

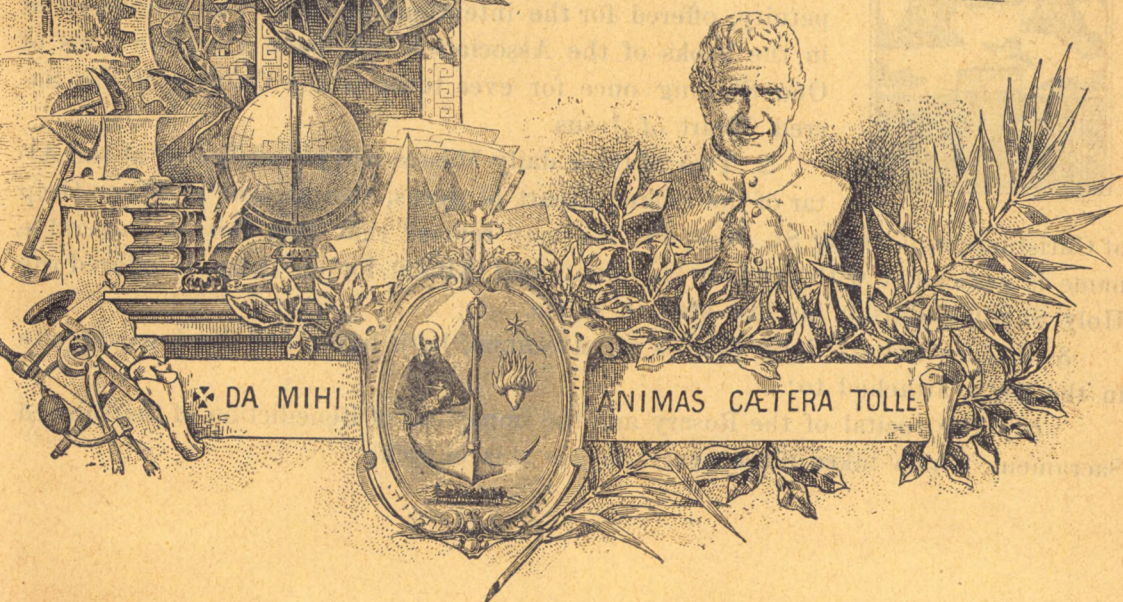
Salesian Bulletin

No. 26 - FEBRUARY - 1905

♣ Vol. IV. ♣

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

Sanctus



CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

FOUNDED IN FAVOUR OF

THE ORATORY OF THE SACRED HEART

AT THE CASTRO PRETORIO IN ROME

TO WHICH IS ATTACHED THE CELEBRATION OF

SIX MASSES DAILY IN PERPETUITY

offered for the intentions of those who make a single contribution

OF ONE SHILLING

ADVANTAGES.

1. During the erection of the magnificent Temple, recently consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, at the Castro Pretorio in Rome, it was established that, as soon as the grand edifice were finished, the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin and other prayers should be daily recited therein, and Holy Mass offered on Fridays for all Contributors to the Building Fund of this International Monument of devotion to the Sacred Heart. In order to augment these spiritual advantages and admit to their enjoyment a greater number of the faithful, the Charitable Association of the Sacred Heart of Jesus has been established in the above-named church; whereby all the members participate in the fruit of six Masses daily, in perpetuity, offered for the intentions of those who are inscribed in the books of the Association and have given an alms of One Shilling once for ever towards the Oratory of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



2. Two of these daily Masses will be celebrated at the Altar of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, two at that of Mary Help of Christians, and two at St. Joseph's. We may remark that Don Bosco's venerable name is associated with the two last-mentioned Altars, for on them he offered the Holy Sacrifice during his last stay in Rome.

3. Besides the six daily Masses all MEMBERS, both living and dead, participate in the fruits attached to:

(a) The recital of the Rosary and the imparting of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, which takes place every day in this church;



THE

SALESIAN

BULLETIN


Organ of the Association of Salesian Co-operators.

“Oratorio Salesiano” TURIN, ITALY.

Vol. IV., No. 26. FEBRUARY 15th, 1905. Registered for transmission abroad.

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A sequel to Don Rua's Circular Letter


HILE 1905 is yet young and New Year resolutions, if forgotten, yet are not quite relegated to the past, or may still be made, why not consider some of the means of carrying them out, or of taking steps that will enable us to do some lasting and even far-reaching good, before we are a year older? The resolutions concerning ourselves are of course private, and we cannot tread on that consecrated ground, But after resolutions for own advancement in good, our neighbour's welfare may reasonably come in for a part of our consideration. The ways and means of doing charity towards our neighbour are unlimited,

so extensive in fact, that one often ends by withdrawing his aid altogether, because the calls are so manifold. Evidently those means are the safest which can reach both body and soul, for though the first bring a great reward, the latter will be of infinite value to us both in this world and in the next, for the price of a soul is no less than the Precious Blood of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Successor of Don Bosco, in last month's *Bulletin*, presented to his readers an elaborate scheme of charitable works, all of which, we may say, are directed towards the spiritual and temporal welfare of our neighbour. But who is this Successor of Don Bosco?

Those who glance but casually at this paper, or into whose hands it falls for the first time, may even say to themselves: "Who was Don Bosco?" Of Catholics indeed there can be few who are strangers to his name, for his life is among those useful little works of the Catholic Truth Society found at almost every Church repository, and has appeared in larger volumes in many languages. But beyond what is said of him in these and subsequent pages of this issue, we cannot add here anything like a résumé or description of his remarkable career.

The Very Rev. Don Rua is his first successor, and inherited the large, but deeply entailed estate of his manifold works. The *Works of Don Bosco* is a phrase frequently met with in these pages. The name is a comprehensive one, and possibly misleading to some. It is a title for a vast organisation of charitable works, from the highest and most sacred offices of the sacerdotal ministry, to the humble task of minding little children while their parents are at work. And what are the intermediate stages? They can hardly be grasped in such a condensation, a longer acquaintance with them is necessary. Coming downwards they include all the branches of education, ecclesiastical, literary, commercial, secondary and elementary; side by side with these, those boys who are not fitted so much for study, are taught almost any trade they may choose or have a liking for, provided the Institute at which they are being trained, has been long enough in existence to have its full complement of workshops.

The work of the *Festive Oratories* is apart from these. This branch consists in the gathering together of boys and young men of all conditions on Sundays and Festivals, when they assist at Holy Mass and other services, are provided with suitable instruction and amusements and are enabled to pass the holy day as God intended it to be.

The need for these in countries where religion finds little or no place in the syllabus of the elementary school, will be manifest to all. Clubs and evening classes are managed in connection with these *Festive Oratories*. This was the first of *Don Bosco's works*. Homes for boys who are at work all day, and have no lodging or cannot get home at night, are also included. With the exception of the ecclesiastical training, all the works mentioned above are carried on for girls by the congregation of nuns founded by Don Bosco. Some part of the expense of the studies is borne usually by the students themselves, but the trade sections are almost exclusively on the hands of the Sons of Don Bosco, in other words on Divine Providence. The priests of the Congregation are not only engaged in teaching, but exercise all the duties of the sacred ministry, and in many places have established parishes and perform all the duties attaching to such work. Above and beyond all this, is the work of the missions and especially among the lepers in the northern republics of South America, accounts of which appear continually in the *Bulletin*, and make eloquent appeal to the charity of Co-operators. Don Rua, in his letter, also mentioned several churches now

being erected and all in need of large alms.

But out of all, the most important work is perhaps that in aid of poor and destitute children, who are provided for in the various Institutes opened by the Sons of Don Bosco—the Salesians. And if there be any truth in the saying: *Charity begins at home*, it may be taken that one's own country should come in for the first share of support. Well the *works of Don Bosco* are being carried on in England as well as abroad, and being yet in their youth may look more hopefully for support, and especially in London where the number of poor is so enormous, and want is visible on every side. Churches too are being erected there, and one is only waiting for supplies to be begun.

The inference from all this will be obvious. Charity towards any of these works is evidently a safe investment; none of it can ever go astray and the great advantages accruing therefrom are incalculable; for instance what a vast amount of good may a priest not do in the sacred ministry; and those responsible for his education and the maturing of his vocation have a share in that. The novitiates call for special regard. Even handing the *Bulletin* to a friend, or introducing it into influential families may be the means of doing immense good, for Providence inspires the charitable thought at all times and places. Before the year gets old therefore, make up your mind to have a share in these truly charitable *works of Don Bosco*, and you will experience his gratitude and that of the thousands of his children.

At the tomb of Don Bosco.

THE last day of January 1905 takes the death of our venerated Founder and Father another year farther from us. Speaking of him in the edition of March 1888, a month after his death, the *Salesian Bulletin*, said: "We loved in him the joyous smile of childhood, the eager hopes of youth, and the full capacities of matured age. We found in him all that was grand and noble, generous and affectionate. Thousands of children regarded him with more than filial love, for he had been to them far more than father or mother."

In the early morn of the 1st of February, his remains, clad in the sacerdotal vestments, were carried into the Church of the Oratory where they remained at rest, the head slightly to the right as it had always been, the features calm and with just a smile upon them as in life, the eyes fixed on the image of the Crucified which was pressed in his hands, the whole expression suggesting that after long and distinterested toil, he had entered on a well-earned repose.

