

The Salesian Bulletin

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= SALESIAN CO-OPERATORS =

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The late Very Rev. Don Albera.
(his last photograph).

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THE SALESIAN BULLETIN

:: Organ of the Association of Salesian Co-operators ::

Via Cottolengo 32, Turin, Italy.

THE DEATH OF THE VERY REV. DON ALBERA

Superior General of the Salesian Congregation and Second Successor
of the Venerable Don Bosco

On Saturday morning, October the 29th, a message full of grief and sadness was despatched to all the Provinces of the Society. It told us in brief words that Don Albera, our beloved Superior General, had died suddenly that morning. The full significance of this communication was at once brought home to us. Don Albera, the common father of those countless numbers of Salesian boys, scattered throughout four continents of the globe, was no more. The chief of that vast array of religious, young, ardent and well-disciplined, who have penetrated into almost every country and have taken up their abode in every climate to devote themselves to the guidance and salvation of youth, was no longer of this world. The father, the guide, the director of that great multitude of Salesian Co-operators, who in every rank of society, work in harmony with the Salesians themselves for the realisation of their great ideals, had been called away by his Creator to enjoy his long-earned rest. Such was the purport of that brief message; such were the feelings which filled our minds and hearts when we heard the sad tidings.

For some months past his health had been failing. An incurable disease had been undermining his constitution, and as early

as last June, on the very eve of his feast-day, an unexpected attack had left him in a weak and perilous condition. The alarm, however, had passed off, and he soon resumed his ordinary occupations, his fatiguing audiences and his appointed task of guiding with firm though feeble hands the destinies of that Society whose government had been entrusted to him.

As late as last September he had presided over a Congress of Salesian Co-operators held at Castelnuovo d'Asti, the native home of the Venerable Don Bosco. It was this very anxiety and untiring zeal for the perfect fulfilment of all the duties of his office, which was destined to give the final blow to a constitution which had already been enfeebled by illness and constant exertion, and to overwhelm a heart that was about to burst asunder under the impelling force of very strong emotions.

Just eight days had elapsed since the Most Rev. Mgr. Marengo, Archbishop of Edessa, had departed this life at the Oratory. The day before, Don Albera, torn asunder by grief, had remained for long hours by the side of the dying Prelate, and had himself administered the last Sacraments to him. Two days later, though worn out by fatigue, he had insisted on paying the last tribute to

the memory of the saintly Salesian Archbishop, by following on foot, with Rosary in hand, the mortal remains of the deceased Prelate, praying with great fervour all the time.

And then there was the touching ceremony of the departure of the Missionaries—thirty young Apostles ready to bear to the distant shores of Assam, Terra del Fuego and China the name and love of Jesus Crucified. After the usual prayers and ceremonies, Don Albera had embraced them all tenderly. His heart was full to overflowing: he knew so well that this would be his final farewell to these brave warriors, who were just entering on their missionary career, for he would never see them again—never more meet them face to face until that day when they all would meet in the Kingdom of their Father in Heaven. Three days later, beneath the dome of the same sacred edifice, a solemn Requiem Mass was sung to implore the mercy of God on the soul of Mgr. Costamagna, that energetic and eager Salesian Missionary and Bishop who had recently passed to his reward in the Argentine. It was a beautiful though tedious ceremony, with its Pontifical Office, its solemn chant and the five Absolutions contained in the Ritual, and Don Albera, regardless of his own fatigue and weakness, remained to the very end, and would not hear of departing from the sacred building till all was over. And finally, about the same time there arrived from America a band of youthful Salesians who had come to complete their theological course near the tomb of our Venerable Founder. The sight of this group of young Confrères, full of energy and ardent aspirations, was indeed a pleasing one for the holy man, who had himself borne the labours and the heats of the day, but it was at the same time one that awakened strong emotional reminiscences in the heart of the tender father, who had lately undergone such sorrows and bereavements.

In fact, without suspecting it, he had already come to the end of his resources.

