

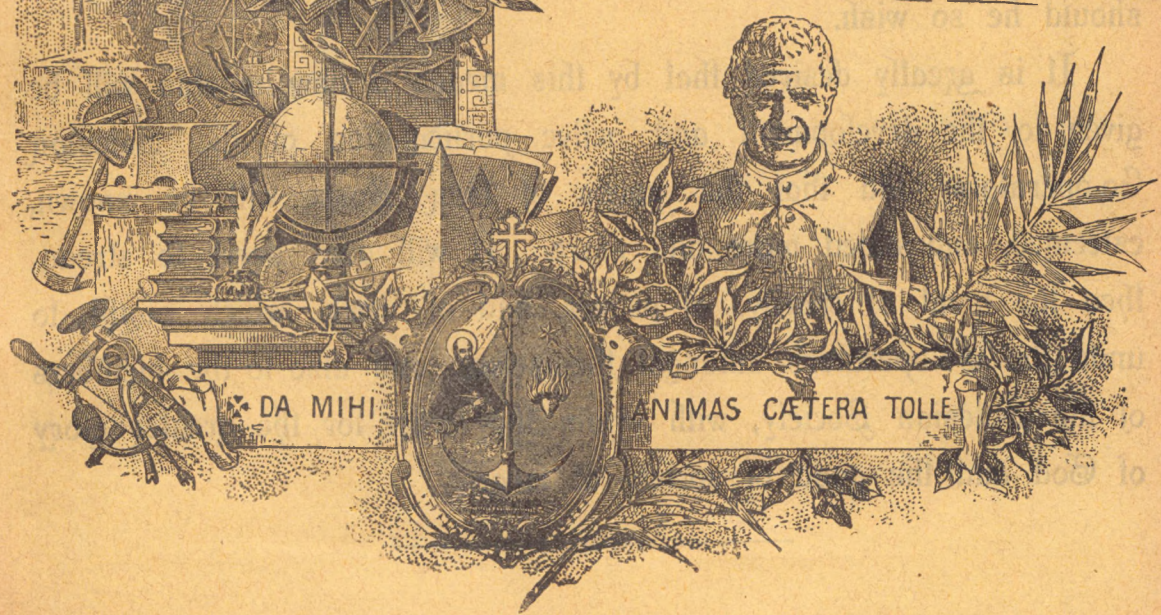


No. 34 - October - 1911

Vol. VI.

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

L. A. D. X. I. I. I.



Important Notice to Readers.



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

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

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

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

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



The Salesian Bulletin

Organ of the Association of Salesian Co-operators

Via Cottolengo 32, Turin, Italy.

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THE SANCTUARY OF OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

CONSTITUTED

A PONTIFICAL BASILICA

THE news of the conferring of this valuable privilege and honour was communicated privately to the Superiors at Turin on the eve of the Feast of St. John the Baptist. It will be remembered that that day is still kept as the name-day of the Superior General, although it is in reality a continuance of the traditional celebration of the day considered to be the name-day of the Ven. John Bosco. The news came, therefore, at a most opportune moment, for any commemoration of Don Bosco would have some connection more or less intimate with

the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians; and as it was naturally the cause for hearty congratulation and rejoicing it should have been sooner announced officially to the Co-operators. However the pontifical decree supplying the announcement was not authorised till July 13th and had then to be transmitted.

The so-called Sanctuary at Turin, dedicated to Mary Help of Christians, is perhaps more fitly described as the Temple of Valdocco. But under whatever name, it is and ever will be an object of veneration and affection to all that form part of the widely-ex-

tended Salesian Family. It is regarded more as the royal seat of the Sovereign who presides over the works of Don Bosco; and therefore none could be indifferent when it is a question of what concerns her honour. "To us,"—our late, revered Superior General, Don Rua, said,—"Mary Help of Chri-

menced in 1864 and opened for divine worship in 1868, the headquarters of an international Archconfraternity in 1869, enriched with artistic and valuable ornaments in 1891, affiliated to the Vatican Basilica in 1906—all these events have tended to diffuse the fame of the Sanctuary into all parts of the



The playgrounds of the Oratory.—Waiting for the Congress.

istians is everything. It is she who most wonderfully guided and inspired Don Bosco in all his undertakings; it is she too, who continues every day her maternal assistance to our works, so that we can repeat with the same truth as Don Bosco did, that we owe everything to Mary Help of Christians.

Another motive causes us to hail this announcement with rejoicing. Com-

globe, and have spread the veneration of the miraculous image which was crowned by the command of His Holiness Leo XIII. in 1903. This latest and special honour which now places our Sanctuary among the most celebrated and most venerated of the temples of Christianity, will arouse enthusiasm all over the world; and the hearts of devout people in every continent will feel

an increase of esteem and devotion to the Help of Christians.

Thus the words of Don Bosco are becoming rapidly a reality; we have quoted them more than once, but each new step forward gives them clearer prominence; "the time will come when every good Christian will profess, along with the devotion to the Most Holy Sacrament and to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a tender love for Mary Help of Christians." Although not yet fixed in the Calendar of the Universal Church, there are very few dioceses which have not obtained the office of *Maria Auxilium Christianorum* from the Holy See; while one of the continents of the globe already has the 24th of May as a Double of the First Class with octave, for Our Lady Help of Christians is the Patroness of the whole of Australia. We frequently hear moreover, that other dioceses are choosing the same Patroness.

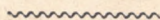
May we venture to probe the secrets of Providence and discover the reason for the development of this devotion? To our mind there is a twofold object: the one is to place upon the lips of all Christians an efficacious battle-cry against the present enemies of the Church; the other to illuminate their minds by the thought that all the treasures of heaven, of which Our Lady is the dispenser, are at the disposal of those who are true to their holy Faith. If these thoughts find an echo in the minds of Readers some fruit will have been already obtained by the new honour bestowed upon the Sanctuary. They will have appealed strongly to the members of the Congress of past pupils

gathered under the shade of the Sanctuary with which many of them were familiar from boy-hood's days, and which will be enhanced in their estimation by its new honours fresh upon it. The closing day of the Congress fell on the Feast of the holy Name of Mary; several Bishops, themselves past students of Don Bosco's, took part in the celebration of the honour and dignity conferred by the Sovereign Pontiff on the home of the Society, and on the whole Salesian Work; and special prayers were offered that the Venerable Founder of the Basilica may soon be raised to the altars of the Church.



INDULGENCES

which may be gained by the Co-operators.



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

Every month.

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

During the month of November.

1. Nov. 21st, Presentation of Our Lady.
2. » 22nd, St. Cecilia, Virgin.

THE PAPAL DOCUMENT

PIUS PP. X.

Ad perpetuam rei memoriam.

ANNO reparaatae salutis MDCCCLXVIII pietate ac religione insignis vir, venerabilis Dei famulus Ioannes Bosco, Salesianae familiae pater ac legifer, Augustae Taurinorum ab imis fundamentis splendidum in honorem Deiparae Virginis Christianorum Adiutricis templum excitandum curavit, corrogata undique stipe, quam Catholici orbis fideles ob innumera divinitus accepta benefacta, grati animi ergo libentes contulerunt. Haec Aedes ingenti mole insignis, decora fronte, geminisque turribus et augusto fornice ornata, intuentium admirationem exterius sibi facile conciliat; interius autem et auro, et marmore, et omnigenae artis operibus renidet. Illuc non modo e Subalpinis, verum etiam e cunctis fere regionibus Italiae, nec non ab exteris quoque nationibus, frequentes fideles, saepe turmatim, opiferae Dei Genetricis inclytam Imaginem quae ipsa in Aede recolitur, deprecaturi, quotannis solent confluere. Etenim quemadmodum ephemerides luculenter testantur, quae ibi singulis mensibus, novem conscriptae linguis, in vulgus prodeunt, Beatissima Virgo Christianorum Auxiliatrix, ex hac pia Aede, veluti e suo majestatis solio, abunde gratias munifica largitur. Ipso in templo, copiosa ac praedivite suppellectile instructo, Klerus, idest sacerdotes e Salesiana familia, cuius domus Princeps ipsi Sanctuario continens est, divinis Sacrisque muniis pietate in exemplum adducenda junguntur. Memorare insuper juvat canonice ibidem erectam Archisodalitatem esse sub titulo et auspiciis Deiparae Virginis Adiutricis, ducentasque et amplius per totum orbem conditas ejusdem nominis atque instituti societates, eidem Archisodalitio legitime esse aggregatas, et quinquagies centena millia sodalium iisdem societatibus inscripta enumerari. Nec silentio quidem praeterendum arbitramur, quadrigentas Ecclesias similiter per universum orbem in honorem ipsius Adiutricis Deiparae aedificatas, huius Imaginem praeferre, illi similem, quae in enunciati templi Taurinensis ara Principe summa fidelium re-

PIUS X. POPE.

In perpetual remembrance.