All Turin was drawn thither that day, to gaze once more at him they had learnt to love and revere, and he seemed to whisper to each one: "Laboremus! Laboremus!" "Work for God and you also shall one day have your repose and reward in Paradise." On the following day the last honours were given, and the funeral, at which something like a hundred thousand persons assisted was quite a triumph. But on the 4th of Feb. the remains were privately removed to Valsalice just outside Turin, where almost by a special disposition of Divine Providence a House of Studies had been opened but a few months before. The body there

found a fixed resting place, where in the peace of the Lord it has reposed for seventeen years, perhaps awaiting the glorious day when the Church will place it beneath one of her altars. In these words we do not in any way intend to anticipate the supreme judgment of the Church, but only express a desire, that day by day becomes more confirmed as we witness the

set in motion was just the one demanded by the age; and the few years following his death have seen all countries asking for it, and similar ones in motion around it, the social movement in short and Catholic Societies for mutual support. To point out one fact, witness the development of his evening schools commenced in 1845. But the restoration of the youth of the

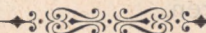


Tomb of Don Bosco, Valsalice, Turin, Italy.

prodigious extension which God has given and still gives to his work.

Now as the glory of all that has been and is being accomplished is offered to God alone, it is no surprise that it should be so wonderful in our eyes; but considering what has been the outcome of his humble beginning the inference is that Don Bosco was one of those leaders of movements, whom God sends at different epochs, and entrusts with a special mission. The machine which he built up and

working classes was only a part of his mission; the work of his Congregation and Co-operators in distant lands was still in its infancy when he was called away from it. At this time of his anniversary turning in spirit or in reality towards his tomb and praying for the repose of his soul, let us be assured that in Co-operating with Don Bosco we are Co-operating with Divine Providence in the Salvation of Souls.





The Salesian Bulletin * *

* * * * to all readers

NOTWITHSTANDING a more or less noticeable irregularity in the despatch of this periodical, our readers must have remarked a general advance in the whole appearance and get-up, and even in the arrival of the magazine in the last year or two (1). Considering that the *Salesian Bulletin* is printed monthly in eight languages, with a total of 250,000 copies, it will not surprise anyone, that with the usual orders of printing departments, and the occasional depression and stress of work, some irregularity was inevitable; and as there seemed no prospect of the matter being simplified, but on the contrary it grew more and more complicated, the conclusion was, that a department solely for the *Bulletin* would be necessary. The idea grew into a hope, and was cherished for a long time, but at last it got beyond that stage and is now a reality. It is by this time well known, that Don Bosco was quite a pioneer in the matter of spreading Catholic literature, and his printing works, his favourite workshops, are now recognised among the first of such establishments in Italy; but in spite of their size and number of machines, it was found that the work could not be accomplished, and either the customers or the *Bulletins* would have to suffer.

The new building was therefore decided on, and as we said above, is now coping with the increasing demands for the Co-operators' report, and the connecting link between the members, who often find themselves at immense distances from the centre of the organisation. This building is situated a little distance from the Oratory,

a matter of four or five minutes walk. The ground floor has been furnished with three machines of the latest pattern and complete with all requisitions for every demand. The next floor receives the printed matter, and the folding and binding is done there. Up by a lift the *Bulletins* find their way to the packing department and are stored to await despatch.

In the erection and equipment of this establishment a considerable expense has been incurred, and a great part of the debt is still awaiting the Co-operators' assistance to clear it off. The *Bulletin* from henceforth will have no excuse for irregularity save one, the cost of the postage. A little reckoning on the reader's part with the figures given before will convince any one of the plausibility or validity of this excuse. But is there any necessity for it? We hope not; but if it should appear again behindhand, the blame can only be laid on the purse, which cannot give out what it has not received. Frequently the cost of despatch is the sole cause of delay.

Readers are aware that the *Bulletin* has no fixed subscription, because it is sent out to keep the Co-operators in touch with what, by their help, the Sons of Don Bosco are doing for poor boys and for the salvation of souls. And there is no intention of fixing a subscription for it. But our Co-operators will see the obvious necessity of some source of maintenance for it, and their aid in this regard would be most acceptable. We recommend all those who have not yet sent an offering towards the missions, or the works of Don Bosco mentioned in the circular letter of his successor, to at least give what they can towards the support of the *Bulletin*.

The number of young people of both sexes engaged in the different stages of the elaboration of this magazine, also makes subscription to it a special work of charity, for all these workers depend on the Salesians for their support. Those who desire some direction as to what to send, might fix the amount at three shillings and upwards.



The *Bulletin* is published at Turin on the 15th of each month, but despatched shortly after.

Don Rua's Representative in America

(Extracts from his Secretary's Correspondence)

(Continued)

In Peru — At Lima.

According to our itinerary we were to leave Bolivia on the 26th of April for Ecuador. Fr. Albera therefore hastened to pay his respects to His Grace Mgr. Trovar, Archbishop of Lima, and to the Apostolic Delegate who invited him to dine with him. He also visited the Italian minister, a good catholic, who had helped us a great deal in our negotiations with the Government of Ecuador, consequent upon the banishment of our confrères and the confiscation of their property. The arbitrators appointed by the two Governments, were favourable to us, and whilst I am writing they are making arrangements for the restitution to our brethren, recently returned to Ecuador, of some portion of that which was taken from them. I must not omit a glance at the large and splendidly equipped hospital which has the highest reputation for successful operations, and does a great deal of beneficial work to the poor of the district whose cases are treated gratis on certain days of the week. A special commission, often counting some of the most influential townsmen among its members, is elected every year to make the collection in aid of the hospital on some appointed day. Over 10,000 francs were handed in on the collection day last year.

At the reception prepared for Don Rua's representative, which was attended by a great many Co-operators and friends, an allegorical painting in water-colours was presented to him; the subject was the mission confided to him by our Superior General under the protection of Our Lady Help of Christians. The picture was accepted and sent to Turin as a remembrance of our journey, if it please God to bring us safely

back. At the conclusion of the programme Fr. Albera said some parting words. He expressed his entire satisfaction with his visit to Lima, with the capacious buildings which accommodate about 200 boys, both students and artisans; he added that he had visited the various workshops of compositors, printers, book-binders, tailors, and shoemakers, that he had been much pleased with the new and promising agricultural colony, with the modest chapel, pledge of a grander edifice, worthy of Lima and capable of supplying the ever-growing wants of this hitherto desolate quarter, but which is now, if not exactly in the centre of the city, one of the most populous and important districts.

Saint Rose of Lima.

Amongst the numerous visits paid in Lima we could not forget St. Rose. One might as well go to Rome without seeing the Pope! This mystical Rose, whose sweet perfume was so pleasing to God, to the Angels and to men, a model of perfection, the greatest ornament of the New World, enrolled in the list of canonized Saints, was born in 1586. It pleased God to render her so illustrious by her purity, penance and sanctity that whoever reads her life, of which the outlines are given by Pope Clement X., must exclaim: *A Domino factum est istud, et est mirabile in oculis nostris.* We saw the house where the Saint was born, which is being transformed into a magnificent Sanctuary: the hovel where she lived; the garden she cultivated, a witness of so many prodigies; the well into which she threw the little keys after fastening with a padlock her iron chain; the nails from which she hung fastened by her hair and so many other

instruments of penance with which she used to afflict her body already weakened by a continual fast. Fr. Albera had the consolation of celebrating Mass at the altar erected over the relics of the Saint and he was much pleased to see the care and cleanliness with which this Church is kept. Would that the House of the Lord were always kept in this manner to the greater good of souls!

Preparing to start for Ecuador.

Our visits had nearly all been paid and we were packing our travelling bags and getting ready to start for Ecuador: but Fr. Albera could not understand why he had received no answer from our confrères to his numerous letters, written from various places during our long journey. He decided therefore to telegraph to Riobamba, the residence of the Provincial, announcing our intended departure: he replied at once advising us not to undertake the journey as the roads were impassable from the torrential rainy season. This was followed by a letter from the rector of our house in Quito in which he reiterated the strongest recommendations that we should not expose our superior's life to the perils of these countries, where one cannot travel when one chooses, but only when circumstances render it possible, and he added: "You can imagine what it costs me to write this letter! after two years of anxious expectation, hoping and eagerly looking forward to the visit of Fr. Albera, now that he is so near to our House and is knocking at the door, we are obliged to ask him to wait and we inside cannot have the comfort of seeing him..... You can understand "continues the Rector", what a grief this is to me; but I implore of you not to allow Fr. Albera to return, touching only at Guayaquil and continuing his journey through Colombia. Remember that Don Bosco founded the Mission of Ecuador with his last breath; that good Father when so feeble as to be unable to stand, would nevertheless be carried to the Sanctuary of Mary, Help of Christians

where, incapable of making the customary address to the new missionary band, he spoke by his tears. Remember that to us, though unworthy, amongst the earliest of our Congregation, it was granted to suffer imprisonment for Christ, then exiled and beguiled into the virgin forests so that we might fall victims to the perils of place, climate and wild beasts; and though God, in His Mercy, after six weeks of suffering and anxiety, traversing the dense forests on foot, crossing sometimes at the peril of our lives on feeble plank roaring torrents and foaming rivers, willed that we should reach Lima where this hospitable Republic opened its doors to us, and our good



Typesetting department of the Salesian Bulletin.

confrères with fraternal charity restored our shattered strength, nevertheless some fell victims by the way and others speedily succumbed to the fatigues of the journey. But through the Divine assistance the land, watered with their sweat and their blood, buds forth once more..... Remember that hitherto no Visitor has reached us; that Fr. Calcagno, our first Provincial, could not penetrate into the Mission of Gualaquiza; that our present Superior Fr. Fusarini has not yet made his appearance here, the small number of the staff not allowing him a sufficiently lengthy absence to reach the Jívaros; that Mgr. Costamagna himself, Vicar Apostolic of these regions has for eight years been knocking in vain at the doors of Ecuador, specially closed against him. Therefore the visit of a Superior

is necessary to make acquaintance with our circumstances and report to the Superior General. Come and you will see that the devil knew what he was doing when he raised such a terrible storm against the poor Salesians of Ecuador, called to do a great work by the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to whom the Republic is consecrated. You will see with your own eyes how great a fascination is exercised by the name of Don Bosco and what affection and sympathy is shown to the Salesians. The portrait of Fr. Calcagno, the revolution's most illustrious victim, occupies one of the first places in the houses of the most distinguished families of Quito, and his name is ever mentioned with gratitude."

