

## Chapter XXI.

Rev. James Sheeran. C.P.R.  
 Captain of the 14<sup>th</sup> Louisiana vol.

This regiment joins Euell's Command - His  
 Exception - First experience in Virginia battles -  
 Appomattox Garrison - A night scene on a battle  
 field - Jackson's march - sufferings and  
 hardships of army life - Father Robert - to  
 Manassas - The second battle of Bull Run  
 - scenes and incident in Frederick city -  
 Now the Father of the Society of Jesus and the  
 Sisters retired - The battle of Antietam and  
 all its horrors.

When the first tocsin of war sounded throughout  
 the land the 14<sup>th</sup> Louisiana volunteered for  
 the front, and the Rev. Father James Sheeran,  
 of the Redemptorists, accompanied them as  
 their Chaplain. The brave men of the 14<sup>th</sup>  
 participated in the first battle of Bull  
 Run and almost all the succeeding battles which  
 marked the deadly strife between the North  
 and South. Up to the time of General Butler  
 entering New Orleans the Rev. Father Sheeran  
 dictated to the journals, then published in  
 that city, a full account of the respective  
 battles as <sup>events</sup> they were fought and a general  
 synopsis of all the incidents attendant on army  
 life, occurring among the Confederate soldiers  
 either while in the Camp or on the march.  
 These accounts, but from <sup>as far as possible</sup> the time Gen. Butler  
 got New Orleans under <sup>his</sup> ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> heel, no com-  
 munication coming through a Confederate source  
 were allowed publication, and from that time  
 on we will follow the good Father through  
 his life of army adventures until Gen. Lee  
 surrendered his ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> ~~band~~ <sup>band</sup> of heroes to the  
 to the brave powerful and martial forces  
 of the North. The brave 14<sup>th</sup> La took a con-  
 spicuous part in the battles of Richmond &  
 scarcely had the 14<sup>th</sup> La recovered from the

fatigues of the terrible battles <sup>of</sup> Richmond, which  
 were fought in July 1862 than it, along with  
 the 5th Co, was transferred to Euell's divis-  
 ion, then encamped near Gordonsville. On the 1st  
 day of August about 9 A.M. the train convey-  
 ing the transports left Richmond about  
 7 and on the following day at 11 A.M. reached  
 Gordonsville. The two regiments immediately marched  
 to the camp where the 6th 7th & 8th Louisiana  
 regiments were encamped and with whom they  
 were then brigaded. On arriving at the camp Father  
 Sheeran accompanied by Capt Col York, Major Gable  
 & Dr White, reported to Gen Euell who received  
 them very courteously and at the same time intro-  
 duced them to several prominent Confederate officers  
 present among whom was General Tremble. After  
 the formality of an introduction had been gone  
 through with General Euell expressed much  
 pleasure in having a Catholic Chaplain in his  
 division and suggested that Father Sheeran's  
 Orderly should be mounted in order to give more  
 effectual <sup>via</sup> time of an engagement. After  
~~some conversation respecting the difficulty of pro-~~  
~~curving, however the general suggested that Father~~  
~~Sheeran should take the boys to capture one at the~~  
~~next battle. The latter acted upon the sug-~~  
~~gestion and as a consequence the Orderly was~~  
~~mounted after the subsequent battle of ~~the~~~~

When Father Sheeran was leaving Richmond he felt a little indisposed, and the want of rest in the car caused from the <sup>crowding</sup> ~~crowding~~ and suffocation, and the exposure to the dew and night air the first night in Camp aggravated his illness seriously. <sup>On</sup> ~~After~~ the second day after arrival the boys were ordered to prepare ~~one day~~ ~~between~~ and to go ~~reconnoitering~~ along the South side of the Rapidan. Father ~~Sheeran~~ <sup>Sheeran</sup> greatly regretted that he could not accompany them as he expected that some might need his assistance before their return. He was however unable to leave the tent let alone to ride or walk, and had to remain ~~which~~ ~~was~~ ~~accompanied~~ only by some ~~careless~~ ~~soldiers~~ and colored servants. The next morning the brigade returned after a march of some twenty miles and ~~in~~ ~~was~~ ~~encamped~~ a few miles distant near a beautiful fall covered with majestic rocks and ~~almost~~ ~~covered~~ ~~by~~ ~~a~~ ~~fine~~ ~~glaciation~~ <sup>surrounded</sup> ~~clear~~ ~~water~~. For a <sup>day or two</sup> ~~couple~~ of days all was quiet, and the good father having somewhat recovered commenced hearing a large number of confessions and celebrated Mass each morning. On the evening of the 20th both the brigade was ordered to Liberty Bridge, on the 21st crossed it, & on the 28th came up with

some of the Federal Cavalry and had a skirmish shortly after the skirmish Gen Jackson came riding along having crossed the ~~ford~~ Rapidan at a ford near a mill which had just been gutted by the <sup>Federal</sup> ~~Union~~ troops, and its contents thrown into the river, This was the first time Father Sheeran ever saw him and such was his plain attire that had the point not been informed, <sup>as to who he was</sup> he would never have taken him for a commissioned officer.