In the year 1868 of our era, the Venerable Servant of God, John Bosco, a man illustrious both for benevolence and religion, the Founder of the Salesian Society, erected in Turin a splendid temple in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mother of God, Help of Christians; this he did by the means gathered from all parts, freely offered by the faithful of the whole Catholic World as a pledge of their gratitude for innumerable favours received. This temple, remarkable for its size and imposing façade; adorned with towers and a high cupola attracts the admiration of all who see it, while the interior is decorated with gold and marble and works of art. There, every year, not only from Piedmont, but from all parts of Italy and from other countries many of the faithful make pilgrimage, sometimes in large numbers, to pray before the August Image of Our Lady Help of Christians venerated in that temple. Moreover, as is clearly proved from the Bulletin which issues monthly from that same centre, Our Lady Help of Christians grants from this temple, as from the throne of her Majesty, abundant favours. In this church also, with its copious collections of rich vestments, the clergy, the priests, that is, of the Pious Salesian Society, whose mother-house is attached to the said Sanctuary, carry out the sacred ceremonies with a religious decorum worthy of imitation. It should also be remembered that there is there established an Archconfraternity under the title and auspices of Our Lady Help of Christians, and that to it are canonically affiliated more than two hundred associations with the same title and object, spread into all parts of the world and including an enrolment list of about five million members. Nor ought we to leave unmentioned some four hundred Churches built in every part of the globe, in honour of this same Help of Christians, containing her image, copied from that preserved over the high altar of the above-

ligione asservatur. Privilegiis etiam et spiritualibus muneribus, atque indulgentiis singularibus, Aplica haec Sedes inclytum idem templum locupletavit; et ipse Decessor N.er Leo PP. XIII rec: mem: Cardinali Antistiti Taurinensium facultatem commisit, ut sexto Kalendas Junias anno millesimo nongentesimo tertio, pluribus adstantibus Episcopis atque ingenti civium multitudine, thaumaturgae ipsius Virginis Adiutricis Imaginis aureum diadema, sollemni ritu, ipsius nomine et Auctoritate imponeret. Haec animo repetentes, cum Sacerdotes Salesianae Familiae Supremi Moderatores, Nos supplicibus votis flagitaverint, ut ad opiferae Virginis cultum, ipsiusque templi decus adaugendum, superenunciatum Taurinense templum titulo ac dignitate Basilicae Minoris ornare dignaremur, optatis his piis annuendum existimavimus. Quae cum ita sint, permoti etiam amplissimo commendationis officio dilecti filii N.ri Augustini S. R. E. presbiteri Cardinalis Richelmy, ex dispensatione Aplica Archiep.i Taurinensium, Aplica Nostra Auct.e, tenore praesentium Sacram Aedem Augustae Taurinorum, Deo in honorem Deiparae Virginis Christianorum Adiutricis dicatam, ad Basilicae Minoris dignitatem evehimus, omnibus et singulis eidem privilegiis atque honorificentis attributis, quae Minoribus Almae huius Urbis Basilicis de jure competunt.

Decernentes praesentes Literas firmas, validas atque efficaces semper existere et fore, suosque plenarios atque integros effectus sortiri atque obtinere, illisque ad quos spectat sive in posterum spectare poterit plenissime suffragari, sicque in praemissis judicandum esse atque definiendum, irritumque ex tunc et inane fieri, si secus super his a quovis, auctoritate quavis, scienter, sive ignoranter, contingerit attentari. Non obstantibus contrariis quibuscumque.

Datum Romae, apud S. Petrum, sub annulo Piscatoris, die XIII Iulii MCMXI, Pontificatus Nostri Anno Octavo.

R. CARD. MERRY DEL VAL
a Secretis Status.

(L ✠ S)

mentioned church in Turin. The Apostolic See has enriched this same famous temple with privileges and spiritual favours and special indulgences; and our Predecessor himself, Pope Leo XIII., of happy memory, empowered the Cardinal Archbishop of Turin, to place in his (the Pope's) name and by his authority, a diadem of gold upon the wonder-working Image of Our Lady Help of Christians, on the 17th May 1903, in the presence of many of the illustrious episcopate and a great multitude of the faithful.

The Superiors of the Salesian Society, giving due weight to these considerations, have presented their petitions to us, that in order to increase the devotion to Our Help of Christians and at the same time the fame of the said Church we should deign to bestow upon it the title and dignity of a Minor Basilica, We have willingly granted their desires.

Moreover, following the urgent recommendation of Our Beloved Son Augustine Richelmy, Cardinal Priest of the Holy Roman Church, by the Apostolic letters Archbishop of Turin, through this present brief we raise the sacred Temple situated in Turin, dedicated to God under the title of the Blessed Virgin Help of Christians, to the dignity of the Minor Basilicas, with all the privileges and honours which belong to those Basilicas in this city of Rome.

At the same time we decree that these same Letters shall be always binding, valid and efficacious and shall have and maintain their full and entire vigour, and shall always hold in the highest degree in regard to what they refer or may in the future refer to, according to the aforesaid judgment and definition, and that all attempts contrary to the present decree, whether made wittingly or unwittingly by whomsoever or by whatsoever authority shall be immediately null and void; everything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at Rome, at Saint Peter's, under the ring of the Fisherman, July 13th 1911, in the 8th year of Our Pontificate.

R. CARD. MERRY DEL VAL
Secretary of State.

(L ✠ S)



THE 1st CONGRESS OF SALESIAN Past-Pupils.

IT was an insuperable triumph of Don Bosco, of his educative system, of his apostolate! Convened from both hemispheres, from twenty different states, and from the various callings of labour, science, letters, arms, law and the sanctuary, more than a thousand ex-pupils with a stupendous harmony of mind and heart proclaimed themselves proud to have had Don Bosco as their father, master and genius, inspirator of the hundreds and hundreds of institutes risen as if by enchantment under diverse skies, where together with innumerable other youths they saw the dearest years of their life and promised unanimously, with filial and grateful affection, to carry high his name in the bosom of their families and of society. Don Bosco's name resounded with reverent love upon the lips of all; it was as if one desire, one ambition preoccupied their hearts: to diffuse the knowledge of his life, works and spirit.

It was wonderful to see how spontaneously, without any study whatever, they were of one mind; and this most especially in the conviction that Don Bosco was an extraordinary man, to whom God wished to entrust a providential mission; that is to say one of those men, who in history occupy a distinguished place, because possessed in an eminent degree of the characteristic marks of the Church; unity, holiness, catholicity and apostolicity. In fact who can tell of the love, the attachment, the devotion of Don Bosco to the Roman Pontiff? or enumerate his heroic virtues and measure their sublime altitude? Who is not aware that his zeal knew no bounds, because in his charity he would have wished to embrace the universe? and that the spirit, which animated such a life, was not prompted by any earthly aim, but only by that force and divine light which shone in the Apostles' eyes when they were fixed on the face of Christ?

This last persuasion brought them to the

consequence, not expressed in words, but proclaimed by every act of the Congress:

— Let us stand by Don Bosco! His ideals be ours, ours his teaching, ours his undertakings and his way of accomplishing them. It will be to the advantage of ourselves, of our families, of the Church and of Society.

His figure appeared to the minds of all, and with one unconfutable conviction, surrounded by a heavenly light with an aureola of sanctity. All were obsequious to the will of the Church, obsequious to a scruple, but to the heart of each one highly spoke this intimate voice. Hence that enthusiasm, that love, that zeal for the triumph of the ideals of Don Bosco that seemed insuperable. The reader of our humble relation, who does not place himself in this point of view, will not be able to comprehend it entirely; and yet in very truth it was an outburst of enthusiasm so natural, that if the Union of Salesian Co-operators had not been instituted by Don Bosco to enlarge the field of good and have the necessary help, moral and material, for his works, it would have arisen from the love and gratitude of the Past-Students in this never to be forgotten Congress.

For us Salesians it was the dearest of consolations, for which we shall ever bless the Lord. For the Past-Pupils it was a revelation. Meeting with old friends, recalling by-gone days, seeing themselves united in the same ideas, while divided by the most disparate social conditions and by so many different languages, revealed to them the great moral forces which they could build one day when, with their Associations multiplied and bound together in one working Federation, from one part of the world to the other they could make the influence of the Spirit of Don Bosco better felt to the peoples.

The Congress therefore was also an invitation, a message of union and action to all the Past-Pupils and to their Associations. May we, with the Lord's help, soon see its results!

The Ven. Don Bosco

and his vocation

(Continued).

The following pages, continued from a previous issue, were prepared by one of the Superiors of the Congregation, who was for a long period a fellow-worker of the Servant of God. The publication of them in book-form was to have been a souvenir of the occasion of the Sacerdotal Jubilee of our late Superior-General. Although deprived of the celebration of that event by his death just previously, the publication was fortunately made subsequently. It is thus possible to give our Readers the benefit of large stores of knowledge, revealing many interesting points connected with personal history of the Ven. Don Bosco.

* *

The young student was invested with the clerical habit on the Feast of the Holy Rosary in the year 1834. On that day he wrote the following resolutions, which we read in his *Recollections*.

