

# Chapter I

Rev. J. H. Treacy

(now stationed at Bayou le Bateau, La.)

Chaplain of the Fourth United States Cavalry

His early life - Adventures among the Indians - The  
Garrison Settlement - The Knights of the Golden Circle -  
His frontier life and escapes - Given in exile - His first  
adventures and escapes with the Federals and Confederates

~~The Chaplains~~ While serving with the army  
the Chaplains in the field had not only to suffer all the  
hardships and privations of the soldiers, but  
also much of his danger. ~~Which came~~ ~~at his~~  
instance, ~~being~~ under my own observation,  
was that of ~~an~~ <sup>who</sup> officer, going into action gave his  
money for safe keeping to the Catholic  
Chaplain. In the course of the <sup>engagement</sup> ~~engagement~~,  
while ~~hotly engaged~~, he met the Chaplain  
in the front, ~~under~~ under the heaviest fire prepar-  
ing a dying man. <sup>Surprised at the sight</sup> The officer <sup>approached him</sup> ~~looked~~  
at him with surprise, saying:

"What brings you here, Father?"

"My duty, of course, Captain", was the

reply

"then," by way of answer, "hand me out my purse,  
for it is much safer with myself than with  
you?" ~~was the officer's comment.~~

Such a man was Father Treacy. He was  
just as fearless in danger, as he was zealous  
and energetic in the discharge of his duties.

He had been with the army from the beginning;

his cheering counsel and benign countenance,  
 inspiring pleasure and confidence to the officers  
 and men, whether in the camp, during the dusty  
 march, or on the battle-field. Among the  
 sick, the wounded, and the dying, ~~they~~ <sup>his assistance</sup>  
 Catholic or Protestant, his labors were freely given  
~~for nothing~~, "without money and without price"  
~~Father Tracy~~ Rev. F. Tracy  
 was born in Ireland in 1825 and <sup>the year</sup> ~~came~~ with  
 his parents he ~~emigrated~~ <sup>came</sup> to the United States  
 in 1836. His father, who settled in Pennsylvania,  
 had his son educated ~~for~~ <sup>the young man</sup> for the Ministry, and in  
 1851, ~~he~~ <sup>the young man</sup> was ordained at Dubuque, Iowa,  
 where he remained some time on the mission.  
 As Father Tracy ~~was~~ the organizer of the "Garryowen"  
 settlement, twenty miles back of Dubuque,  
 Father Tracy ~~where he~~ <sup>where he</sup> labored during a period of four years,  
 drew around him  
 collected a congregation, and built a nice stone  
 church. This little Irish colony came by its

name in the following manner. A meeting  
 was held for the purpose of <sup>Chartering</sup> ~~settling~~ <sup>Settlement</sup> the place.  
 Every one present wanted ~~to have~~ it called after his  
 native place, ~~in Ireland~~; ~~there was~~ <sup>seemed</sup> little chance  
 of ~~their~~ <sup>an agreement</sup> agreeing, until a Limerick <sup>man</sup> called out  
 "Why in the name of St. Patrick ~~don't~~ <sup>don't</sup> ye call it  
 Garryowen?" The compromise was <sup>at once</sup> adopted and  
 the colony was called after this celebrated suburb  
 of Limerick.

In 1854, Father Tracy was sent by Bishop  
 Loras to the country along the line between

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Iowa and Nebraska, where he labored for four years <sup>and</sup> ~~where~~ he established several Congregations and Colonies. While in this section of the country he made repeated visits to the Military posts of Fort Mandan, - Fort Pierre, Fort Kearney, and Fort Leavenworth, and to several of the Indian tribes, amongst whom he became a great favorite.

See 1859, Father Tracy at his own request,  
was sent to the South, in 1859!  
His health being <sup>greatly</sup> ~~greatly~~ <sup>greatly</sup> affected by his labors and exposures in the ~~more~~ vigorous climate of the Northwest.

The winter previous to his departure ~~for the~~ <sup>for the</sup> ~~strongly~~ <sup>Yorktown (?)</sup> the Yorktown and other Indian tribes, located near the Mississippi Missouri, sent delegates to the Father requesting him to look after their amities, of which they were shamefully defrauded by Government Agents. He charitably took the matter in hand, and was kept running from one office to another for nearly three months, <sup>until he</sup> ~~and then~~ found that he could effect no good, as the whole affair was controlled by men, whose overice exceeded their sense of justice or mercy.