Without suspecting it, we said, but who knows? On the Friday evening, before retiring to rest, he said to his secretary, who had followed him from place to place with untiring devotion during a period of more than 30 years: "Mgr. Costamagna is dead, Mgr. Marengo is dead; which of us will be the first to follow?" Alas, but a few hours later, before the dawn of another day, it was he himself who was destined to follow and to join them in the land beyond the grave. His last night was one of almost total sleeplessness. And so, when at half past four on the Saturday morning he attempted to rise, his exhausted frame could no longer stand the strain, and he collapsed. His secretary, feeling that there was something amiss, hastened to his room, and Don Albera said to him in muffled tones and broken voice: "I wish to celebrate Holy Mass, but alas, I feel my strength is failing within me. Ah, what a poor, frail creature I have become." On seeing the disconcerted look on the face of his dear Superior, and on hearing these words of sorrow and discouragement, Don Gusmano at once understood the seriousness of his condition. He helped the saintly Father to get into bed again, and immediately called from the neighbouring rooms all the Major Superiors of the Congregation, for now the palpitations of his heart numbered 135 to the minute. A moment later, there gathered round that humble bed Don Rinaldi, Don Ricaldone, Don Barberis and Don Conelli. They had just arrived in time, for now the death agony was beginning. His heart, which a few minutes before had been beating with violent palpitations, was now throbbing with dreadful uncertainty—at one instant it jerked with violence, and at the next its pulsations were abnormally slow.

In the meantime, Don Rinaldi administered the Sacrament of Extreme Unction to the dying Priest. Rapidly paralysis found its way to the precincts of his heart, his tongue became immovable and in a very short time, a fatal dimness was visible in his



The Very Rev. PAUL ALBERA

Superior General of the Salesians from August 16th, 1910 to October 29th, 1921.

eyes, and little by little this dullness increased. But beneath his semi-vacant glance, those around could discern that his fervent soul was in prayer, and was uniting instinctively with the prayers of those who knelt around his bed. And while the outside world was still wrapped in the darkness of night, long before the first sounds of the Angelus from the neighbouring Churches had aroused the sleeping city of Turin, this holy Priest, without an effort, without a perceptible movement, had given up his soul to his Creator. For 77 long years he had ever been the faithful servant of his Lord and Master; he had worked incessantly, even in the days of failing health, in the service of the poor and neglected, the orphan and the friendless, and he had ever been a father to those who needed his help or protection. And now he had departed to the Father of the poor. He had fallen in the breach, so to speak; his toils of the preceding day had been completed, and while preparing for the efforts of the day which was about to dawn, he was summoned into the presence of his Master. O happy and enviable death! a certain recompense for a life of ceaseless toil, a death truly worthy of a faithful disciple of the Venerable Don Bosco!

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His early years.

In the death of Don Albera, the great Salesian Family has lost, not merely a Father and guide, but one who was the continuer of Don Bosco's work in such identity of spirit, as to make his method and policy one with that of the Venerable Founder. In fact, Don Bosco had foreseen and foretold this special participation of his spirit and of his ideals in the character and methods of his immediate Successors, and with prophetic intuition had designated them himself.

Don Albera was born at None near Turin in the year 1845, and entered the Oratory in October, 1858. At that period the Sanctuary of Mary, Help of Christians, existed

only in the mind of our Venerable Founder. Two months previously, Don Bosco and Don Rua (then a cleric in subdeacon's orders) had gone to a little place called None for some religious celebration, and while there, the Parish-Priest introduced to them a boy of thirteen years of age, who desired to begin his studies for the priesthood. Don Bosco saw before him a young lad, delicate in feature and tranquil in demeanour with eyes both bright and piercing. He spoke to him a few words of welcome, but as he was discussing some matters with the Parish Priest he turned to the cleric who accompanied him, and told him to ascertain whether the lad was sufficiently advanced in his studies. The cleric was able to give Don Bosco ample assurance on this head, and the latter, therefore, expressed to the Parish Priest his readiness to accept the boy immediately at the Oratory. This boy was Paul Albera, who was destined, later on, to guide the destinies of the Salesian Society during an eventful period of more than eleven years.