"From today I must attend more to myself. The life I have hitherto led must be radically reformed. In past years I have not been actually wicked, but dissipated, vainglorious, occupied with games, amusements and other such things that please for the moment, but do not satisfy the heart. To make for myself a rule of life not to be forgotten I have written the following resolutions:

1. For the future I will take no part in public spectacles at fairs or markets, nor will I go to balls or theatres; and as far as possible, I will not be present at the dinners usually given on such occasions.

2. For the future I will no more take part in wrestling contests, in juggling and acrobatic feats, or games of skill; I will not play the violin, or go out shooting. These things are reputed unbecoming the seriousness and spirit of the ecclesiastical state.

3. I will love and practise retirement, temperance in eating and drinking and with regard to rest I will take only as many hours as are necessary for health.

4. As in the past I have served the world by secular reading, in the future I will strive to

serve God by giving myself to spiritual reading.

5. I will fight with my all strength against anything, reading, thoughts, words and deeds contrary to the virtue of chastity. On the other hand I will practise all those things however small, which may help to keep this virtue intact.

6. In addition to the ordinary practices of piety, I will not omit each day to make a little meditation and some spiritual reading.

7. Every day I will relate some example or maxims which may be of use to the souls of others. This I will do with my companions, my friends, my relations and when I cannot do so with others, I will do it with my mother.

These are the resolutions I have taken in assuming the clerical habit; and that they may remain impressed on my heart, I placed myself before the Statue of our Blessed Lady, I read them through, and after a prayer, I made a solemn promise to my heavenly Benefactress to observe them at the cost of any sacrifice whatsoever."

On the day of his entrance into the Seminary his mother said to him: "When you came into the world I consecrated you to Mary ever Virgin: when you began your studies I recommended to you devotion to the Blessed Virgin: now that you are going to the Seminary I recommend you to be entirely hers. If you become a priest, recommend and propagate devotion to the Blessed Virgin."

The exact fulfilment of his duties was the sole preoccupation of John in the Seminary. He was ever at the service of any one who wanted him; ever ready to make berrettas, to mend clothes, and above all to act as a charitable infirmarian to those who were sick, and to explain the lessons to those less quick at their studies. A companion of his thus describes him: "When I entered the Seminary he was twenty years of age, but appeared to be at least thirty; he was pale, thin, even emaciated: one would have said he could scarcely continue his studies to the end of the year: intercourse with him was full of edification: fre-

quently he took me with him to Church to recite the Vespers of Our Lady or some other prayer; and he often spoke to me on spiritual subjects."

At that time it was the custom in the Seminary to receive Holy Communion only on Sundays. Adjoining the Seminary of Chieri was the public Church of St. Philip. Instead of going to breakfast and recreation, Bosco, with the permission of his Superiors, went to Holy Communion in that Church. In the morning, therefore, he fasted; at dinner, as he had to take

the holidays at Moltaldo where the boys from the Jesuit College had their country house. There he employed himself in teaching Greek, being well versed in that language.

The First Mass. — A special tendency implanted in him by God, caused him to say from his earliest years: "*If one day I am able to become a priest I will consecrate my whole life to boys. I will gather them round me, I will love them and make them love me, I will give them good advice and I will devote myself entirely to procuring their eternal salvation.*"



The Hall of the Congress.

care of a companion at his side in the rectory, he practised many mortifications.

To be of more use to his companions, with the requisite permission, he founded an academy amongst them, which was most useful. At the meetings one or other of the academicians read a dissertation on a subject chosen before and suitable discussions ensued.

During the vacations he was never idle: he occupied himself in manual labour, especially carpentry; he taught the little boys of the neighbourhood, and he was the right hand of the Chaplain of Muraldo and of the parish priest of Castelnuovo for the service of the Church, helping especially in giving catechism and looking after the children.

In the year 1836 and the following he spent

On the occasion of his First Mass he begged, as a special grace, *efficiency in speech*; it would seem that Our Lord granted his request, having bestowed on him such unction in making many conversions and effecting great good by his words in preaching and in private conversations.

On that happy day he wrote the following resolutions:

1. Never to take a walk, except when obliged or for visits to the sick, etc.
2. Diligent employment of time.
3. To suffer, humble myself and work wholly and ever for the salvation of souls.
4. The charity and meekness of St. Francis of Sales shall be my guide in everything.
5. I will always appear satisfied with the food

prepared for me, unless it be injurious to health.

6. I will drink wine diluted with water and only as a medicine: that is to say when and in such quantity as may be necessary for health.

7. Work is a potent weapon against the enemies of the soul, therefore I will allow my body no more than five hours of sleep each night. During the day, especially after dinner, I will take no rest. I will make an exception when health requires it.

8. Every day I will give some time to meditation and spiritual reading. In the course of the day I will make a short visit or at least a prayer to the most Holy Sacrament.

9. I will make at least a quarter of an hour's preparation before, and another quarter of an hour's thanksgiving after Mass. I will not converse with women except in the Confessional or for some other spiritual necessity.

Don Bosco's vocation to devote himself to the Salvation of youth is more and more firmly established.

Yet another picture of human misery was unveiled by the Lord before the eyes of our Venerable Father. During the first months he spent in Turin he met the Venerable Cottolengo who, looking upon him and questioning him, said: "You have the countenance of a good man. Come and work in the Little House of Divine Providence; work will certainly not be wanting."

Meanwhile he took him through the extensive buildings. Don Bosco was especially touched by seeing, in some of the infirmaries, beds occupied by poor boys, over whom the angel of death was already spreading his wings. Those emaciated countenances, that obstinate cough, that total prostration of strength showed him clearly that habits of vice had caused the fading of these fair flowers of youth. Oh how urgent was the need for such poor boys to be cared for and preserved from danger!

Moreover, in the Ecclesiastical College his spiritual director was Don Joseph Cafasso. He took Don Bosco with him to the prisons of Turin, which were the favorite field of his labours. The sight of crowds of boys between twelve and eighteen years of age, healthy, robust and sprightly, but lazy and dirty, expiating in that place of punishment, in mournful reclusion and above all in remorse of conscience, the crimes of precocious malice — this sight horrified him.

Don Bosco saw personified in these poor wretches their country's shame, the dishonour of their families, their own disgrace; above

all he saw souls, redeemed and set free by the blood of a God, groaning under the slavery of vice, and in evident peril of being eternally lost. That which caused him most anxious thought was the recognition that those very same youths having paid the penalty and been restored to liberty, speedily returned to the same place laden with new crimes and fresh sentences of condemnation. Seeking the cause of so much depravity in these wretched boys it seemed to him that he had found it, not only in the parents, deplorable neglect of their children, but much more in the children's neglect of the sanctification of Sundays and Holidays of obligation. Preoccupied with these thoughts he renewed the resolution to devote himself entirely to the preservation of youth from such evil conduct.

The vocation of St. Vincent of Paul seems to have been greatly strengthened by the captivity he underwent amidst the slaves in Tunis: in much the same way it seems to me that Don Bosco's vocation was efficaciously confirmed by the ministry he exercised, as a young priest, amongst the prisoners in Turin.

Whoever wishes to understand Don Bosco's work must observe carefully this point of departure of his active life. Actually he was not always able to devote himself to the prisons and the hospitals, nor leave to his sons the care of these; but, as in all his institutes he practised and desired should be practised the *Preventive System*, having no confidence in the *Repressive System*, so his object ever was to preserve boys from the danger of corruption and of going to expiate their misdemeanours in hospitals and houses of correction. Thus he undertook the training of the most destitute boys, those who had lost their parents or were neglected by them, those who spent the whole day in the streets; in order to help them to avoid the misfortune of falling into the hands of the police, as would almost inevitably have occurred if they had not been watched over and had not acquired a solid religious instruction. And this care of the education of boys in dangerous circumstances he left in heritage to his companions and successors.

The Corner-stone of the Festive Oratories.

It was six months since Don Bosco's ordination. It was but a short time since he entered the Ecclesiastical College. On December 8th the Feast of the Immaculate Conception 1841, he was in the sacristy preparing to say mass, when, hearing an unusual noise, he turned his head and saw a boy being driven away by the Sacristan with blows. Don Bosco stood up,

put an end to the disagreeable scene, and calling the boy to him, so that he should not leave with such an unpleasant impression, he began to question him:

—“My good friend, what is your name?” — “My name is Bartholomew Garelli.”

—“Where do you come from?” — “From Asti.”

—“Is your father alive?” — “No, my father is dead.”

—“And your mother?” — “She is also dead.”

—“How old are you?” — “I am sixteen.”

—“Can you read and write?” — “No, I have learnt nothing.”

—“Have you made your First Communion?” — “Not yet.”

—“Have you been to Confession?” — “Yes, when I was little.”

—“Do you attend catechism?” — “I dare not.”

—“Why?” — “Because my little companions know their Catechism and I who am so tall know nothing of it, so I am ashamed to take my place amongst them.”