Whilst in Washington, on this Indian business, he made numerous acquaintances; Among them ~~were~~ <sup>the</sup> many members of the "Golden Circle" and the Knights of Malta.

Being a shrewd observer and seeing that some secret movement was on foot he ~~he~~ went

While at Fort Bear with Genl H., in 1855,  
when the latter was holding Council with the  
Indian Chiefs, Father Treay was one day convers-  
ing with a Sergeant of C. B., Second Dragoons  
when suddenly

a Stentorian voice among the Indians called out in Irish: "A yerhaar will Gaelic agut?" (Brother do you understand Gaelic?) Turning, to find out who asked such a question, Father Treay was surprised to see only the Indians in their war-paint and blankets. He and the Sergeant were no little astonished. They looked at each other, and then, smiling, resumed their conversation. They were permitted to enjoy their tête-à-tête but a few moments, when the same voice interrupted them again, with: "A yerhaar mo hree will Gaelic?" (Brother of my heart do you understand Gaelic?) This was more than the priest could stand, and mustering up the few Irish words he knew, he replied: "Ta cuid de" (I do, some of it). At this, one of the <sup>braves</sup> ~~savages~~ stepped out from among the Indians, and extended his hand. The feelings of the priest can be imagined better than described. There stood <sup>one of his</sup> a Countryman, of his, his face daubed with paint, his body wrapped in deer-skins and blankets, and to all appearance, as <sup>much</sup> ~~big~~ an Indian as any of the tribe! The illusion was gone, however, the moment he spoke, for there came rolling from his mouth a brogue as rich and as racy of the soil as <sup>any heard in Ireland</sup> ~~that he left his native land~~

called out  
a Historian voice ~~came out~~ among the Indians ~~and~~  
~~English~~ "A yephaar ~~my~~ tree will gaelic agn  
~~following~~ ~~gaelic~~ ~~will~~ ~~gaelic~~ ~~agn~~ (do  
do understand Gaelic?) ~~Natural to suppose~~ ~~father~~ ~~very~~ ~~turning~~  
~~arrived~~ ~~to~~ ~~finis out~~ ~~who~~ ~~was~~ ~~asking~~ ~~such~~ ~~agitation~~ ~~that~~ ~~to~~ ~~his~~  
great surprise ~~he~~ ~~that~~ ~~deception~~ ~~his~~ ~~face~~ ~~was~~ ~~the~~ ~~second~~  
~~in~~ ~~that~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Cap~~ ~~pres~~ ~~Indians~~ ~~in~~ ~~warlike~~ ~~costume~~ ~~the~~  
~~the~~ ~~good~~ ~~father~~ ~~smiled~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~Sergeant~~ ~~were~~ ~~more~~  
little ~~astonished~~ ~~at~~ ~~first~~ ~~they~~ ~~looked~~ ~~at~~ ~~each~~ ~~other~~  
and ~~smiled~~ ~~and~~ ~~resumed~~ ~~their~~ ~~conversation~~ ~~they~~ ~~were~~  
~~permitted~~ ~~however~~ ~~permitted~~ ~~only~~ ~~to~~ ~~enjoy~~ ~~their~~ ~~re~~ ~~to~~ ~~a~~ ~~little~~  
but a few moments for the same voice interrupted them  
again ~~repeating~~ ~~it~~ ~~yephaar~~ ~~my~~ ~~tree~~ ~~will~~ ~~gaelic~~ ~~agn~~  
~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~following~~ ~~it~~ ~~gaelic~~ ~~will~~ ~~gaelic~~ ~~agn~~  
agut ~~gaelic~~? (Brother of my heart do you understand Gaelic?) This was  
more than ~~the~~ ~~power~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~priest~~ ~~could~~ ~~withstand~~  
and though ~~at~~ ~~first~~ ~~of~~ ~~but~~ ~~a~~ ~~few~~ ~~words~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Gaelic~~  
~~language~~ ~~he~~ ~~could~~ ~~not~~ ~~so~~ ~~loud~~ ~~and~~ ~~as~~ ~~well~~ ~~as~~ ~~he~~ ~~could~~  
~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~ground~~ ~~that~~ ~~he~~ ~~could~~ ~~do~~ ~~some~~ ~~of~~ ~~it~~ ~~it~~  
~~and~~ ~~thus~~ ~~a~~ ~~drooping~~ ~~face~~ ~~was~~ ~~raised~~  
and the Turner leaped from his sailor like seat and  
extended his hand. It can be better imagined than  
described, ~~what~~ ~~were~~ the feelings of the good father on this oc-  
casion. ~~His~~ ~~but~~ ~~his~~ ~~friends~~ ~~expressions~~ ~~appeared~~  
~~endless~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~holding~~ ~~since~~ ~~some~~ ~~for~~ ~~once~~ ~~after~~  
~~a~~ ~~long~~ ~~time~~ ~~a~~ ~~rough~~ ~~Armen~~ ~~There~~ ~~stood~~  
before him in the Warlike Costume of an Indian  
Chief, a countryman of his own, and one speaking  
the ~~language~~ just as pure as when he was he did on  
~~the~~ ~~day~~ ~~previous~~ ~~to~~ ~~leaving~~ ~~his~~ ~~land~~ ~~of~~ ~~his~~ ~~birth~~ ~~as~~ ~~when~~ ~~he~~ ~~had~~ ~~adieu~~ ~~to~~ ~~his~~ ~~land~~  
land of his birth, as when he ~~had~~ ~~adieu~~ ~~to~~ ~~his~~ ~~land~~