We could only wait. There were many untoward circumstances, and in leaving Chili we knew that our difficulties would increase; it would be impossible to fix beforehand our itinerary or decide when our already too long journey would come to an end. All this we knew and yet I must confess this *veto* saddened us not a little. Fr. Albera called his secretary and asked his advice. What did he think? what we all thought—that we should start! And yet to be but a short distance from Ecuador and not to see our brethren, many of them natives, who after so many petitions for the visit of the Superior, would be so terribly disappointed! But if new difficulties should arise? there was still Colombia and its lazarettos to be visited and there for three years a cruel civil war had been waged so that all methods of transit were stopped, commerce was dead, and almost universal misery reigned. We had also to visit Venezuela, an unfortunate Republic where the revolution seemed to have established itself permanently. Then we had to go to Jamaica passing through Central America, see those houses and continue our way through Mexico: finally we must pay a flying visit to the brethren of our five houses in the United States, before returning to Europe. The decision, therefore, was one not easily to be made; the bell rang for night prayers and the Superior said in parting; "Let us ask Our Lord to make known what He wishes us to do".

It is the custom in the Salesian houses after prayers and before retiring to rest, to say a few

words giving the boys a pious thought. That evening the Rector announced that as the month dedicated to Mary Help of Christians was about to begin, all should implore a favour from Our Lady, that of keeping with them for the whole month Don Rua's Representative who in France had been called another Don Bosco! That decided our spending another month at Lima!

Fr. Albera began to think of himself. For two years he had spent almost all his days and often a great part of the night, in listening to and comforting his brethren, encouraging them in the practice of virtue, and suggesting means of ever growing in the spirit of Don Bosco; in holding conferences and giving the Spiritual Exercises twelve times in the course of a few months; but after all this labour he did not hold himself dispensed from the annual retreat prescribed by our rules. For eight days we beheld him occupied in profound meditation, spending long hours before the Blessed Sacrament, thinking only of his own soul.

His retreat ended, he blessed a new Chapel for the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. Their house in the centre of the city being too small for their requirements, they divided their community, one part coming to inhabit a new house in which they could receive the girls who wished to enter as boarders. This function was preceded by a triduum, extended by Fr. Albera, the better to prepare some postulants for the reception of the habit and the novices who were to make their religious profession. He did the same for the Salesians and in the intervals between the conferences, he spoke to each one in private.

(To be continued).

The Salesian Bulletin

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

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



COLOMBIA.

For the benefit of the poor lepers.

I.

*The new Lazaretto
for the Department of Santander.*

As our readers will remember, the Missionary, Fr. Evasius Rabagliati wrote to the Very Rev. Don Rua, on the 18th of April, that he was resolved, at all costs, to remove the poor lazaretto of Contratacion to another more suitable spot in the Department of Santander, where the greater number of the unfortunate lepers are to be found.

Now in another letter, dated June 1st, the same missionary gives Don Rua an account of the success of his expedition to Sincarota, Socorro, Sangil and to Bucaramanga, the capital of the Department of Santander, undertaken for the benefit of the unhappy lepers of Contratacion; and full of joy, he finally announces that this lazaretto is to be transferred to *Sube*.

"The Government," he writes, "willingly assents to my proposal of seeking another site for the lazaretto of Contratacion, and has appointed a medical man and a third person, acquainted with the place, in conformity with the prescriptions of the late Congress, which require at least three members to form a committee for this purpose, to which full powers are granted, so that its decisions cannot be changed or modified by any one else. In this case the selection was neither difficult nor doubtful"

"The new lazaretto of Santander," said the Bishop of Socorro a few days before, "must be

built here;" and be pointed out the spot on a map.

The same site was chosen by General Gonzales Valencia, who had been Vice-President of the Republic for six years. "Divine Providence" he said to me, "has created that place with this end in view, that the great lazaretto of Santander might be built there; to this spot the Commissioners must direct their steps if they would find what they seek." Bearing in mind these wise counsels the commission set out at once for the place named.

This is a very long valley, surrounded by lofty mountains, about 2000 feet in height, inaccessible except to goats. It took us two good hours on horseback, from the summit to the valley, by the only practicable path. Through the valley flows a fine stream of which the geographical name is *Sube*, locally called *Jordan*, from the healing qualities of the water, very efficacious in all diseases of the skin. About thirty houses, having a pretty little church in their midst, are all the habitations to be seen in the valley. At a distance of three or four miles, this is closed by enormous rocks, which seem to have been placed there by artificial means, as if to prevent any one passing further. The climate, being very hot and dry, is most suitable for those suffering from leprosy; the bathing is attractive and delicious; one could spend whole hours in these refreshing waters.

"Here is the solution of the problem, said the Commission without any sort of hesitation; here from six to eight thousand lepers can be easily accommodated; these poor invalids could not find a place possessing greater advantages! and at once we began to explore the two banks of the river in order to form an exact estimate of the place.

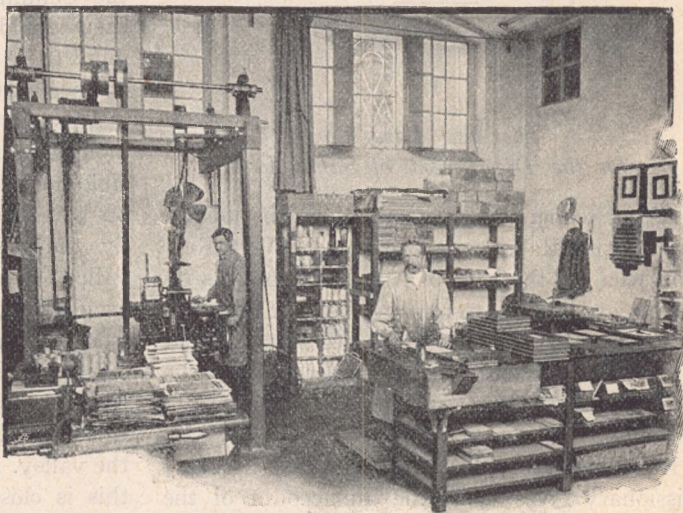
But we had reckoned without our host, as they say, and the Commission was very nearly obliged to withdraw precipitately, to escape dangers, which at first seemed imaginary, and which afterwards proved to be real. A few words will explain the situation.

The inhabitants, having heard of our arrival and the object of our visit, were seized with fear; a large colony of lepers in the neighbourhood would certainly ruin the commerce of these people; perhaps the disease would infect those in good health, so that no one would dare to travel this way, and thus in a short time the country would be ruined. They then made known to us indirectly that our presence in these parts was undesirable and that it would be wise to retire. As a measure of prudence, we had appealed to the only authority in existence, the mayor, as the parish priest was absent through illness, so that he might not only protect us against a possible ambush, but also that he might accompany us on our tour of inspection and furnish us with the desired information. To our surprise, the mayor alleged a thousand excuses to avoid coming with us; and at the hour fixed for starting he had disappeared. We then understood that the case was more serious than we had first believed. Finally we set off without a guide, realizing that no one would undertake that office. At a certain spot one of my companions stopped and pointed out to me a number of great stones placed across the road as if to bar our passage. In the middle was one more conspicuous than the rest with an inscription in red in the middle, saying *"Go forward if you dare and you will see!"* underneath appeared a dagger..... A little further on was a great arch, under which we had to pass, all made of thorns. Evidently we were threatened and for a moment we deliberated as to our next movement; but the suspicion, that this was only a trick of some rogue in order to laugh at us behind our back, gave us courage and we pursued our way. Nothing unpleasant happened to us, but on returning to the village to avoid possible dangers; we resumed our journey and in two days reached Bucaramanga.

The committee immediately presented the Government with a detailed account of its labours, and was so fortunate as to have its conclusions accepted without any comment. To obviate the sole difficulty which presented itself,

the opposition of the inhabitants of *Sube*, the Committee suggested that the Government should buy up all those houses, which would then serve as a beginning for the future lazaretto, removing thither all the lepers from Contratacion. This proposal also was agreed to, and the expropriation of the houses and lands adjoining was decided upon, on the ground of public utility, so as to make of this valley one vast lazaretto.

Undoubtedly this lazaretto will be the largest in Colombia and perhaps in the whole world, owing to the very large number of lepers in the department of Santander; since one may say with certainty that the number of these unfortunate people exceeds 25,000 or perhaps even 30,000.



Monotype and Stereotype of the Salesian Bulletin.

II.

At Agua de Dios and Cauca.

Very Reverend Don Rua,

I have been as far as Popayan, the capital of the Department of Cauca, and now I am on my way back to Bogotá. I left that city on the 14th day of July; it was my intention not to stop anywhere on the way for many reasons; but chiefly in order to accomplish the mission which the President of Colombia, General Raphael Reyes, had confided to me, which was to reach Popayan in time to prevent the French physician Dr. Santon embarking for France. But owing to the loss of one of the four animals I had got for the journey, I was obliged to call at Agua de Dios, distant hardly one day's travel

to make good my loss, begging our brethren of that lazaretto to lend me one of their pack mules. They agreed, at once, to do me this kindness if I consented to pay the price demanded, that of remaining with them the following day, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, in order to keep it with greater solemnity.

*Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
at Agua de Dios.*

It was impossible to refuse such a request and so, once more, I beheld a spectacle probably without parallel elsewhere, the Communion of the greater number of the thousand and seventy seven lepers in honour of the Patroness of the lazaretto, Our Lady of Mount Carmel. At nine o'clock they came again for the High Mass to hear her glories proclaimed, and again in the evening to the grand Procession in which the Statue of Our Lady was carried in triumph through the village.