—“If I were to give instructions on the Catechism by yourself, would you come to hear them?”

—“Yes I would come willingly.”

—“Would you be willing to come to this little room?” — “Yes, if I receive no more blows.”

—“You may be quite sure no one will treat you badly; from this time you will be my friend, and you shall not be disturbed by any one. When shall we begin?” — “When you please.”

—“This evening?” — “Yes.”

—“Will you begin now?” — “Yes, now.”

After Mass Don Bosco began by teaching him to make the Sign of the Cross, which Garelli had forgotten, he instructed him about God our Creator and the end for which he has created us. In about half an hour he dismissed him after making him promise he would return on the following Sunday with some of his companions. Garelli kept his word; the following Sunday they were six. Don Bosco asked each of them to bring some more companions. These six became a hundred, they became a thousand, they became a hundred thousand, they became all who now frequent the Festive Oratories, in all parts of the world.

Divine Providence. — All Don Bosco's solicitude was for his Oratory. From the College of St. Francis of Assisi he went to the Hospital of St. Philomena, and then to the Church of St. Pietro in Vincoli: finally to a field where he held his Oratory, but even this he had to relinquish, for the owner feared that with so many trampling feet, the very roots of the grass would be destroyed. It was the last

Sunday on which he could remain in the field and he knew not where to assemble his pupils for the following Sundays. After Vespers an unusual circumstance attracted the attention of the boys: Don Bosco remained quite alone, sad and weeping; at this moment he was under the burden of a suffering no words could describe. He said to himself: “My assistants have gone away and left me alone to care for these boys, four hundred and more in number, I am exhausted, my health is broken down, I am chased away from every place for fear of the damage caused by these boys and their noisy games, and to crown all in two hours the time I can spend in this field will be ended: I must have another place to assemble these boys and let them know where it is for next Sunday, and this place, after all my enquiries I cannot find. So all my past labours are thrown to the winds, my toil has been useless, I am forced to leave the boys once more to themselves, to plunge into vice, go to prison, and lose both soul and body! Oh, My God! My God! show me the place where thou wilt I should find shelter for these children!

Scarcely had Don Bosco said these words and wiped away his tears, when a good man entered the field: “You are looking for a place,” he said, “for your Oratory, come and see it: my friend Signor Pinardi wishes to let his house: it will be a good bargain.” Greatly surprised Don Bosco goes with the man: he examines everything: he sees the place arranged; settles all details with the owner: has the contract drawn up: returns to his boys and calling them together exclaims in a loud voice: “Rejoice, my children, rejoice; we have found an Oratory we shall have a Church, schools, space to run and play. Next Sunday we shall go there: it is over there, Pinardi's house,” and whilst speaking thus, he pointed out the place which, being close by, could be seen from the field.

The most wonderful of all was that, not having a penny, in a week he found what was necessary to defray expenses. The Oratory was never moved from that place: it is there still, but wonderfully enlarged.

Memorable Dates. — The most important date and that which is indelibly printed in letters of gold in the annals of the Society of St. Francis of Sales, is that of the 3rd of November 1846, the day on which Don Bosco took up his abode permanently in Turin, at Valdocco, in the very place where is now his Oratory and the very Church of Mary Help of Christians. Leaving Castelnuevo d'Asti, his native place, where he had been staying for the restoration of his health, he came on foot to Turin with his mother whom he tenderly loved and who, in

response to his reiterated entreaties, had decided to follow him and take up her permanent abode with him in the capital of Piedmont. She carried a basket of linen with other necessities, and her son took with him his breviary, a Missal, and some writing materials. They walked the twelve or thirteen miles praying and discoursing of heavenly things and of their projects of doing good to the young. Late in the evening they reached Turin. At the spot called *Rondò* where today Corso Valdocco crosses the Corso Regina Margherita, a short

—"But without any post or stipend, how will you manage to live in this city?"

—"You are asking a question which at this moment I cannot answer; anyhow we are placing ourselves in the hands of God and I trust that help will not be wanting."

—"Truly I admire and applaud you" replied the good priest; "I regret that I have no money with me; but take this for the present" —and so saying he took out his watch and gave it to him.

Don Bosco thanked him, and turning to his



Don Albera leaving the Hall of the Congress.

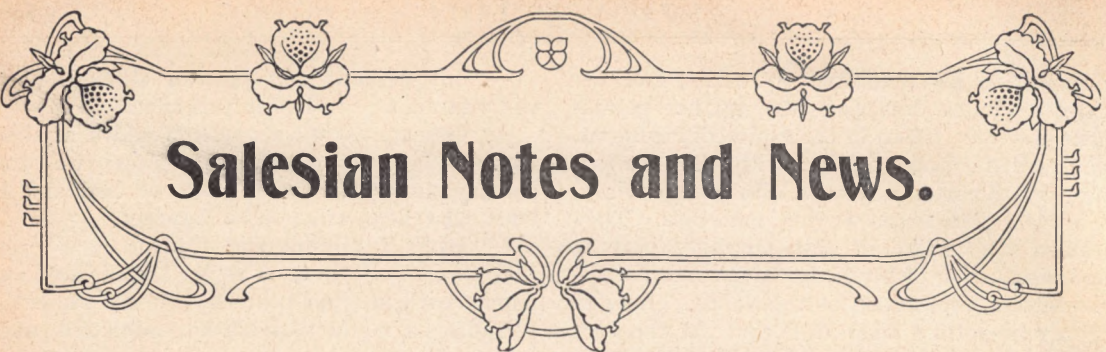
distance from their new abode, they were fortunate in meeting a friend. Father John Vola, a zealous priest of Turin, who had already several times assisted Don Bosco at the Oratory was passing by. After cordial congratulations on his restoration to health, he enquired:

—"And now, where are you going to live?"

—"I have my mother here," replied Don Bosco, "and I am going to stay in Pinardi's house near the Oratory."

mother — "Behold," he said, "an evident proof that Divine Providence is caring for us. Let us go forward with confidence."

And the woman and the young priest went on their way to the poor dwelling awaiting them. Small and squalid were the two rooms in that miserable abode; but what did that matter? In those two little rooms was the Lord: there were to be matured the destinies of the great Salesian Work.



Salesian Notes and News.

London, Scholastic Matters.

In a preceding issue we ventured to speak with some confidence regarding the expected results of the School Examinations; we are now in a position to state that our expectations were not overdrawn, but that our best hopes have been fulfilled. Doubtless there were a few silent disappointments on the morning when the lists were published by the Oxford Authorities; but how can one insure against occasional failures? Some are found to have just missed the pass list by the narrowest margin, and in those cases doubtless sympathy is due. But in our own case the surprises were rather the other way about, for not a few came out with much better results than their efforts had previously warranted. Of the upper classes of the School some sixty boys presented themselves for the public examinations and the percentage of passes was nearly ninety. The candidate who secured honours and those who obtained the three distinctions were all in the College of Preceptors examination.

So much for the old year. We believe, that with a possible exception or two, these results were as satisfactory to the parents and the boys as they were to ourselves. The work of the new Scholastic Year is already in hand and making strides forward; for some time it must be left to shape its own course, before looking directly ahead and making definitely for the goal. We hope to report upon its course as usual in future issues. In previous years we have notified to Readers that in the commencement of the year a certain number of vacancies remained to be filled. We do not make that suggestion this year, for the number of applications has exceeded the vacancies caused by boys leaving to go to business. In any case should room be found all information may be obtained from the Very Rev. C. B. Macey, Principal.

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The past-students International Congress.

In the commencement of this year 1911, the Association for Old Boys was established in connexion with our London School.

The gathering was largely attended, was enthusiastic, and eminently successful. In fact it might have been thought that no Old Boys' meeting had been just so successful or combined in the proper proportions the elements of dignity and hilarity. We must however allow, and we are ready to do so in a spirit of congratulation, that as far as numbers and importance go, our meeting was but the embryo of the imposing Congress held at Turin, the first School of the Society.

We have already mentioned this important development in the educational world controlled by the Salesians. The Congress was held on the 8th, 9th, 10th of September, and turned out to be a very remarkable affair, as may be gathered from the fact that over nine hundred past pupils attended the meetings in person, and a still greater number sent in their adherence. It is the first international congress, we believe, on record for the pupils of an educational system; and though by far the greater number of the past pupils were from various parts of the country in which the Congress was held, (as is the case with practically all Congresses) delegates came from most of the countries of Europe and from different parts of America. In our next issue we shall be happy to give our readers a more detailed account of the work accomplished. On Sept 8th the following telegram was sent from the Salesian School, Battersea, by the Very Rev. Father Macey, in the name of the Old Boys' Association.

To the President of the Congress.

Salesian Oratory, Turin.

The past-pupils of the Salesians in England — send cordial greetings to the Congressists — and congratulations to the Superiors — confident that the meetings will promote religious liberty, social and moral progress according to the ideal of Don Bosco.

