

~~The~~ ^{or} ~~Version~~ ^{of} The Cross
The Soldiers of the Cross

Introduction Contains
over twenty ~~life~~ letters
from the most distinguished
generals both of the
Federal and Confederate
armies giving their views
of the efficiency, purity and
zeal of the Catholic
Chaplains and ~~clergy~~

Our Chaplains and Sisters
The Soldiers of the Cross

Introduction

The Chaplains of the Federal & Confederate armies — Testimony to their work and service by leading officers of both armies —

During the late war I had frequent opportunities
observing with what unflinching zeal, fortitude,
and Christian charity, the Catholic Chaplains
and Sisters ministered both to the spiritual and
moral wants of the sick, the dying and wounded
soldiers. Whether on the battle field or in the
hospital, their attention and services were free
to all alike, regardless of their religion,
or complexion, or their nationality. Few, who
have passed through these trying times, but recall
the poor patient priest, who was always to be found
at the front cheering the dying soldier, if a Catholic
or assisting and comforting him if a member of
~~Protestant~~^{Protestant} denomination. Always at his post
always doing his duty regardless of hardship and
dangers, the Catholic Chaplain soon came to be
regarded with respect and veneration, even
by men brought up in the most strict and
exclusive Puritanism. The man who poured
into the wounds of his fellow man, and who
ventures his life in his service, is sure to
the respect and admiration of all good
generous men, no matter what their reli-
gion and ~~color~~. JH

(with the Catholic Chaplains and many; and the highest tributes paid to their charitable services and unremitting zeal in the discharge of their duties, have been rendered to them by Protestant writers, officers and privates.

As for the sisters, their labors and services were only equaled by their meekness and charity; and no one who has spent weary weeks and months in ^{an} hospital, can forget the tender care and ~~soothing~~ ^{soothing} influence of the quiet gentle sister, who stood by his bed side, like an angel of mercy and light, ever ready to ^{cool} ~~soothe~~ his aching brow, to ~~cool~~ ^{refresh} his parched lips, or to minister to him ^{the prescribed} medicine or nourishment as the case may be.

What sweet angelic influence they exercised over the patients is only known to those who have passed ^{under} ~~through~~ their care.

Many a soldier, with coarse words and jibes on his lips, soon became ^{docile} ~~gentle~~ as a child, and ~~fully~~ modest in his language, through the sweet example and gentle influence of the sisters.

Knowing and seeing all this, ~~the writers~~ ^I at the close of the war, to set about collecting the necessary materials to add to the history of the great American contest, the record of these soldiers of the Cross, both in the Federal and Confederate armies.

I do this not with any intention of disparaging the labors and services of the Chaplains of other denominations, for there were many noble self sacrificing Christian men and zealous workers among them;

but in order that the ^{color} ~~order~~ of ^{sanctity and} ~~their~~ good works might descend to posterity, to stimulate others to take up their cross and follow ~~them~~ in the footsteps of their Divine master.

When ~~it~~ ^I had made some progress in collecting materials, I communicated with the late learned and truly pious Archbishop of Baltimore, The Most Reverend Dr. Spalding, and laid my project before him. He thoroughly approved of it as appears from the following letter, ~~which I received from him~~ ^{which I received from him} ~~from him~~.
Baltimore Nov^r 5th 1868

D. P. Gonyngham Esq

Dear sir

I applaud your effort to rescue from oblivion the glorious deeds of our ⁺sisters and Chaplains in the late war. I will do whatever I can to aid you by speaking to those who are likely to know most, and by writing the preface as you desire. Do not be too much in a hurry; gather your facts carefully and be sure of them before you write. I would advise you to write to Mother Euphemia, Sisters of Charity, Emmetsburg, and to The Rev^d Parese S. J., Provincial, Baltimore, as well as to Rev^d Father Wisel, St. Alphonsus Church, Baltimore, requesting facts. You may use my name as reference.

