

Our Foreign Letters.

LES ASILES—JOHN BOST.



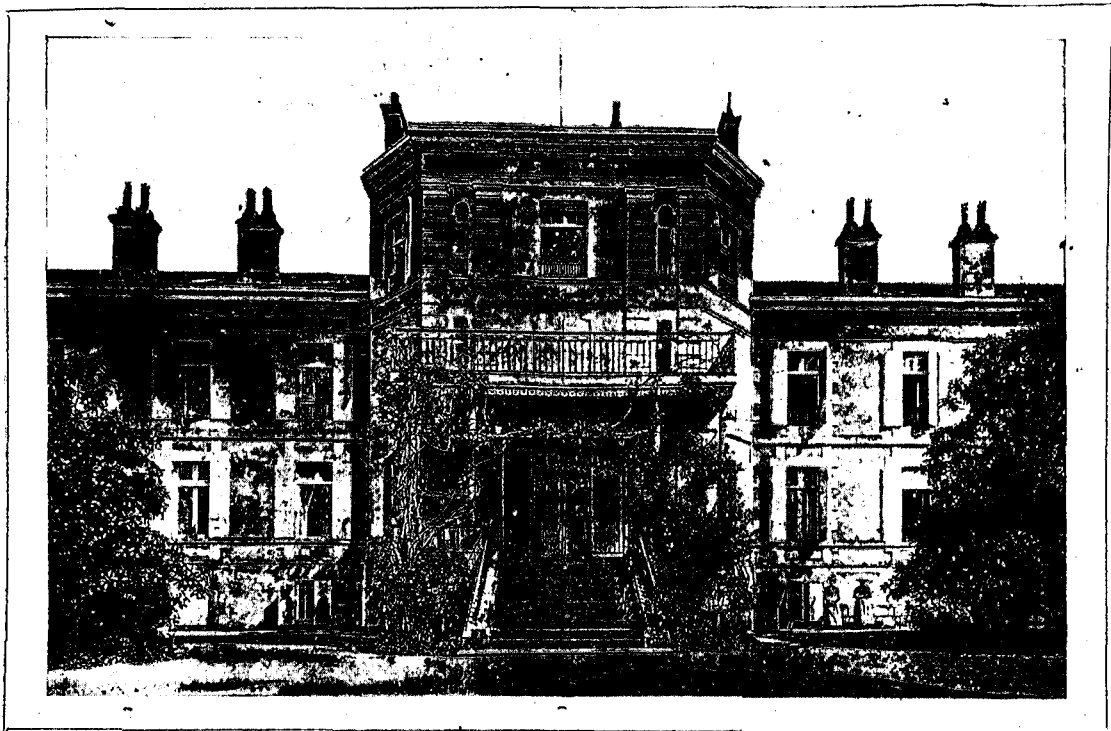
Force" and you will probably inquire whether it is a castle or a fortress. It is neither, but a

When you are sight-seeing in the Midi, anywhere near Bordeaux, you will be asked, if you have seen "La

something to help those less fortunate than himself; so, like five of his brothers, he decided to take holy orders. While studying theology at Montaban a friend wrote to him from Pisa asking him to find a home for an orphan girl of five years old.

Bost was already trying to find a home in a suitable institution for one of his Bible Class girls whom he wanted to save from immoral influence. Nowhere in France could he find such a home for a child under six or over twelve years of age, thus "Le plan de la Famille surgit." (Thus arose the idea of "La Famille.")

John Bost told his masters at the University that the Protestant Church was deficient so long as such provision was lacking in its organisation. Little by little they adopted his way of thinking, and en-



LA FORCE—LE REPOS.

charitable institution in which 500 Protestants, weak morally and physically, are sheltered from poverty, sin, and abuse.

It is specially interesting as the result of the life work of John Bost, who successfully combined ideal and practical charity.

Born in Switzerland in 1817, John Bost was one of the ten sons of Ami Bost, pastor. On account of his health he took up book-binding as a trade, but he spent his spare time studying music. He came across Lotz at Geneva, who, recognising in the young musician an extraordinary talent, advised him to take up music as a profession. Following the advice of the great pianist, John Bost went to Paris. In the course of his studies he came in contact with much sin and misery, and felt he must do

couraged by his enthusiasm, they gave him letters of introduction to influential people in France, England, and Scotland.

He started on his mission with eighteen francs in his purse and a portfolio of references. In a few months he returned with enough money—the greater part of which had been collected in Great Britain—to build a home for girls, either orphans or those in need of home influence. About this time John Bost entered a nobleman's family, near La Force, as tutor to the only daughter whom he eventually married. He had intellect and influence, his wife family and fortune. The site chosen for the new home was at La Force. The country round followed its construction with interest, and help of a material kind came from all

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