



Salesian Bulletin

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

DA MIHI

ANIMAS CÆTERA TOLLE

Important Notice to Readers.

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

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

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

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

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

The Salesian Bulletin

Organ of the Association of Salesian Co-operators

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An interesting Gift.

THERE is an annual event, quite simple in its nature, but which like many other simple things, has the power of striking some of the deepest notes of life. During the many years that the Ven. Don Bosco presided over the destinies of the Oratory, there was one day, recurring annually, when the deeply-felt gratitude of the boys and of others was allowed to find vocal expression; it was June 24th, the feast of St. John the Baptist. We have pointed out before that this day was not what is usually called the feast-day of Don Bosco, or more correctly the feast of his patron saint; for his patron was St. John the Evangelist; but the boys thought it was, and accordingly it provided the occasion they sought of manifesting what is otherwise so difficult to make evident, the deep set gratitude of a thousand hearts.

It therefore became an annual event. But time advanced, and Don Bosco passed away, dropping the reins of government to one who seemed hardly less skilful than himself. Don Michael Rua was deeply respected and beloved, and though his name was not even John, the same day was kept *ad perpetuam memoriam rei*, and to provide at once an opportunity of evoking cherished memories, and of combining them with the attachment felt for the first Successor of Don Bosco. And now he too has gone; but, as a distinguished Co-operator recently remarked, a complete organism does not depend on any one individual, but bears within itself its own vital force; and therefore a second Successor seems equally at home at the head of Don Bosco's work, and to him again the like homage and grateful manifestation is made.

At the end of last June, therefore, a festive gathering was held at the Oratory for this homely commemoration. It had however a particular connecting link with the past, for there was presented to Don Albera, as a souvenir, the first copy of the second volume of Don Bosco's life — a record of times and events with which the recipient himself was intimately connected, and which a wide reading public had looked forward to with more than eagerness.

When the first volume appeared in 1911, there was not only a chorus of praise, but the edition was rapidly exhausted; and together with appreciations, there was a constant demand to know when the second volume would be issued.

The writer of the *Life* says: "After a period of two years the second volume is now ready for publication. The avidity of the public in regard to the previous volume urged us to hurry on on with the preparation and issue of the second; but we have by no means dispensed with the careful labour of bringing out a work within a short period, which was only determined upon since the decree for the beatification of the Venerable Servant of God. Moreover, the volumes of the *Biographical Memoirs* are being compiled at the same time.

Today, as the second volume of the *Life* is completed, we must reiterate what was said in the preface to the first, confirming the exactness of every detail and of every line of the account. Moreover it should be pointed out that the whole of what we have here written is only a very small portion compared with what we have omitted. It could have been increased at least ten-fold; we have but given the outline of that crowded life so varied in its manifestations, or the characteristic traits of the radiant figure of the Apostle of the

Nineteenth Century; whereas to every fact, to every saying, to every wonderful narrative, we could have added a hundred similar facts and sayings."

So far the author of the work; But his great book is something more than the skeleton that he would make it out to be, for this volume alone contains six hundred and eighty pages, replete with illustrations of extraordinary interest, and gives a complete view of the Servant of God. This second volume deals with the years from 1862 to 1888, and the wonders of that period of his life; but particularly in the delineation of his spirit and character his moral figure appears ever more gigantic; and the reader, even though he knew the Servant of God, and had an intimate knowledge of him, feels his sense of admiration and of veneration deepen and expand.

As a rule our interests and tendencies are sordid and paltry; it is with difficulty we fix our gaze on the supernatural in ideal and intention; we are therefore the more struck by it in the lives of fellow-men, and its development is an interesting study. Here there is plenty of scope for observation and admiration; a life not only guided by an ideal, but absorbed by it and in it, so that every movement of mind and heart was directed to God and the divine work in the world, the salvation of souls.

To our mind this second volume will be read with more avidity than the first, and perhaps produce more good, for with more recent years we are in closer touch, and have more of a personal interest in them. We must however state that this announcement refers only to the edition in Italian; doubtless it will in time appear in other languages, but for the present all the rights of the author and publisher are reserved. It has long been a matter

of regret, that it has not yet been possible to issue a satisfactory life of the Ven. Don Bosco in English, though there are compendiums, and descriptions of some of his life's work; but it

is perhaps premature to think of such a publication; unless, indeed, it made its appearance as an accompaniment to the decree of Canonisation which is one of the fond hopes of the future.

The Solemn Jubilee

of the Salesian Church of the Sacred Heart in Rome.

Some of the most cherished memories of the Venerable Servant of God, Don Bosco, are intimately connected with the holy city. It was strange indeed that the lowly boy of the hamlet of Becchi should have been the chosen instrument of such great works in Rome, the capital of the Catholic World; but the little Roman boys always appealed strongly to the heart of Don Bosco, and it must now be one of his consolations to know that his sons are ever spreading their Apostolate in the city and its environs.

In the months of May and June there were held the commemorative celebrations for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the consecration of the Sacred Heart Church at Rome, the erection of which is the chief work with which Don Bosco's name is there connected, and which was indeed the last great work undertaken by him.

The erection of this Church was one of Pius IX.'s most cherished projects and it was begun by his Successor His Holiness Leo XIII., the first stone being laid on Aug. 17th 1879. Large sums of money had been gathered together for it, but the nature of the soil made enormous foundations necessary and the money was soon exhausted. In fact the walls were scarcely above the ground when the work came to a stand-still, and Pope Leo XIII. sent for Don Bosco. He was as usual absorbed in a hundred occupations, but at the Pope's request he was glad to undertake it and brought the whole work to completion in six years.

Don Bosco's last journey to Rome.

The author of the Biography of the Servant of God writes: On April 30th 1887, he set out again for Rome. Several Salesians, Prince Czartoryski and many other gentlemen were at

the Station to meet him; in the House an inscription ran: "Rome is happy to congratulate herself on receiving within her walls the new Philip, Don Bosco." It was his nineteenth visit to Rome.

He received calls from a very large number of people. Many princes of the Church, among them Cardinals Simeoni, Bartolini, Laurenzi, Mazzella, Ricci-Paracciani, Verga, and Masella came more than once to see him at the Sacred Heart Institute. There came also the Archbishop of Catania; Mgr. Dusmet, Mgr. Cagiano de Azevedo who presented him with 3000 francs for the Altar of Our Lady Help of Christians in the new Church, the Marchioness Vitelleschi, Countess di Caprara, Countess Catucci, Countess Astorbristol, Prince and Princess Doria and many others of the highest families of Rome and of Residents at the time.

On May 10th a cleric came to him from the *Seminario Pio* to ask his blessing, and hoping to be cured from the deafness which had afflicted him for two years. He had been accompanied by several companions, and on the following day he came back with them to thank him for the favour he had received. On the 12th a lady came, who had had a paralysed arm for many years. When he had blessed her she was cured instantaneously, and left his presence greatly moved and almost stunned, and she made an offering to the Church in thanksgiving.

On the 13th Don Bosco went to see the Holy Father. A noble family had placed their carriage at his disposal, but as they did not know the exact time of his reception by the Pope, the carriage did not arrive in time. Don Rua and Don Viglietti therefore assisted him into one of the vehicles on hire in the street, but after a while the driver noticed that as his was not a two-horsed carriage, it could not enter the Vat-

ican precincts. They got out, therefore, and entered one drawn by two horses, but as this bore the number of a public vehicle it was not allowed to enter. But Don Rua mentioned that Don Bosco was in the carriage; it was at once given free ingress and received the guards' salute. He got down in the Court of San Damaso, and was at once conducted to the Pope's apartment.

Pope Leo XIII. moved to meet him; he did not allow him to kiss his foot, but told Mgr. Della Volpe to bring a chair near. This was placed at a certain distance, but His Holiness

— I am an old man, Holy Father, he then said, I am seventy-two; and this is my last journey, and the end of all my work. Before I die, I wanted to see Your Holiness once more, and to receive your blessing. I have obtained my desire, and so there is nothing more for me to do, but to sing: *Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine, secundum verbum tuum in pace. Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum... Lumen ad revelationem gentium et Gloriam plebis tue Israel!*

The Holy Father answered: — I am six years older than you are, and so you need not think of dying yet; until you hear that Leo XIII. is



ROME — Meeting of past pupils on the recurrence of the Feast of the S. Heart.

had it brought quite close and took Don Bosco's hand saying:

How are you, my dear Don Bosco, how are you? — and without giving him time to respond, the Pope got up and came to his chair and said: — Perhaps you feel the cold, do you? — Then he went over to his bed, drew aside the curtains and brought a rug, saying: — Do you see this fine cover, lined with ermine, which was given me today for my Sacerdotal Jubilee? I want you to be the first to use it. — And then he wrapped it round Don Bosco's knees, sat down in his chair, took Don Bosco's hand again and enquired what news he had to give him.

— The venerable old man had been silent all this time, being moved at the thoughtful condescension of the Pope:

dead, you may remain tranquil.

"Holy Father, replied the Venerable Servant of God, your word is in certain cases infallible, and I would thank you for your good wishes, but, be assured that I am at the end of my life.