Yours truly
M. J. Spalding
Archbishop

The mission to Rome as a member of the Ecumenical Council, and the subsequent illness and death of this Christian Bishop and learned divine.

deprived me of the advantages of his great influence and support

A very serious difficulty that lay in my way arose from the fact, that as soon as the war was over, the Catholic Chaplains returned to their various missions; some to die by disease contracted from the hardships, exposure and privations of army life; ~~while~~ others ~~were~~ ^{to be} scattered on their missionary labors throughout different countries, ~~and~~ ^{as} a consequence, it was ^{no easy task} ~~impossible~~ to get facts or materials directly ^{relating to} from them.

Believing that true Christian charity knows no sectarianism, religious or political, and that the Catholic Chaplain was the soldier of the Cross, and not of the sword, I was ^{also} ~~too~~ anxious to procure sketches of the Chaplains and sisters serving with the Confederate as well as with the Federal armies.

Of in some cases, the partiality of the Chaplains for the success of the army with which they were serving, ^{appears} ~~is~~ ^{apparent}, we must not forget that we are ^{all} ~~are~~ more or less influenced by surrounding circumstances and associations, and that the Chaplain with the Federal army was just as ready to minister to a Confederate soldier as to one of his own, and vice versa.

It is a well known fact that many of our officers and men in Confederate hospitals and prisons, owed their ~~very~~ lives to the care, the attention and devotion of the ~~few~~ sisters; a fact that is confirmed by the statements and letters published in

^{many}
 This work, ~~most~~ of which have been furnished
 by Protestants. The sisters of the different
 orders, with the meekness and modesty of true
 charity, shrank from bringing their humble
 labors before the public gaze, and ^{many of them} refused
^{to} furnishing sketches or materials, so that I had
 to rely on other sources for the information receiv-
 ed.

On reply to a personal application
 for materials, the Superiress of one House
 said: "I am sorry, sir, we cannot help you,
 but whatever we have done, we have done
 for the love and glory of God, and we ^{rather} seek
 not desire ~~either~~ earthly praise or glory.

"If God is satisfied with our humble services
 and labors, we are ^{content} satisfied, and shall
 calmly and hopefully await his reward.

If, on the other hand, we have not pleased
 Him it will profit us nothing to gain the
 praise and admiration of mortals.

"We have labored for the salvation of souls,
 and the good of our fellow creatures, not for
 worldly praise or distinction, we, therefore, ^{expect}
~~to receive~~ ^{only} our reward in Heaven".

The Superiress of ^{another} ~~another~~ House, writing, ^{to}
~~me~~ says: "During the war the constant
 occupation of the sisters with the sick and
 dying left them scarcely time to attend to
 their necessary exercises, consequently they
 had none to devote to the recording of deeds
 of Charity they ever esteemed themselves
 privileged to perform".

I did not despair, but went to work with the more zeal and vigor, and finally succeeded in collecting sufficient materials for very interesting sketches of the devoted and self sacrificing ~~armies~~ ^{and their armies} ~~of the~~ ^{of the} sisters, to the sick and wounded in hospital.

The following were the most prominent of the Catholic Chaplains ^{who served} ~~serving~~ with the Federal armies; namely. Rev Father J. Greay Chaplain of the 4th U.S. Cavalry and private Chaplain to Gen. Rosecrans. Father Greay is now pastor at ^{Bayou la Pate,} ~~Marshville,~~ Alabama.

The record of his services and ~~checked~~ ^{cherished} career, as a missionary priest, is full of stirring and interesting incidents.

The congregation of the Holy Cross supplied to the army the following able and energetic Chaplains. Rev^d William Corby C.S.C., now ^{at Notre Dame, Ind.} ~~Superior of the Mission at Watertown, Wisconsin.~~

Rev^d Joseph C. Carrier C.S.C., ~~Superior of the House of Studies Notre Dame, Indiana, and~~ ^{at St. Laurent's College, Montreal} professor of Chemistry, physics and science in the University.

Rev^d Paul E. Gillen C.S.C. ^{deceased} ~~missionary~~; Rev Peter P. Cooney C.S.C. now in ^{Watertown, Wis.} ~~missionary~~;

Rev^d James M. Dillon C.S.C., deceased, and the Rev^d Julian Bourget C.S.C. also deceased.