A Student at the Oratory.

Paul Albera entered the Oratory at an important epoch of its history. New buildings had recently been erected on site of the former house of Pinardi, which had served as a home for Don Bosco's boys in the heroic days. Bright prospects for the future now opened out for the great work of the Venerable Founder, and his unwavering faith in the protection of Heaven had already met with its reward. The privations, the hardships, the bitter disappointments of the early days were now at an end, and a wave of enthusiasm and eager expectation had spread over that home of peace and happiness. But more than that. Many of the boys at the Oratory, under the careful and enlightened direction of the Venerable Servant of God, were leading lives of wonderful sanctity. They gave a tone of virtue and happy piety to the place, and Dominic Savio (whose cause of Beatification

is now proceeding) had died just a short time before. The group which had been most closely associated with him was still flourishing, and it now welcomed young Paul Albera to its membership. One of the events which struck deep into his soul was the death of one of the members of of the future Salesian family, made their religious profession in the humble room of the Venerable Servant of God. They were the first Salesians, and Paul Albera was amongst the number. They were a privileged band, for they lived under the direct influence of the saintly Founder and were,



Awaiting the funeral procession.

this group of exceptionally gifted and pious youths. It occurred only three months after Paul Albera's coming, and Don Bosco had spoken of his speedy entrance into Heaven. It was this that urged young Paul Albera to strive even harder than before to hold a high place in the select band to which he had been admitted.

In October 1861 he received the ecclesiastical habit from his former Parish Priest, Don Abrate. In the following year a group of 22 clerics, who formed the nucleus

in one sense, the first fruits of his labours. They formed the vanguard of that vast army of priests, clerics and lay-brothers which was to penetrate to the uttermost parts of the world. Nearly sixty years of fruitful toil have passed since that solemn event, and death has called away all the members of that little band, with the exception of two—Cardinal Cagliero and Don Francesia. This solid foundation, laid by Don Bosco himself, for his Society has well stood the test of time, and to-day his

spiritual Sons number over 5000 and have opened more than 450 houses, scattered over four Continents of the globe.

His early life as a Salesian.

When the Boarding School at Mirabello was opened by Don Bosco, Don Rua was appointed its Director and the cleric Paul Albera was sent there as one of the teachers. The School rapidly developed and under the able and enthusiastic management of Don Bosco's immediate followers it became a great success. In the meantime, Paul Albera proceeded with his theological studies and by the time he reached the age of twenty he had not only completed his course, but had also obtained a degree at the University of Turin.

In June, 1868, he accompanied his Rector, Don Rua, and his companion, Don Cerrutti (then a cleric), to the Oratory to be present at the solemn opening and consecration of the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians. Don Albera was then in deacon's orders, and on this occasion, though he was only just 23 years of age, Don Bosco told him to prepare himself for his sacerdotal ordination. Accordingly, on August 2nd of the same year, 1868, he was ordained priest by Mgr. Ferri, at Casalmongera. He was assisted by Don Bosco himself at the ceremony and became a member of the Council, which eventually developed into the Superior Chapter of the Society.

At that period the Salesian Society was regarded by many as purely a personal enterprise on the part of a zealous priest, and some even viewed it as a rash scheme incapable of realisation. The definite approbation of the Holy See did not come to crown Don Bosco's efforts and place his work on a sure footing until April 3rd, 1874. It is not, therefore, surprising that some of Don Bosco's subjects considered themselves free to leave when they thought fit, and the Bishops were, in some cases, only too pleased to receive them to fill the many vacancies in the ranks of the clergy.