Elsewhere, no doubt, Feasts and Processions may be kept with greater magnificence; but nowhere will you find them more touching, from the numbers and condition of those taking part in them. This is a privilege for many years reserved to the lazarettos of Colombia and chiefly to that of Agua de Dios. Few, indeed, of this great family of castaways are missing, especially at the evening procession, when the fierce heat of the tropical sun has cooled down. Many, even of the most suffering, summon up sufficient courage to be present at this manifestation of their faith. They leave the wards of the hospital, or the hut they inhabit, at the cost of considerable pain, so as to occupy their post of honour.

As I have already explained, the lazaretto is not exclusively reserved for the lepers, but there is a mixture of healthy and diseased in the proportion of one to three; thus the population of Agua de Dios is not less than 4000. In addition, so great is the fame of these Festivals of Agua de Dios, that they attract many persons from the country and from the neighbouring villages; one may thus easily credit the accounts speaking of several thousand persons taking part in them. Without this explanation many might tax me with exaggeration and smile incredulously when reading these things, which are, after all, perfectly true.

In the procession, therefore, which took place on the 17th July in the lazaretto of Agua de Dios there were several thousand persons. The con-

fraternities of St. Aloysius, of St. Joseph, of the Sacred Heart, of Perpetual Adoration, the large group of Children of Mary, all carried their own banners, forming an immense line in perfect order.

Then came the Statue of Our Lady, carried in turn by four Children of Mary; then five Salesian Fathers, then the band of instrumental music, consisting almost entirely of leper boys belonging to the flourishing Festive Oratory, and lastly the immense crowd of those in health and of the lepers who slowly followed the Procession. For nearly two hours, during which the procession lasted, they never ceased singing and praying, except when the band played some of their pieces. In singing, that which the lepers love best is the Litany of Our Lady, and amongst the various titles under which the leper invokes his Heavenly Mother, those which he sings or recites with the greatest fervour are, *Help of Christians, Health of the Sick, Refuge of Sinners, Comforter of the afflicted!* No explanation is necessary in speaking of a lazaretto of about eleven hundred unfortunate lepers. His Reverence Fr. Albera truly said, about two years ago, in similar circumstances, that he had never before seen, and would probably never see again, such festivals.

*To Canea — An interview with Dr. Santon.
Another provincial lazaretto.*

Early the next morning I resumed my journey towards the Cordilleras, the base of which I reached in three days, during the greater part of which I was crossing the vast and snowy plateau of Tolima.

Three days more were spent in crossing the mountains the highest of which is called *Quindio*, the terror of travellers, especially in rainy weather, such as I experienced. On the second of these three days, the pack mule lost its footing and rolled down a precipice with its burden. I thought all was lost, the cases smashed, and the animal killed, or at least rendered useless; but my fears were groundless, and after half an hour of enforced rest we resumed our journey with more care and circumspection, so as to avoid catastrophes irreparable in these parts. Having crossed the Cordilleras, so lofty that at the distance of a mile or two we saw perpetual snow, and felt the icy wind in our faces, we found ourselves in the department of Canea. At the first telegraph station I found a message from

Dr. Santon, received the same day from Cali, which said with telegraphic brevity ; "For family affairs I am obliged to leave before the time fixed. Wednesday I leave for the port of Buenaventura where I embark for France, via Panama". This telegram upset my plans. I considered a moment and then replied ; "Tuesday, at twelve o'clock, I shall be there to give you an important message from the President of the Republic". Then I resumed my journey, and by a forced march, travelling a good part of the night, I arrived at the time fixed.

But it was all in vain ; neither the entreaties of the Governor of Bogotá, nor those of the local Governor, nor my own, availed to change the doctor's determination. Serious family troubles, of which he had notice by telegram, obliged him to start without delay on the first steamer ; so the following morning he set out for the port of Buenaventura on the Pacific Ocean.

But my long journey was not utterly wasted, for if I did not succeed in keeping this celebrated leper doctor, I was able to converse with him for several hours, and receive scientific rules and instructions of great importance for my mission, of which I hope to make use when the time comes. This celebrated specialist in leprosy, who was one of the Presidents of the Berlin Congress in 1896, and was considered one of the most eminent specialists attending that meeting, is not yet old, but has had time to visit all the countries more or less infected with leprosy. His great work "*La Léprose*" of more than 600 pages, by the consent of the learned is the most complete book in that line that has, so far, been published. It obtained the gold medal at the Paris Universal Exhibition in 1900, and later obtained the first prize from the scientific Institute of France. Dr. Nansen of Norway, being unable for reasons already given, to accept the invitation of the Governor of Cauca to undertake this difficult and delicate mission, recommended Dr. Santon, feeling sure that he would be well replaced. In conclusion let me say, without scandalizing the wiseacres of the old world, that Dr. Santon is a Benedictine.....

My business in Cauca was not limited to seeing and conversing with Dr. Santon. With two other members, named by the local Governor, I had to form a committee and choose a place or places suitable for the erection of provincial lazarettos for Cauca ; for this reason it was necessary that I should go to the city of Popayan,

the capital of the department and the seat of government, to accomplish the second part of my mission. It took me three days more to reach Popayan from Cali ; I arrived on the 30th July and was hospitably received at the Seminary under the care of the French Lazarists, who have lately found a home here. My task was easy. Dr. Santon, a few days before, at the Governor's request, had sought and found a site for the first Cauca lazaretto, a little over half a mile from the city, near the cemetery. The Commission had only to examine and approve of the French doctor's choice and send notice to the Governor General at Bogotá.

This is quite a victory for us. For many years I have preached from the pulpit and maintained in conferences that the lazarettos should be erected near the towns, or in the neighbourhood of some populous centre, for many reasons which it is not necessary to repeat ; I added that the lazarettos should not be colonies like those of Agua de Dios and Contratacion, but real hospitals reserved solely for lepers, with the exception only of the religious, men and women, who have to tend them and prepare them for death ; but till now I had spoken in vain. Dr. Santon, however, in the memorandum he wrote in French, and which has been translated and published officially, is of my opinion ; and I trust that in future the Governor General as well as the local Governors will make this the rule, thus greatly contributing to the success of our Salesian Mission.

On the 7th inst. in the presence of the Archbishop and of all the ecclesiastical and civil authorities I gave a conference in the cathedral of Popayan urging all to give moral and material help to this work of social regeneration and true charity. For this end I beg your prayers, and your blessing for

Your devoted son in J. C.
EVASIUS RABAGLIATI
Salesian Missionary.

BRAZIL.

From S. Paolo to Matto Grosso.

(Fr. Malan's account).

Very Reverend Don Rua,

After a journey of more than four months' duration, I returned the day before yesterday

to Cuyabà. On the 13th of February I left the port of Cuyabà on the steam launch *Ipiranga*, in charge of a band of Sisters of Mary Help of Christians, on their way to the city of Corumbà, to establish a school for the education of young girls.

The voyage was delightful, owing chiefly to the attention of Commendatore Enrico Sant' Anna, travelling companion, intimate friend and defender of the late Mgr. Lasagna and a great benefactor of our houses in Corumbà. The voyage lasted four days, the expenses being paid by the Government, which is always anxious to assist undertakings having for their object higher education and progress.

And certainly the foundation of a school for the education of girls is a fact which redounds to the credit of the rising city of Corumbà; this House, which the good sisters are about to open, will be as a garden for the cultivation of all the religious and moral virtues so necessary for the mothers of families, on whom depends to a great extent the future of Society. This was perfectly understood by the inhabitants of Corumbà, who received the Sisters with demonstrations of enthusiastic gratitude. From the day of their arrival until the 1st of March, when the college was opened there was a constant succession of visitors at the house of Mrs. de Carvalho, where they were hospitably entertained. Thus were finally satisfied the earnest desires of the families of Corumbà, who had made such urgent appeals for this end, especially in May 1897 during the visit of the Superioress General of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

*In search of help for the Colony of the S. Heart
— At Rio Janeiro — From Rio Janeiro by
land to Barreiro.*

On the 1st of March I started for the Federal capital, sailing on the river Paraguay, calling at Assumption, in Paraguay, and the city of La Plata in search of supplies for the Mission of Matto Grosso. For that which now preoccupies us is the wonderful development of this Mission, which requires the establishment of another colony at a distance of ten leagues from the present one; this is to obviate the danger arising from the crowding together of more than 350 savages who, although somewhat civilized by the teachings of our holy religion, do not at once lose their native ferocity.

Beautiful and consoling is this work of civilization and religious instruction, which will eventually establish peace in these immense territories so frequently devastated by fratricidal wars.... but at what a cost to the missionaries!

For, too often means are wanting, and we are constantly obliged to have recourse to the charity of the inhabitants of Matto Grosso, who, thanks be to God, have never been deaf to our prayers. But the civilization of the very large tribe of the *Coroados Bororos* who people the immense, unexplored forests of Matto Grosso (a country ten times the size of England) is such an undertaking as to require the help of all. The same hope which induced me to undertake my last long journey, encourages me to send you this letter; the hope of finding some generous souls who will take to heart the furthering of these conquests of religion and civilization.

I went therefore to Rio Janeiro to get help for our Mission from the Federal Government. His Excellency the President granted me a special audience at the palace of Petropolis, which lasted a whole hour, and was most cordial and interesting. From the Government I obtained several hundreds of military cloaks for the use of the poor *Bororòs*, and the Minister of Public Works granted free transport on the state railways for all goods for the Colony. Having thus gained my object, with a heart full of gratitude also towards many illustrious persons in the capital and other cities of the federation, I set off for S. Paolo, intending to reach the last station on the railway, and from there to push on towards the State of Goyaz, continuing my journey by land to the Colony of Araguaya and Cuyabà, traversing thus a great part of the State of Minas Geraes, the whole State of Goyaz and almost the whole length of the State of Matto Grosso. For having touched at San Paolo, and being due at the Colony in the month of June, it was much more difficult for me to return to Rio Janeiro, and from there by sea to La Plata, and then reascend slowly to Cuyabà and from Cuyabà ride to Barreiro. I decided, however, to make the journey by land, for the sake of visiting the State of Goyaz, in which great enthusiasm for our Mission has recently been enkindled and the same time to give an opportunity of approaching the Sacraments to many good Christians, who have but rarely a chance of seeing a priest.