The Rev^d R. C. Christy Chaplain to the 78 Pennsylvania is now pastor at Freeport, Me. The Rev^d Father Willett C.J. now in St. John N.B.

Rev^d Father Tissot, ^{S.F.} ~~chaplain of the 42nd Infantry~~ ^{deceased} ~~regiment, so at present professor at~~ ^{at present professor at} ~~Jonathan College;~~ ^{Jonathan College;}

The Rev Michael Nash S. J., chaplain to Wilson's
guaves, now in ^{Troy, N. Y.} ~~Mass.~~. The Rev J. Mc Atte
S. J. and the Rev Father Egan and several other
missionary priests, who served as chaplains, are
scattered over the country. The Rev Thomas
Scully, chaplain to the 9th Mass, is at present
pastor of Cambridgeport, Mass. Father Brady, Chaplain
to the 13th Michigan Vol, died soon after the close
of the war; as also Father Brown. Father Higgins
of the ^{10th} Ohio, returned to Ireland whilst others
were sent by their Bishops and superiors on
different missions throughout the world.

These are a few of the soldiers ~~of Christ~~,
whose mission was not that of hate and strife,
but of peace and good will among mankind.
Besides these, several clergymen, who were not
attached as paid ~~chaplains~~ ^{chaplains} to the army, rendered
invaluable services to the sick and wounded in
the hospitals both in Washington and elsewhere.

As far as I have been able to ascertain, the
following Rev gentlemen were the regularly
appointed Catholic Chaplains with the Confederate
armies.

Rev Davies Hubert S. J., was appointed in April
1861, Chaplain to the first ^{Louisiana} ~~La.~~ Regiment, and
served with the army in Virginia to the close
of the war.

Rev E. Smolders, of the Redemptorist order,
was Chaplain of the 8th ^{Louisiana} ~~La.~~ and served with
it until the end of the war. Father H. Gache
S. J. served as Chaplain to the 10th ^{Louisiana} ~~La.~~, partly in

The field and partly in hospital, to the close of the war. The sketch of his services is very full and interesting. Rev James Sheeran, of the Redemptorist order, served as Chaplain to the 14th ^{Louisiana} La to the end of the war. The sketch of his services is varied and interesting, embracing, as it does, the campaigns of ^{Honorable} Jackson and a full and accurate account of the manner in which ~~he~~ ^{that Confederate leader} came by his death. Rev Joseph Prachenski S. J. was Chaplain to an Alabama Regiment.

Rev Dr ^{John} ~~John~~ Feeling of Richmond served as Chaplain to the 1st Virginia. Rev A Corrette was for some time with the troops in Mobile, Ala.

Rev C Boglioli, ^{now of New Orleans, La} though not regularly appointed, followed as Chaplain the Donaldsonville Battery. Rev. E. E. Leray, ^{now, ~~Cong~~ ^{for} Bishop of New Orleans} attended the troops in Vicksburg during the siege.

The Rev Father Caruso served for some time with the troops in Tennessee.

The following Chaplains with the Confederate armies, have since died.

Rev Isidore Swigis, whose fearless and gallant services at Shiloh, earned ^{for} him the esteem of all. died at New Orleans in March, 1868.

The Rev Father Plummer was killed at the battle of Jonesboro, Ga, while ministering to a dying soldier.

The Rev Francis Machor S. J. Chaplain to the soldiers in the fort on the Mississippi and in Washington La, ^{died} in 1867.

The Rev Dr Chignon, died in 1867; he served with a Louisiana regiment at Corinth.

In addition to these regularly appointed chaplains, the local clergy were assiduous in their attention to the wants, spiritual and temporal, of the soldiers in and around the cities of Charleston, Savannah, New Orleans, Richmond and elsewhere; and to their credit be it said, that the Federal prisoners and sick soldiers found them and the sisters their kindest and best friends.