Then the Pope asked him about his boys, his Houses, the Missions, and if he had any requests to make. Don Bosco gave him information about every thing, particularly about the Church of the Sacred Heart which was to be consecrated on the morrow; then he recommended to him the choir which was to come from Turin to sing for the festival of the Dedication and which had already been to Genoa for a similar purpose.

The Holy Father expressed his great satisfaction at the account given him of so much good work; he said he must see these young singers

from Turin, and fixed the 14th, four days later, for the audience.

He then went on to say that it was essential that the followers of Don Bosco should preserve his spirit in all that concerned the Society. Recommend to the Salesians particularly obedience, and to preserve the maxims and traditions you have given them. I know that you have obtained wonderful effects by frequent confession and Communion; see that the practice is adopted everywhere by your Sons. But what I would particularly inculcate upon you and your vicar is not to be too solicitous regarding the number of your sons, but rather about the holy lives of

—"The Holy Father wished to continue longer, but Don Bosco feared to inconvenience him, and asked if he might introduce his Vicar and his Secretary. They were brought in: Don Bosco presented Don Rua first, and the Holy Father said:

"So this is Don Rua the Vicar of the Congregation! I have been told that you have been with Don Bosco from your childhood; continue therefore your good work, and always maintain the spirit of your Founder.

Don Rua replied: "Yes, Holy Father, with your blessing we hope to spend our whole lives in the work for the young to which we are con-



ROME — Head members of the Association of past pupils.

those you have. It is not numbers that gain glory to God, but virtue. Therefore be cautious an dstrict regarding the new members of your Society; and be especially careful that their morals are above suspicion. Then he took Don Bosco's hand again and asked him to tell him something about the future of the Church. Don Bosco smiled, and replied that the Holy Father knew a great deal more about the Church than he did.

But the Pope pressed the matter.

—"I do not mean anything regarding the present, for I know that myself, but something about the future.

—"But I am not a prophet — replied the Servant of God, smiling again. Nevertheless he did express his opinions and told the Sovereign Pontiff all he knew.

secreted.

The Secretary was then presented, and the conversation turned on the work of the Salesians in general. Don Bosco observed that he found no need to inculcate industry upon his sons, but moderation.

"Oh yes indeed, said the Holy Father, moderation must be observed in all things; the body requires a just amount of repose.

"Holy Father, said Don Rua, we are prepared to follow your advice, but Your Holiness must know that Don Bosco has given us a bad example in this.

"There was some laughing at this remark; Don Rua asked for some permissions regarding the acceptance of new members, and the Pope, after showing again his great benevolence to-

wards Don Bosco and his followers, gave the Apostolic Benediction to all Salesians, their Co-operators and pupils, and specially to those of the faithful who had assisted the erection of the new Church of the Sacred Heart.

As he left the Papal apartments, the Servant of God was surrounded by many of the Pontifical Court, who showed him every attention. A group of the Swiss guards stood to attention and gave him the military salute.

"But I am not a king, exclaimed Don Bosco, with a smile; I am a poor priest, bent low, and good for nothing. But never mind!

Having lowered their arms, the guards came round to kiss his hand. Descending by the lift to the Courtyard of St. Damasus, he found Count Antonelli's carriage awaiting him, and he returned at once to the Church of the Sacred Heart.

That evening there was an exposition of the relics which were to be placed in the High Altar on the following day, when His Eminence the Cardinal Vicar consecrated the Church, Don Bosco being present. Many eminent personages were there also, and when later on the Church was thrown open to the public, all expressed their admiration, and declared it worthy of the great city and of its architectural wonders.

The statue of Pius IX, by Gonfalonieri of Milan, was an object of special attention. Don Bosco always had a profound veneration for that Pontiff.

From the 15th to the 18th of May there were solemn functions on the grandest scale, the most eminent Prelates in Rome officiating at them, and conferences being given in several languages, English included. On the Feast of the Ascension, His Eminence Cardinal Parocchi pontificated in the name of the Holy Father, who gave special indulgences for all the octave.

Don Bosco celebrated Mass on the Altar of Our Lady Help of Christians on May 16th. He burst into tears more than fifteen times, and could scarcely finish the Mass. Don Viglietti, who assisted him, had to distract him every now and then, from his violent commotion. After the Mass, a great crowd pressed around striving to kiss his vestments, and asked for his blessing as he went into the Sacristy.

— Yes, yes! replied Don Bosco, and turning round on the step, he said: *Benedico... benedico..* These words were pronounced in a trembling voice, and as he again broke into tears he covered his face with both hands, and he had to be led away. The crowd was much moved by the sight of the tears, but it was in no mind to go away, so the doors had to be closed.

When asked what had moved him so much during the Mass, he replied: "I had so clearly before my eyes the scene as I saw it in my dream when a boy of nine years of age, the scene of the Salesian Society, all flourishing, and I saw and heard my mother again, and my brothers, questioning me about it, so that I could not continue the Holy Sacrifice.

That was the only Mass he celebrated in the Church. Without doubt, his first dream must have come back to him in a very striking manner just then. "In its proper time you will understand" — the Blessed Virgin had said to him; and the little boy of Becchi, after sixty-two years of prompt and heroic obedience, saw clearly how the Mission he had received in his childhood, had received, through the favour of Our Lady Help of Christians, its most solemn sanction, by the consecration of the Church of the Sacred Heart in Rome. He now saw how the the Personage and the Lady of his vision had not only enabled him to found the work which they desired, but had crowned it with an aureola of glory, by the erection of the Temple to the Sacred Heart in the very centre of Christianity. Thus his personal mission was complete and his departure for eternity imminent...

It was to celebrate the twenty-fifth year of the above solemnities that long preparations had been made, and for which Our Superior General went to Rome after his long journey through Spain. There was a magnificent welcome accorded him in the Holy City, and all the great functions were a succession of those enthusiastic scenes, coupled with religious fervour, that had made his recent visit to Spain a regular triumph.

Apart from the functions in the noble Temple dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which keeps ever green the memory of the striking occurrences above recorded, in connection with Don Bosco's last visit to Rome, there were several great gatherings of Co-operators, which showed that the Salesian Work is ever gaining ground in the capital of Christianity. The conference given by Mgr. Salotti was reported in all the principal papers, and was attended by distinguished and influential people, who are assisting in securing its beneficent results for ever increasing numbers.

Another meeting of special importance was the gathering of the Past Pupils of the Institute in Rome. They mustered to the number of four hundred; their association is one of the most important in the Federation of the Past-Pupils, and has many on its roll who are holding some of the highest-positions yet gained by the pupils of Salesian Schools.

There were many distinguished guests at the Institute during Don Albera's visit, among them being Their Eminences Cardinal Cassetta and Pompili, while our protector His Eminence Cardinal Rampolla, gave Benediction on the Feast of the Sacred Heart. There were wonderful scenes of illumination at the Institute and its

vicinity on the various evenings of the festivities, and the Sovereign Pontiff expressed to Don Albera in his private audience his assurance of the continual blessing of God and his own constant interest and protection for the work of the Society.

The XVI Centenary of the Peace of the Church

313-1913

HISTORICAL NOTES III.

Defeat and Death of Maxentius; triumphal entry of Constantine into Rome.

With an assurance that Heaven was on his side, Constantine boldly led forth his troops towards the encampment of Maxentius, for though inferior in numbers, they were eager to vindicate the cause of their young general. An attack had already been made at Susa, where, in order not to lose time by a protracted siege, Constantine had ordered an assault, had set fire to the city and forced it to surrender.

But the main issue was fought out on the plain between Rivoli and Turin, in the vicinity of which, it is thought by authorities of repute, the vision of the Cross was granted to Constantine. There were prodigies of valour on both sides, but Maxentius was at last beaten; Turin closed its gates to the defeated Emperor and opened them to Constantine. It is said that in thanksgiving for his victory, he had the Church of St. Mary Major built, which is even now in existence in the city of Vercelli.

The victorious general had little difficulty in taking Milan and Brescia, while minor cities hastened to place themselves at his disposition. Thus he arrived before the capital, Rome, without much opposition. In the meantime the defeated Maxentius passed his time in riotous living, in despoiling his subjects, and putting Christians to the torture; but when he heard that Constantine was marching on Rome, he made fresh exertions, gathered a large army and sent it forward over the Trevere, which he bridged. He intended to hold this for the service of his own troops, but it was to be destroyed should Constantine attempt to cross.

He next thought of the favour of the gods.

These he determined to propitiate with barbarous sacrifices; for which purpose, women and children were slain, and their entrails examined for a sign of destiny. This proving unsatisfactory, he consulted the Oracles, from which he received this reply: "If the Emperor goes out of the city, the enemy of the Roman people will perish in battle;" he interpreted this in his own favour, regarding Constantine as the enemy of the Romans.

In that General's camp, discipline and prayer were the order of the day. Heaven came to his aid, and it was revealed to him that the arms of the soldiers should bear the stamp of the cross, or the letter X, which is the initial letter of the Greek word for Christ. No wonder, therefore, that Constantine was filled with a new exultation, as he went out to give battle to an enemy, which relied mainly on its overpowering numbers. But it was time for the great oppressor of the human race to cease from his barbarities, and in spite of an obstinate resistance, Constantine's victory was complete. When Maxentius saw that the day was lost, he endeavoured to save himself by flight; but as he was crossing the bridge with his soldiers, it gave way, and he met his death by drowning, as he had determined that his enemy should do. Next day his corpse was rescued from the mud of the river.