(To be continued).



The feast of the Patron of the Congregation.

St. Francis de Sales, the model of bishops, and eminent teacher of Our Lord's favourite virtues, meekness and humility, is commemorated by the Church on the 30th of January, a day not so long sped from us, nor so far away, at all events, that his life and works may not appeal to us anew, and induce us to gain by his eloquent example. His sweetness and charity are the constant themes of his panegyrists, but he had besides, a manner all his own, of inspiring confidence and perseverance, and he never tired of recommending hope in the mercy and goodness of God.

"The firmness of our trust," he says, "in the joys of eternal life, should make us lose sight of the inconveniences and wearisomeness of passing troubles, and as long as we are here below we should not lose sight of the fact, that we are exiles from God and our true native country." "Who will hasten the day," he exclaims, "of my liberation? Happy they who confide in God, who is Almighty, and who, as a Father, is ready and willing to give us all that is good. Unhappy they who put their trust in creatures, whose promises nearly always far exceed their deeds."

In taking St. Francis for his patron, Don Bosco followed him in his unbounded confidence in God, and that to such an extent, that many of his works were undertaken with reliance on Providence for their sole support. But he was never disappointed. Let their examples draw us into their ways of thinking and acting, and our reward will be the same.

On that day, where the number of Salesian Co-operators is anything considerable, a conference is held, and, by fulfilling the ordinary conditions a plenary indulgence may be gained.

It occurs conveniently in the first month of the year when good resolutions suggest themselves, and just after Our Superior General's circular letter, which appeals to them on so many heads. May the wonderful multiplicity of St. Francis' undertakings urge all to redouble their aid in the promotion of the works of their association.

(Details of the celebration of the feast will be given in another issue.)

An anniversary.

The month just passed brings the revival of other sad but endearing memories. It was in this issue of the corresponding month of last year, that we had to record the death of the Rev. Juvenal Bonavia, who had been a pioneer of the Salesian work in England, and had been for a long time responsible for the editing of this periodical. In one number a year or two back, he had published an article on the early death of one of the pioneers of Salesian work in America, and had entitled it "a sad anniversary." He was but giving a heading to affix to his own memorial notice. His loss is still felt by many, but the memory of him is not without a touch of encouragement and consolation, as the example of his life comes back to us.

Nor will his name be soon forgotten in the midst of those for whom he spent the early years of his stay in London. The parish church at Battersea is being adorned with an altar to Our Lady of the Holy Souls as a memorial to him, to which many of those who knew and admired the priest, and had listened to his words in that church, have generously contributed. We recommend his eternal repose to the prayers of our readers.

Rome. The jubilee celebrations.The Marian Exhibition.

The long expectant hopes of the Holy Father, that the celebration of the great festival of 1904 should be worthy of the solemnity and importance of the occasion, were built on good foundations.

As a prelude to the feast two imposing assemblies were held. The first was that of the international Marian Exhibition, which was opened in the Pontifical Lateran palace on Nov. 27th. His Eminence Cardinal Ferrata in the inaugural address raised a joyful hymn of praise to the Queen of heaven, and "in the name of Pius IX. who proclaimed the dogma, in the name of Leo XIII. who announced the jubilee celebrations and of Pius X. who presided over them, and whose bust, raised on a special throne, was conspicuous from every part of the hall, declared the exhibition opened. There could be seen whatever was precious and rare which the arts have inspired in honour of Our Blessed Lady. The principal sections of the exhibition have already been noticed in a previous issue.

The Congress.

From Nov. 30th to Dec. 4th the universal Marian Congress was held in the Constantine Basilica of the holy Apostles, where, from the time of Sixtus IV. to Pius IX. the Sovereign Pontiffs had been accustomed to give Benediction of the most Blessed Sacrament every year on the eve of the 8th of December. The commission of Cardinals, their Eminences Cardinals Vincent Vannutelli, Dominic Ferrata, Mariano Rampolla and Joseph Vives presided over the assembly which included many other Cardinals, as well as Archbishops, bishops from all countries and a large gathering of the faithful. Cardinal Vannutelli gave the opening discourse in Latin, which was followed by an address from the Archbishop of Pisa, the Vice-President of the Congress.

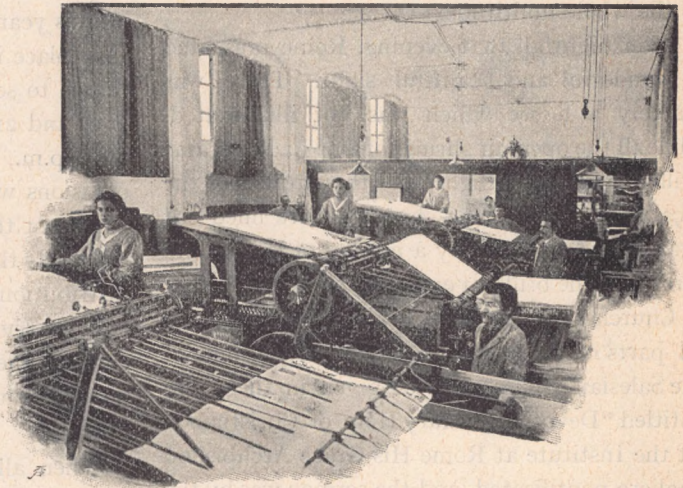
Many different languages offered a combined testimony of the world-wide devotion to the Mother of God, and each orator found many of

his own nation among the vast crowd of visitors who formed the international congress. In our connection, one section of the propositions adopted by the congress are important as they relate to the influence of the press. Among these resolutions we find the following :

Considering the immense evil that an impious and immoral press insinuates into civil society by books, periodicals, papers, and illustrations ;

Considering the duty which binds all catholics of striving to suppress such literature, and of exercising the apostolate of diffusing wholesome literature ;

Considering the many insidious ways, in which the evil press gets its publications into christian families :



Printing department of the Salesian Bulletin.

Considering that one of the primary ends of the congress should be the promotion of devotion to our Lady and to check the evil influences that ensnare so many souls ;

This Marian Congress held at Rome, December 1904 recommends :

1st That all devout clients of Mary should do their utmost to put down the circulation of impious and immoral papers and books.

2nd That they should, while supporting catholic literature, strive to hide the public display of irreligious pictures and cartoons.

3rd That heads of families and institutions should withdraw their custom from those who sell or dispose of such literature or papers.

4th That every effort be made by those periodicals devoted to the cause of God and Our

Lady, to spread these recommendations and to bring them often to the notice of their readers.

The solemnity of the 8th of December.

But the crowning glory of the whole celebration was the papal Mass in the Vatican Basilica. About 10 o'clock on the morning of the 8th of December the papal procession commenced with all the accustomed ceremony. The cortège was composed of the whole of the pontifical court including one hundred and sixty bishops and thirty cardinals. In the Julian chapel His Holiness performed the ceremony of the coronation of the picture of Mary Immaculate and on withdrawing the veil the precious crown of twelve stars about Our Lady's head was revealed to the whole multitude.

After nightfall that evening, Rome presented a wonderful and beautiful sight. There was scarcely a house which was not illuminated, while all the open-air shrines of Our Lady became brilliant focuses of light, and the outlines of the façades of most of the churches were lined out against the darkness by a myriad of lamps and torches. The brilliant example set by the Mother of Churches was not without rival celebrations in all parts of the world. Accounts from some of the Salesian Houses will be given in the pages entitled "Devotion to Mary Help of Christians". At the Institute at Rome His Grace Archbishop Cagliero pontificated, and the sermon was by the secretary to the Association of Salesian Co-operators Fr. Trione, who was also one of the under-secretaries of the Marian Congress. Our Blessed Lady will not be slow in rewarding the efforts made, to keep her extraordinary feast day with becoming splendour.

The School-children's day at Battersea. (London).

"How happy the children are! To see them enjoying themselves almost makes one feel young again!" What familiar expressions these are, and how many times they have escaped the lips in the Christmas season just past. But to those who have been the cause of the pleasure and happiness, the sight of the children's enjoyment brings a peculiar touch of genuine satisfaction.

The *Bulletin* has a genial task every New Year in mentioning the children's annual tea-party and entertainment at West Battersea. There are some good things there cannot be too much of, in spite of the old established saying, and the children of the Sacred Heart Schools evidently think their tea-party among the number, for it never fails to draw them in full strength and to put them in the best of spirits. To some of them it is almost the only bright feature in the long wintry season, which means to too many of them a lengthy period of suffering and want. No wonder the tea-party day rises up before them as bright patch on their cloudy horizon, and no wonder they enjoy it so heartily when it does come.

This yearly gathering is generally arranged to take place in the first or second week after the return to school, and was held this year on the 20th and 21st of Jan. Commencing punctually at 4. p.m., the good things customary on such occasions were speedily demolished, more quickly almost than they could be supplied; but gradually the demands for more subsided, and the distribution of Christmas crackers produced in turn merry shouts of enjoyment; but, as the entertainment was fixed for five or soon after, no time could be lost in repairing to the scene of action.

When all were seated and eagerly awaiting the rising of the curtain, a hearty clapping of hands announced something extraordinary and evidently most welcome. It was the arrival of Sir Alfred and Lady Turner, the kind benefactors who had provided the children with all their entertainment. After an address of welcome the curtain rose, and the audience were treated to two hours of pleasant music and acting, in a delightful adaptation of the play of "The Forty Thieves." Between the acts, selections were given by the band of the Salesian School.