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Having thus consoled them with the sweets of religion Father Frey took his leave, followed by their regrets that he could not remain with them. We have since learned that these Irishmen and their families, subsequently settled inside the lines of civilization, and that their children have become wealthy.

In the fall of 1858, Father Frey left ~~for good~~ to take up his abode in the South. He went by steamboat via the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans where at St. Patrick's Church, he spent some time, thence ~~he went~~ to the diocese of Mobile, ~~which was then in charge of Bishop Cummins~~. By order of <sup>At. David Quinn</sup> Bishop, he was ~~not~~ assigned <sup>the</sup> duty of <sup>pastor</sup> missionary throughout the state of Alabama. At "Guntersville" N. Ala. he found fully half ~~the number~~ <sup>of the inhabitants</sup> Catholic & Irish, but <sup>with</sup> no Catholic church within reach hundreds of miles. ~~There~~ He resolved to try <sup>to</sup> do something for religion, the spiritual welfare of those ~~parished and thereby~~ <sup>parishes</sup> ~~parishes that were so long without~~ the consolation of Holy Religion. <sup>His first care was to</sup> restore peace to the souls of almost all ~~those~~ who professed the Catholic faith ~~in the place~~, his next step was to erect a church in the ~~town~~. He went to work ~~at once~~ with a will when ~~the war~~ <sup>almost finished well advanced</sup> and had it ~~practically~~ <sup>erected</sup> when the terrible toxin of war rained throughout the length & breadth of the land <sup>Unit. Pres.</sup> ~~and was by consequence obliged to defer its completion~~. ~~He finished the church at Guntersville~~ <sup>Unit. Pres.</sup> Guntersville was made a camp of instruction for the Confederate <sup>troops</sup> ~~troops~~, and the road <sup>to</sup> ~~to~~ Father Frey







father seeing that his services, in a spiritual way, <sup>needed</sup> were  
~~so~~ ~~needed~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~soldiers~~ ~~there~~ ~~again~~  
~~he~~ ~~of~~ ~~his~~ ~~father~~ ~~he~~ ~~again~~ ~~entered~~ ~~the~~ ~~battle~~ ~~field~~.  
 His first duty, therefore as army Chaplain in the late  
 war, was among the Confederate soldiers encamped in  
 and around Huntsville. He next extended Spiritual  
 Consolation to the troops stationed at ~~Do~~ groves, Fort Morgan  
 and Fort Jones around ~~the~~ Mobile Bay, particularly those  
 at ~~Do~~ groves, Fort Morgan, and Fort Jones. <sup>When</sup> ~~After~~ the troops  
 were moved from these places to North Mississippi ~~Co.~~ <sup>La.</sup>, he  
 returned to Huntsville where he remained until after the

Surrender of Fort Donelson, in Tennessee, by the Confederates.  
 The Southern Soldiers wounded in the attack on the Fort  
 were transferred to Huntsville, <sup>and as</sup> Albert Sidney Johnston's  
 army <sup>which</sup> was falling back to North Mississippi, ~~and as it~~  
 passed through <sup>that place</sup> ~~Huntsville~~ in its retreat, Dr Gondel, the  
 Medical Director attached to Genl Johnston's Staff, called on  
 Father Treay and requested him to take charge of the hos-  
 pitals, and to look after their sanitary condition. This  
 the priest was at first reluctant to do, but on seeing the  
 wretched treatment of the wounded, he charitably consented.  
 Taking with him some Irishmen who were working on  
 the church before the breaking out of the war, he gave all  
 the hospital wards a thorough cleaning, and providing  
 tubs, had the patients bathed, thereby greatly refreshing them.  
 He forbade the indiscriminate visits of ladies with delicacies  
 to particular friends, as he wished all the charities sent to the hospital