After the <sup>several</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>four</sup> ~~the~~ Gen's passing about an hour the report of artillery was heard and shortly after the news of a further retreat of the ~~Southern~~ <sup>Union</sup> ~~army~~ <sup>armies</sup>. That evening Buell crossed the Robinson River and encamped that night on a beautiful farm on the banks of that lovely stream. At 8 o'clock next morning orders were given to march instantly to ~~Red~~ <sup>Cedar</sup> ~~Creek~~ <sup>Creek</sup> on Mountain. The day was oppressively warm and as the march was very rapid many of the soldiers got broken down and some were even ~~run~~ <sup>run</sup> ~~down~~ <sup>down</sup>. At twelve o'clock the advance came in view of the <sup>Federal</sup> ~~Southern~~ Cavalry drawn up in line of battle on the north side of the ~~Red~~ <sup>Cedar</sup> ~~Creek~~. There was then a halt of two hours during which Gen Jackson was engaged in surveying the position of the enemy. About 2 p. m. he commenced

to place his men in line of battle and at 3 p.m. the <sup>deadly</sup> struggle <sup>began</sup> commenced. It lasted until after dark and ended by the <sup>79th</sup> ~~79th~~ <sup>regiment</sup> troops retreating three miles from their first line of battle. ~~After~~ <sup>After</sup> the wounded of ~~our~~ <sup>the</sup> division brought to hospital and properly cared for Dr White & Father Sheeran <sup>resolved to</sup> rode over the battle field to see ~~if~~ were there any overlooked. About 10 o'clock they ~~mounted their horses and proceeded to~~ <sup>proceeded to</sup> the field of carnage. The moon was full and it seemed to envelope the noble dead with its softest and most refulgent light. Passing down from Cedar Mountain to the rich bottom lands ~~beneath~~ <sup>beneath</sup> nothing attracted their attention until they came to a corn field through which runs the now celebrated stream after which the battle was called. <sup>here the fallen and wounded</sup> ~~the killed and wounded~~ ~~strewn the ground all around.~~ The good father spoke kindly to the wounded and told them to have patience till daylight and he would have them cared for. One of them who expressed deep gratitude for this kindness ~~from a sufferer~~ <sup>expressed</sup> attracted the attention of both priest & doctor, and they kindly inquired his name & nature of wound. The <sup>name</sup> ~~name~~ <sup>he gave</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> Pat Sullivan & the latter he told them was a fractured thigh from a musket ball. After the good father remained <sup>some</sup> ~~some~~ <sup>time</sup> ~~time~~

attending to the religious wants of the wounded  
 men; he then joined the doctors ~~made over~~ the battle  
 field and then sought a hurried repose, ~~in~~  
~~among~~ ~~among~~ ~~among~~ having for his bed a grassy meadow  
 for his pillow a fence rail, and for covering the  
 blue vaults of heaven. When he awoke in the morning  
 the army was in motion, and the Federal artillery  
~~was~~ ~~was~~ ~~was~~ commencing to shell part of the Confederate  
 lines, about 10 o'clock all was quiet again and  
 breakfast was prepared. During the whole afternoon  
 Father Sheeran ~~among~~ spent the whole afternoon  
 of that day among the wounded Confederate pris-  
 oners, attending to their spiritual welfare and  
 occasionally responding to enthusiastic. On  
 Monday August 11<sup>th</sup> Jackson fell back  
 to Camp Wheat, the 14<sup>th</sup> Louisiana bringing up  
 the rear, at 7 o'clock that evening they ~~they~~  
 reached Camp Wheat; the 12<sup>th</sup> was a day of  
 rest, but on the 13<sup>th</sup> a court of enquiry was  
 held as a precursor to a court-martial on all  
 absentees from the late battle. On that afternoon  
 Father Sheeran visited the Camp of the 1<sup>st</sup> La,  
 and dined with Col. Nolan and the Rev. Father Heubert.  
 Returning that evening he visited the regiments  
 composing the Louisiana Brigade and reported  
 them to make use of the rest they were ~~now~~  
 then enjoying to attend to their religious duties.  
 August 14<sup>th</sup> Father Sheeran celebrated <sup>mass</sup> in camp

at which he had several <sup>Communicants</sup> ~~Communicants~~. He also delivered a short instruction which had the effect of bringing <sup>numbers of</sup> ~~many~~ to confession, ~~during that afternoon~~.

On Friday August 15<sup>th</sup> Mass was at an early hour and there was a large congregation and many Communicants. From the large number which attended Mass Father Sheeran cherished a hope that if a few days rest ~~was~~ were given he would have an opportunity of preparing all the Catholic soldiers of the Brigade to which he was attached to meet their God, but these fond hopes were not permitted to be realized for on the following morning at ~~10 o'clock~~ orders were given to prepare the day's rations and be ready to march at daylight. The order was promptly obeyed, but as Jewell's Division had to bring up the rear guard it had to wait till the other ~~part~~ <sup>part</sup> did not start till <sup>at</sup> ~~10 o'clock~~ <sup>Orange but 10 miles</sup> ~~at 10 o'clock~~. Some fifteen miles distant they halted and encamped for the night, having for their beds ~~long gravelly pebbles and logs of wood for their pillows~~. The following morning it was expected that the men march would be pursued and the an early breakfast was prepared. Father Sheeran expecting every moment to get the route made no preparation to say Mass although the day was Sunday. About 2 p. m. word reached him that two Virginian soldiers