Freed thus from the yoke of the tyrant, the Romans welcomed the victor with every manifestation of joy. Constantine made his entry with becoming solemnity, but without any vain show: he thanked the God of victories, for he knew it was by His aid that he had conquered, and the cross, which had proved to be to him a pledge of the protection of Heaven, he caused to be fixed on the top of his diadem to be carried in triumph through the city and set up on the capitol, as though to announce to all the world

the triumph of a crucified God. This was in the year 312.

This was certainly an event of the first importance for the Christian religion, for from that time, the Roman Emperors, both in their laws and public acts recognised the sanctity of Christianity, granted it favours, assisted its Bishops and particularly the Popes in the free exercise of their authority towards all Christians.

Moreover, as soon as Constantine had made himself master of Rome he not only granted

miles from Rome, was in a flutter of excitement, for thousands of armed men were gathering in its vicinity. The verdant plains, through which the Trevere slowly wound its way in gentle curves, had previously been the scene of Fabius' noble sacrifice. Later on, Antonius fighting in the cause of Vespasian had made it the scene of his encampment, and towards the end of the following century there had been a revolt there among the soldiers of Septimus Severus. The quiet village, therefore, with its old tavern,



CORDOVA (Spain) — Honourable Presidents for the feasts in honour of the Very Rev. Don Albera.

favours to the Christians, but commenced to live as a Christian himself. He prohibited all persecution, recalled the exiles, opened the prisons and repaired the losses of those who had been despoiled; the Sovereign Pontiffs were raised to the position of dignity and external reverence, befitting the Vicars of that God, to whom Constantine acknowledged that he owed his victories and his Empire.

John Bosco.

IV.

Some details of Constantine's Victory over Maxentius at "Saxa Rubra."

On Oct. 28th 312, the little fortified station of Saxa Rubra on the *Via Flaminia* about nine

which had once given hospitality to the Triumvir Antonius, was no stranger to the sound of arms, nor even to imperial retinues. Fable hath it that an enormous eagle had let fall into the lap of Livia, who was recently married to Augustus, a white hen carrying a spray of laurel in its mouth; and she had had built upon the hill to the east a magnificent villa, and adorned it with pictures, one of which showed a beautiful garden rich in laurels and palms, and which still exists as a notable proof of an early Roman School of painting.

On the morning of Oct. 28th 312, this very villa of Livia was occupied by Maxentius and the Roman troops, for its elevated position gave it a dominating view over the surrounding coun-

try, and the road which was to be contested with Constantine.

Preceded by his sacred standard, and trusting in the aid of that God whose omnipotence he had already experienced, Constantine had marched on from Verona along the Flaminian Way as far as *Saxa Rubra* where his entry into Rome was to be disputed. Maxentius had come forth, calling upon all the gods of Rome, invoked and consulted by the auspices, oracles, sacrifices and

Constantine attacked. He was in the midst of the fighting, and delivered a preliminary onslaught upon the opposing cavalry which was their strongest department. For a time the issue was doubtful; but when Maxentius' cavalry gave way, and the Infantry were attacked, it soon lost ground and turned in flight; only the pretorian guard resisted and left their dead bodies on the field of battle.

The Flaminian way led straight to the river,



CORDOVA (Spain) — Entertainment in honour of the Very Rev. Don Paul Albera.

witchcraft. As to the spot where the two armies met in that great conflict, which was to decide the destiny of Rome and of the Christian world it is generally agreed that it occurred near the bridge called *Ponte Milvio*. Zosimus gives the numbers of Constantine's men at 90,000 and that of Maxentius at 178,000; others give less than 40,000 to the former and 100,000 to the latter; and these numbers seem to be nearer the truth. The soldiers of Constantine were those raised for the fighting in Gaul; their opponents consisted of the army received by Maxentius from his father, assisted by another composed of Italians and Moors; but the backbone was the famous pretorian guard to which the Emperor owed his very throne.

and then turned to reach the *ponte Milvio*. It is generally believed that it was at this turning that Maxentius built the bridge of boats and rafts which was eagerly sought as an escape for his army; but on the contrary it proved its ruin. Zosimus attributes it to the overwhelming weight of the fugitive soldiers, others to the purposely weak construction, for Maxentius thought his enemy would be driven across it; in any case its collapse proved the utter destruction of his army and made his cause hopeless. It is said that Maxentius, conscious of the unsafe character of the bridge, attempted the river on horseback, but that the current and the heavy armour prevented the animal from swimming. But no one could be sure of what happen-

ed in the utter rout; it is, however, certain that there Maxentius perished, that his body was recovered on the following day, that his head was cut off and fixed on a pike and borne in triumph through the streets of Rome.

When this wooden bridge had collapsed the troops of Maxentius made for that of *Ponte Milvio*, as a final means of escape. But they discovered that this was already occupied by Constantine's army, for this is represented on the arch of Constantine, which commemorates the famous battle.

It was indeed a great success, not only from the fact that it was obtained over an enemy superior in numbers, and on a site entirely new to Constantine (for it was the first time that he

that Divine Providence had pre-arranged that there should be in proximity the two great testimonies to the triumph of Jesus Christ over both Judaism and Paganism. There was written the last page of the history of the Jewish people and the first of the conquests of Christianity — its first appearance in the light of the sun, in the fullness of its possession of liberty and peace.

Rev. J. Grossi-Gondi S. F.

The Constantine Jubilee.

On the 8th of last March, His Holiness Pope Pius X. deigned to publish the Apostolic Letter promulgating a universal Jubilee Indulgence, in



MALAGA (Spain) — The Very Rev. Don Albera among the pupils of the Institute.

had come to Rome), but because there perished in the river the fierce tyrant, the oppressor of Africa and Rome, the violator of liberty and honour, the persecutor of the Christian name. It is true there was no re-appearance of the marvellous sign of the cross in Rome itself to be a guide to Constantine, but that cross shone out on the helmets and breastplates of the soldiers, and it replaced the eagle in the forum of Rome itself; this was a sign of liberty for the city and the Empire, and the Senate and people then decreed the erection of an arch of triumph to perpetuate the memory of that significant event. And it was placed in a most conspicuous position, where the four quarters of the city seemed to meet, near to the triumphal arch of Titus, the conqueror of the Jews; it would thus seem

memory of the peace given to the Catholic Church by the Emperor Constantine the Great. A summary of that Document was officially published.

The commemoration of the joyous event, by which, sixteen centuries ago, peace was finally secured to the Church, is not only a source of rejoicing to the Catholic world, but also urges us to open the treasures of the Church, so that they may flow more abundantly upon all. It is indeed fitting to celebrate that famous Edict of Milan, issued by Constantine after his victory over Maxentius, which made an end to persecution, and put the Christians in possession of the liberty won by the Blood of Our Divine Redeemer, and by that of the martyrs.

Then it was that the Church obtained the first of those victories which inevitably follow

the phases of persecution, and from that day commenced those wonderful favours which She has ever since bestowed on the human race; for it was then that men relinquished the superstitious cult of idols, and that the ideals of Christianity began to influence laws and habits, so that the reign of justice and charity commenced to flourish upon earth.

At a time then, when such a great event is commemorated, the faithful should offer up redoubled prayers in thanksgiving and supplication, so that all may seek the safe refuge of the Bosom of the Church, that error may be confuted, that obedience may be re-establish-

ing conditions: They shall visit twice each the Basilicas of St. John Lateran, of St. Peter Prince of the Apostles, of St. Paul outside the walls, and shall there pray for the prosperity and exaltation of the Catholic Church and of the Apostolic See, for the extirpation of heresies, for the conversion of sinners, for the concord of Christian princes, and the peace and union of the whole christian people, and shall also approach the Holy Sacraments, and shall each, according to his circumstances make an alms to the poor or for the advantage of some pious work.

To those who cannot visit the city of Rome, the Supreme Pontiff grants the same Plenary



CARMONA (Spain) — Reception to the Very Rev. Don Albera.

ed, and that the Catholic Faith may triumph. With confidence in the cross that triumphed so signally of old, We hope that the blasphemers of the Christian name may be converted, and their unbridled passions restrained. And in order that these circumstances may redound to the greater spiritual advantage of the faithful, We have determined to enrich them with a Plenary Indulgence in the form of a Jubilee, and We beseech all to unite their prayers with ours, so that this Jubilee may be of the greatest possible good to all, and advantageous to Religion.

Wherefore the Supreme Pontiff grants to all the faithful of both sexes dwelling in the city of Rome, or that shall come to it, a plenary Indulgence in the form of a Jubilee, under the follow-

ing conditions: They shall visit six times the church or churches of their parish, and fulfil the other conditions laid down above. This indulgence moreover is applicable to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. He also grants that those on a journey by sea or land may, on their return, obtain the Indulgence when they shall have performed the required conditions. To those in Religious Orders, or those confined in any place such as a hospital or prison, or who from any cause whatever, cannot fulfil the works above indicated, the Confessor may remit or change the prescribed works, and allot some act of piety and can dispense with the Communion in the case of the young who have not yet been admitted to it.