It would take volumes to give ample details of the zeal and self-sacrificing devotion of the Chaplains and sisters in both armies during the war. On this account, and believing that the work should not extend beyond one good sized volume, I confine myself to those presenting the most interesting features and the most attractive points, ~~in connection with the war.~~ (Sisters?)

In order to lay before my readers the views and opinion of the ^{Generals and} Medical men gentlemen and ~~generals~~, under whose eyes the chaplains and sisters officiated, I wrote to many of the most prominent of them requesting their impartial and candid opinions, relative to the services rendered during the war by the Catholic Chaplains and sisters. In reply I received many encouraging letters speaking of the good done by them in the most laudatory terms.

As these letters speak for themselves, I have ~~some~~ ^{given} faithful ~~copies~~ ^{of} the most prominent ~~of~~ ^{of} them.

Hoboken Oct 26th /69

May D. P. Conyngham
My Dear sir

I cordially approve of your intention to publish a work on the services of the Catholic Chaplains and sisters with the army during the recent war. My attention was very frequently drawn to their disinterested and most valuable efforts in the cause of humanity, and I think that it is eminently proper that a prominent record should be made of their efforts.

Very truly yours
George B. McClellan

New York May 28th 1870
My Dear Sir

Unusual press of business affairs for the past ~~two~~ months have prevented an earlier attention to your letter requesting my views as to the work of the Catholic Clergy and sisters in the army during the late war. As far as my observations extended, the Catholic clergy engaged in army work, were eminently distinguished for the self-sacrificing and zealous ^{manner} in which they performed their duties.

They spared no pains and shrank from no exposure or hardships in their labor for the relief of the sick and wounded.

Wherever there is sympathy for suffering, there will be gratitude for the self-sacrificing

labors of these devoted men

Of the Sisters of Mercy there is little need for me to speak. Their good deeds are written in the grateful hearts of thousands of our soldiers, to whom they were ministering angels. I heartily approve of your design to put these benefactors upon record.

It is due to those engaged therein; and cannot fail to inspire others to like deeds of love and mercy.

Very truly yours

A. E. Burnside

L. Late Major General
Major D. P. Conyngham

New York June 16th

D. P. Conyngham Esq.

My Dear sir

I heartily approve of your intention of writing a work on the Catholic Chaplains and Sisters, and their services, in our army during the late civil war. As to my personal experience I must say that I always found the Catholic Chaplain faithful attentive and zealous in the discharge of his duties. His mission seemed to be to devote himself solely to the spiritual and temporal wants of the soldiers. In camp, by his pious example and religious teachings, he greatly softened and Christianized the tone and actions of the men; while, in

The field, he was ever found regardless of danger, where his duty called him and where the wounded or dying soldiers needed his ministrations.

Personally I have had but little acquaintance with the labors and good works of the Sisters, as they were mostly confined to hospital duties, but on all sides, and by persons of various religious denominations I have heard them spoken of in terms of praise and respect.

Truly yours

Joseph E. Hooker
Late Maj. General

Head-quarters Military Division of the Atlantic
Philadelphia January 24th 1870

Dear Sir

My position as Commanding General of the army of the Potomac, did not afford me the opportunity for personal knowledge by intercourse with regimental chaplains so that though I know that the chaplains of the Catholic church did good service, and are deserving of all commendation, my memory does not enable me to speak of individuals. I have no doubt of the names and services of some of them were recalled to my mind I could say more than I can of them personally. All I can say of them is in general terms and to the effect that they faithfully discharged their duties to the credit of their church and the service.

Respectfully yours
 George P. Meade
 Major General

New York Nov^r 5th 1868
 D. P. Conyngham Esq
 Sir

Your letter of the 25th ~~last~~ ^{ult.} received today, I always expected from the Catholic Chaplains and sisters works stamped with the impress of that Divine Charity which has God for its author and final end and do not remember an instance in which I felt disappointed.