were about to be shot for desertion. Hastening to the place of execution he found them surrounded by ~~two~~ a crowd of soldiers and accompanied by ~~two~~ Protestant Chaplains. Inquiring of one of the Chaplains if either was a Catholic the Father Sheeran was informed in the negative, but was told that he might speak to the Culprits. After a short conversation with them he found that neither were baptized, but from the necessary points of doctrine ~~explained~~ <sup>explained</sup> to them by the good Father, both expressed a <sup>willingness</sup> that they should, ~~that the points were in quest of some~~ ~~one to baptize them.~~ ~~One of the~~ ~~Chaplains~~ ~~made~~ ~~use of the poor fellow's fight of baptized and expressed~~ ~~his~~ ~~desire~~ ~~to~~ ~~baptize~~ ~~himself~~ ~~and~~ ~~baptized~~ ~~himself~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~night~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~20<sup>th</sup>~~ ~~and~~ ~~when~~ ~~Father~~ ~~Sheeran~~ ~~returned~~ ~~he~~ ~~found~~ ~~that~~ ~~they~~ ~~had~~ ~~yielded~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~persuasion~~ ~~of~~ ~~their~~ ~~spiritual~~ ~~murderers.~~ ~~Father~~ ~~Sheeran~~ ~~then~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~half~~ ~~about~~ ~~"O~~ ~~Protestantism~~ ~~how~~ ~~much~~ ~~thou~~ ~~hast~~ ~~done~~ ~~to~~ ~~offend~~ ~~God,~~ ~~injure~~ ~~man~~ ~~and~~ ~~serve~~ ~~the~~ ~~evil~~ ~~one"~~ ~~and~~ ~~then~~ ~~returned~~ ~~to~~ ~~Camp.~~ ~~On~~ ~~the~~ ~~Monday~~ ~~August~~ ~~20<sup>th</sup>~~ ~~at~~ ~~3~~ ~~o'clock~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~morning~~ ~~one~~ ~~of~~ ~~Stonewall's~~ ~~most~~ ~~famous~~ ~~marches~~ ~~commenced.~~ ~~After~~ ~~wending~~ ~~his~~ ~~way~~ ~~some~~ ~~distance~~ ~~through~~ ~~the~~ ~~mountains~~ ~~he~~ ~~crossed~~ ~~the~~ ~~Rapidan~~ ~~at~~ ~~Somerville,~~ ~~then~~ ~~crossed~~ ~~Cedar~~ ~~Creek,~~ ~~then~~ ~~Dutch~~ ~~Creek,~~ ~~passed~~ ~~through~~ ~~Staffersville~~ ~~to~~ ~~Mountain~~ ~~Creek,~~ ~~where~~ ~~they~~ ~~he.~~



encamped for the night, <sup>Sept</sup> ~~Oct~~ in the morning  
 the route was <sup>taken</sup> ~~given~~ ~~through~~ ~~the~~ ~~large~~ ~~forest~~  
~~the Rappahannock~~ At eight o'clock <sup>the following</sup> ~~the~~  
 morning Jackson arrived at the Rappahannock.  
 The Federal soldiers were in force and occupied  
<sup>positions</sup> strong on the opposite bank; Jackson continued  
 his march along the Rappahannock, then after  
 a forced march of some ~~ten~~ <sup>few</sup> miles some of the  
 men felt tired, and began to fall out of the  
 ranks. It was not long before a large number  
 of stragglers were all hand around. Father  
 Sheeran who expected some work to do shortly  
 waited the arrival of the doctor and the ~~army~~  
<sup>Corps which were a little farther rear</sup> ~~and~~ ~~balancers~~. While doing so a cry was raised that  
 "the Yankees were coming." Finding that the cry  
 alarm was too true and that a body of Federal  
 troops were advancing <sup>near</sup> that spot Father  
~~Sheeran~~ <sup>Sheeran</sup> ~~collected~~ <sup>collected</sup> all the stragglers and put them in  
 line of battle, giving orders to ~~remain~~ ~~there~~ ~~firm~~  
 till the enemy was within a short distance  
 of them. The ~~Yankees~~ <sup>Yankees</sup> were advancing very  
 cautiously through the woods preparing to  
 give them a sudden and warm attack,  
 but General Pemble with his whole brigade  
 anticipated their intent <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ ~~occupied~~ ~~the~~ ~~road~~ ~~off~~ ~~the~~ ~~main~~ ~~position~~ ~~which~~ ~~Father~~  
~~Sheeran~~ <sup>with</sup> ~~with~~ ~~his~~ ~~stragglers~~ ~~intended~~, After  
 the ~~Yankees~~ <sup>enemy</sup> ~~retreat~~ ~~and~~ ~~breaching~~ Father Sheeran ~~was~~ ~~seen~~