An account of Our Superior General's visit to Spain

Corduba.

The story of Don Albera's visitation to the various provinces of Spain, made with the object of becoming more intimately acquainted with the work of the Schools and Houses, reads like one continued march from triumph to triumph. Although such enthusiasm seems somewhat uncommon to us, it is to a great degree natural in those states where the representative of a

was the signal for a mighty ovation from the past-pupils and others who were in waiting to bid him welcome. In fact there was a representative gathering of all the authorities of the town, both civil and ecclesiastical, and many distinguished Co-operators — a number far too large to calculate.

Don Albera entered the Bishop's carriage, and there was a long procession towards the Salesian



MADRID (Spain) — The Very Rev. Don Albera among the ecclesiastical authorities of the City.

great religious work is regarded with a respect and attention due to the true dignity of his office, and inseparably associated with high positions in the Church; moreover the provinces of Spain have been previously visited by the Ven. Don Bosco himself, and it is with the remembrance of his saintly personality and miraculous gifts that his Successor is welcomed as a continuator of his work, and the possessor of a sacred heritage. Passing from the districts of *Jativa* and *Alcazar*, each of which made festive gathering suitable to its importance, the important town of Corduba was reached. The first glimpse of Don Albera through the carriage windows

Institute. In the front of the School the crowd was so great that it was with difficulty that an entrance was made. On the following morning Don Albera said the Mass for the boys, after which he went to visit the aged Bishop who is eighty five years old, and who was greatly moved at once more receiving the Successor of Don Bosco. After the interview, one of the Canons conducted us round the Cathedral, one of the oldest in existence, and showing wonderful examples of Moorish art and architecture and the strange harmonising between them and the Christian Faith.

The boys were to give an entertainment in the

afternoon, which was to be private, or only for the School itself; but it was impossible to restrict it to that, and many Co-operators and friends, anxious to see and meet Don Albera had to be admitted. However the gathering for the Co-operators was held on the following day — and a representative gathering it was, Corduba was there not exactly in its entirety, but in all its highest and best, and everything was conducted with admirable precision and perfection.

the main street we saw it all festooned and decorated in honour of the Visitor. The following day was Sunday, so that many Co-operators had the opportunity of assisting at Don Albera's Mass, and at the Conference given in the evening. After various visits, it was soon time to take our departure to *Malaga*.

Here the Bishop's Representative, with the canons of the Cathedral, was in attendance at the Station and many gentlemen belonging to various societies. It was quite surprising



SEVILLE (Spain) — The Very Rev. Don Albera among the small artisans.

At Montilla.

On the 15th of Feb. we went on to Montilla, but there was first of all an official send-off at the station, at which the Governor himself presided. Moreover at the first stop of the train we were surprised to find the platform crowded with Salesian pupils from Corduba who had come on by an earlier train, to give a final farewell.

At Montilla the ecclesiastical authorities were waiting to give Don Albera a suitable reception. It was about two when we arrived at the little town, and as we were driven along

here, too, what general attention Don Albera's visit had aroused, for his ride across the city to the Salesian School of St. Bartholemew was accompanied with the sound of music and applause. A solemn *Te Deum* in the Church was the first celebration, after which the aged and infirm Bishop desired us to go to his palace for an interview with him.

In this place there was held the customary gathering of the Co-operators and friends and a large number attended Don Albera's Mass and were confessed and communicated by him.

These scenes of enthusiastic welcome were

repeated in every town where Don Albera made his visitation, at *Ronda, Ecija, Ulvera Seville and Cadiz*. At Seville particularly there were very successful gatherings of Co-operators, and several Salesian works to be inspected. The meeting of the past-pupils was particularly well-attended and gave great promise of the good work that is being and will yet be accomplished by their influence.

There were still other places to be visited. *Jerez, San José del Valle and Carmona* have

Don Albera's brief address at the close of the proceedings was listened to as from one inspired, and it was a scene that one could not easily forget.

Book Notices.

In the Shilling *Iona Series*, the Irish Catholic Truth Society have issued an interesting work,



SEVILLE (Spain) — The Very Rev. Don Albera among the small students.

each flourishing Institutions, and at each there was a vast crowd to give welcome to Don Bosco's Successor, and to show their interest, direct or indirect, in his work.

By the 30th of March we had reached *Madrid*. It was natural that at the Capital there should be a proportionately large attendance of Co-operators and friends, but the reality surpassed all expectations. The general meeting was at four in the afternoon, and one would have guessed that it was some royal reception, from the numbers and quality of the quests who were present.

entitled *The Emperor Marcus Aurelius* by John C. Joy, S. J. The narrative is excellently written whether dealing with historical facts or the characterisation of the Emperor, whose high ideals are here especially studied.

Among their recently published penny pamphlets are:

1. A plea for Social Work, by J. P. M.
2. Lourdes, by Rev. Myles V. Ronan.
- 24 Upper O' Connel St. Dublin.



Salesian Notes and News.

September. Although in the actual conditions of things school-life

is just re-awakening with the coming of September, we have not had as yet any opportunity of commenting on the final scenes of the last term, which bore away the Scholastic Year of 1912-1913. The Oxford Local examinations (whose results, as we write, are yet to come), were held at the School, in the Upper Forms Class-rooms and everything went off with the seriousness and decorum that befits such an event. The results are awaited with equanimity.

On the last evening of the examination the Prizes were distributed in the large Hall. The ceremony was presided over by the Very Rev. Fr. Provincial and the consigning of the awards to the upper and lower sections was only broken at intervals for the musical items which the youthful pianists and violinists contributed with great skill and taste. Besides the prizes for distinction in various subjects, there were also those given by the Diocesan Examiner for religious knowledge, and those obtained just previously at the Senior sports, combined with the points secured for cricket and tennis. Thus there was plenty of enthusiasm, and applause was lavishly bestowed, as it the custom among juvenile competitors.

At the conclusion of this part of the programme there was the speech from the Very Rev. Father Macey, the Principal of the School. He called the attention of the boys to various points of conduct suitable both to those who were leaving for good, or who were going for the usual vacation, so that what they had learnt and practised at school, might be a guide to them when away from its control and immediate influence. After he had wished all a pleasant holiday the boys sang the School Song in a fine chorus. It was its first official rendering at a school function, and certainly gave that finish and completeness which makes a ceremony successful beyond dispute, and it provided that enthusiasm associated with the final scene of a scholastic year.

..

The prize distribution at the Salesian School, Farnborough, is to be held in the first term of the New School Year, when it will be one of the ventes connected with the opening of the new buildings. This extension of the School is a guarantee at once of successful work in the past, and of prosperity in the future. It will enable the increasing numbers to be dealt with conveniently and aid the general efficiency of the work, whose already high standard was attested at the recent successes in the College of Preceptors examinations.

❖

An explorer in Brazil. Giving an account of his travels in Brazil, Mr. Henry Savage Landor paid a graceful compliment to the missionary labours of the Salesian Fathers. He mentions them first in the *Daily Chronicle* of July 8th. He describes his difficulty in obtaining guides for the arduous journey he proposed to make across Brazil from east to west, and we are reminded, as a preliminary, that the state is almost as large as the whole of the United States of America. His was an exploring voyage, and accordingly he went well armed, and had armed his band of guides and followers. However when his animals were packed, a policeman was sent to him, to summon him to the Governor's palace. There he learnt that some of his men had confided to friends that they were merely going with the explorer in order to murder and rob him as soon as they had an opportunity. He therefore set off with a few, and says: "Having been unsuccessful in obtaining sufficient men from the officials in Goyaz there yet remained for me one faint last hope. It was to try and get a few followers from the Indian Colony of the Salesian Fathers, a few days' journey west of the Araguaya River.

Later on he shows that this hope was vain; it appears that the sinister character of the men whom he had engaged made it unlikely that any one would volunteer to form one of

the party, and his description of the dangers of mutiny and assassination at their hands reads singularly unlike that of the comparatively quiet journeys made by our missionaries in in these very same parts.

Mr. Landon's descriptions of the scenes through which he passed are full of pictures of beautiful, grand and fertile country, and the mere outline notes supplied to the *Chronicle* show that the accounts given in our Missionary letters are faithful transcripts of the sensations of observant minds. Any one of our missionaries reading the account would recognise every step there traced out, and endorse what is said of the difficulties in the way of an intrepid undertaking.

But it is when he comes into contact with the Bororo Tribes that he meets the Salesian Fathers. His description of the Tribe, its habits and characteristics are quite corroborative of what has already appeared in our columns, in various missionary letters, and a judicious collection from them might have long ago given the public and idea of what is now being published of those regions and their inhabitants. Indeed, some of the exciting meetings of the Missionaries with the Indians, would probably be more thrilling.

