band of Missionaries was headed by the Rev. Fr. James Costamagna who, in 1895, was by Leo XIII raised to the Episcopate and nominated Vicar Apostolic of Mendez and Gualaquiza in the Republic of Ecuador.

This time, however, the sons of Don Bosco were not alone. There were with them some members of another religious family which had also received from Don Bosco both name and life; and now, after five years of existence, these were striving to emulate the zeal of the Salesians in spreading the light of the Gospel. The time had now arrived for the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians to cross the Ocean, and, after founding twelve houses in Italy and France they were to go and, with admirable self-abnegation, share in the labours of the missionary life. Their venerated founder had also inspired them with this holy desire, and infused in them the strength to carry it into effect.

Even then, he rejoiced in contemplating in spirit how much good this new institution would do in its numerous educational establishments, and what a valuable assistance its members would render in the missions by catechizing the girls of the Indians. In order that these forecasts might come true, he wished that two of the nuns of Mary, Help of Christians, should go to Rome with the Salesians, and there from the Supreme Head of the Church receive their mission and together with a special blessing for themselves for the other sisters destined for the missions.

And indeed the blessing of the aged Pontiff was to the new institute like a beneficial dew to a tender plant. It derived from it strength and vigour, and from that time it struck deep roots and spread its branches far and wide. Under it, numbers of girls have found and still find protection and shelter from the dangers of the world, forming

the consolation of their families, of society and of the Church.

On the same day on which the Salesian Missionaries prostrated before the image of Mary, Help of Christians were imploring her protection on their long voyage and were bidding a last farewell to their Superiors, a similar touching ceremony was taking place in the mother house of the Sisters, which was then at Mornese in the diocese of Acqui.

Well impressed with the mission entrusted to them, the Sisters left for Genoa, to embark on board the *Savoie*—the same steamship on which the Missionaries of the previous years had sailed for the Argentine Republic. During the voyage, the Salesians set about with great earnestness to give catechism to the boys of the numerous emigrants and the nuns vied with them in taking care of the girls, thus commencing their work even before setting foot on Uruguay where Fr. Lasagna was awaiting them. And indeed this good work was to last even for a longer time than they had at first anticipated.

The twelfth of December was the day of landing for those destined for Uruguay, and the dawn of it was hailed with great joy.

They could descry from afar the domes and towers of the city of Montevideo. They greatly rejoiced when, on a steamboat approaching their vessel, they saw a young priest with russet locks, wistfully looking towards them. They soon recognised in him the Superior of Villa Colon, Fr. Lasagna who had come to meet them.

They had exchanged a few words of greeting with him from deck, and were preparing to go down with him on the steamboat, when suddenly their ears were pierced by an imperious voice: "Gentlemen no one is allowed to land. Nine days quarantine must be spent in the island of Flores."

What was the cause of this sad disappoint-

ment? The Steamer *Savoie* had touched Rio Janeiro, and there some passengers, among whom the Missionaries, had landed and taken a stroll through the town where the yellow fever was then raging. The authorities at the port of Montevideo, acquainted with the fact, had issued orders that the *Savoie* should spend quarantine of nine days on the small island a few miles off the shore.

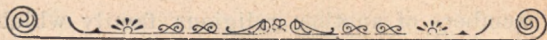
This enforced sojourn was to them a source of no small expense and inconvenience; however, they profitably employed their time in their exercises and in continuing the religious instructions to the children. At last this sort of exile which had been reduced to five days, came to an end; although it had been reduced to five days yet it seemed interminable.

On landing they were received again by Fr. Lasagna who was able, this time without any further difficulties, to take the Salesians to Villa Colon. The nuns, by invitation of Mgr. Vera, went to the Episcopal palace where they were treated with every attention.

The Sisters would have liked to begin their work without delay; but as the house destined for them could not be got ready for another month, they received hospitality in St. Mary's Convent by the Salesian Sisters; where they were greatly edified by the spirit of piety and charity reigning in that community. On the third of February they were able to take possession of a small house, a temporary residence procured for them by a charitable gentleman of Villa Colon, Mr. Finn: at last their wishes were satisfied. True enough they found there only what was strictly necessary for life: they had plenty of work and many occasions for suffering, but they had in their midst Our Blessed Lord in the holy sacrament, the dearest treasure they could wish for.

Such was the lowly beginning of the festive Oratories and Institutes of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in America, which have since grown so much in number and importance; to this growth Fr. Lasagna on his part contributed a great deal both by advice and by action.

(To be continued).



THE custom of reciting the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin, says the *Ave Maria. Notre Dame, Indiana*, is no longer a general practice even among educated Catholics at the present day; but the great number of manuscript "Hours" still existing prove how universal was this custom among the upper classes in England ere the cruel storm of heresy and persecution wrecked the ancient homes of faith, bringing desolation and indifference in its train.

Even a cursory glance into old chronicles serves to show that the laity in Britain began centuries ago to say the Office of Our Blessed Lady. It is also abundantly proved that our ancestors learned this office by heart in their childhood, and, moreover, that they were in the habit of reciting it together; for we find evidence of this during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.



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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.

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