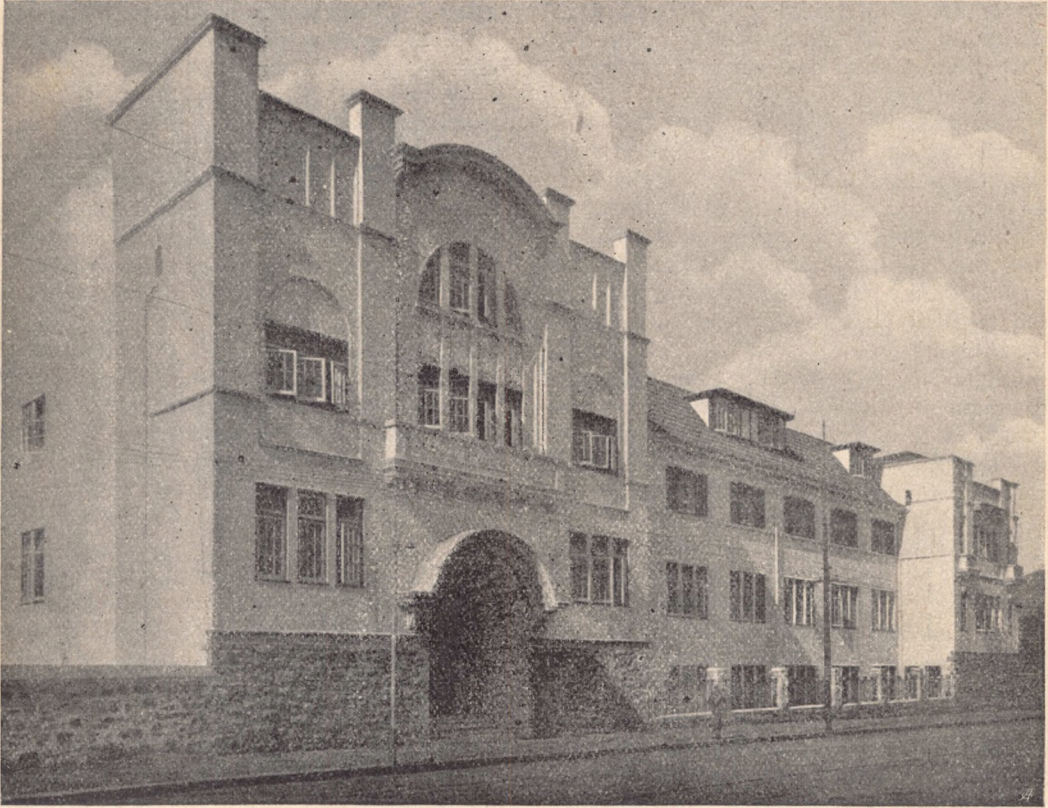
This message partly made up for our inability to be personally represented on account of the distance, and the comparatively small body as yet of past-students from whom re-

representatives might be chosen, supposing that it were otherwise convenient to send one or more delegates.

* *

Before passing to other affairs a word of congratulation is due to the Salesian School, Farnborough, for its high percentage of passes in the Oxford Local Examinations, in the Pre-

the hopes and fears of the promoters, and the vicissitudes of the School have been given prominence in these columns. The Director says: "The new-building in Somerset Road is completed; the works were commenced in April of last year and the Institute has already been officially inaugurated. His Lordship, Mgr. Rooney blessed the new edifice just before his departure for the visitation of his Vicariate.



CAPE TOWN.—The New Building.

liminary of which two boys obtained honours. Great progress has been made in general proficiency of the School and its accommodation has been increased, but even with this, the vacancies last year could scarcely cope with the demand. This year again the places have rapidly filled up and applications should be sent in at once to the Very Rev. A. Sutherland, Salesian School, Queens Road, Farnborough, Hants.

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**The Cape Town
New Technical
School.**

The following official account of the New School at Cape Town will be interesting reading to all, for on various occasions

While his prayers accompanied the sprinkling of the holy water, we at the same time offered up fervent petitions for a blessing on the work and upon all who will be engaged in it in this Institute. May it be a centre of good - works, may God preserve it amid trials, and may it be beneficial to many generations."

On the Feast of the Annunciation at four in the afternoon, a large number of friends were gathered together awaiting from the steps the arrival of Mrs. Botha, wife of the Prime Minister who came punctually to the minute, accompanied by her two sons. After being welcomed by Senator Powell, she herself turned the key of the main door, declaring the House officially inaugurated. All entered and the band gave

a cheering welcome of music increasing the general enthusiasm.

As all were now suitably arranged under the principal porticoes Senator Powell, Editor and Director of the *Cape Argus*, gave the opening address. Remarking upon the cordiality shown by the Prime Minister and his wife towards the generality of the citizens, he said there was no need for any introduction; and he added: "For the first time we have a Government in South Africa which is interested in the Professional education of youth; great praise is therefore due to those associations which have already for so long, with considerable self-sacrifice and commendable foresight grappled with this problem and obtained excellent results. Among these must certainly be reckoned the Salesians, who now come to the front rank with a new Institute fulfilling all regulations for a School of Arts and Trades. And Mrs. Botha, as a further proof of her interest in this work has consented to come to open the Institute and to address the assembled guests."

Amid great applause the lady arose and in her kindly manner said: "I hope you are not expecting much from me, who was prevailed upon to accept the performance of this function out of the great sympathy I have for the work of the Salesians. I am very sorry that the General himself, on account of the stress of Parliamentary work, is not able to be present to show you his great interest in this undertaking, which is of such social advantage. However I very willingly agreed to take his place on this occasion, to the best of my ability. For many years now I have been acquainted with the work carried on by the Salesians in Cape Town, and I have been struck with admiration at the good results they have obtained under their restricted conditions. It is therefore with the greatest pleasure that I offer them my congratulations today and to all their many friends and Co-operators, in this fine Institute so well befitting their educative work. May God bless the work that will now commence in this House, and send success to the devoted labours of those engaged in it."

These words were hailed with enthusiastic applause. The Director thanked her in the name of all for her great benevolence; he expressed his gratitude to the Educational Authorities, especially to the General-Superintendent, Dr. Muir, and to the Inspector Dr. Craib. It is with their assistance and guidance that the Scholastic side has been hitherto so satisfactory. A tribute of thanks was also paid to the architect Mr. Grant and the builder, Mr. Rubbi who have succeeded in giving a well-constructed and handsome edifice, well-adapted to the

needs of the case. A last appeal to all, to continue their efforts and support till the whole was paid for, brought the ceremonial part to a close. The visitors then dispersed in all directions to inspect the new buildings.

The *Cape Times* gave a very encouraging report of this same gathering and added some details concerning the new buildings. Among other things it said: "After a period of fifteen years the Salesians are leaving their old quarters, now become too small for their eighty-five boarders, and within a week will be established in their new Institute in Somerset Road. The work of the Salesians which here unites a complete training in some trade, together with the ordinary School course, has been recognised as most useful and suitable to present needs, and that is the primary reason why it has grown into requiring the new Institute opened by Mrs. Botha. Although only a part of the plan has been completed the new edifice is a fine building, but will be soon filled with a few additions to the present numbers." A description of the building shows that the boys will now have the advantage of excellent accommodation and arrangements, and the improved conditions will undoubtedly produce a high standard of efficiency.

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Eloquent testimonies.

A contemporary the *South-ern Cross* of Buenos Aires, speaks out boldly against the hostility to the Schools where other things are taught besides secular knowledge. "At present," it says, "we know that some subtle secret influence is working against the Private School in this country. And why? Because in the majority of cases Christianity is taught in the private school.... The private Catholic School is doing more solid work for the Argentine nation than many of those pretentious public Schools in which the mind of the student is corrupted by materialism.... The educational authorities are doing a bad day's work for the nation in their attempt to check the praiseworthy activities of the private school, and to handicap the education that should be free.... Are the educational authorities jealous of the private schools? On a certain occasion last year, when the flags were flying bravely and the windows were festooned with flowers and the street was one living mass of pageantry, an ineffaceable impression was made by a marching column of several hundred lads. Healthy, cheery, well-disciplined boys they looked in their neat uniforms, and as the serried ranks marched past with flags waving and bands playing, some of us in the dense enthusiastic

crowds that lined the streets felt the elation of the moment and gave a special shout. For those were the Salesian boys, and to a great extent their cause was our cause, and their triumph was our triumph. Their triumph that day was obvious and incontestable. A great educationist metaphorically bit his lips and was heard to remark that he would bring out twenty-thousand State-school children on the next occasion and beat the Salesians into

The Salesian College of La Plata was celebrating the 25th anniversary of its foundation, and the Association of past-pupils of Don Bosco, to which the best part of the growing-up generation of La Plata are proud to belong, wishing to organise a demonstration of homage to his Excellency General Arias, invited the Salesian College of this city to join them in the patriotic manifestations of the day.

Two special trains conveyed over two thou-



LA PLATA.—Mgr. Alberti and the First Communicants.

ther poverbial cocked hat. He has not done it yet. Last Sunday the Salesian Scholars invaded La Plata and gave an object lesson in discipline and deportment to the inhabitants of that handsome capital. The Governor of the Province contributed generously to the expense-fund of the outing."