In the *Daily Chronicle* the explore says: "As we proceeded on our journey the scenery became more and more beautiful. The country was practically deserted, and after leaving the bororo tribe we met nobody until, after travelling over great undulations and plateaus of volcanics formation, across more extensive deposits of eruptive cinders, across immense *campos* and flows of lava, we eventually arrived at the colony of the Salesian Fathers.

Although I am not a Roman Catholic, the Salesians were extremely kind and hospitable to me. The work they had accomplished in that region was remarkable. They had cultivated great stretches of land, they had built a small meteorological observatory, they had worked hard among the Indians, a number of whom they had collected round them, teaching them agriculture and all kinds of useful trades. The gentleness of the Fathers towards the Indians was admirable, and they were worshipped by the natives who were to be found in those regions.

I was again disappointed not to be able to obtain a single extra man to join my expedition, although the Fathers tried hard to induce several Indians to accompany me. The Indians were timid, and nothing would persuade them to leave their territory."

We are pleased to acknowledge this frank testimony to the successful work of our Missio-

naries among the Bororos; the refusal of the Indians to join his party is explicable on many grounds besides that of timidity, for the traditions of the tribes contain harrowing scenes of cruelty experienced from the whites, whose intentions were not always so humane and pacific as those of Mr. Landor, who, in spite of great dangers and privations, has achieved the great feat of traversing the continent of South America from coast to coast, his journey being computed at 13,750 miles.

Echoes of the Malta Congress.

Although we have previously commented on the part taken by the Salesians and their Co-operators in the Eucharistic Congress at Malta, we are now supplied with a succinct account of their doings during those memorable days.

Besides the solemn Triduum celebrated in the Oratory of Sliema, the boys of the various associations, with their banners floating before them, joined with the boys of St. Patrick's in the general Communion. The boys of the Brigade had the good fortune to be appointed as guard of honour to the Cardinal Legate, and thus they were in the Strada Reale of Valletta, and in front of the Casino Maltese, where His Eminence Cardinal Ferrata witnessed the great march-past of the children, and received the acclamations for the distinguished visitors.

On the same day there was a solemn function in the Church of St. Patrick's, the arrangements being made by the Ladies of Mary Help of Christians, on their particular day of celebration, the 24th of the month. There were present His Eminence Cardinal Nava and his Auxiliary Bishop.

Next day similar services were held for the boys at Sliema in the Chapel of their own Oratory, in which they were joined by the boys from the *Juventutis Domus*. His Grace the Archbishop of Messina presided at these functions.

On the 26th, the Salesians had a good share in the Pontifical Mass celebrated by His Eminence Card. Bourne, in the Church of Musta. The music was rendered by the Salesian choir of St. Patrick's, which numbers about a hundred singers, and a very large gathering of Congressists assisted at the Mass, including several members of the Hierarchy, the Duke of Norfolk and many distinguished officers of the navy and army.

The arrival of His Eminence Card. Bourne was announced by a salute from the boys of the Brigade who were lined up on the piazza,

and their salutation was taken up and increased to a mighty shout by the thousands who were in waiting. The boys were lined up in the nave during the Mass, and afterwards escorted His Eminence the Cardinal Legate, arriving at Musta from Valletta for the final meeting of the Congress.

The members of the *Juventutis* formed an imposing group in the great Procession of Sunday April 27th. Together with the Brigade they were the first in the grand march, and they also formed the singers near the high tribune from which His Eminence the Cardinal Legate gave the

Thus the Congress made quite a brilliant Chapter not only in the history of Malta, but in that inner history of the Salesian work in the Island with which we are more particularly concerned.



The Monument to It will be remembered that **The Venerable** the result of the open competition for the plans of a monument to Don Bosco was the selection of five of the most suitable, and the distribution of the award among them. These five were to compete



Don Bosco's Monument — The sketch that won the prize.

the Benediction to the crowd, which was by far the largest ever seen in Malta.

On the 28th, the members of the *Juventutis*, in conjunction with the boys of St. Patrick's and the Festive Oratory of Sliema, gave a grand concert in their large theatre hall to the distinguished Visitors. It was one of the finest gatherings of the Congress. All the Cardinals present in Malta were invited and many of the Bishops and other celebrities. Two plays were given, one in Italian and one in English, and there were some gymnastic exercises at the end. His Eminence Card. Bourne made a speech in which he spoke at length of the work of Don Bosco, and his words were punctuated with great applause.

again, after consideration of the suggestions made by the judges. One declined the further contest, and of the four remaining, the Jury decided in a full sitting on July 9th, that the design of Signor Cellini of Turin should be accepted.

About his design the successful artist says:

"I wanted the figure of Don Bosco to rise amidst a group of children, because Don Bosco was above all and before all a great benefactor of the young.

"From him, moreover, my design shows other groups of those whom he succoured going in various directions, but all gathered under the protection of the Help of Christians, and of Our Lord in the Most Holy Sacrament.

"It is common knowledge that Don Bosco taught these two devotions first and foremost; therefore you see beneath the Sacred Host a workman, an artisan, who having been educated in the School of Don Bosco, returns as a man to the Holy Eucharist, to obtain there his strength and comfort; to the same source are seen returning the mothers of our children, already educated by the Daughters of Our Lady Help of Christians. One of them, as her little boy seems to run towards Our Lord, is kissing his brow, as though to infuse into his pure heart the graces obtained in Holy Communion: another as she returns to Our Lord appears dejected, and presents her little one to Don Bosco, as though asking his help.

Little girls are also seen going to Our Lady Help of Christians; moreover, in contrast to the others, a son of the forests is seen approaching, as though he too were conquered by the influence of the Virgin-Mother; after him there comes also a leper, whose presence there records the highest heroism of the disciples of Don Bosco.

In the rear of the group are representations of the chief departments of Don Bosco's work set out in bass-relief.

*
* *

The significance of the monument is well brought out by a gifted writer in the organ of the past-pupils Federation. "The inspiring figure of the great Apostle of the Youth of our times is regarded with veneration not only by those who form the select army of his sons, who have consecrated their lives to the continuation

of his Apostolate, but by a vast number of past-pupils of every nation, of every rank and age. That image dominates innumerable scholastic halls, where the young are gathered together in their hundreds, and where, along with their classical and scientific education, or their training in arts and trades, they receive that gift of inestimable value — a spiritual, a religious training.

He still watches over the class-rooms and workshops as of old; his picture has become a carefully guarded talisman in the huts of the Indians, hidden away in the forests and pampas, and they have become, by the influence of his charity amenable to spiritual and material regeneration.....

To all the figure of this lowly priest, with the many associations of grateful and inspiring memories, presents itself as the personification and symbol of the highest virtue, surrounded with its nimbus of glory, which will appear in all its splendour when it stands upon that monument which is being reared by the gratitude and love of his followers. And it will appear in a setting most favourable to it; for it will stand before the great Basilica of Our Lady Help of Christians, erected by him, surrounded by that mass of buildings which are a gigantic proof of what he achieved, adding to the lustre of his name.

..

On Aug. 16th last occurred the 98th anniversary of the birth of Don Bosco, so that hardly two years now remain for the completion of the monument, which is to be unveiled for his centenary.

To avoid delays and losses, we beg our Co-operators to send all their offerings for the Works of Don Bosco, only and directly to our Superior General, Very Rev. Fr. Paul Albera, 32 Via Cottolengo, Turin, (Italy).



News from the Missions.

ARGENTINNE REPUBLIC.

Laying the foundation stone of a new Hospital at Viedma.

The 8th of February 1913, will stand out in the Annals of this Mission as one of the most memorable and glorious dates. It was a veritable triumph, a plebiscite of admiration and sympathy for a providential work. Christian charity, which desires to embrace the whole of suffering humanity to mitigate its pains, recognized the insufficiency of the building hitherto used for this end, and to the benefactors and admirers of the Salesian work in Patagonia it made known the long cherished plan of erecting a new Hospital, with all modern improvements capable of accommodating several hundred poor patients. Universal applause greeted this proposal and with pious enthusiasm a day was speedily fixed for the laying of the first stone of the magnificent edifice on the site of the older building.

The celebration was carried out in the most perfect harmony and union, binding together various classes in one thought, the remembrance of the innumerable benefits, which for more than 25 years, the *San José* Hospital had procured for sufferers, by the labours of that charitable Salesian priest Fr. Evasio Garrone who, overflowing with the love of Jesus Christ, to hundreds of poor invalids, destitute, broken with suffering, seeking in the Hospital bodily health, gave also health of soul, fortitude in suffering, consolation in sorrow.

To the invitation issued by our *Flores del Campo* responded the principal authorities of the Republic and the élite of the population on both banks of the Rio Negro, of Viedma and Patagones. After the *Missa Cantata* for the repose of the soul of the ever regretted Fr. Garrone, at which the authorities of the locality were present, the congregation passed to the square in front of the old Hospital. On a temporary platform, to the inspiring notes of a

march, assembled his Excellency R. Gallardo Governor of the Territory with his wife, deputed to represent the President of the Republic: with these were the Vicar Forane, Fr. Louis Pedemonte, Provincial of the Salesian Houses of Northern and Central Patagonia, representing His Grace Dr. Mariano A. Espinosa, Archbishop of Buenos Ayres; Signora Angela Lanza di Tribarne representing the President of the Salesian Lady Cooperators; Dr. Charles Hildeman representing the President of the National Department of Hygiene; the Committee charged with the promotion of the Work; all the Civil and Military Authorities; the Consular Agent for Italy and many notable families.