~~the Doctor and a balance accompanying, rode forward~~  
~~with his orderly after his regiment were some~~  
~~miles in advance.~~ After riding some hours Father  
 Sheeran overtook the doctors who had charge  
 of the Press Wagon. After ~~stopping~~ <sup>stopping</sup> on this was a  
 rather ~~an~~ <sup>an</sup> ~~unpleasant~~ <sup>agreeable</sup> affair for the present, as he had  
 broken his fast that day. After a dinner of corn  
 bread and cheese taken on horseback, he pushed  
 on at a rapid rate until he overtook about 6  
 p.m. when he overtook his regiment resting by  
 a road side, ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~purpose~~ ~~of~~ ~~some~~ ~~refreshment.~~  
~~From~~ ~~the~~ ~~branch~~ ~~was~~ ~~retraced,~~ until a small ford  
 crossing the Nappa-himoch was reached, here  
 Lemell crossed two of his brigades and retired  
 to a wood not far distant and encamped  
 for the night. That night the soldiers had to  
 sleep in pools of water and dry themselves  
 next morning at the camp <sup>Father Sheeran preparing the fates of</sup> ~~the~~ ~~men~~  
 For two days the men were without <sup>meat</sup> ~~meat~~  
 and were almost savage with hunger, and  
~~every~~ ~~sort~~ ~~of~~ ~~orders~~ ~~were~~ ~~given~~ ~~to~~ ~~wait~~ ~~until~~ ~~order~~ ~~was~~ ~~given~~  
~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~quarter~~ ~~masters~~ ~~to~~ ~~purchase~~ ~~cattle~~  
~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~neighboring~~ ~~farmers.~~ This idea was ~~not~~  
~~promptly~~ ~~obeyed~~ ~~and~~ ~~never~~ ~~was~~ ~~a~~ ~~beef~~ ~~steak~~  
~~was~~ ~~obtained.~~ While a battery of artillery was  
 occupying the attention ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Federal~~  
 soldiers ~~at~~ ~~Warrentown~~ ~~bridge~~  
 Gen Stuart made a raid into the heart of the

<sup>Several</sup>  
 enemy's Camp and captured some of <sup>the</sup> ~~Papers~~ private  
 baggage and papers, and ~~was~~ ~~near~~ ~~by~~ ~~him~~ ~~self~~,  
~~During the same morning Jackson sent his pioneer corps~~  
~~to repair the bridge near the Water tower Springs~~  
~~destroyed by the Federals in their retreat. This~~  
~~was a <sup>a</sup> ~~wise~~ order to draw the Federal soldiers after~~  
~~them. To some extent it was successful, about 5 p.~~  
~~m. Jackson's corps resumed its march up the~~  
~~river ~~was~~ ~~obscured~~ by the enemy, and encamped~~  
~~for the night some two miles above a little town~~  
~~called Jefferson. The march was resumed next~~  
~~morning at daylight. The Federals believing that~~  
~~Jackson intended to cross the Rappahannock~~  
~~resolved to dispute the passage. Both armies showed~~  
~~large fronts and a general engagement was im-~~  
~~minent. Leaving a portion of Longstreet's Command~~  
~~to keep up the impression that he intended to~~  
~~do so he suddenly retreated, changed his course~~  
~~directly from the river for the distance of four~~  
~~miles, then turned towards the Blue ridge for eight~~  
~~miles, at a double quick then suddenly ~~two~~ turned~~  
~~again toward the Rappahannock and crossed~~  
~~it. After continuing the march to some miles to a~~  
~~town called Salem they encamped for the night.~~  
~~The next morning early the march was resumed for~~  
~~some fifteen miles to the town of Haymarket (afterwards~~  
~~burned by ~~high~~ Dutch corps) Brigades) and <sup>here</sup> rested~~  
~~for some ~~time~~ ~~the~~ three hours. ~~Further ~~the~~ ~~was~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~~~~~

dinner at one of the hotels and re-embarked  
his bill the Landlord appeared much pained at  
the ~~travelling~~ ~~at three o'clock~~ The march was resumed  
and at 5<sup>o'clock</sup> the army arrived at where the Centre  
ville and Inman's forks join the turnpike Warren  
town, turning by a narrow path was the army.  
moved at a double quick for some distance, after  
which the La. Brigade were moved to the front  
and then detached with Jackson at their head  
went in a smart run to Bristow Station where  
they destroyed five trains bringing reserves and baggage  
to Pope. The next morning General Euell with  
the Louisiana Brigade and a few batteries were  
left at Bristow Station to keep the enemy in check  
for they were Jackson was then between Pope's  
Grand Army and Washington. <sup>(while Jackson)</sup> <sup>Sheridan</sup> visited  
the General Euell that morning and conversed  
freely with him on many subjects. During the  
conversation the general bestowed some high in-  
jurious on the Catholic soldiers composing the  
Louisiana Brigade. While General Euell was  
at Bristow, Jackson advanced to Inman's  
with his old Division and that of A. S. Hill  
and took possession of the ~~war~~ Commissary  
stores of and other supplies at the station.  
~~about 10 o'clock~~ ~~of beef and other sup-~~  
plies were distributed at the station, during  
the whole among the troops at ~~Bristow~~

~~having been forwarded from [unclear]~~, During ~~the whole~~  
~~the [unclear]~~ Father ~~&~~ <sup>Sheeran</sup> went among all the men  
 he possibly could, <sup>with</sup> exhorting them to go prepare  
 themselves to meet their God, At 2 P.M. ~~in [unclear]~~  
~~was [unclear]~~ <sup>now received</sup> that the Federal troops were <sup>advancing</sup> coming  
 in force and orders were given to retreat on  
 Manassas, which place was reached ~~undisturbed~~  
~~before~~ On arriving there ~~it~~ it was evident what  
 Jackson's intention was in visiting the place,  
 The looting of the stores by Jackson's hungry  
 & naked men was a scene that beggars description.  
 The army became a perfect confused mob, and  
 some of the officers believed that it would almost  
 take a week to <sup>reorganize</sup> ~~them~~ <sup>it</sup> again. However,  
 they were agreeably surprised to find that when  
 the order to fall in was given ~~the order~~ <sup>it</sup> was obeyed  
 and carried out with the utmost promptness.  
 It was near sunset by this time and Father  
 Sheeran felt anxious to learn the whereabouts  
 of his regiment. For some time he watched the  
 marching columns hoping to get a glimpse of  
 the buddled battle flag of the 14<sup>th</sup> but without  
 success. Whilst thus looking on he received  
 many a warm congratulatory salutation from  
 the 1st La, <sup>brigade</sup> commanded by Col Nolan.  
 Walking along with his regiment was the good  
~~chaplain~~ the Rev. Father Hubert. On seeing  
 him Father Sheeran alighted. After a warm