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The festival referred to is thus described in another column of the paper. "The local press of every colour and creed dedicated special attention to the all important part played by the boys of the Salesian Colleges, in the celebrations at La Plata.

sand boys from this city to La Plata. A reception Committee of past-pupils, joined by those from La Plata awaited them at the Station, whence they marched four abreast, through the principal streets to the Salesian Colleges. The column occupied squares and streets, and when the martial notes of the band that escorted it were lost in the distance, another band appeared and marched by. When it was out of sight a third and a fourth came along and still there was no sign of the end. The sight was indeed imposing and probably the streets of La Plata never witnessed a similar scene. Many of the spectators exclaimed in their enthusiasm that they never could have imagined that there existed in the Argentine a private

institution that could make such a turn out. And there was no doubt that the two thousand boys in uniform, marching to order did make a splendid show.

At the Sacred Heart Church His Lordship, Mgr. Alberti, awaited the visitors and after celebrating Mass welcomed them in a patriotic address. In the evening they took part in the civic procession, and on reaching the piazza before the Government House they gave a drill

wards in the dining room proposed the health of the two thousand visitors and the prosperity of the Salesian Colleges in the Argentine.

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The relics of St. Francis of Sales. On the 2nd of August a magnificent spectacle of faith was given in Savoy, on the occasion of the transport of the relics of St. Francis of Sales and of St. Jane Frances di



The Italian Minister at Quito.

and gymnastic display which was loudly cheered by the enthusiastic public.

In the balcony of the Government House General Arias publicly congratulated the Superior of the Salesians, Father Vespignani, and the Director of the La Plata College; and said that although he was aware of the good work accomplished in their Schools, one thing was to hear or read of it, and another to see it with one's eyes. One of the students read an address to his Excellency the Governor in the name of his companions, who represented the ten thousand children that receive education in the Salesian Colleges of Argentina. His Excellency acknowledged the demonstration, and after-

Chantal from the old Convent of the Visitation, to the new House built for the religious in a conspicuous position on the borders of the Semnaz. Annecy was honoured by the presence of His Eminence Cardinal Andrieux, Archbishop of Bordeaux, of His Eminence Cardinal Maffi, Archbishop of Pisa, and of fifty other distinguished members of the Episcopate; nearly all the communes of Savoy sent representative bodies. During the morning about 1200 priests celebrated Mass in the city. Fifty-six separate groups of pilgrims with their parish-priests were assembled on the shores of the Lake, and about 60,000 persons took part in the cortège, which preceded the sacred relics, borne

on the top of a magnificent carriage presented by the descendants of the families to which the two Saints belonged. Four bishops held the cords of the urns. In the Church Cardinal Maffi celebrated Pontifical Mass and Mgr. Touchet gave the panegyrics of the two saints.

A very cordial invitation having been sent to our Superior General, he gladly accepted, and was accompanied by the spiritual Director, to represent the Society which, founded by the Ven. Don Bosco, has been instrumental in diffusing throughout the world the devotion to the great Bishop of Geneva.

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Quito. Although the national sports in South America are not exactly similar to those with which we are familiar, the School contests are apparently as keen as our own. From the Salesian School at Quito we hear that the Minister of Education invited a certain number of schools to a competition, the chief features of which were to be a contest in shooting at the target, and combined drill and gymnastic exercises. As the time given for preparation was short, it was at first thought advisable to refuse, but after further consideration the invitation was accepted. About twenty days remained so that practice commenced at once.

When the date arrived we had five boys whose shooting led us to think that the School's reputation was safe in their hands. They entered as a team, and to our surprise and pleasure they beat all comers. There were a great many schools competing, both Government and private schools, but our boys were four points ahead of the next best.

From that moment naturally, the names of our boys were in every one's mouth and there began to be some expectation that they would secure the prizes in the physical exercises as well. On the date fixed for that event we entered a hundred and twenty boys, all in their smart white uniforms, and they marched to the sound of the band to the place for the competition. The exercises were performed before the President of the Republic, several Generals of the army, and all the other authorities. When the turn arrived for the boys to give their display they marched out to the accompaniment of the national anthem, and waving the banner of Don Bosco; the exactness of their drill and the combination of precision and ease in the gymnastic display immediately drew forth the applause of the spectators, and the President spoke some words of high encomium at the results of their careful training. The display was followed by cheers and congratula-

tions from all quarters. The jury afterwards awarded our School the First prizes in each section. The local press were quite enthusiastic in their praise and declared it to be the triumph of the Salesian Institute.



Cav. ARTURO POESIO

President of the 1st Congress of Salesian Past-Pupils.

News in brief. The Apostolic Delegate of Mexico, and the Vicar Apostolic of Changarachery of the Syrian rite have been staying at the Oratory at Valdocco, where they were much interested in the remembrances of the Ven. Don Bosco and Don Rua.

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The past pupils of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians decided to hold a general meeting or congress at the end of September. The numbers and importance of the Schools directed by the Nuns will guarantee a large and promising manifestation.

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The outing of the Salesian School at Modica in Sicily included a foot-ball match among the items of entertainment for the boys.

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The chief awards at the Salesian Columbus College, Hawthorne, New York, were of a novel character. The first prize was a voyage to Europe, the 2nd and 3rd a trip to Niagara Falls, and the 4th and 5th a trip to Atlantic City.



News From the Missions.

CHINA.

In a charity Bazaar.

(From the diary of our Missionaries).

II.

At the door of the bazaar—Invitations and appeals—A swarm of butterflies—A few moments of longed-for tranquillity—The perfect education of the Chinese.

The following day we were at our post. A denser crowd, almost a crush, noisy and in perpetual motion, is an unmistakable sign of the immediate opening of the bazaar, whose lofty towers and pinnacles, flying red flags, attract attention even from the remotest quarters of this interminable city.

Notwithstanding the crush one is forced to tarry a moment at the entrance gate.

What a grand and strange edifice! Entirely of wood, adorned with historical representations it is covered with small figures in relief, on an iridescent back ground of blue-green, which at once reminds you of a wall covered with ivy, which, between its leaves, hides the most vividly-coloured and varied species of beetles in the world.

Let us enter.

The fairy tales, told by a grand-mother in the cold winter evenings at the fireside, are often followed by still more fantastic-dreams and show impossible countries and cities suddenly created by the magician's wand. Here these far-off dreams seem to have taken shape with a surprising reality. Scarcely have you set foot on the threshold when you see as if bidding you welcome certain merry figures peeping through branches of foliage like twisted serpents in large plaster vases.

Two steps further on one sees large and lofty protruding eyes and moveable eye-balls, just stopped in their rolling, about the size of a goose's egg, whose diabolical ferocity is accentuated by long swords clasped in their hands. Innocuous scare-crows upon which birds might perch with impunity.

Whither shall we direct our steps?

The departments are varied with different notices; the arches and the walls are decorated with festoons and pretty little lamps.

Recovering from our bewilderment, we fix our eyes on some large printed characters, apparently requests which invite us on all sides. For instance one reads: "*Va hing kOUNg shii gas nai*": which means the illustrious *Va hing* begs you to take a cup of milk, better, fresher and more aromatic than any other in the world. And, whilst fascinated by the gaiety of some beautiful red and blue birds, so skilfully embroidered in silk as to appear alive, a couple of pleasant gentlemen come forward with bows and courteous manners, asking you to take a draught of that precious nectar, giving in return (this will depend on your generosity) the miserable sum of a hundred dollars, only 250 francs.

Declining with graceful ease the courteous invitation, we pass on to the centre of the bazaar, which resembles an irregular, but very rich gallery, in many divisions, where there is a fine show of the best and rarest productions of Chinese skill.

It is a varied and attractive spectacle; but the eye is drawn to certain squares fastened in the corners of the walls, like open coffers in which are curious groups of monstrous-looking puppets representing the events of ancient history, above all *Ma-t'cion*, a terrible warrior.

What a striking contrast with the present decadence; these people feel the need of a re-awakening; but when? how?.... My historical lucubrations were speedily interrupted by a band of children, clothed in all the colours of the rainbow who ran to meet me, surrounded me, chattering with the liveliness of birds, begging me to buy a beautiful bouquet of flowers, of which they had their hands and baskets full, holding them up to my face, each one striving for preference.

The sharpest little rogues, with the boldness and agility of childhood, succeeded in inserting the bouquet in the folds of the garment. And then, be it noted, there is no chance of returning it, for you yourself have accepted it!

Therefore one must be on one's guard, giving no more than about sixpence as a present.

Pleased with their victory this joyous swarm of April butterflies are quite ready to surround the next arrivals.

Safeguarded by the flowers in one hand and the card on our breast proclaiming us benefactors of the *bazaar*, we could more easily escape other amiable assaults, readily forgiven when one

rich silken festoons, the beauty of flowers suspended everywhere, everything in fine contributes to the illusion of having discovered an unreal, imaginary country.