If you wish to compare the fruits of various kinds of Charity, displayed during the late war, I think considerable contrast may be found between those which spring from natural and those which spring from supernatural motives. Those of the clergy were marked but less conspicuous, owing to their religious training and retiring modesty. I shall not be able to give you details for the work you propose. I also think it would be the best thing, when you do charity, do it secretly if possible, for such is the maxim of our religion.

yours respectfully
 W. L. Rosecrans

Headquarters military Division of the Missouri
 Chicago Ill January 29th 1870
 D. T. Conyngham Esq

Dear sir

In reply to your note of the 22nd inst in regard to my opinion as to the efficiency of the Catholic chaplains and Sisters in the army during the late war, I beg to state that so far as my experience is concerned they were both active and efficient in their several callings, and rendered good service, both in the field and in the hospital

Respectfully + c.

P. H. Sheridan

Major General

Headquarters Department of the East
 New-York City Feby 25th 1870
 D. T. Conyngham

My Dear sir

I beg your pardon for delaying so long an answer to your note of the 23rd ultimo. It was received during my absence and was overlooked after my return.

I did not chance, personally to be brought into contact with the chaplains and can only of my own knowledge, speak in a general way as to the ~~Sisters~~ services of the Sisters. The latter I met in the course of my visits to the hospitals, where I found them as they are ever all over the world, ministering to the sick and wounded.

in a way to command the respect, gratitude and affection of all who saw them, or had the benefit of their ^{services} ~~presence~~. I am respectfully &c &c.

Irwin. W. Dowell

Brig. Major Gen
Comdg. Depart.

Adj. Gen. Dept of Dakota

St. Paul, Minn. Feb 3rd 1870

D. P. Conyngham Esq

My dear sir,

I have received your letter of the 23rd ultimo informing me, that with those of other Generals, you were desirous of getting for publication my views as to the services of the Catholic chaplains and Sisters during this late war.

Having the good fortune during the war, to have in my Command the "Irish Brigade" and the "Gorcoran Legion" as well as other bodies of troops having chaplains who were Catholics I had favorable opportunities of observing the manner in which the chaplains performed their duties:

and I can safely and with pleasure assert that none were more useful or could have been more devoted to their duties under all circumstances of the service - in the camp, in the conflict, or in presence of the enemy.

They had too the respect of the troops, without regard to their religious views, from the general highest in command down to the drummer boy. The sisters of the Catholic church did not I believe at any time in the field, come under my observation. I am very respectfully &c &c. Hancock Major General

St Louis Mo Jan'y 31st 1870

Dear sir

In reply to your letter of 23rd inst it affords me great pleasure to say that, from my own observation and the unanimous testimony of all whom I have heard speak on the subject, I regard the conduct of the Catholic sisters associated with the army during the late war as one of the highest and noblest exemplifications of the Christian religion, of which we have any knowledge in our age of the church.

The missionaries among the heathens give us, perhaps, the only higher example of practical Christianity.

It was not my fortune to be thrown much in contact with Catholic chaplains, but their individual reputation was, so far as I know that of faithful devotion to their duty.

Yours truly

J. M. Schofield

Major General

Ad. yrs Artillery School U. S. A
Major D. P. Cunningham Fortress Monroe Va Jan'y 25th 1870
My dear sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your note of 23rd inst

It would afford me sincere gratification to comply with your request, but strange to say, the beneficent labors of the Clergy and Sisters of the Church of Rome — which I have so often heard spoken of as being so faithfully bestowed in the army during the war of the Rebellion —

never chanced to fall under my personal observation.

That they were unremitting and self sacrificing must of course be true, for the concurrent testimony in that direction is very strong.

I am dear sir & &

William ~~St~~ Barry

Col 2nd Regt Artillery

Brevet Major General U.S.A.

Washington D.C. July 11th 1870

D.P. Conyngham Esq

My Dear sir

I have the pleasure
this morning of receiving your note of July 23rd

During the rebellion my duties did not throw me so much with the troops as to become familiar with the services rendered by the Roman Catholic priests but I have heard them spoken of in the highest terms of praise by all. In St Louis I watched an hospital containing many of our sick soldiers. The sisters there were assiduous in their attentions and careful to relieve the necessities of our sick soldiers.