The day's programme had spread out for four hours or more and had come to an end at last. The children had spent a happy afternoon and evening, which will be long remembered by them, perhaps even form part of those pleasant recollections to which we all look back in after

years, bringing with them thoughts of gratitude towards those, who, amid their many calls and busy life, also think of the happiness of the little ones.

Malta.

It is just a year ago that our readers became acquainted with the new Salesian Institute at Sliema in the island of Malta. The year has seen steady progress and judging from the ac-

of enjoyment." While re-echoing his sentiments of appreciation and our good wishes, we give the article *in extenso*, hoping that many in other lands may emulate the thoughtfulness of those who are proving such good friends to the Institute in Malta, and to the cause of education and charity.

"I had the good fortune to be one of a few friends of Father O'Grady's who were present at a delightful little entertainment given by the boys of St. Patrick's on Xmas Eve. As some of your readers, particularly those who take an



Staff and pupils of St. Patrick's Industrial School, Sliema, Malta.

count of the Christmas festivities, the school has gained the sympathy of a wide circle of friends and well-wishers, among them the editor of the *Daily Malta Chronicle* who, in presenting the following article to his readers prefaces it thus "We publish it with sincere pleasure, as we have followed with interest each step of this infant institution, and as it is one more evidence of the way in which a small but important section of our rising generation is being looked after, and taken care of, under the direction of the Rev. P. J. O'Grady, whom Providence was pleased to send amongst us, and who evidently knows how to mix with work a judicious measure

interest in our young folk, might wish to know something about it, I thought of giving you an account of what took place at the Institute on that and the following evenings—that is if you can spare enough space for it. One of the large halls had been fitted up as a charming crib, and the boys dressed as shepherds sang to the accompaniment of the sweet strains of music, and came to render homage to the child Jesus. The crib was most artistically arranged and decorated, and reflected great credit on the artists, the Brothers of the House. Then a huge box, containing toys and other good things,—the gift of a kind friend,—was produced, and each boy

drew his share from its deep recesses, returning to his seat beaming with merriment and pleasure at his good luck. We were then conducted to the Chapel, which I was told is only temporary, until a larger one, which is in course of construction, is completed. The little Chapel to which we were led is a marvel of neatness and speaks of the good taste of those who are in charge of it. Here we were privileged to assist at midnight Mass said by Father O'Grady, from whom we also received Holy Communion, and when the service was over, the Director, with his usual hospitality, provided us with some choice refreshments. A little after one the company dispersed.

"On Sunday the boys were sent to their homes to spend Xmas with their people, and I was sincerely pleased to understand that, without a single exception, they all turned up at the appointed hour. Not one would change his new for his old home.

"On Tuesday I was again one of a small party who were asked to the Institute to hear a Lantern Lecture by Mr. Francis Reynolds of the Civil Government Schools. The subject chosen, Geography, was a most happy one for it was both instructive, entertaining and appropriate. From beginning to end, except when they broke out clapping and cheering, Mr. Reynolds kept the boys in breathless attention. He spoke in the Maltese language, for although a sound knowledge of English and Italian is being imparted to the boys, I learnt from one of the Brothers that they are not as yet sufficiently versed in the intricacies of the language, so as to sufficiently appreciate the full value of the words which accompanied each picture. The boys were asked to follow the footsteps of the King Emperor in his last trip to the Mediterranean. Mr. Reynolds took us to Gibraltar, thence to Malta, Naples, Rome, Paris and back to London in the short space of one hour and ten minutes. It is needless for me to describe the delight of the boys as each successive view with its wonderful colouring and vivid figures was reflected on the broad screen. Mr. Reynolds took the opportunity to sandwich, at opportune moments words of advice, which, couched as they were, were bound to have a decided influence for good,

and the cheers of the guests and the hurrahs of the boys, as Father O'Grady rose to propose a vote of thanks to the kind lecturer, amply testified, if further evidence were wanting, that the lecture had been a decided success.

"The following day was a red letter day for the boys. The round of Christmas amusements provided for them was fittingly ended by an entertainment at the house of an old friend, their oldest friend in fact, Mr. Galea, who engaged Mr. Gardner Brown's Bioscope party to give a performance for them on the afternoon of the 28th. Charity in its various manifestations is hardly ever more productive of good, than when it is accompanied with the giving of pleasure to the poor young children, for they feel that there is somebody in the world who is thinking of them. Mr. Brown showed a magnificent series of bioscope views, and it is easier to imagine than to describe the pleasure derived, not only by the children but by all those present. Rounds of applause greeted each successive "live picture" as it was thrown upon the wall, and Mr. Brown was amply compensated for his dexterous and fatiguing manipulation of the machine by the pleasure thus given to so many young people. Another thing that appealed to the boys, was a delightful performance given by Mr. Gulliver, the clever ventriloquist. His *Joey* and *Tommy* elicited roars of laughter, and it was difficult to convince the boys that they were not hearing the voices and witnessing the antics of beings made of real flesh and blood. It was only when *Joey* was safely stowed in his box and shouting "Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen" in muffled voice that they at last believed that he was only made of paper and rags. "God save the King" on the phonograph sent the little boys running home, happy and content. It is a real pity that, owing to various circumstances, room could only be found for about two dozen people on the first two evenings above referred to."

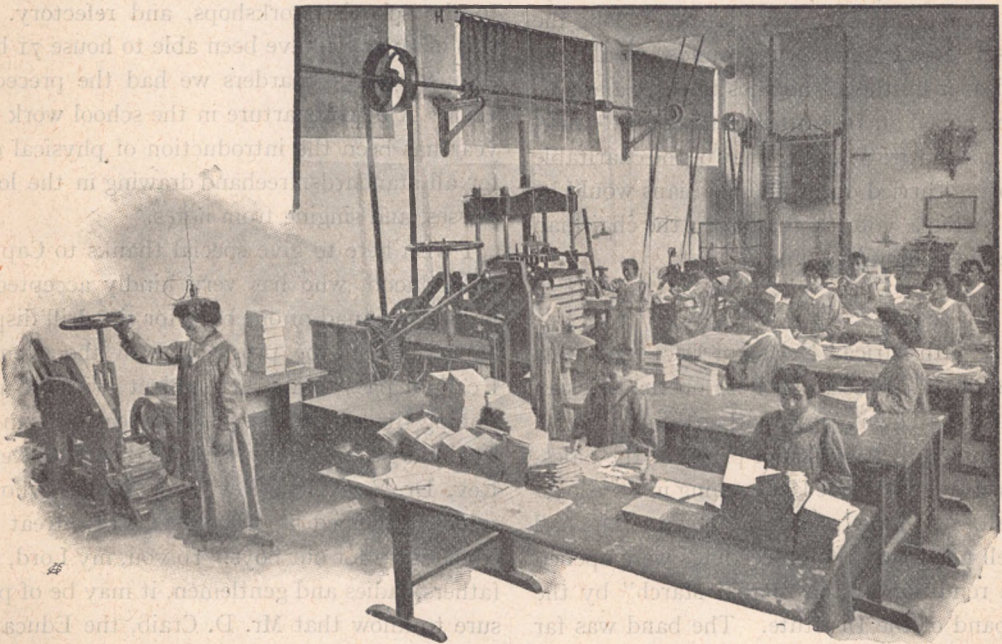
The Salesians in South Africa.

A correspondent from Cape Town sends us the following :

It is now eight years since the disciples of Don

Bosco first set foot in South Africa. In December 1896 the Rev. Fr. Barni, with one theological student and five lay brothers, landed in Cape Town at the invitation of the Most Rev. Dr. Leonard, Vicar Apostolic of the western province. They were housed in a property in Buitenkant street, and almost immediately commenced their self-sacrificing labours in the interests of the poor boys of the Cape. They began in a small way, but the report of the work soon spread throughout South Africa, and applications for admission came pouring in from all

of persons interested in the work attended. Amongst those present were The Very Rev. Father Tozzi, Superior of the Salesians in Cape Town, Mr. J. C. O'Riley (President of the Particular Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and a gentleman who had the honour of knowing personally the venerable founder of the Salesian Congregation, Don Bosco), Mr. J. B. Callanan (President of St. Mary's Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul) Capt F. A. Shawelhood, (President of St. Aloysius' Conference), Chevalier T. J. O'Reilly, C. M. G., the Rev.



Stitching department of the Salesian Bulletin.

quarters. The inmates now (exclusive of the community) number seventy-one and still numerous applications for admission are received weekly, most of which owing to lack of accommodation have to be refused. With a view, however to the furtherance of the good work, so ably carried out by the staff of the Institute, it was recently decided to call a special meeting of Co-operators, to form permanent committees of ladies and gentlemen to assist the Salesians in their work. Accordingly a meeting of the gentlemen Co-operators was held in St. Aloysius' Hall (kindly lent by the Marist Brothers) on Tuesday, Dec. 30th 1904, when a large number

J. J. O'Reilly, the Rev. Luke O'Reilly, the Rev. Father Leeson, Major Kennedy, etc., etc.

On the motion of Major Kennedy, Mr. J. C. O'Riley was voted to the chair. Having thanked the gentlemen present for the honour confirmed upon him, the chairman briefly explained the object of the meeting. The Very Rev. Fr Tozzi S. C. gave a short history of the work of the Salesians, and especially of the duties and responsibilities of the Co-operators. The election of a committee and officers was then proceeded with and with the following result:

President, Mr. J. C. O'Riley; Vice President, Mr. J. B. Callanan; Treasurer, Mr. T. White;

Secretary, Mr. M. J. J. Healy ; Press Correspondent, Capt. F. A. Shawelhood; Committee, Messrs. O. Nannucci, C. Mackey, P. J. Heuston, A. G. Heffernan, and three more to be selected later on from the neighbouring parishes. It was also decided to ask Madame O'Rielly to preside at a meeting of Lady Co-operators at a future date, to organise a Ladies' Committee, on similar lines.