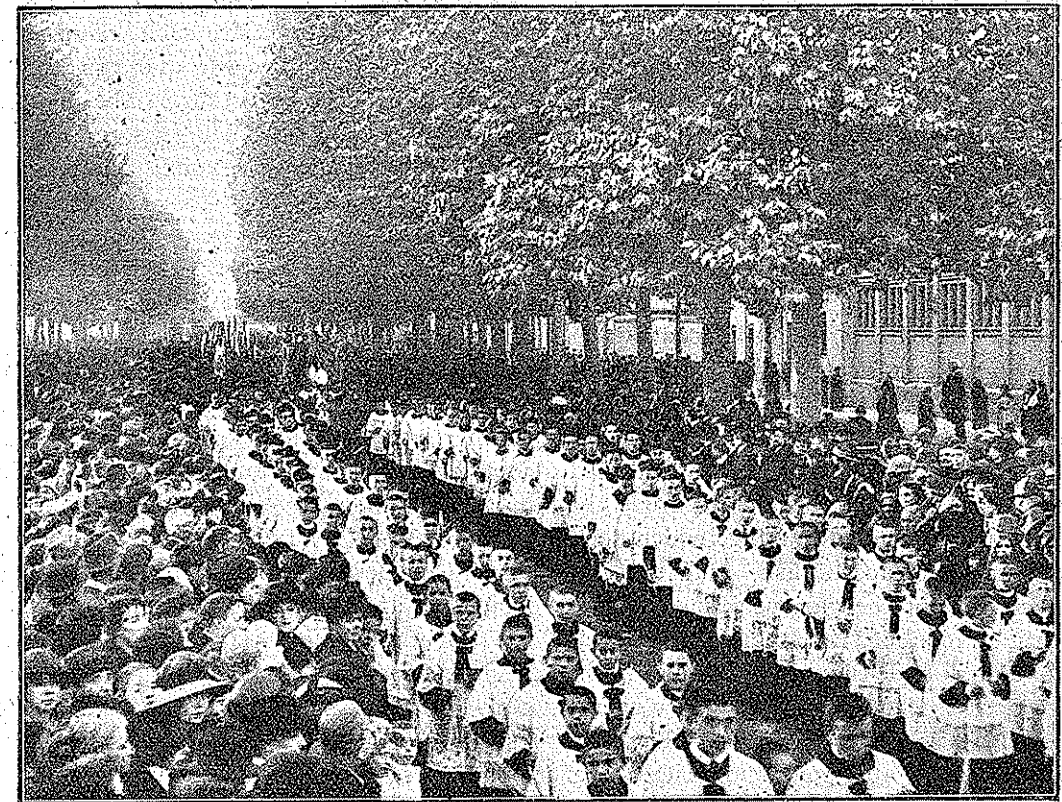
In fact, some of the Bishops rather resented the loss to their seminaries of so many promising young men, who flocked to join a religious body which was not yet definitely sanctioned by the Church. This was the case with the Bishop of the diocese from which Don Albera came. He had a high esteem for the young priest, and, desiring to make use of his rare talents in the work of his diocese, he endeavoured to persuade him that the Society founded by Don Bosco would be of very short duration, and that it would be well for him to leave before the dissolution came. The Bishop was somewhat insistent in his representations to the young priest, but the latter, full of the confidence in Our Blessed Lady's protection which filled the mind and heart of the Venerable Founder, remained steadfast in his resolve to live and die a Salesian, and no arguments to the contrary could make the slightest impression on him. Some time later, at a meeting of priests, presided over by the Bishop of Casalmongera, Don Bosco was asked whether these difficulties in connection with Don Albera had been overcome. He replied in words which have justly been regarded as prophetic. "Oh, yes," he said "Don Albera has not only overcome these difficulties, but he will overcome many others, and will be my second..." He did not finish the sentence, but raised his hand to his forehead, as though considering some distant vision, and then added "Don Albera will be of great assistance to us." The light of subsequent events has shown very clearly how prophetic these words were. At the time of their utterance, they made a deep impression on many present; for there was something mysterious about them. Don Rinaldi, who was present at the time, recorded them in writing, and sealed them up. That seal was not broken till August 16th, 1910, when Don Rinaldi himself opened it and read the statement to the assembled Fathers who had just elected Don Albera as second successor of Don Bosco.

His first Rectorship.

In 1871 a new Salesian House was opened at Genoa in the suburb of Marassi, and Don Albera was sent thither as first Rector. There were many initial difficulties in the way, but by dint of tact and untiring labour its young Rector was able to overcome them all, and in the following year, the

Provincial in France.