I was enveloped, as it were, in an atmosphere of happiness, when a loud clamour, overpowering, and unpleasant broke the spell of this unlooked-for Eden. We are close to the great hall of the acrobats!



MODICA.—The Dramatic Society of the Festive Oratory.

considers that all the proceeds are for the benefit of the praiseworthy object of the bazaar.

At last I was able to devote myself to a peaceful, undisturbed survey of my surroundings. And, indeed, it was a long time since I had enjoyed moments so pleasant and tranquil. Here there seemed to prevail a joyful and festive sensation: one inhaled, as it were, an atmosphere of general well-being. You were almost tempted not to believe your eyes, asking yourself in astonishment: — "But is this really China, barbarous China, of which the name alone arouses a feeling of horror in civilized souls?"

Ah no! here the polished manners of all the persons surrounding you, a rigorous decorum, where nothing, even if one scrupulously sought for it, offends propriety; the variety of splendid objects with which you are dazzled, the

III.

In the hall of the acrobats—Extensive programme—The poor plundered ones—The Christians' contribution—Appreciation of our boys by one of the learned Chinese.

I entered a large hall which was filled with an excited crowd. Public order, however, one sees at once, is unchangeable; the men on the right, the women on the left, for the separation of the sexes is one of the customs most rigorously enforced in China. A certain mixture, allowed in civilized countries, is absolutely prohibited by the Chinese barbarians.

On a large wooden stage, prettily decorated at the further end with banners and many implements of their trade, the acrobats began the entertainment, announced and accompanied by

an interminable and furious beating of the *tam-tam* and drums. There are games of skill or rather specimens of ferocious sport, showing what an amount of energy is latent in these weakly sons of Confucius when they are put to the proof.

The spectators, one can well understand, are jumping for joy and experience an insane pleasure as at the reawakening of their former powers, a prognostic, as it were, of the certainty of their future victory over their European oppressors. And, if not in word, this was shown at least by their looks of suspicion towards me, poor wretch of a European, each time the valour of the wrestlers drew forth a greater round of applause.

Here are some items of their programme: fencing with knives, assault with terrible tridents, conflict with iron bars, the lifting of enormous weights as if they were bundles of straw, contortions sufficient to break the spine, throwing round the neck and naked back a sort of sling made of sharp chain-work, and many other atrocious exercises sufficient to make any one shudder.

A band of children followed their elders, and they also gave proofs of their acrobatic skill. I cannot conceal, however, that under all this demonstration of brute force one perceived a cultured ferocity which caused me to reflect seriously as to what would happen to us the day that race has learnt to use our arms in warfare.

In particular their cry of kill! kill!.... continually repeated, leaping like wild beasts, foaming at the mouth during these furious encounters, fills one with disgust.

Even the incessant roll of the drum and the sinister blows of the *tam-tam* seem, one may say, to excite in the wrestlers a thirst for blood.

Hardly had I quitted this fierce battle field when I experienced a real sense of relief, as if a great weight had been taken off me, hearing the distant sound of our boy's band, who, under a magnificent kiosk, gladdened the whole bazaar with their music, like voices inviting all to ideals more noble and more worthy of human beings.

Meanwhile the crowds outside buzzed and pushed against the barriers of the bazaar, capable of containing 50,000 persons.

Inside also the animation of buyers and sellers went on increasing: in particular the wealthy were kept in sight and pounced upon at every moment. But they were not taken unawares; in fact after some wriggings and protestations they allowed themselves to be persuaded sometimes to take a little tea, at another time to purchase some rare object.

A burst of applause greeted the momentary

liberation of the harassed individual, whilst at the same time a fine list, hung up in the public view, proclaimed the generosity of the donor. Thus self love was stirred up and gifts poured in.

The spectacle of the bazaar every day provided fresh food for curiosity. Today however I wish to examine the slight, but not less generous contributions of our valiant brethren in the faith, who under the intelligent initiative of P. Forqueh provided gifts and persons to the number of fifty.

The boys of the Orphanage of *Canton* attracted attention by the excellent drawings executed under the direction of their mistress M^{lle} Deourant with pen and charcoal. Several Catholic girls were seated at the stalls for the sale, in particular, of medicines; the little ones formed part of the swarms of butterflies.

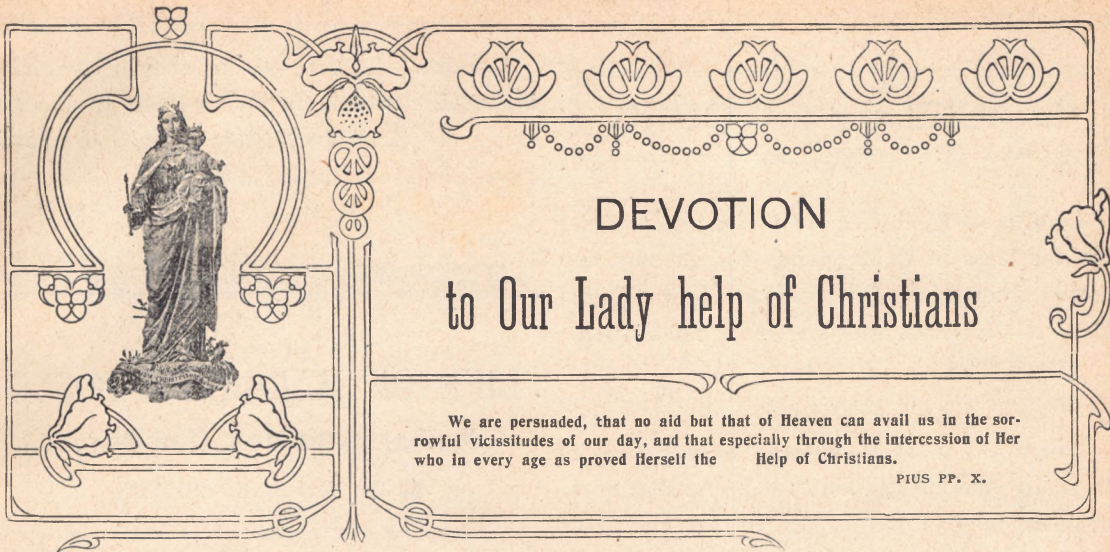
The boys of our schools, besides the expenditure of breath in their music, offered also several complete suits of clothes of European cut, from the cap to the boots, a pleasure to look at.

In this way Christian charity, the true promoter of all good works, was not ashamed to lay down its lowly but disinterested little flower amidst the boastful pomp of pagan beneficence. We had done more than our limited resources allowed and all were satisfied. I remember also that I heard some whispering near me to the following effect:

—“It is almost incredible! These boys weary themselves all day long playing until they are out of breath, first point; these boys have brought here the fruits of their intelligent work, second point. And in addition, these same boys leave here their earnings as a remembrance and testimony of their kindness. What kind of education is this? And who has been able to instil such noble sentiments?” Then turning to one of the learned and courteous savants, I took him with me and showed him a banner. He adjusted his large spectacles, the honourable and distinctive sign of his rank, and pronouncing slowly syllable by syllable, he read: — *T'in-tein-kaol* (Divine Religion) — or in more explicit terms: *Followers of Christ!*

JOHN FERNANI, Priest.





The Co-operators are invited to practise some particular act of devotion in honour of Mary Help of Christians on the 12th of the month. On that day special prayers are offered in the Basilica for all the Co-operators, and their intentions are particularly recommended at all the Masses at the altar of Our Lady Help of Christians.

The General intention for this month is the welfare of our Schools which are now commencing a new year in the important work of training the young.



THE HISTORY OF THE DEVOTION.

The project of a church.

(continued).

The outcome of this widespread desire to provide for the urgent spiritual needs of the people of the Valdocco quarter, and of the multitude of boys who were now connected with the Oratory, was the proposal for the construction of a large church capable of supplying both needs. But a further motive was the general desire to erect a church, which should be a public avowal of thanksgiving to the Mother of God, for her many acts of maternal protection

extended to the city of Turin in preference to other cities. Two points were yet open for consideration; the site of the edifice and the title to be given to it. In order to fulfil the conditions above referred to, it was necessary to have the Church placed between the Cottolengo and the Oratory of Valdocco; a spot was therefore fixed upon close to the Oratory.

But while there was still some hesitation about the title, an incident recurred which removed all doubt. The Supreme Pontiff, Pius IX., who was well informed of what was being proposed for the advantage of Religion, sent his first offering of 500 francs, and hinted that the title Help of Christians would certainly be acceptable to the Queen of Heaven. He accompanied his offering with a special blessing for those who would contribute to it and added: "I hope this small contribution of mine will arouse more generous and influential subscribers to promote the glory of God on earth, and thus help to increase the numbers of those who form His crown in Heaven."

The place and title of the building being thus fixed upon, an experienced architect drew up the plans, and nothing else was thought of but the undertaking of the work as soon as possible. There were various difficulties from the commencement, but Our Lady's intercession removed most of them for the present, just as she did even more formidable ones later on.