The Argentine Hymn having been sung and the first Stone solemnly blessed, the Very Rev. Fr. Pedemonte began his discourse and in a pleasing and attractive manner, inspired by purely Christian sentiments and animated with ardent and sincere love for all who suffer, he explained the Mission confided to the Apostles: — "Go through the world, preach the Gospel, assist the sick, alleviate suffering!" — declaring that he was ready to bear all trials, to overcome every obstacle, to conquer every difficulty in order to be faithful to that divine ideal, to the desires of the Ven. Don Bosco, to the wishes of the country, to the voice of conscience, which is superior to all human interests.

After him it was the turn of Dr. Richard Spurr, Director of the *San José* Hospital, who in the eloquent language of statistics gave expression to the highest eulogium of the Work from its beginning, recalling the difficulties overcome, both in providing for ever fresh cases and in supplying the Hospital with the best possible staff of surgeons to attend to urgent cases, so frequent in these districts. He alluded to the Apostolic charity of Mgr. Cagliari and the labours of the indefatigable Fr. Garrone, and after praising the initiative of the Committee of Promoters, he concluded with an appeal to the charity of the Argentine people.

The third in the chorus of praise was the lawyer Emilio De Rege. He spoke in the name of the Committee "For the Hospital" and his

lucid speech captivated the attention of all; He explained the work of the Committee, proposed practical measures for supplying urgent necessities and concluded by an appeal to the generosity of the Argentine ladies and those of Viedma in particular, so that the high reputation for generosity they have enjoyed for so many years might be worthily sustained. Finally he appealed to the charity of all, since the new Hospital will be open to all and on all the most devoted care will be lavished.

Last of all the Governor of the Territory Dr. Charles Gallardo spoke, showing forth the sublime character of the divine precept: "Love thy neighbour as thyself!"

The solemn ceremony will not be forgotten by the good citizens, whose efficacious Co-operation, we trust, will hasten the realization of the providential design.

NAZARIUS BARTOLI
Salesian Priest.

INDIA.

The Orphanage of Tanjore.

(Letter from Fr. Eugenius Mederlet).

Tanjore, April 24, 1913.

Very Rev. Don Albera,

Truly it is a long time since the Mission of Tanjore has given any signs of life; and now that you have sent us two new missionaries it is necessary to give you some idea of what is being done and of what may be done in the future, if the mission can be extended and consolidated.

On the 16th of February we kept the Feast of S. Francis de Sales, presided over by our Bishop Mgr. D. De Castro. Mass was sung by Fr. Tomatis, Director of our house of Mylapore. In the evening after Vespers the Bishop gave a conference to the Salesian Cooperators. He spoke admirably of our Venerable Don Bosco and of his work and exhorted all to co-operate especially for the house of Tanjore.

And this house is truly in need of help to bring it up to date.

At present we have about 70 boys, some of whom are prosecuting their studies with the hope of becoming priests, and the others are learning various arts and trades.

But the accommodation for these boys is

truly miserable. The schools consist of a long room, divided by bamboo matting into various sections for the different classes, where 130 boys from the parish attend the school as externs. When the studies are ended, the benches and the matting are removed and the same room serves as refectory; a very simple refectory however where there are no tables, no table-cloths, no knives and forks, each boy requires only a plate, which he washes himself... and uses his fingers for instruments.

At night the same room becomes the dormitory. Here also beds and mattresses are not required... each boy spreads his little mat on the ground, lies down and... good night.

The laboratories are still more simple!

Two bamboo huts roofed with palm leaves are the whole establishment. These afford but little shelter from the rain and none from the wind; fortunately there is no danger here of catching cold. The misfortune is that sometimes the wind overthrows the building and we have to reconstruct it hastily. Nor is there any dearth of daily and nightly visitors, such as serpents, rats, birds of prey, insects of all kinds and, above all, robbers. We are obliged to have two mastiffs who keep watch at night and sometimes fire a few shots to scare away the daring nocturnal thieves.

And yet, notwithstanding all this our Industrial School meets with the approbation of the English Government and is, or rather will soon become, one of the first in Southern India. You will have received our letter in which we explained our design for the construction of the laboratories and for the arrangement of the Industrial School.

At the present moment there are difficulties with the Hindu Municipality which purposes to extend the city on the side where we wish to build; we hope, however, to be able to carry out our plans.

A Pagan lady has offered as a good sum for the building, and the Government will help us. Already it has shown its goodwill in presenting us with machinery and other things for our laboratories. Lately it has given us a motor of about 10 horse power, which we shall begin by utilise in our hut whilst waiting for a better building. The Government also gives a good monthly stipend to each of the newly arrived missionaries and more is promised when the laboratories are in full working order.

As you see it is impossible for us to do otherwise than attend to the urgent need of constructing the laboratories. We must, moreover, buy the ground required at our own cost, and for this we implore the help of our good Coe-

rators, both men and women, in Europe. Accustomed to assist the Missions as they are, may they remember also our poor mission of Tanjore.

Your devoted Son in J. C.

EUGENIUS MEDERLET,

Salesian Missionary.



GLEANINGS.

From Elisabethville (Belgian Congo). — Our brethren in this Mission, on the day of Pen-

and carpenters' schools carried off the *Grand Prix*, the highest honour.

From Tierra del Fuego.— Fr. Maggiorino Borgatello writes to us from the Mission of Candelaria in Tierra del Fuego.

"... On Sunday, February 2nd was kept with great solemnity the titular feast of the Mission, that of Candlemas or the Purification.

Fifty of the native Indians received Holy Communion. A good young man, about thirty years of age, who has been with us but a short time and is well instructed in our Holy Religion,



ELIZABETHVILLE (Congo) — The house of the Mission.

most solemnly administered to four white children their First Communion, a foretaste of the ineffable consolation they anticipate for the day when they shall do the same for the native population. To these they are giving regularly Catechetical instructions in *Kishahili*; and on all Feast days they have the opportunity of assisting at Holy Mass, during which Christian prayers are recited in the same language.

There are twenty-eight attending the professional schools. They were invited to take part in an Exhibition which took place in the town and specimens of the work in the tailors'

received Holy Baptism, Confirmation and first Communion.

At 10 o'clock Mass was sung, with the Blessing of the Candles, which were distributed to all present. The splendid weather contributed greatly to the enjoyment of the feast. In the evening, Vespers were sung, with a Sermon and Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament. All the Indians assisted with a delighted interest.



FROM ALBANIA.

The condition of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians during the late war.

The Daughters of Mary Help of Christians at Scutari in Albania have two houses: an *Orphanage* and a *Home for the Aged*; two providential institutions to which many girls and many poor old people owe their salvation.

As much was said of them during the war and even sinister reports were circulated as to their fate, we are glad to be able to reassure completely their relatives, our brethren and their friends and benefactors, publishing at the same time the following account.

From the "Diary of the Orphanage"

October 8th. — At Midday two loud cannon shots announce the declaration of war between Montenegro and Albania. This produces a profound impression and we await events.

November 1st. — After the discharge of several shells in the city from the Montenegrin troops, the citizens by means of the Royal Consuls, residing here, clamoured for peace; and in consequence, a notice was received from the Ottoman Government that, whoever wished to leave from fear of the war was free to do so by the road to S. Giovanni di Medua, within the next three days. A few only were able to do this, because along this road there was fierce fighting, so that the fugitives had to make their way amidst the corpses of soldiers and one driver was killed by the guns.

December 12th. — The war being prolonged, we laid in stores of food for the whole of January, at increased prices.

January 2nd. — Being urged by the Royal Consul for Italy, foreseeing the prolongation of the war, we provided ourselves with food for the whole of February but diminished the daily rations.

January 31st. — As bread could only be obtained from one bakery and in very small quanti-

ties, we thought of erecting a bake house at the Home, as an addition to the small oven of the kitchen, which we had been using for some days.

February 7th. — After four months of more or less severe fighting, interrupted from time to time by a brief armistice, towards four o'clock this morning we heard once more the noise of cannon from all parts of the town, the result of a fresh declaration of war after the death of the Minister of War at Constantinople, and indeed several shells fell in the town causing damage to persons and property. We are full of apprehension, awaiting the result.

February 8th-9th. — The attack is continued on both sides, day and night.

February 10th. — Bombardment suspended for twenty-four hours for the removal of the dead and wounded. We renew our stores of food at increased cost for the whole month of March.

February 11th. — The Consul, with the Archbishop's approval, asks us to lend our help in nursing the wounded Turkish soldiers, transported to the house of Signor Ciobba, now used as the School. Four are chosen, taking the work in turn, two by two. We are given the less serious cases.

The Sisters and Orphans begin to make bread at the Home, as the bakers supply no more. Having got in a store of flour, we are baking it with the bran. Owing to the rain of cannon balls, the whistling of shells and the urgent entreaties of friends of the Institute, we arrange a dormitory for the orphans in the refectory on the ground floor, as safer in case of a cannon shot. As a precaution the girls do not undress.