In October, 1881, Don Albera was appointed Provincial of the Salesian Houses in France. This was a very remarkable epoch for the work of Don Bosco in that country and during his term of office as Provincial there, Don Albera furthered this rapid progress in many ways. These were per-



A snapshot of the altar-boys and clerics in procession.

School was removed to the more commodious premises of San Pier D'Arena. Here the work flourished and made rapid progress, and Don Bosco made it one of the chief centres of a new branch of his work—the training of tardy vocations to the priesthood. The past pupils of this College include a number of secular Priests who owe their vocation and early training to the great work carried on by the Salesian Fathers. Don Albera there introduced and fostered the devotion to the Sacred Heart, which has since been developed to such a high degree in all our Schools.

haps the years in which Our Lady Help of Christians worked the greatest wonders of our Venerable Founder, and Don Albera was an eyewitness of many of these prodigies. He accompanied Don Bosco to Paris, where an anticlerical writer expressed the triumph of the Servant of God by saying that he could attribute to himself the words of Julius Caesar: "Veni, vidi, vici." From 1882 to 1886 Don Bosco made annual visits to Paris, and Don Albera was with him constantly; subsequently, when Don Bosco was too feeble to bear the journey, he required his representative in France to go to

Turin every two months to confer with him, doubtless with a view to preparing him the better for his future position. Urgent affairs kept the latter in France towards the end of January, 1888, and he was not able to arrive in time to be present at the death of Don Bosco, but he was able to see him before the coffin was closed.

Spiritual Director of the Society.

A few years later, Don Rua, who had watched with interest the wonderful ability and tact of the French Provincial, summoned him to Turin to fill the important post of Spiritual Director to the entire Congregation. In this capacity, Don Albera was able to do effect much good to the order at large, and his marvellous gifts of his zeal, stood him in good stead during the eighteen years that he held this office.

In 1900 he undertook, at the request of Don Rua, the visitation of all the Salesian Houses in the New World. His zeal and untiring activity may be gauged from the immensity of this undertaking, which took three years to accomplish, and entailed the visitation of the various Houses in the Argentine Republic, in Uruguay and Paraguay, Brazil and the central territory of Matto Grosso, where he stayed in the native colonies of the Bororó Indians. He then proceeded to Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, and passed on to Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, penetrating even as far as the Missions of the fierce Jivaro Indians; then to Venezuela and Colombia, where he visited the leper settlements under the care of the Sons of Don Bosco, and finally to Mexico and the United States. Those who are acquainted with the conditions of travelling in the vast realms of the continent of South America, can form some idea of the fatigues and hardships which Don Albera must have had to undergo in the fulfilment of his mission. His tact, prudence and charity were everywhere manifested and won the affection and admiration of all who met him.

Superior General of the Society.

Don Rua, the first successor of the Venerable Founder, died on April 6th, 1910, and a few months later, Don Albera was elected to the vacant post. His Holiness at once telegraphed to him, invoking upon his labours the special blessing of Heaven, so that he might be able to fulfil his arduous task, and follow in the steps of Don Bosco and Don Rua, who with such admirable zeal and sanctity gave life and growth to the Salesian Society, furthering the greater glory of God and the religious, civil and moral advantage of the young and of the people at large.

The words of the Supreme Pontiff were entirely in keeping both with the character of Don Albera and with the conditions of the high and difficult office which he had undertaken; and the humble follower of Don Bosco, gentle and serene in word and manner, who almost by a look could win confidence, sympathy and respect, succeeded in guiding in an ever-upward course that monument of piety and apostolic zeal which Don Bosco's work has become to-day. Don Rua, at his death, left to his successor the government of 341 religious Houses; Don Albera has left more than 450. In 1910 Don Bosco's first successor commanded an army of nearly 4000 religious; in 1921 Don Albera was the beloved and respected head of more than 5000 Salesians. Under his auspices and encouragement the Salesian Missions have developed wonderfully during the past eleven years; many have considerably enlarged their field of action, while several new ones have been started. A few days before his death he had the consolation of greeting and imparting his blessing to a band of missionaries, destined for the vast region of Assam, where there are at present but 5000 Catholics out of a population of more than seven millions. And this progress, be it remembered, has been made in the face of great obstacles. The European war of 1914 to 1918, whose dreadful effects are still felt, exacted a