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he wished to ~~be~~ distributed in as fair a manner as possible. This ~~was not~~ <sup>gave offense</sup> ~~respectable~~ to the fair ones, and ~~they~~ <sup>the cry was</sup> ~~begged among them~~ raised strong that Father Tracy issued ~~such an~~ <sup>the</sup> order <sup>only</sup> for the purpose ~~only~~ of proselytizing, and further, that it was for the same purpose that he ~~had~~ <sup>has</sup> ~~schemed~~ <sup>schemed</sup> to get the hospitals under his charge. ~~The good father~~ <sup>Father Tracy</sup> hearing this ~~calumnies~~ <sup>calumnies</sup> himself thus calumniated, attended a meeting of the Relief Society for wounded soldiers and charged the persons who gave circulated such calumnies, ~~as enemies and~~ <sup>with being</sup> ~~willful~~ maligners, and stated that ~~he~~ <sup>that</sup> ~~he~~ <sup>he</sup> had taken charge of the hospitals with reluctance and was ~~not~~ <sup>ready</sup> to abandon them at any moment to other hands; but that he would attend to the spiritual wants of the invalided Catholic soldiers at all risks and hazards. Dr. Pross, a Presbyterian minister, and several other protestant clergymen, who were present denounced the maligners and requested and prevailed on Father ~~Tracy~~ <sup>Tracy</sup> to continue in charge of the wounded. ~~Therefore~~ <sup>Therefore</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~accusations~~ <sup>accusations</sup> ~~of the~~ <sup>of the</sup> ~~mischievous~~ <sup>mischievous</sup> ~~enemies~~ <sup>enemies</sup> ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> ~~dismissed~~ <sup>dismissed</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~hospitals~~ <sup>hospitals</sup> ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> ~~left~~ <sup>left</sup> ~~under~~ <sup>under</sup> ~~charge~~ <sup>charge</sup> of the care of the good priest who continued in charge until the battle of Shiloh when ~~Dr. Bondel~~ <sup>Dr. Bondel</sup> ~~sent~~ <sup>sent</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~following~~ <sup>following</sup> ~~dispatch~~ <sup>dispatch</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~Mr. Tracy~~ <sup>Mr. Tracy</sup> ~~prepare~~ <sup>prepare</sup> ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~once~~ <sup>once</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~come~~ <sup>come</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~Corinth~~ <sup>Corinth</sup>, ~~bring~~ <sup>bring</sup> ~~all~~ <sup>all</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~hospital~~ <sup>hospital</sup> ~~stores~~ <sup>stores</sup> ~~you~~ <sup>you</sup> ~~can~~ <sup>can</sup> ~~such~~ <sup>such</sup> ~~as~~ <sup>as</sup> ~~brandy~~ <sup>brandy</sup>, ~~whiskey~~ <sup>whiskey</sup>, ~~lint~~ <sup>lint</sup>, ~~bandages~~ <sup>bandages</sup> &c. All the wounded able to bear transportation send to Atlanta Ga, the balance to Courtland Ala. Bring with you all the



you can for the salvation of souls," Father Greey  
 then received the following pass called on Dr. <sup>Boyd</sup> ~~Gandell~~  
<sup>to tell</sup> ~~of~~ him, his determination and received the follow-  
 ing pass,  
 No 132,

Corinth April 13<sup>th</sup> 1862

Pass Given Father Greey through, outwards  
 & back, our lines until further orders