Several of those present having remarked on the want of accomodation in the House in Buitenkant Street, and the general unsuitableness of the premises for the work carried on there, Chevalier O'Reilly (City Councillor) stated that he had it on good authority, that before long the Somerset Road cemetery grounds would be handed over by the authorities to the Salesians, when he hoped an Institute worthy of the cause, and of South Africa, and worthy of the charitable work being carried on by the Salesians would be built. After a vote of thanks to the chairman the meeting adjourned *sine die*.

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The "South African News" of Dec. 22nd 1904 devotes liberal space to an item on the Salesian work at Cape Town. Among other things it says :

The annual distribution of prizes of the Salesian Institute took place last evening in St. Aloysius' Hall, St. John-street, Cape Town. The hall was well filled, and the proceedings were opened by the rendition of the "Papal March" by the brass band of the Institute. The band was far too strong for the acoustic properties of the hall, with the result that any effect was lost in a vast volume of sound. A speech of welcome having been made by one of the pupils, the boys of the junior school rendered "Who's that a-calling," after which the Rev. E. M. Tozzi, S.C., said :

My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I wish to thank you first for attending our humble distribution of prizes, and for the generous support you have this year, as in the past, accorded to our Institute. I hope that the work done during the year will justify the interest you take in it, and give you, although perhaps no incitement is needed, a fresh stimulus towards assisting us in the further development of the present school.

I will now make a few remarks on the progress

of the Institute, on our stand at the Exhibition, and on the Committee of Co-operators just formed. Applications for the admittance of destitute boys have through the bad times become so repeated lately, that we have grown too numerous for the small place in Buitenkant-street, and have had to rent a small house close by to make room for more boys. We had to imitate the birds who as they grow in number, scatter and build fresh nests. This new arrangement has enabled us to receive a larger number of boys and assign

MORE SUITABLE ROOMS.

to the schools, workshops, and refectory. In this manner we have been able to house 71 boys against the 53 boarders we had the preceding year. A new departure in the school work this year has been the introduction of physical drill for all standards, freehand drawing in the lower classes, and singing from notes.

I wish here to give special thanks to Captain Shawelhood, who has very kindly accepted to prepare a squad of our boys for the drill display announced in the programme of the evening. I cannot pass to another subject without mentioning the kindly assistance we receive from the local clergy, especially Rev. Father J. O'Reilly, Rev. Dr. S. Welch. Rev. L. O'Reilly, who assiduously helped us on occasions of retreat and conferences for our boys. To you, my Lord, rev. fathers, ladies and gentlemen, it may be of pleasure to know that Mr. D. Craib, the Education Department Inspector reported as follows at the last visit —"The school continues to improve in efficiency. Excellent order and discipline prevail and the record of progress is satisfactory." This year the teachers and boys have put their best abilities to work to prove their right to the name of School of Arts and Trades at the present Exhibition, At Block J., No 41, the showcase is the work of our cabinet-makers; it is made from walnut in an elaborate Corinthian style. The plinth is ornamented with carved bunches of flowers in the centre, the scroll of the spandrels in the corners is perhaps the boldest carving. Four columns support the case the lower part of the shaft is fluted and reeded, while the upper part is ornamented with spiral festoons of lilies. The entablature upper

part is ornamented with falling festoons of flowers while the frames show different carvings of acanthus leaves, of shell ornaments and echinus. On an equally ornamented pedestal the statue of Good Hope crowns the work, holding the anchor and a crown; at the foot of the statue lays the colonial coat of arms. In each one of the windows each of the other four departments exhibits its work. The printers have a large assortment of job-work and essays, with several pamphlets of process printing. The bookbinders exhibit specimens of all kinds of binding from the most elaborate and artistic to

and sufficient perfection in each department. But even in this matter our anxiety is greatly relieved by the Association of Co-operators that recently bound up in one body the benefactors of Cape Town. The active committee of the Association formed under the presidency of Mr. J. C. O'Reilly bids us hope well for the future. We hope that they will help in the different works of charity, and now especially in the raising patiently and steadily of a building fund as well as to enlist all men of goodwill in the Association of Salesian Co-operators.

My Lord, rev. Fathers, ladies, and gentlemen,



Folding department of the Salesian Bulletin.

the plainest work of the trade. The tailors show a well-finished smoking dress, while the shoemakers have a complete display of work: Wellington boots, gentlemen's and youths' boots and shoes; the shoemakers enter into competition for cutting out, the finishing as well as the light weight of the articles.

We hope all our friends will patronise the different departments by giving and obtaining work for our boys. Without work our institute cannot subsist. What hampers us most still, is the need of a larger building, as only in a larger place shall we be able to keep a greater number of boys, which will necessitate a complete staff. It is only with a complete staff that our work will attain its full development

it is the confidence of your kind support and assistance, after that of God, that make the poor Salesians in Cape Town look forward to a bright future. (Applause).

The band then performed Hoffman's "Sweet Recollections," and this was followed by the Institute choir singing "Blow, gentle gales" (Bishop), which was very creditably done. Physical drill by pupils of the Institute was the next item on the programme, and to the strains of the band the various evolutions and exercises were satisfactorily performed. Selections from "Il Trovatore" (Verdi) led up to the distribution of prizes, which was performed by the Coadjutor. A most generous offer had recently been made by Government, and that was if they renounced

Bishop the Right Rev. Dr. Rooney.

On the conclusion of the prize-giving the Bishop said that he could congratulate them on their display that evening, and he was sure that it had been a very great success. It was a great pleasure and a consolation to everyone who had the interest of the Institute at heart, to see what progress the boys had made, and the supporters of the Institute could feel now that by the help of God the work that had begun with many difficulties was fairly established, and he (the Bishop) trusted that it was on a fair way to success. The child that had spoken that evening the introductory words, had mentioned that some of the boys were about to leave the Institute, having finished their work there, and others had the advantage to stay there for some time longer. All of them would feel impressed with the idea of the work of the Institute and would work for that end. The supporters and masters of the Institute had been labouring that the boys might be fitted to fight the battle of life and prove themselves worthy members of society. He trusted every one of them would try to keep that before them throughout their lives. Their worthy superiors were

SACRIFICING THEIR LIVES

and their comforts, not only in Cape Town but elsewhere for the sole end of enabling the boys to become good Christians and worthy members of society. All who had the best interests of the boys at heart felt consoled when they thought that through the help of God so much had been done. Considering the many difficulties the Institute had to contend with and the bad times it had passed through he (the Bishop) felt that they could feel grateful to God for what had been done. The Very Rev. E. M. Tozzi had said that the work of the Institute was hampered for want of a proper place. Well, from the very beginning the place wherein the Institute was at present established was never looked upon as a place fit for the work, and so simply temporary arrangements were made. The superiors had looked forward to making provision for a proper place in which the work of the Institute might be carried out.

all rights, if they had any, to the old cemetery in Somerset-road the Government was willing to give back the cemetery as a place where a proper institute could be formed. (Applause). Of course they were only too glad to make that promise, but to build a proper Salesian Institute they would require many sacrifices, but he felt sure that friends would not be wanting to enable them to carry out the work and to see the Salesian Institute housed in a proper place where the fathers and superiors might have ample scope to carry out the work of making the boys useful members of society. The boys were about to enjoy a well-merited holiday, and he hoped that they would have a happy Christmas and a merry New Year, and many happy returns. He hoped that if they were spared to the following Christmas that they would have improved vastly by then on the entertainment given that evening. They had done their work well, and had reflected great credit on every one connected with the training of them. They owed gratitude to Captain Shawelhood for what he had done for them, and he (the Bishop) thought that he might congratulate Captain Shawelhood as well as the boys. (Applause). They had given a very good display of physical drill, and they ought to feel deeply grateful to Captain Shawelhood for giving them instruction in such work. (Applause).

The proceedings terminated with the band playing the "Victoria Grand March" (Beyer) and "God Save the King".

TO THE READER

When applying for a copy of this periodical, please state whether you already receive our "Bulletin" (Italian, French, Spanish, German, Portuguese, or Polish) and if you desire to have it suspended henceforth, or not.

Communications and offerings may be addressed to our Superior-General:

The Very Rev. MICHAEL RUA,
Salesian Oratory, Turin, Italy.

International Postal Orders to be made payable at the P. O. Turin — **Cheques** on the National, or other Banks, Turin. — **Paper Currency** (Bank-notes, Dollars, etc.) can be cashed at Turin without loss or discount. — **Letters** containing money or objects of value should be registered.



DEVOTION TO OUR LADY *Help of Christians*



THE history of the familiar and universal devotion to Mary Most Holy is the story of the wonderful deeds of the Queen of Heaven in favour of all Christian peoples. But by the special *Devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians* is generally understood devotion towards the Mother of God as practised in her Sanctuary of Valdocco in Turin. But if a little consideration be exercised, it will be clear, that devotion to Our Lady under the title *Help of Christians* is really identified with the devotion, which the Catholic Church has always had towards the Mother of God, and it is the one prominent aspect in which the Church, ever since Apostolic times, has regarded her heavenly protectress.

And indeed Our Lady assumed or was given the part of *Help of Christians*, on that most solemn of days and moments, when our dying Saviour commanded the beloved disciple, and in his person all christians to look upon His Mother as theirs. The love and confidence, which the Apostle St. John placed in Mary from that time, were the first acts of that homage which the following ages have unceasingly offered to Mary *Help of Christians*. And if it is one of the glories of Mary to have been prefigured in the old Testament as was her Divine Son, interpreters declare that the noblest figures under which she is presented to us are those of the heroines Deborah,

Judith and Esther, in other words as an advocate and protectress of Christian peoples.