The hands both retired for a few moments  
 and settled their spiritual <sup>options</sup> ~~and~~ as best they  
 could. They then parted ~~expecting~~ <sup>when they would</sup> ~~to meet again~~ <sup>the next if possible</sup>  
~~the bloody field of battle a expectation which was~~  
~~also too much~~ <sup>realized</sup>. Having been informed  
 where the Va. Brigade was encamped <sup>Joseph Sheeran</sup> ~~He~~ rode  
 over to them and found ~~the men~~ <sup>the men</sup> and found in good  
~~spirits~~ <sup>and</sup> busily engaged eating supper, Colonel  
 York being the first he met made him dis-  
 mount and partake of a splendid repast,  
 After burning up all the stores which they could  
 not carry off with them, as well as the trains already  
 loaded with commissaries, the Confederate Army  
 started for Centreville, which place was reached  
~~shortly~~ <sup>the next morning</sup> after sunrise the following morning. During  
~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~ambulance~~ <sup>ambulance</sup> and several times ~~strove~~ <sup>strove</sup> to catch  
 a ~~wink~~ <sup>wink</sup> of ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> next morning ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~reach~~ <sup>reach</sup>  
~~Centreville~~ <sup>Centreville</sup> so ~~demolished~~ <sup>demolished</sup> was the ap-  
~~pearance~~ <sup>appearance</sup> of the army that it was almost impos-  
~~sible~~ <sup>sible</sup> to find out their ~~regiment~~ <sup>regiment</sup>. It was at  
~~last~~ <sup>last</sup> succeeded in doing so. Father ~~retired~~ <sup>retired</sup>  
~~to a large tree~~ <sup>to a large tree</sup>, under the shade of which he  
~~soon~~ <sup>soon</sup> found ~~refuge~~ <sup>refuge</sup> and ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup>. The overwhelming force  
 of Gen Pope was now threatening to fall on Jackson's  
~~doomed~~ <sup>doomed</sup> ~~seemingly~~ <sup>seemingly</sup> ~~doomed~~ <sup>doomed</sup> ~~corps~~ <sup>corps</sup> ~~then~~ <sup>then</sup> scattered  
 over the heights of Centreville but the latter made  
 a flank movement, got behind Pope and took

up a position on the left flank of the enemy  
 and departed the position from 5 P.M. until after  
 dark. It was here that Gen. Sewell had his leg am-  
 putated ~~by the enemy~~ which had received the wound  
 which <sup>necessitated</sup> the amputation of his leg on the fol-  
 lowing Saturday. Father Sheeran had all the  
~~time remained with the ambulances at some dis-~~  
~~tance from where the engagement took place~~  
~~and not hearing anything from the front, saw no~~  
~~signs of a battle excepting the roar~~  
~~of artillery concluded that it was only an anti-~~  
~~air and lay down for some repose close to the~~  
~~hospital ground. Between 12 & 1 o'clock he was~~  
~~awakened by some pitiful groans and for the~~  
~~first time found that a great battle had been~~  
~~fought, & that <sup>large</sup> numbers of men were wounded.~~  
~~He also <sup>of Father Sheeran</sup> was informed that his regiment had been~~  
~~cut up. <sup>his letter</sup> This letter <sup>was</sup> a source of deep pain~~  
~~to the good father as he imagined that <sup>numbers</sup>~~  
~~of his men were melting in their gore, and he~~  
~~was present to administer to their wants. It~~  
~~is true he was at the Chaplain's post but that~~  
~~did not satisfy him. His first impulse~~  
~~was to go to the front but having no one to direct~~  
~~him he resolved to await the dawn of day.~~  
~~At the first rays of twilight he mounted his~~  
~~horse and started for the scene of strife. In~~  
~~crossing Bull Run at <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>place</sup> the morning being~~  
~~dark,~~

He saw something which he could <sup>not</sup> discern paddling  
 in the water, stopping to ascertain what it might  
 be, he was surprised to learn that it was the good  
 Father Herbert washing himself. He had been up  
 all night at an adjacent hospital, and was  
 covered with blood and dirt, on reaching the  
 field of strife the good father <sup>Sheeran</sup> was agreeably sur-  
 prised to find his regiment in good health spirits  
 and eating a hearty breakfast. They were engaged  
 in They were not engaged the night before. All were  
 glad to see the good father but not more so  
 than he was to see them. He breakfasted with  
 Colonel York. A short time after breakfast and  
 while commencing with the <sup>balancing</sup> movement was percept-  
 ible along the lines. It was then hinted by  
 the Major that the Father Sheeran was in a hot  
 place and <sup>had</sup> better retire. But the latter  
 felt no alarm, but rode over the little field  
 in front of the lines in <sup>and</sup> order to see if he could  
 recognize any of the dead, <sup>or wounded</sup> He was at that time  
 in a dangerous position being only three quarters  
 of a mile distant from the Federal lines. Soon  
 however he rode up to the one of the batteries  
 in order to speak a few words of encouragement  
 As he did so a shell burst passed directly  
 over his head burst some hundred yards in  
 advance. Turning round he saw the Federal  
 troops had a battery placed in position on