At New Orleans also I know that the sisters were ever ready to extend the hand of sympathy and words of comfort and consolation to our suffering soldiers. This is their record on all sides.

Respectfully yours & &

L Thomas

Bvt Major General
U.S.A.

Army building New York
 Jan'y 27th 1870

D. P. Conyngham Esq

Dear sir

I am in receipt of yours of the 23rd inst informing me that you are preparing a work on The Catholic Chaplains and sisters in the army during the late war and asking my views regarding their efficiency.

My duties during the late war were of a character to bring me but seldom in contact with the labors of the chaplains and sisters; but so far as my personal knowledge goes it fully sustains the reports constantly made to me of their valuable services; and of their zeal and self denial, and the comfort which their services so largely conferred on the sick and the wounded.

I am glad that you are preparing a work upon a subject of so much interest, not only to the thousands who were benefited by their labors, but to the public at large.

very respectfully &c &c

Wm. H. Wright

Brevet Major General U.S.A.

Ad Genl Dept of the Platte

Omaha, Nebraska Jan'y 26th 1870

My dear sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 23rd inst desiring my opinion of the efficiency and services

of the Catholic Chaplains and sisters during the late war

It was not very good fortune to be brought into close relations with the Catholic Chaplains, or to have any personal knowledge of their services or their work. But I heard constantly of the latter, and always in terms of the highest praise and commendation. But this is no more than is and ^{has} always been said of that band of devoted and self denying women.

Your book cannot fail to be interesting and will be welcomed as an act of justice to a class who does not blazon their own deeds, or tell their right hands the doings of their left.

I am very respectfully &c - - -

L. L. Angier

Brigadier General

~~These letters speak volumes,~~ What nobler compliments ~~were~~ ever paid to duty and Christian Charity than they convey? There are men of the highest standing and unimpeachable honor, differing in religious opinions and connections from the Catholic Chaplains and sisters; yet, paying the fullest tribute ~~they possibly can~~ to the zeal and purity and self-sacrificing devotion of our noble band of soldiers of the cross.

These letters are a history in themselves and do honor, not only to the subjects of their just meed of praise, but also to the tolerant and generous

spirit of the writers. To these we might add General Westcott's testimony when giving evidence on the conduct of the war he said that the Catholic Chaplains were the only real champions in the army.

If the generals of the Federal armies fully appreciated the good offices and services of the Catholic Chaplains and sisters, ~~it is evident~~ ³ ~~that~~ they were equally respected and honored in the Confederate Army. As a proof of the high estimation in which they were held by the Confederate leaders as well as by the rank and file, I give the following letters.

One of ~~them~~ is from General Robert E. Lee, a man whose bravery and military knowledge and genius, commanded the respect and admiration; even of those who fought against him. The other is from General Bourquard, one of the ablest engineers and strategists whom the late war has produced.

Lexington Va 8th July 1870 -

D. P. Conyngham Esq

Dear sir

In reply to your letter of the 22nd ult. it gives me great pleasure to state that the Catholic chaplains in the army of N. Va, so far as my knowledge extends, were kind and attentive to the temporal and spiritual wants of the men of their brigades, and were assiduous in their attentions in encouraging the well and comforting the sick of the army.

There were three regular Chaplains attached to General Stoddards and Leage's Heys Louisiana Brigades, namely Father Sherman, Hubert, and ~~Schubert~~ ^{muders}. Other Catholic clergymen

occasionally visited the army, conspicuous among whom were Bishop Gill of Richmond.

The Catholic Sisters in Richmond devoted themselves to the sick and wounded in the Hospitals and I was told were unremitting in their attentions to the soldiers generally. Respectfully yours

R. E. Lee

New Orleans Mar 25th 1870

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 22nd ult has been received but not answered sooner, in the hope of being able to obtain positive information as to the services rendered on the Confederate side, by the Catholic Chaplains and Sisters of Charity, in the field and hospitals during the late war. I regret that I can only transmit you, herewith the names of the Chaplains who served with La. Regts; those of the sisters who attended Confederate State Hospitals, cannot now be obtained by me.