very heavy toll from the Congregation as a whole. Don Albera had the sorrow of witnessing the destruction, either partial or entire, of many of his Houses, which were situated in the war zone. Hundreds of his spiritual Sons were snatched away by the same cause, and several of his Schools were almost entirely deprived of their staff.

blessed by God and productive of much good. His attitude, too, in dealing with the terrible problems which have arisen on account of the war, has been truly worthy of a Son of Don Bosco. "Open new Houses for these poor orphans, or at least make room for them in the Houses which already exist. Receive them blindly and



a) The serene countenance of the deceased. — b) The Bishops in procession.

But he never lost heart; he trusted in God and in the protection of Mary Most Holy, and his confidence has been amply rewarded, and the Society is now more flourishing than ever. Through the sore trials of the war filled his fatherly heart with anguish for so many sorrows and for so many ruined lives, still he was ever supported by that fortitude and that confidence in God, which the Successors seem to have inherited from their Venerable Founder. And, notwithstanding all these grave difficulties, Don Albera had the consolation of seeing his work

without a moment's hesitation. We are here for them, and God will come to our help and provide the means for us." Such was his constant advice to his confrères.

The brightest days of his period as Superior General were probably those, when there came together the Jubilee of the Basilica of Our Lady Help of Christians, and the golden Jubilee of his own sacerdotal Ordination. The Festivity in honour of Her whom Don Bosco made the Mother of his Society and Work, and of the one

whom he had himself announced as his second Successor fell on the same day, the 9th of June 1918, a day which His Holiness Pope Benedict xvth called doubly fortunate, in the letter of congratulation which he wrote to Don Albera on that occasion. "The Mother of God," wrote the Supreme Pontiff, "as She assisted at the birth of your Congregation, extending her loving protection to your Venerable Founder, so in its growth She continues her ever-opportune aid, especially from the day when, in the Sanctuary at Turin, She as it were took her royal seat in its midst. In that Basilica, in fact, the great deliberations were taken, which secured the stability and development of your Institute; in it has been fostered the spirit of St. Francis of Sales, which is a noble charity for the welfare of souls; from it have gone forth those zealous bands, to undertake your vast apostolate on behalf of the young, or to carry the Faith and Redemption to the savage tribes. From it, in fine, has sprung up that unceasing stream of blessings for your Society, and for the whole Salesian Family. By a happy coincidence the beginning of that Sanctuary is celebrated at the same time as the opening of your own priestly career. During all these years you have laboured with uncommon zeal and wisdom for the welfare of the Society, to which you have now been called to preside.

"While all your Sons and Co-operators, from far and near, unite their homage to the Help of Christians with the expression of good wishes to you, We claim the pleasure of leading this chorus of congratulation, both because We desire to recommend your intentions and the needs of the whole Church to the Help of Christians, and because as We hold the Salesian Congregation dear, We pray that it may have you for many years as its Father and guide."

The Holy Father's desires had but three years of fulfilment; and now the Second Successor of Don Bosco, in the peace of the just, has come to the eternal reward of his long toils, borne with the courage and

zeal of his master, and to maintain in his work that high standard of virtue and self-sacrificing charity, which the Founder established for it. But the great Salesian Family, including its hundreds of thousands of Past-Pupils and Co-operators, is not dismayed; for deeper than the sorrow for the loss is in the sure conviction of the Father's powerful protection, and the assurance that he is the company of so many other Sons and Pupils of Don Bosco, now reaping their eternal reward.

This was the predominating sentiment that filled the hearts of those crowds of people, who on the morning of Saturday, October 20th, flocked to the little Chapel adjoining the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians, to contemplate for the last time the gentle features of the deceased Superior General.