February 12th-16th. — The Sisters appointed to nurse the wounded Turkish soldiers attend to them every day. With them are ladies and gentlemen and priests.

February 17th. — We continue to nurse the wounded; but in about half an hour Sister Ronco and Sister Rabiola return home alarmed by the falling of two cannon balls on the house. The Doctors advised them to leave, as it appeared the house was made the object of an attack. The doctors left after the Sisters, still in the

nursing costume which they took off on the way, amidst the sympathetic enquiries of those they met in the street. The wounded soldiers did the same, helping the more serious cases. All got safe away, though much alarmed. Having told us what had happened and taken a restorative they went to complete their work of charity in a house adjoining the Orphanage, which was turned into a Turkish military hospital.

February 18th-21st. — During the hours when

We ran to the orphan's dormitory and durst not enter seeing a great cloud of dust, and feared the place might be on fire. Taking courage we found a great hole at the end of the dormitory, in front near the ceiling. Bricks, stones and mortar had fallen. More than half the beds were empty, with a few mattresses rolled up; we found some of these damaged and the bedsteads broken, by the falling débris. The Consul with several officials soon arrived to see what had happened. They advised us to re-



ELIZABETHVILLE (Congo) — The carpenters' shop.

the doctors and surgeons are there, the Sisters attend to the dressing of wounds.

February 21st. — Following the advice of friends the Sisters also sleep on the ground floor.

February 24th. — All were attending to their ordinary duties about twenty minutes to six in the evening when a whistling was heard following the discharge of a cannon and a ball fell like a thunderbolt.

In much alarm we enquired where it could have fallen, as it seemed to have struck our house.

main below and to cover with the remaining mattresses the floor above the refectory where the orphans slept. During the night the firing of cannon continued.

February 25th. — With the Italian Consul, came also the Austrian Consul as protector of Religious Worship to verify what had happened yesterday and to congratulate us on our fortunate escape.

February 27th. — At nine in the evening a noisy discharge of cannon, followed by a sharp

whistling and the falling of ruins alarmed us and we hurried to find out whether a shell had burst in the dormitory where some hay was stored for repairs. We found nothing and retired to rest.

February 28th. — On rising, we found that the shell of yesterday had exploded at the corner of the Court-yard of the church, breaking some windows in the Church and in the upper story of the workroom of the elder orphans.

March 3rd. — The Consul informed the Directress, that the combined Consuls had obtained from the Turkish Government a place of temporary security for their Colonists during the prolonged bombardment of the city, on the hill of Tepe, half-an-hour's distance from Scutari, in the Turkish barracks.

The *Mantellate* Sisters came to beg of our Directress to join them, as they had decided to leave for Tepe; their house having been ruined by many shells, afforded them no security. We took time to consider our answer.

March 4th. — We went to the Consul to learn if he had obtained from the Pasha permission for us to leave the city, or if he only granted us a refuge at Tepe. He replied that he was firm in not conceding more than he said, and that it would be a good thing to go there. The Directress asked if it would be advisable to go to the Governor himself and beg of him to allow us to go out. The Consul did not disapprove, wishing to leave nothing undone, and he sent his own dragoman with her and some other Sisters to the Pasha; they did not find him, but were able to speak to his Secretary, who kindly promised to support their request and give them the answer on the following day.

March 5th. — Having heard that during the night several large cannon balls had fallen in the city, injuring several people, fearing the same danger for the orphans as there are no underground rooms, it was decided to send back to their families, whilst the bombardment lasted, those who had relatives in the city, keeping only those who have no parents or whose relatives live outside Scutari.

The Consul informs us the Pasha replies he can only give the security mentioned above and nothing more.

Towards four o'clock in the afternoon a Sister with a young assistant and the *Mantellate* Sisters left for Tepe. Arriving there about six, they heard much firing of guns and bombs, for the Barracks are not far from the Turkish camp and are thus in danger in case of an assault. The above-mentioned were sent to ascertain if the refuge offered were suitable. Those assembled there, the Austrian Vice-Consul, the wife and family of the Austrian Consul, the Austrian Colony, the Director of the Italian Post Office were much alarmed and hastened to conceal themselves in a trench, remaining there about an hour. Then they came forth and returned to the Barracks where they spent the night.

March 6th. — Seeing that there is but little security at Tepe we are not going there for the present, but we visit the Consul to thank him for placing his room at Tepe at the disposal of the above-mentioned Sisters and acquaint him with the departure of the orphans already decided upon with him, and arrange to give them each a weekly allowance. He asks for the list so as to write them down if possible, amongst the deserving poor, and that the Pasha may give them also a small ration, as it appears was previously settled.

March 11th. — From the 7th until today the bombardment has continued with intervals of an hour or half hour.

March 12th. — Towards ten o'clock in the morning a definite bombardment is heard from various points. We run from one room to another. The Consul comes to see how we are getting on.

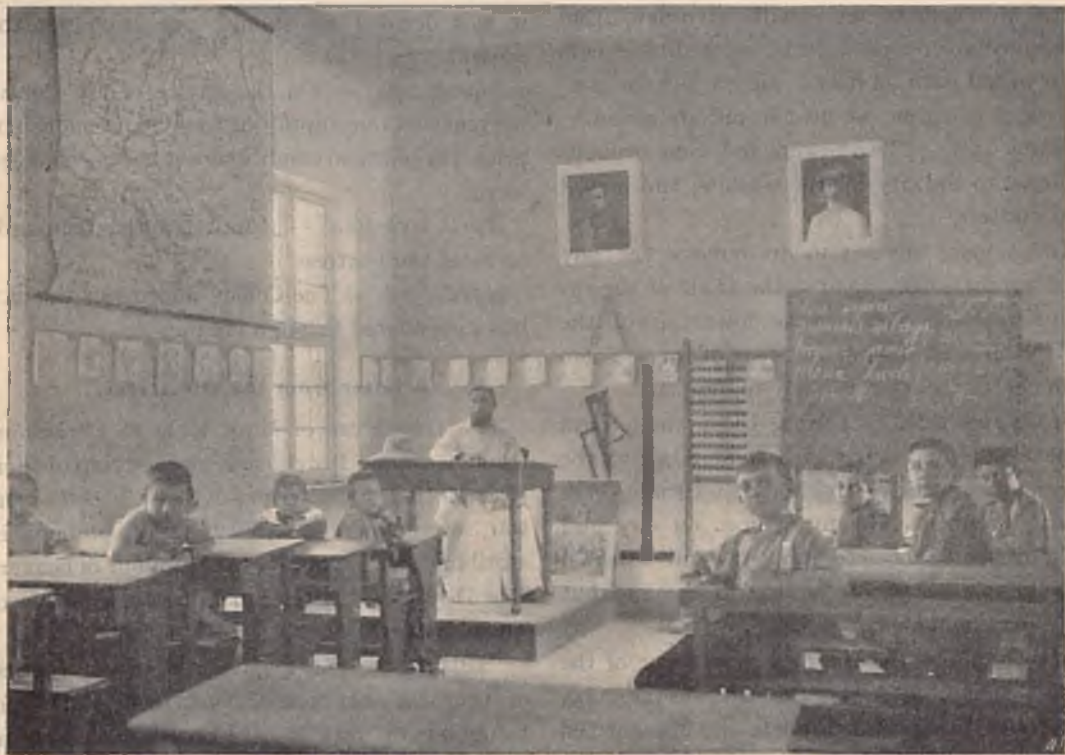
Towards twelve o'clock a cannon ball falls in our courtyard near the well and buries itself in the ground. About four in the afternoon another falls on the cornice of the girls' refectory and breaks all the windows in the girls' dormitory and in the refectory below.

The orphans who were there take refuge in the kitchen in great terror. We go to investigate trembling, under a ceaseless rain of shrapnel. Meanwhile the Consul arrives and whilst he is trying to encourage us another ball breaks the flagstaff of the Consulate and the fragments fall into the room of the Directress. We are

advised not to sleep in the refectory where there are too many windows and the firing still continues on the side we thought the safest. He himself goes up and arranges that the mattresses should be laid on the other side which seems more sheltered and tells us to remain in two small corridors, Sisters and children, for the night. Towards five o'clock he returns to the Consulate and during the night he also is visited by cannon-balls. Certainly the bombard-

through the room piercing the doors and walls and inflicting a slight wound on the old man's leg. The other, in coming to us, encountered another shot which wounded him slightly in the face. We attended to their wounds, administered a cordial and sent them to sleep in the outer parlour.

March 13th. — The bombardment continues and we, going from one room to the other, attend to our ordinary duties. From four till



ELIZABETHVILLE (Congo) — The house of the smaller pupils.

ment was terrible. Nine additional cannon balls fell in the court-yard, in the room of the secular teacher, in the weaving room and two in the room of the porter who only escaped by a miracle. Here were the two porters, one from the Home and the other in charge. Towards midnight, not feeling very satisfied, and the inside door having been left open, we called the porter, who came at once, and what was our consternation on seeing him wounded and stained with blood! One of the shells had fallen between their beds and bursting, scattered the iron bolts

six in the afternoon, the firing is more frequent. During the night more shots fell in the courtyard and in the garden near the old building knocking down the boundary wall.