The services of both Chaplains and sisters, were most devoted and invaluable during the most trying periods of the war; their efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the wounded and sick (Federals as well as Confederates) were indefatigable and unremitting. Even Protestant Commanding Officers were always happy to avail themselves, in our hospitals, of the self-sacrificing, untiring and generous assistance of the "Sisters" who were so kind and devoted to the poor, helpless, sick and wounded soldiers placed under their care, that these heroes of many hard fought battles, looked upon them as their

own sisters or mothers

I sincerely hope That you may succeed in collecting all the facts necessary to enable you to carry out your praiseworthy design

I remain yours truly
J. G. Bourgeois

As an evidence of the Christian feeling and tolerant spirit, that inspired the chaplains of various denominations in the army, we give the following letter from the Rev Geo W Pepper, a clergyman of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and a chaplain of the regular army, who was all through the war, and who, for his zeal, his devotion and purity of life and actions, commanded the respect and esteem of men of all classes and denominations.

Wellington Loraine Co. Ohio

Oct 20th 1869

Major D. P. Conyngham,

My dear ^{Major} friend

I am glad that you are preparing a volume on the Roman Catholic Chaplains and Sisters of Charity. The task is a worthy and a noble one. I was well and intimately acquainted with many Catholic Chaplains, and truly express the sentiments of thousands of my own faith, when I say, That, a more unselfish, more devoted, and a more courageous set of men never served in any army, in battle, they splendidly defied the bullets of the enemy, and ^{were} ~~even~~ always present in the front among the bravest of the brave.

I have beautiful memories of The Rev Fathers Tracy, Coory, and also of The brave Chaplain Brady of The 98th Michigan; my estimate of these stainless men of God, you will find in my volume Entitled "Recollections of Sherman's Campaign".

The last time I saw these gifted and gallant priests, was at the battles of Atlanta, with the chivalrous Stanley, where they displayed rare heroism and patriotism. I earnestly hope that you will meet with encouragement and sympathy in your praiseworthy enterprise.

Truly & sincerely

Geo W Pepper

Chaplain U. S. A

The Rev Mr Pepper paid worthy tribute to the Sisters of Charity, in an address delivered during the war, and published in the Catholic Telegraph, from which we take the following extract "The war has brought out one fine result, it has shown that numbers of the weaker sex, though born to wealth and luxury, are ready to renounce every comfort and brave every hardship, that they may minister to the suffering, tend the wounded in their agony, and soothe the last struggles of the dying: scores of these devoted ladies - Sisters of Charity - are consecrating themselves, heart and soul, spending and being spent, in the service of God and of humanity. If we look at the army of the Potomac, at the army of the Tennessee, we find these angels of pity diffusing gladness and joy in every hospital follow them.

Follow them where you will, and you track them not as you track wars—conquerors, by cities laid in ruins, and plains whitened with the bones of the slaughtered; but you track them by their deeds and monuments of love, peace, and goodwill toward men. God bless the Sisters of Charity in their heroic mission! I had almost said their heroic martyrdom! And I might have said it, for I do think that in walking those long lines of sick beds, in giving themselves to all the ghastly duties of the hospitals, they are doing a harder thing than was allotted to many who mounted the scaffold or dared the stake.

Though the introduction to this work has extended much longer than I intended it should, ~~this~~, the letters and matter are too interesting to be in any way curtailed.

I will conclude with the following letters from two medical directors of the army, ~~and then~~ proceed with my work. Dr. Hammond stands so high in his profession, and had such opportunities of judging of the efficiency of the Chaplains and Sisters, while Surgeon General of the Army, that his views are of the utmost importance. In reply to my letter he writes,

New York Feb 27th 1870

Dear Sir

My experience with the nurses and Chaplains of Catholic faith, who served during the war, was in the highest degree favorable to their skill, devotion and faithfulness.

No one had better opportunities of judging than myself for I inspected nearly all the hospitals; and admired the gentle influence and tender care exercised over the sick and wounded soldiers by the Sisters; I can therefore speak in the most unqualified manner of the good they have done.