St. Augustine was the author of a prayer which begs the bestowal of her powerful aid on those who cherish her name and honour. St. Ephraim expressly calls her; *The Help and aid of sinners, the salvation of all christians who have recourse to her.* St. Gregory Nazianzen calls her a *constant and powerful aid*; St. Andrew of Crete: *The strength of all Christians and refuge of all the faithful* and St. Anselm of Canterbury calls her the "*cœlestis auxiliatrix*," our *heavenly protectress and helper*. And yet the Litany of Loreto was long without the title of *Help of Christians*, until other events brought it more strikingly before the world.

Cividale (ITALY).—A near relation of mine had fallen ill with a dangerous malady. During a whole week the doctors had tried their skill, but all their efforts had been baffled. Paralysis was setting in, and the patient could hardly swallow a drop of anything so that she began to sink rapidly. At this moment of general consternation in the house, I sent a telegram to the Very Rev. Don Rua at Turin asking him to get his boys at the Oratory to beseech Our Lady *Help of Christians*, and we commenced a novena at the same time. It was three o'clock in the afternoon when I sent the telegram. By half past ten that evening there was no change, and I recommended the sufferer to try to join with us at least mentally in saying a *Salve Regina*. But

a surprise awaited us. At eleven o'clock that same evening, the woman who had been unable to take nourishment for some time, took two small draughts of milk. A change was evidently setting in. It was so. A few hours convinced us of the efficacy of Our Lady's intercession, and a short time sufficed to enable the woman to resume her accustomed occupations.

Rev. P. S.
(*Salesian Co-operator*).

December 1904.

Tunis.—We had left our Mother House at Nizza Monferrato and embarked at Marseilles *en route* for Tunis. After some delay in getting off, a few hours sail brought us into the difficult waters of the Gulf of Lyons and a strong gale was blowing. In the midst of the efforts of the crew to get clear of this stormy sea, an accident befell one of the machines and the boat could not proceed. The engineers exerted all their strength and skill to repair the damage, and when we found ourselves going forward again it seemed that all was well. But it was only for a few minutes and then another stand-still followed. Cries of distress were now heard and a wreck seemed imminent. There were four hundred passengers on board, and though the second starting had raised their hopes, there seemed no prospect now. We religious were the least discomfited, and with a few passengers retired to a cabin to recite the Rosary and Litany to Mary Help of Christians. We had only said them once and were preparing to recommence, when an English Steamer answered our cry of distress. After a short time we were safely onwards again, and put in at Ajaccio where our first care was to offer thanks for our speedy deliverance.

Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

December, 1904.

Catania (Sicily).—I had for some time been in great anxiety at the thought of an operation which the physicians had decided was the only thing that could cure my ailment. I had held back for a long while and at last sought refuge in a novena to Mary Help of Christians, making a promise of publication in the *Salesian Bulletin*

and sending an offering to the Sanctuary at Turin. The novena was not yet half way through when the cause of anxiety totally disappeared. With a grateful heart I now fulfil my promise of publication.

F. F. C.
(*Salesian Co-operator*).

Aug. 1904.

Belfast (IRELAND). A Child of Mary wishes through the *Salesian Bulletin* to return thanks for favours received through the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians and encloses small offering in thanksgiving and promises to acknowledge and send a larger offering if she obtains two other favours.

January 11th, 1905.

Belfast (IRELAND). Would you kindly have a Mass said at the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians in thanksgiving for my husband's recovery from a dangerous illness.

B. McG.

January 11th, 1905.

Kinsale (IRELAND). I promised to have it published in the *Salesian Bulletin* if I obtained two spiritual favours. I obtained one, thank God, and I partly obtained the other which I hope and trust will be completely granted soon by the most merciful Sacred Heart of Jesus through the intercession of His most Immaculate Mother Mary Help of Christians. I will send an offering as soon as I can.

ESPERANZA.

January 8th, 1905.

Pittsburg (U. S. of America). Kindly accept the enclosed little offering in thanksgiving for special favour obtained through the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians.

S. M. V.

January 11th, 1905.

Ireland. I beg to offer my heartfelt thanks to Our Lady Help of Christians for a very great temporal favour granted, and I enclose a postal order value five shillings for a Mass as promised in thanksgiving.

January 31st, 1905.

A. Co-operator.

PERMISSU SUPERIORUM

Gerent, GIUSEPPE GAMBINO—Salesian Press, Turin, 1905
Via Cottolengo, 32.

(b) The devotions performed by the little boys of the Oratory in their own private Chapel, including also the Mass at which they daily assist;

(c) All the Services, Novenas, Feasts and Solemnities whatsoever, that are celebrated in the aforesaid church;

(d) The prayers and good works performed by the Salesians themselves and by their protégés in their Homes, Colleges, Hospices, Oratories, Missions, etc., in Italy, in France, in Spain, in England, in Austria, in Switzerland, in America, in Asia, in Africa,—in a word, wherever they are established or may be called by Divine Providence.

4. Participation in the holy Masses will commence on the day after the alms have come to hand; all the other spiritual advantages are enjoyed from the moment of inscription.

5. The contributor, we repeat, of one shilling given once for all, is entitled to put his intentions in all the six Masses and all the other pious works, for his own advantage or for that of his friends, living or dead, and to change the intention in every circumstance according to his particular wants or desires.

6. Inscriptions may also be made in favour of departed friends, of children, and of any class whatsoever of persons, even without their knowledge or consent.

7. Persons desiring to participate more abundantly in these spiritual advantages may do so by repeating the alms of one shilling, thereby multiplying the inscriptions as often as they please.

8. The offerings thus collected are destined for the maintenance of the boys of the Hospice or Oratory founded by Don Bosco on the grounds annexed to the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Salesians are in duty bound to fulfil all the obligations of the Charitable Association as above described.

9. The names of subscribers will be entered on the Registers of the Association and preserved in the Temple of the Sacred Heart, in Rome, for perpetual remembrance.

10. There are two centres for enrolment, one in Rome the other in Turin. Address: The Rev. Rector, Ospizio del Sacro Cuore di Gesù, Via Porta S. Lorenzo, 42, Rome; or, The V. Rev. Michael Rua, Salesian Oratory, Turin, Italy.

APPROBATION.

Pium Opus adprobamus, eidemque largissimam fidelium opem ominamur,
Ex Aed. Vic., die 27 Junii 1888.

L. M. PAROCCHI, Card. Vic.

We approve the "Charitable Association" and we wish it the greatest concourse of the faithful.

Given at Rome, etc.

THE PAPAL BLESSING.

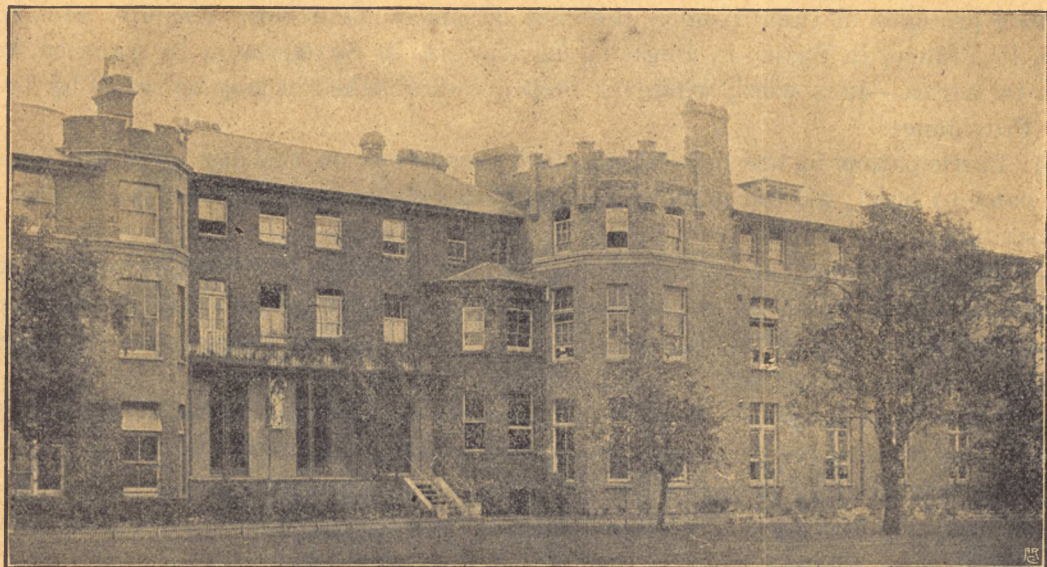
The Holy Father has deigned to accord the blessing asked for the Charitable Association of the Sacred Heart.

1. Given from the Vatican, June 30th, 1888.

ANGELO RINALDI, Chaplain, Sec.

SALESIAN SCHOOLS

SURREY HOUSE, SURREY LANE
BATTERSEA, LONDON, S. W.



DIRECTED AND TAUGHT BY THE SALESIAN FATHERS.

The principal object of this School (which is distinct from the Orphanage) is to provide a classical education at a moderate charge for those boys who desire to study for the priesthood. The course is arranged to meet the requirements of the College of Preceptors and the London University Examinations. Boys who have no vocation for the Ecclesiastical state are prepared for any other career that they may wish to follow. The House is surrounded by a large garden and playground, and is situated in a most healthy locality, a few minutes' walk from the Park.

For particulars apply to the Superior, the Very Rev. Father Macey, Salesian Schools, Surrey Lane, Battersea, London S. W.

The Salesian Fathers have opened a school for boys at their House at Farnborough, Hants. A course similar to that at the above school is given For particulars apply to:

*The Rev. E. Marsh
Salesian Institute
Queens Rd, Farnborough, Hants.*

A preparatory school for little boys has been opened by the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians, in a delightful situation at Chertsey on Thames. Communications to be addressed:

*The Rev. Mother
Eastworth House, Eastworth St.
Chertsey, Surrey*