GRACES and FAVOURS.

Dublin. — Kindly accept the enclosed offering for Mass in thanksgiving for favours received through the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians after promise of publication.

August 1911.

T. M.

Turin. — For several years I had been subject to a dangerous malady and the repeated attempts of phisicians had been useless to cure me. My children and home instead of being a comfort, only tended to increase my anxiety, since I became unable to labour for them. However I put my confidence in Mary Help of Christians and I seemed to feel that it would not be in vain. I at once determined to enter the hospital in Venice, and there after receiving the Sacraments, I underwent a very dangerous operation, as a result of which the doctors and attendants declared there was no hope whatever. But not so my heavenly Protectress, for after some time the doctor recognised that I was improved enough to get up. My condition was still very grave. When the Novena to Our Lady Help of Christians arrived I obtained prayers from the Oratory with the result that my wound healed so rapidly that after a few days I could leave the hospital. The 24th of the month, however, had not yet come, and I was determined to be cured by that day. When it arrived I got up, and though I could feel that the wound was still open and sore, I was assisted to the Church to go to the Sacraments; I prayed for my cure and my restoration to my family, and I was sure that I was being restored to health. And I was right, for the wound healed up immediately and I was declared to be in perfect health.

I am now performing one of my promises in thanksgiving, by publishing the favour.

June 1911.

L. T.

London. — Please accept the enclosed as a little thank offering for favour received through Our Lady Help of Christian's intercession, and have a Mass said in her honour.

M. F.

LIFE OF MARGARET BOSCO

Mother of the Ven. Don Bosco.

By the Rev. J. B. LEMOYNE

PRIEST OF THE SALESIAN CONGREGATION.

CHAPTER XIII.

Margaret's zeal for the salvation of souls.

In order to understand Margaret's strength of character and describe it properly it would be necessary to witness it personally.

Any kind of sin encountered in her an implacable enemy. She inspired a horror of it in her sons by every means she could think of, and removed all dangerous occasions from them with rare prudence and with prompt decision.

The inmates of the neighbouring hamlets liked dancing, and, in order to amuse themselves they used to invite a fiddler to play for them. In the silence of the evening, the joyful strains of the instrument sounded in the childrens' ears.

"Mother, Mother," they cried, "Do you hear?"

"Yes, I hear," Margaret replied. "I am going over to have a look at them, and I will come back to you. Stay quiet till I return."

If the gathering seemed well conducted and the amusements quite proper, Margaret gave the desired permission, saying as the children started.

"Go, and mind you are good."

On the contrary, if she suspected that the amusements were not quite what they ought to be the reply was peremptory:

"That entertainment is not suitable for you."

"But....."

"There is no *but* about it. I am not going to let you be dragged down into hell."

If the children seemed disappointed and remained downcast, the mother would call them round her and tell them some story about magicians, warriors or imaginary castles, all far more wonderful than could be found in the most famous romances. These adventures were so beautiful and so well told that the children all eyes and ears, did not regret the music.

When the stories had been prolonged till late in the evening, she would stop.

"Come my children" she would say, "we must go to bed. But let us first say a prayer for the Christian who will die to night, so that Our Lord may save his soul."

With this holy thought in their minds they used to pray with great recollection, and went to sleep with contented hearts at peace with themselves, that is to say at peace with God.

Margaret's zeal had no limits. The object of her particular care was, above all the young girls, and especially those who were miserably poor.

When she met one of these poor creatures in the road, insufficiently clad in threadbare rags, Margaret would address her thus:

"Your angel guardian is watching by your side, and your appearance must make him feel ashamed of you. Have you thought about it, my poor girl?"

"How can I help it?" the unfortunate young woman would answer. "I have no other clothes, and I have no one to give me anything better."

"You must come with me," Margaret would say; and, then and there, she would take the girl to Becchi, where she would mend her rags, adding patches of stuff where they needed it. Then she would send her on her way having given her a kind lesson in neatness and modesty.

Thus in spite of all the hard work entailed by the care of her family, the noble woman always found spare time when works of cha-

rity were in question, and would attract such poor girls to her in order to gain them for God.

Her house and her table were open to them. She loved them and gathered them round her like children, and never let them go away without giving them advice suitable to their sex and condition.

In addition to this, all the young women of the neighbourhood, sure of finding in her, a prudent and kind friend, showed her an esteem which was full of affection.

They learnt from her to avoid bad company, to keep on their guard, to spend the long winter evenings in some useful way and to correct their language and general behaviour. Indeed, everyone who saw them, remarked on their good conduct and on that Christian modesty which is pleasing to man and above all brings down the blessing of God.

We have already said how easily Margaret gathered wandering pedlars round her: the principal reason for this has been omitted, but the reader can readily guess what it was.

The depths of the traveller's box too often concealed books and statues of a most undesirable kind.

Margaret went to work so well, that she managed to get possession of everything that was bad, and all of it went there and then into the fire.

The pedlars were treated after this in the most friendly way, being seated at the family table, while the best portions were given to them.

They did not leave the house before they had promised not to sell any more books or pictures that might corrupt souls; and the men went away much improved and delighted with the charity of their hostess.

In the presence of any scandal Margaret's energy and outspokenness displayed themselves in full force.

One Sunday she was on her way to Mass holding Joseph and John by the hand. A group of about a dozen young men of decidedly un-

pleasant appearance, stood apart from the crowd headed by a man of sixty who had formerly been convicted of theft and who had spent several years in prison.

He was making coarse remarks in a loud voice causing his companions to laugh, and bringing a blush of shame to the cheeks of the passing crowd.

Margaret could not bear this, so she drew near and addressed him in a low voice:

"Should you like it if your daughters should hear such talk?"

"What do you mean? These are only funny stories to make us laugh. They don't do any harm."

"But what you are saying is bad, and if it is bad, why repeat it?"

"What absurd scruples. Why, the whole world makes jokes like this!"

"Does that make them less guilty? And if you fall into hell, will others get you out of it?"

At the word *hell* the man burst into a stupid laugh, and his companions echoed it."

"How dare you," cried Margaret indignantly, "at your age and with your white hair, give such scandal instead of giving good example? Take care, some harm will overtake you!"

Having said this she turned sharply away with her children, left the road, and took a path across the fields that led to the church, and, when she was alone with her sons, she stopped:

"You know how much I love you" she cried, "but if you should ever, in the time to come, imitate that shameless old man, I pray our Lord to strike you dead on the spot."

This language will not astonish those mothers who prefer the life of the soul to that of the the body, and who place the innocence of their sons above all other good.

Two worthless fellows came and planted themselves one evening a few steps away from

the house, and began to talk in a very unseemly way. The children might have heard them.

Margaret went out and implored the men to stop their unedifying conversation.

The two scamps only laughed rudely. In a resolute tone, she ordered them to leave the place. The rascals, without moving an inch, began to sing an abominable song.

"I am on my own ground" cried she, "and as you are not, I have the right to be obeyed here: go!"

Instead of going, the insolent men calmly leant against a haystack, and went on shouting the disgusting words.

Margaret was not conquered.

"Run" she told her children, "and find the relatives of these two wretches. Tell them to come here as soon as possible!"

The mother of one of these scapegraces and the brother of the other, arrived on the spot and a scene followed; at length the two good-for-nothings were obliged to capitulate, and victory was on the side of right.



Mrs. Holder. Fairlee. Isle of Wight.

Mr. H. Carter, Nibley, Yate, England.

Mr. Baumann, Chicago, U. S. A.

Miss. Eliza Savage, Belfast, Ireland.

R. I. P.





History of the Ven. Don Bosco's

EARLY APOSTOLATE.

The notice of readers is called to a volume recently issued by the Salesian Press, Battersea, S. W. Although the *Bulletin* has now been circulated for some sixteen years and has recorded the main events which have marked the development of Don Bosco's work, there had been no really authoritative book in English, which dealt in any complete way with the rise and growth of this work on behalf of the young. The present volume while supplying this need goes a good deal further, revealing many of the wonderful occurrences in the life of the Servant of God and filling gaps which were unavoidable in previous lives.


A recent issue of the *Month* says: A large and handsomely bound volume comes to us from the Salesian Press, Battersea: viz: **The History of Don Bosco's Early Apostolate** The life of the Venerable Founder is already familiar to Catholic Readers in this country, but here we have an account written by a friend and disciple, who himself lived with the holy man, and witnessed much of what he relates. The story of the first twenty-five years of Don Bosco's apostolate is told in much detail, but it will be read with absorbing interest. The Archbishop of Westminster points out in the Preface the chief lessons of the career of the Ven. Servant of God.

The book is bound in Red Cloth, lettered back and front in gilt, with a Photo of the Ven. Don Bosco as a frontispiece.

Orders may be directed to the Manager. Salesian Press, Battersea, S. W.

Single copies, cloth covers, Four Shillings.

Single copies, paper covers, Three Shillings and Sixpence.



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