March 14th. — During the night two shells fell on the roof of the orphans' dormitory breaking through the ceiling. They were filled with dynamite, knocked off some of the mortar, but fortunately did not penetrate below.

The Consul came to see us and hear the news. At twelve o'clock we were told of the arrival of a steamer, which we hope may be

the bearer of good news. At half past three he comes back to tell us that a more terrible bombardment is expected and advises us, both orphans and Sisters, to leave at once for Tepe.

We set off without delay and take shelter in two rooms, one belonging to the Italian Consul and the other to the French Consul.

We sleep on the ground and have a light supper. In the evening we hear that the Montenegrin steamer had come to take off the subjects of foreign powers, but the Pasha would not allow them to leave without orders from Constantinople; consequently succeeding events are awaited with anxiety. Meanwhile the cannonade is going on; we hear it and are afraid.

March 15th. — Two Sisters and some orphans go down to the city for the washing and household matters.

The Consul advises us to remove the hay piled up for safety against the front of the orphans' refectory and to take downstairs all the mattresses and blankets for fear of fire. There is no news as to what is likely to happen.

March 16th-18th. — During these three days some Sisters and a few girls went down to the city for the work of the house, returning here in the evening. The firing goes on day and night doing damage to property and injuring some people, so we are advised to remain shut up in our shelters.

March 19th. — At the request of some of the foreign inhabitants who are with us at Tepe, the Archbishop sent a priest to say Mass at the barracks, and the religious ceremony was most touching.

March 20th. — We go down from Tepe to make our Easter duties. In going back we hear the flight of several shells. In great alarm we hasten our steps and on arriving we hear that there also cannon shots have been directed and we remain in fear.

March 21st. — At ten o'clock in the morning the sound warns us of the flight of a shell which falls near the barracks where we are; soon after another falls in a trench below and a third bursts a few yards from the barracks. An official, sent by the Pasha who lives in another barracks not far from us, tells us that as three

shells have fallen near the Barracks it would be prudent to go down lower, where there are tents and wait there a few hours. We were alone; all the men had gone into the town. What was to be done? With a lady who was there we decided to go down. We closed the gate and hastened below. In going down two more shells fell at short distances behind us increasing our terror so that we hastened our steps towards the Institute. The Consul being aware of our return came to hear what was the matter and it was decided we should not leave for the present.

March 24th. — On the advice of the Consul we renewed our supply of food at an enormous price, the political conditions not having changed as yet.

April 19th-20th. — Uninterrupted bombardment of the Fortress.

April 23rd. — The Consul informs us the city has surrendered through famine.

A letter from the Directress.

The Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, through Divine Providence, and the help of their Holy Mother, found themselves at the end of the war, safe and sound. They are unanimous in ascribing their immunity to the favour of heaven. The Directress, Sister Anna Fretta, a native of Turin, writes thus on the 17th of June:

"During the past year in the stormy period of the war between Turkey and Italy, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians of Scutari in Albania experienced the power of their ever blessed mother for they were the only Italian women not banished from Turkey, although repeatedly visited on futile pretexts by Turkish officers, who had in view the closing of our two establishments.

But our merciful Protectress exerted her power still more during the period of seven long months, when war had broken out between Montenegro and Albania. More than a month had elapsed when a ball from the Montenegrin besiegers fell on a boundary wall of our Home for the Aged, simply giving us a fright. The roar of the cannon and the falling of shells was continuous and kept us on the alert. The

supplies of food began to fail and with difficulty at an increased price, by the advice of the Italian Consul to guard against the danger of famine, we got in fresh stores, borrowing money, as we could receive nothing from Italy, but in this also we received providential succour.

Throughout this time of painful anxiety the bombardment of the city continued, making the inhabitants tremble, for they knew not where to turn. Novenas, triduums and many prayers were made to avert the scourge and people were almost in despair. The 7th, 8th and 9th of last February were memorable days, when cannon balls in thousands rained on the city. Much damage was done and numerous were the victims. The shells were large; several houses were knocked down and one person was killed.

Fearing for our large number of orphans and the inhabitants of the Refuge, we hurried from one place to another, seeking that which afforded the best security against the cannon balls. On all sides cries, tears, fervent ejaculations went up and our prayers were heard. On the 24th of the same month, about half past five, just after the Benediction given in honour of Mary Help of Christians we heard the explosion of a shell which seemed to have been aimed at our building. We hurried to the spot and how great was our terror! A horrible sight. The shell had broken through the front wall of the orphans' dormitory, strewing bricks, stones and mortar the length of the seven windows, destroying beds, iron bedsteads, wainscoting, mattresses, linen and the floor. Fortunately a few days before, the orphans had been brought down to the ground floor, otherwise the thirty-six might have been killed or wounded. But our Holy Mother watched over them in a wonderful way.

On the 11th, 12th and 13th of March the city was bombarded on all sides without interruption and twenty cannon balls fell on our Orphanage; but I must repeat that our heavenly Patroness watched over us and kept us all safe. Some of the balls buried themselves on the adjoining ground, some in the boundary walls, others remained in the ceiling. On the 12th the porter and one from the Refuge were saved in a mirac-

ulous manner. A shrapnel shell fell between their beds scattering projectiles and dynamite in the room, shattered the doors and walls and left them unhurt. The whistling of the shells was a horrible sound, for it was impossible to guess where they would fall or to count them, so great was their velocity and their number! Sisters and orphans, huddled together in a narrow passage, awaited in terror their last hour, and this was the case each time the bombardment became more fierce.

Oppressed with the burden of my responsibility, I placed all my trust in the protection of Mary Help of Christians, and grateful thanks are offered to our good Mother, who showed her compassion to us, causing all to escape in safety from so many dangers."

The Festivities connected with the great titular festival at the Basilica always evoke a revival of devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians wherever her name is known. One reason for this is found in the fact that in countless centres there is held a similar celebration, thus arousing attention and fervour, and something of the spirit of emulation. It was on account of the wonderful manifestations of faith and its accompanying devotion, joined with the numerous favours granted at the occurrence of the Feast, that it was felt to be too important an occasion to be left in semi-forgetfulness for a whole year, or that other events and festivities should cause it to be relegated to the background. Hence the pious practice of reviving it on the 24th of each month, as a day for special devotion to the Mother of God, under the title of Our Lady Help of Christians, and as a day about which devout clients might especially centre their novenas or triduums, whether of petition or thanksgiving.

The name of our Patroness has been bestowed in dedication upon another chapel, which should find a place in the history of the devotion. It is in far away Bolivia, South America. In the College of La Paz, the Capital of the State, the Bishop of the diocese has dedicated a new Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christians, and after the ceremony there was held the rite of solemn Baptism of one of the boys named Oscar Ander-

son, who was formerly a Lutheran, and who also received the Sacrament of Confirmation from the Bishop.



The special intention prayed for in the Basilica on the 24th, and recommended to all Co-operators, is that of the good estate of His Holiness Pope Pius X., who has just celebrated the tenth anniversary of his election to the Papacy.

GRACES and FAVORS (1)

Hampstead. (London).—I had recommended a temporal favour to Our Lady Help of Christians and by her intercession it has been granted. I enclose an offering in thanksgiving and desire to have the favour published. E. P.

Worthing.—After a novena to Our Lady Help of Christians and promise of publication, I have obtained a much desired grace and now ask for its insertion in the *Bulletin* according to my promise. B. T.

Thanksgivings are also sent by:

M. (Dublin) for many favours.

C. K. (Dromahair) for a temporal favour.

P. B. (Ahascragh).

Mrs. H. Traynor.

N. N. (Ireland).

Rovegno.—On Nov. 18th 1911, my son was seized with violent convulsions, which reduced him to complete unconsciousness, and to the most extreme danger. Two eminent medical men were called in, but they could give him no relief or hope, and said that he could not live more than twenty-four hours. We made a promise to Our Lady Help of Christians, and after twelve hours he was out of danger. On the night of Dec. 24th of the same year, there was another attack of the same disease. We again had recourse to the Help of Christians and made a promise to publish the favour. He was perfectly cured, and is now in quite good health without any sign of a recurrence of the malady.

G. B. V.

(1) In regard to these favours it is not intended to attribute to them any higher authority than that arising from certified human testimony.

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.

From August 15th to September 15th.

Sept. 22nd. The Seven Dolours of Our Lady.

Sept. 29th. St. Michael the Archangel.

Oct. 5th. The Holy Rosary.

It must be borne in mind that the present Holy Father has re-enjoined the daily recital of the *Our Father*, *Hail Mary*, and *Glory be to the Father* for the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff, and also the invocation *St. Francis of Sales, pray for us*. These prayers are the only ones enjoined on the Salesian Co-operators at the time of their enrolment in the Third Order.



The prayers of the Association of Co-operators are asked for the repose of the soul of William Donphy, who died July 1st. 1913.

John Chanel Cooper (New Zealand).

Frederick Cooper (England).

Rev. P. Grant P. P. (Draperstown).

R. I. P.

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