There he lay, with a smile still imprinted on his lips, perfectly peaceful and calm in the sleep of death.

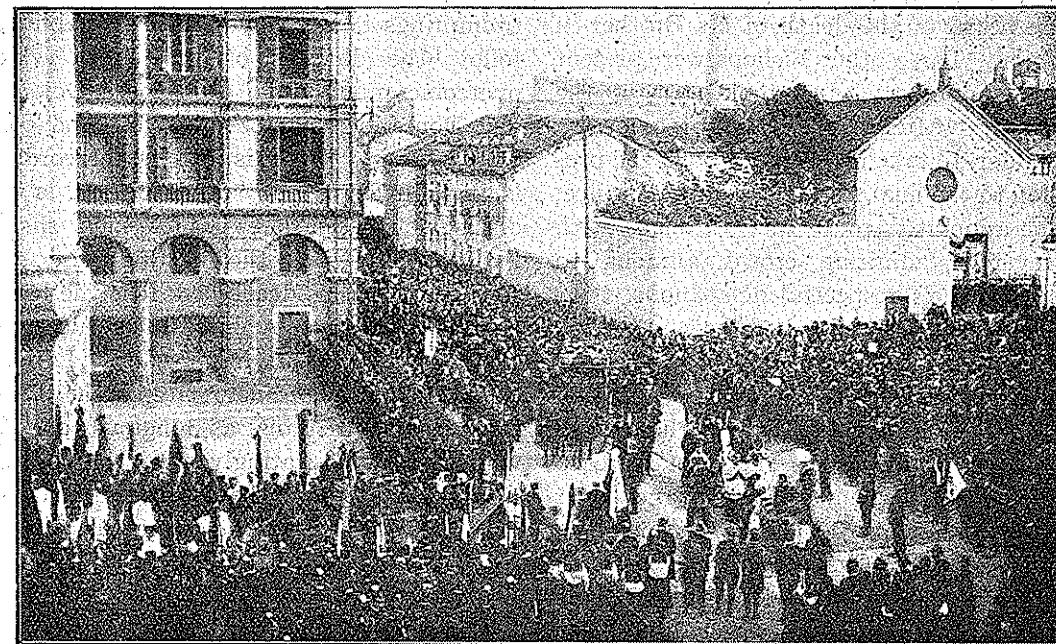
From every corner of Turin, the faithful made their way to that lowly resting-place, eager to catch a last glimpse of him who had, during life, been the father of the poor and the neglected. Members of every rank of Society—from the most celebrated personages down to the common labourer in his working attire—united in paying a last mark of respect to the humble religious, who had, in his modest and retiring manner, effected so much good during his life-time.

The obsequies.

The following day, Sunday, was fixed for the solemn procession which was to take place, when the mortal remains of the venerated successor of Don Bosco were to be removed from their temporary resting-place in this little Chapel to the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians, where they would lie in state awaiting the Solemn Requiem Mass on the morrow. This procession, was a veritable triumph, and manifested the deep appreciation that was felt in every sphere of life and in all classes of the people

for the humble Priest who had just gone to his reward. At two o'clock in the afternoon, the pageant really commenced, for at that hour a vast multitude filed out from the Oratory to take up positions assigned to them in the great procession which was about to commence. Perfect order reigned everywhere, and for fully half an hour this mighty stream surged out and webbed its way to the appointed place. In another quarter could be seen another crowd,

Immediatly behind the hearse, there would greet them no more on earth. The number of those who walked in that procession has been estimated at 30,000, and included representatives from no less than seventeen different nations. The procession itself took over fully two hours to pass any particular point on the route, and besides several distinguished members of the clergy, there were delegates from many municipalities and secular institutions.



Various associations and representatives at the funeral.

composed of the relatives and friends of the deceased, who had come from far and near to pay the last tribute of affection to him. Banners were displayed everywhere, and almost side by side with the magnificence of the wealthy and of the great ones of this world could be seen, in many places, the sun-burnt complexion of the farmer and the rough attire and weather-beaten features of the humble labourer.