I understand that in order to meet the demand for their services in the army that Archbishop Hughes had to get a supply from Canada.

I should like to write more fully on this subject but my time is so occupied at present that I cannot say all on the subject I would wish in order to do justice to these noble and truly Christian women.

yours truly

D. P. Conyngham Esq. William Hammond

The following letter from D.^r Camp shows how the Sisters were appreciated by the medical faculty out West.

Saratoga Springs Oct 26th 1870

D. P. Conyngham Esq

Dear sir

I received your letter here desiring information respecting the services of the Sisters of Charity to the sick soldiers of the United States Army, during the late civil war. Feeling disposed to comply as far as I came with your request I give you a brief sketch of matters which came under my own observation while I was medical director in the City of St Louis.

Soon after Major General J. C. Fremont

assumed command of the army of the west, he wrote me a note saying that fourteen Sisters of Charity had kindly offered their services as nurses in the hospital and expressed a wish that I would receive them and assign them to duty. My office was in the city, but the hospital was four miles distant. The sisters being ignorant of military rules and being also unacquainted with me, went direct to the hospital and presented General Fremont's note which was intended for me, to the surgeon in charge. By some strange error the Surgeon instead of directing these Ladies to me, took ^{it} upon himself to say to them that he had no occasion for their services, as he was supplied with nurses.

The Sisters returned to General Fremont and reported what I have stated. —

As was natural the General was disappointed and vexed that his polite request had been so little appreciated, and that the services of such valuable nurses had been lost to the government. He visited the hospital at once, and in no pleasant state of mind, opened the eyes of the offending surgeon, to the error he had committed. — The Surgeon without delay came to me, and gave me the facts. in a military point of view the Surgeon's offence was one of grave import. —

He being a valuable man to the service, I determined to see General Fremont at once

and secure the services of the Sisters in the hospital. I satisfactorily arranged the whole matter ~~it~~ and then proceeded to the ^(?) where I wrote out and issued the following order
 General Hospital. House of refuge
 August 23rd 1861

Order No 1

With the view of carrying out the wishes of Major General Fremont, as expressed in his letter to me, dated Augt 21st in which I am informed that the Sisters of Charity have offered to nurse the sick and wounded in the general Hospital: I herewith direct the Senior medical officer in charge to see that they are treated kindly and respectfully, and that every facility be afforded them for the performance of their official duties, and for their personal comfort. — The sisters will be distributed among the sick, by the sister who is principal among them.

The Surgeon in charge will give them such a number of male attendants as they may require (signed) J. G. De Campo
 Medical Director
 U. S. Army of the West

The Sisters took entire charge of the sick soldiers and the Surgeon in charge often times told me that one of the Sisters was worth more to the sick than all the ~~former~~ attendants put together he had before their arrival.

From this forward I had frequent opportunities of judging of their efficiency and services and I must say that they did more, by their kindness, their gentleness and cheerful devoted attention to restore the sick and wounded to convalescence than all the medicine administered to them.

The influence of kind, cheerful nurses on the sick can only be fully appreciated by the patients themselves, and their medical attendants.

As a proof of their influence, the truly Christian charity, and faithful services of these good ladies had on me I have since become a member of the Holy Roman Catholic Church as also my little daughter. In all gratitude I say that next to God, I owe this conversion to Sister Florence and her thirteen associates.

S. G. J. De Camp

~~Medical Director~~

The author of this work is ^{greatly} ~~much~~ indebted to several Catholic ~~clergymen~~ ^{clergymen}, ~~and others~~, who ~~assist to have~~ officers and private citizens for Materials, Notes and Sketches.

Among the number ^{he} ~~I~~ would gratefully mention, ^{the names of} Dr. Sawyer, ~~Woods Island~~; Dr. Charles B. Gillespie, Falmouth, Me.; Dr. William D. Meagher, Falmouth; Colonel James E. McGee, New York; and Captain W. H. Massena, Boston.

In conclusion the writer would state that though the words "Yankee" and "Rebs" frequently occur, that they are not intended in an insulting sense, but merely as colloquial phrases.

— Author