on opposite hill from which they immediately  
 sent another fearful missile after him. He now  
 looked upon a change of base as the most pru-  
 dent strategy and with a speed, surprising  
 even any of Stonewall's flank movements, he filed  
 to the right and made for a wood some two hun-  
 dred yards distant; in the mean time receiving sev-  
 eral salutations from the enemy. During that  
 day, ~~the~~ <sup>he</sup> ~~waged~~ ~~his~~ ~~for~~ ~~Gen~~ ~~Jackson~~ ~~until~~ ~~late~~  
 in the afternoon the battle waged rather hot for  
 Gen Jackson & his men, but about 4 p. m.,  
 Longstreet formed a junction, and that evening  
 and next day, a terrible battle raged.  
 During each <sup>day</sup> night and morning following the  
 last day of battle Father Sheeran ~~was~~  
 was almost incessantly in attendance upon  
 the wounded & he did all in his power for them  
 both Spiritually and temporarily. The great  
 battle of the second Manassas <sup>or Bull Run</sup> was now  
 fought, and the hospitals were filled in every  
 direction with the wounded <sup>of both</sup> ~~on either~~ sides.  
 On the day Sunday, August 31st the day fol-  
 lowing the last one of carnage, Father Sheeran  
 declined to rest, but was unable to do so as orders  
 were given to remove all the wounded who could  
 possibly bear the change to Aldie and Middle-  
 bury. <sup>The removal</sup> This occupied nearly all ~~the~~ day,  
 with the exception and <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ part of it not taken

up by so, the good father devoted to visiting several  
 hospitals and preparing some of <sup>the</sup> our Catholic fellow  
 soldiers for death. That night after a weary wait  
 of three days and nights he sought a needful  
 and ~~happy~~ repose under the shelter of a house  
 not far distant from the scene of strife. The  
 next morning Father ~~Shannon~~ visited the battle field  
 in order to see if all the wounded Confederate sol-  
 diers were taken off, or if any of the enemy needed  
 his services. The Confederate soldiers removed numbers  
 of the <sup>wounded</sup> enemy to adjacent farm-houses, ~~under~~  
~~the shades of the trees~~. These men were in a deplora-  
 ble condition for want of food, drink or medical as-  
 sistance. Father ~~Shannon~~ did whatever he could for  
 them in every respect. He met with some Catholics  
 and endeavored to prepare them to meet their  
 God. Returning home back to his quarters that even-  
 ing Father ~~Shannon~~ was informed that another battle  
 was fought at Chantilly and started next  
 morning ~~for the purpose of~~ <sup>for the purpose of</sup> ~~Victory~~  
~~needed~~. About 2, P. M. he reached Chantilly,  
 sought out his regiment and heard from it  
 the account of the battle. It <sup>was</sup> here Gen Phil.  
 Kearney was killed. Having ascertained where the  
 dead and wounded were the Father ~~Shannon~~ had the  
 former buried and the latter removed to hospitals  
~~some two miles distant from the field of battle~~  
 He spent the night, up to a late hour, ministering

191

372

304

to their spiritual wants, and washing and dressing the wounds of those <sup>not yet forwarded to hospital</sup> unattended, On this occasion a Protestant gentleman went around among the wounded in order to discover who were Catholics so that <sup>he could tell Father Spurgeon</sup> they might make their peace with God. Having all the wounded cared for, Father Spurgeon accompanied by this gentleman, started about 10 o'clock for the hospital, as the night was dark & they not knowing the way, <sup>they</sup> lost the route, and seeing a light in the distance advanced towards it, On reaching it they found it to proceed from a house; ~~entering the latter~~ they prevailed on the proprietors to let them spread their blankets on the kitchen floor where they slept heartily all night. The next morning at daylight they started for the hospital, On reaching it they found only a few seriously wounded, Major Cronshaw Capt. Osborn were among the slightly wounded; Having heard that the army was in motion in the direction of Blue Ridge ~~he resolved to be absent in case of battle and to be started off after it.~~ Reaching the army Father Spurgeon learned that his regiment <sup>was</sup> was in advance and pressed forward in order to overtake it, & in passing along the columns received many kind salutations from numerous men of different regiments, A little before dark he came up with the old 14<sup>th</sup> Co, whom ~~he~~ <sup>he</sup> found encamped for the night near the town of