At three o'clock precisely, the procession itself began. It wended its way through many busy thoroughfares of the city. Many a silent tear was shed, and many an honest heart ached at the thought that the gentle form and winning smile of Don Al-

walked the Prefect-General, Don Rinaldi, with the other members of the Superior Chapter. Next to them came the relatives of Don Albera, with a godly number of their friends and neighbours; then Count Leopold of Monticello and other members of the aristocracy. Consuls and many other dignitaries followed, and finally Past-Pupils and members of various Catholic Guilds and associations.

Turin has seldom witnessed a sight so dignified, so magnificent, so awe-inspiring in its very grandeur. The immense crowd which gathered to see it numbered no less than 100,000, and their attitude of reverence and respectful silence was well calculated

to make a deep impression on everyone. In fact, the funeral procession of Don Albera recalled the magnificent demonstration of love and esteem which took place after the death of Don Bosco himself and of his first successor, Don Rua.

The actual interment took place on the Monday, the vigil of the Feast of All Saints. At half past nine, a Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians by His Eminence, Cardinal Cagliero, who had come from Rome as soon as he heard of the death of his Brother in Religion. Three other Bishops were present on the Sanctuary, and took part in the ceremony. After the Mass, all proceeded in due order, to take up their places in the procession to the final resting-place at Valsalice.

The appointed route was thronged with a reverent, admiring crowd, anxious to show, by their respectful demeanour, their gratitude to one who had been a public benefactor to the city. As the procession wended its way towards the precincts of the College of Valsalice, where the mortal remains of Don Bosco's successor were to be deposited, a solemn silence reigned over that vast assembly. There the members of the Superior Chapter of the Salesian Congregation were gathered around Cardinal Cagliero. And when the halting-place was in sight, at a given signal, a powerful choir of boys' voices burst forth into the strains of the "Beati mortui"—"Blessed," it sang, "are the dead who die in the Lord. In the eyes of the foolish, they appear to be destroyed, but already they enjoy the peace of the Lord." As soon as the motett was finished, eight Salesians raised the coffin on their shoulders, and proceeded towards the tomb of Don Bosco. To the strains of the Benedictus, the long cortège accompanied the body as far as the Chapel for the last absolution. Here Cardinal Cagliero, mastering his emotion for the time being, pronounced the last prayers and gave the final blessing. And then, turning to his grief-stricken Confrères, this Prince of the Church addressed them in telling

accents and in words which were inspired by the sacred remains before him. "Weep not," he said "as those do, who are without hope. Don Albera is dead, but his work lives and will live for ever. The words of Don Bosco are once more verified. 'I am leaving you,' he said 'but the Congregation has been formed, and it possesses men who are well able to direct it.' Carry on your work, therefore, with the faith of him who rests within this coffin. Go forward always and in all places. Harken not to the promptings of flesh and blood, but blindly follow the dictates of that faith which overcomes mountains. Don Bosco, Don Rua and Don Albera watch over you, and bless your efforts. Work is our watchword; it is imprinted on our standard. It is the distinguishing mark by which men should know us. It was the parting advice of Don Bosco on his death-bed; it is the lesson that is taught us by his saintly successor, whom we are burying to-day. Labour, then, but not as ordinary men of the world. Labour as Christians, as religious, as men who rely unhesitatingly on the protection of Heaven and the continued guidance of those who have gone before us."

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And now he rests at Valsalice by the side of Don Bosco and Don Rua. He has been their faithful follower and imitator during life, and it is fitting that, even in death, he should not be separated from them. And we, his Sons, though bereft of our Father, are consoled by the wonderful example that he has left us, and spurred on by the thought that in one sense, he is still with us, and will be ever able to help us. Before closing the scene before us, one prayer mounts to Heaven from the lips of every Son of Don Bosco. It is a prayer for perseverance and strength to carry on to completion the noble work which was begun by the Venerable Founder, and seconded with so much generosity and self-sacrifice by his two successors—the work of the education and salvation of destitute youth.