Dranesville, Friday morning, September 4<sup>th</sup> 1862 the  
 army moved toward the Potomac by way of Leesburg  
 and ~~went to~~ crossed Bolans ford next day, and went at  
<sup>his</sup> double quick in the direction of Frederick City.  
 On ~~the following day~~ Sunday about noon the army encamped within  
 a few miles of Frederick City, and Father Sheeran  
 after refishing himself on a delicious repast at a farm  
 house, resolved to visit Frederick City before going  
 to camp. By some accident he lost his orderly,  
 and had to pursue his journey alone. As this  
 road was often traversed by the ~~good~~ <sup>kind</sup> fathers  
 before, during his college days, the contrast between both  
<sup>periods</sup> ~~gone~~ caused him many sad reflections. The first  
 thing that occupied ~~the good~~ <sup>his</sup> father's attention after  
 entering Frederick was the old barracks, ~~now~~ <sup>then</sup> occupied  
 as an hospital by the Federal soldiers. On riding  
 into the yard he met with one of the Sisters of  
 Charity who had charge of the hospital. He dis-  
 mounted in order to speak to her, but was sur-  
 prised to find her <sup>very</sup> so much ~~dis~~ embarrassed;  
 He was however not long in discovering the cause, as  
 he had on a Confederate uniform and several  
 Federal Officers and Burglers <sup>watched</sup> ~~and officers~~ <sup>scanned</sup>  
 him from the gallery of the barracks. The  
 poor sister ~~no doubt~~ feared that she might be  
 accused of giving information to the enemy, or  
 showing sympathy for the rebels. Perceiving this  
 Father Sheeran mounted his horse and retreated from

21/

324

326

left  
~~out a party retreat~~, His next object was to find  
a Catholic Church. In riding through the streets he  
was kindly saluted by many of the citizens. He met  
also many acquaintances from various divisions of the  
army, all of whom showed him marked respect.  
The Louisiana Boys came to him to know if he stood  
in need of any thing; but in fact the poor priest  
stood in need of every thing, for he had not seen  
any <sup>of his</sup> baggage for three weeks, and a clean shirt  
if nothing else would be a boon. Entering a  
Jans clothing store with some of the boys they  
supplied him with a white shirt, handkerchief  
and other useful articles. When the proprietor  
discovered what he was a priest he invited  
him into a room and furnished him with soap  
water, soap and towel wherewith he cleaned him-  
self and then donned his newly purchased apparel.  
He then repaired to the house of the Jesuit Fathers  
by whom he was kindly received. Here he had  
the pleasure of meeting Father Hebert, for the first  
time in ~~four~~ <sup>some</sup> days. He was, like himself, disfigured  
in Confederate mud. They were soon introduced  
into the bathhouse whence they returned much  
cleaned, if not better looking. The good fathers  
made them change their clothes, and then <sup>repair</sup> ~~advance~~  
to the refectory where they did ample justice  
to all the good things with which the table  
was laden. In the mean time Father Hebert's

horse had been taken to the stable and he was informed that he could not return to camp that night. Leaving a few hours of daylight he resolved to visit the place. The city was crowded with soldiers who came to see it or to make purchases and they ~~even~~ had it actually a live. Having seen the greater portion of the city he returned to the house of the Jesuit Fathers and having partaken of a good supper retired early to rest. ~~Sunday~~ The next ~~morning~~ being Sunday, Father ~~Sproul~~ had the consolation of offering the holy sacrifice of the Mass for the first time in three weeks. As he ~~parted~~ with his regiment the day before without giving any notice he ~~unwisely~~ returned to camp to see what the boys were doing. About 10 A.M. he reached there and found them in the best of spirits. The next day ~~but~~ Father ~~Sproul~~ accompanied by Col Gable started for Fredericks. The ~~next~~ day was gala day in the city. Ladies from the surrounding country came in to see the Southern soldiers and the latter crowded the city, and ~~made~~ <sup>and showed off</sup> their equestrian skill before the ladies. After viewing the scenes around the city, Father ~~Sproul~~ and Col Gable repaired to the house of the Jesuit Fathers. The scene here was indeed an affecting one. <sup>Here</sup> The good Father Ward, master of the novices, was ~~busy~~ as possible waiting on the poor soldiers & giving them refreshment.

During the afternoon Father Sheeran had the pleasure of meeting here the Very Rev Fr, Principal of N.J., and the Rev Fr, McGuire of Washington, who requested him to procure a passport for their return to Baltimore, in company with the Rev Father McGuire, he then visited the convent of the visitation, a splendid building, directly opposite the Convictate, there he found that numbers of soldiers had also refreshments, when Father Sheeran was returning to the Convictate he met Father Ward with a dozen canteens strung around his neck, and asked him, "What on earth are you doing with all the canteens?" "Well" replied the Father Ward, "when I was out on the street I met some of your boys inquiring for malasses to buy, and I thought them to be so jaded looking I took their canteens from them to fill them in my cellar" At 11 o'clock Father Sheeran visited Generals Jackson & Lee on business of of and then returned to Camp Two days after viz on Wednesday September 10<sup>th</sup> the army at 4 o'clock in the ~~afternoon~~ <sup>evening</sup> the army ~~were~~ <sup>was</sup> again on the route & passed through Frederick that evening at 8 o'clock, and Middletown, at 12, AM, and at 4 miles beyond the latter place encamped for the night, The next morning at 4 o'clock the march was resumed by way

of the junction of the Williamsport & Hagerstown pike  
 & Beaver Creek to Antietam, ~~There Father Shaver~~  
~~got his horse shod and the four blackmen the rest of~~  
~~the day <sup>refused</sup> would not accept any pay but invited him into~~  
~~his dwelling where a splendid repast was furnished~~  
 him. There he met with an old lady who was a  
 singular specimen of inquisitiveness. Among a  
 host of questions which she asked she wanted  
 to know had the priest a family? "Yes Ma'am"  
 was the reply and a large one too. "Ah,  
 indeed and how many children have you?" "When  
 I am at home I have over a thousand," "A thousand  
 children," she ~~exclaimed~~ <sup>reclaimed</sup> at the same time  
 surveying him from head to foot. Before  
 giving her an explanation he was informed that  
 his horse was ready and so bid her good  
 bye. About noon the army arrived at ~~Lebanon~~ <sup>Potomac</sup>  
 Williamsport, where it halted for about two  
 hours. There Father ~~Shaver~~ <sup>Shaver</sup> took occasion to visit  
 the Catholic Church but found it closed, there  
 being no resident pastor. There were some pious  
 Catholic families here who were anxious that he  
 should spend the night with them but ~~knowing~~ <sup>knowing</sup> not  
 knowing the destination of the army he could not  
 do so. At two <sup>o'clock</sup> orders were given to resume the  
 march and across the Potomac to Virginia.  
 During the march that evening the army passed  
 by a splendid mansion adjoining an extensive



plantation, owned by a gentleman named Mr. Garney.  
 This gentleman had a very interesting family of  
 three accomplished young daughters. As Jackson  
 and his staff were passing by, some persons informed  
 the young ladies that there was old Stonewall.  
 They immediately dispatched a messenger after the  
 General and Staff, requesting their presence on ur-  
 gent business. Jackson obeyed the summons and  
 old Mr. Garney received him with <sup>the true Irish</sup> the greatest  
 hospitality. The ladies apologized for calling  
 him back, and two of them kept him in conver-  
 sation whilst the third was making his coat  
 tail minus his buttons. The same Father Sheeran  
~~had the same compliment in store for himself~~  
~~He~~ was invited to stay over night, which he  
 accepted. After hearing ~~the~~  
 the expressions of all the family, Father ~~Sheeran~~  
 Father ~~Sheeran~~ returned to rest and ~~the~~ next morning  
 was off after the army, whom he overtook  
 at Gledgreville, and who were in full march to  
 Marlborough. At Marlborough Father Sheeran visited  
 Dr. Becker the Catholic pastor of the place, and  
 was received kindly by him. He also met <sup>father</sup> Herbert  
 there. About noon next day, ~~the~~ Sept 13<sup>th</sup>  
 the army arrived in view of Murrays Ferry,  
 and after part of three days skirmishing that  
 that town was in the hands of the confederates,  
 Father Sheeran now took a route over around to

see were his services needed anywhere, In so doing  
 he visited a Cemetery where several ~~Yankee~~ <sup>Federal</sup> soldiers were  
 burying these dead companions, many of these men were  
 Catholics and the poor fellows were greatly rejoiced  
 when they found that Father Sheeran was a priest.  
 Several were ~~some~~ of 12th Regt, Y., were very eager  
 to have a chat with the ~~rebel~~ priest and  
 all paid great attention to his remarks, Having  
 After spending about an hour with the prisoners  
 Father Sheeran returned to Harpers ferry and repaired  
 to the house of Dr Coletto the Catholic pastor of the  
 Place, who treated him very kindly and ~~invited~~ <sup>offered</sup>  
 to have him ~~to remain~~ as his guest as long as the army re-  
 mained in Harpers Ferry. Dr Coletto  
 introduced him to many Catholic families in  
 the place all of whom treated him kindly. He also  
 showed <sup>him</sup> John Browns monument and many other places  
 of note. After dark the same evening Father Sheeran  
 visited Gen Miles, <sup>who was wounded during the siege</sup> ~~found~~ and found him unable  
 to speak; on a third visit he was dead. About  
 8 o'clock that night Dr Coletto & Sheeran  
 visited Gen Hill in order to procure a pass for the  
 former, Gen Hill was as usual very kind and  
 informed them that he would <sup>do</sup> any thing in his  
 power for them. On the afternoon of the  
 16<sup>th</sup> the army moved towards Shepherdstown and  
 crossed the Potomac, the next morning A. P.  
 The next morning Father Sheeran followed and

27

330

332

about 3 o'clock arrived at the "Shiffs" of the Potomac near Shepherdstown, from which the bloody battle of Sharpsburg, or Antietam, was visible. He then repaired to the town to see after the wounded, ~~met some of his own regiment who~~ and ~~having found where he should find the his~~ regiment, started for the battle field. It being dark and having no one to show him the road, he returned to the town, where he attended to both the spiritual and temporal wants of the wounded. Early in the morning he visited the field of ~~battle~~ <sup>of Sharps</sup> & repaired to the temporary hospitals. The first visited was that of the <sup>2nd</sup> ~~1st~~ Louisiana Brigade. Here the good Father Neibert was attending to the spiritual and physical wants of his many wounded children. Col. Nolan, Capt. O'Rourke and other officers of the first Louisiana were among them. Father Sherman next visited <sup>the</sup> hospital of the Brigade to which his regiment belonged, & found only a few of <sup>the members of the father</sup> them mortally wounded. The other regiments of the brigade however did not fare so well & ~~worked~~ Father <sup>Sherman</sup> worked hard all day in helping them to meet their God the Catholic portion of them to meet their God. During the night the wounded were being removed to Shepherdstown and the last batch but 17 had gone, <sup>when</sup> about midnight some stray cavalry called at the hospital and told ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> the army was in motion across the river.