S. W. Gandell S. M. D. W. L.

Having thus fortified himself <sup>the priest</sup> ~~the priest~~ started  
~~off~~ on foot along the railroad for Huntsville,  
 When about three miles from Huntsville Corinth  
 he was fired on by <sup>on pickets as sent</sup> ~~forces~~, a soldier doing duty about a quarter  
 of mile distant, fired towards him, <sup>who wished to examine</sup> ~~for the purpose of examining~~  
<sup>calling him to</sup> ~~his pass~~, After the <sup>Examination</sup> ~~pass~~ had  
 been gone through <sup>with</sup> he was allowed to proceed  
 but not ~~without~~ <sup>without</sup> pursuing on the fear of  
 the sentry ~~for the trouble given him~~, On arriving  
 at Burnsville his pass had again <sup>shown</sup> ~~been shown~~, Five  
 miles East of Burnsville he was <sup>once more</sup> ~~again~~ shot at,  
 but not being able to discern the sentry  
 in the smoke of the gun, he hurried <sup>into</sup> ~~on~~ to the thick  
 undergrowth along which he travelled <sup>more than</sup> ~~for~~  
 a mile, when he again took to the railroad ~~and~~  
 & got out of it in order to avoid the noise and  
 excitement, He then passed on through the town of  
<sup>Tuka</sup> ~~to~~, until he reached Bear Creek, where he found  
 the railroad bridge in flames and the valley on

the opposite side literally covered with blue coats, ~~Federal troops~~  
~~the Boys in Blue~~, Father Tracy at once <sup>left</sup> got off the  
 road down the bank but was seen by not in-  
 noticed by the soldiers who <sup>sent him</sup> ~~sent him~~ their compliments  
 to him in shape of a shower of bullets. ~~Being~~ all  
 Fortunately, <sup>they</sup> missed him, although ~~they~~ <sup>cut off</sup> the branches  
 off in the <sup>of trees</sup> ~~vicinity~~ in the ~~vicinity~~ <sup>vicinity</sup> of his head, ~~vicinity~~  
 Finding the place was rather hot for him he ~~sped through~~  
~~the forest~~ and up the <sup>waged through the</sup> creek ~~as fast as he possibly~~  
 held for about <sup>2</sup> three miles where he came to a crossing  
 south of the old Susquehanna road. Here he discovered  
 a cow path across the river. Without hesitating he  
~~stripped~~, forded the river, waist deep, ~~swimming~~  
~~as fast as possible~~ on the opposite side and  
 started off keeping the south side of a rocky and  
 broken range of hills until he ~~got to what he hoped~~ <sup>reaching a place</sup>  
~~was out striking distance of~~ <sup>Near</sup> Buzzard's Roost, Ala,  
~~From this point, he~~ <sup>he</sup> ~~reversed~~ <sup>reversed</sup> his course north until he had as-  
 cended to the summit of the highest adjacent  
 hill whence he could view the valleys all around  
 him. In that which lay to the West it appeared  
 the ~~Boys in Blue~~ <sup>Federal troops</sup> ~~literally~~ covered mustered very  
 strong. They were marching over the grounds he had  
 passed, and were ~~towards him~~ <sup>towards him</sup> advancing. ~~On~~  
 the eastward the ~~heads of the valley~~ <sup>were</sup> covered  
 with ~~the boys in blue~~ <sup>finding it unsafe</sup> ~~finding it unsafe~~  
~~safe there to remain~~ <sup>longer</sup> and notwithstanding to be a  
 prisoner of either side. ~~Father Tracy~~ <sup>Father Tracy</sup> ~~made his way~~ <sup>started off</sup> along the

mountain ridge until he ~~took~~ <sup>came</sup> saw himself in  
the rear of the Southern Cavalry. Having a full view  
of <sup>the</sup> valley before him he struck ~~his course~~ for  
Cherokee, where he remained over night with Dr  
<sup>who on</sup> the morning ~~the~~ furnished him with a  
~~Saddleless~~ <sup>bag - basket</sup> mule ~~with which to ride~~, on which he rode  
to Tusculum where he spent the night with Mr  
B —. After mass next morning <sup>his friend</sup> ~~gave~~ <sup>loaned</sup>  
him a horse ~~which~~ <sup>carried him</sup> ~~to~~ the Genies  
river at Florence. The bridge at this point <sup>had been</sup> ~~was~~  
burned the day <sup>before</sup> ~~previous~~ and he therefore had to cross  
the river by a Regiment of the Kentucky Cavalry  
(Puglar) and <sup>father</sup> ~~there~~ <sup>they</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>obliged</sup> ~~therefore~~ had to cross the river in  
a dugout. After crossing the river landing on each  
ing the opposite shore he had to pay a negro  
\$20 to take him within sight of the ~~to~~ <sup>ten dollars</sup>  
take him to Athens. And on the following  
morning <sup>long</sup> ~~more~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~bring~~ <sup>guide</sup> him ~~within sight of~~ <sup>to the Federal Camp.</sup>  
~~the Blue jackets~~. When the old <sup>negro</sup> ~~lagger~~ <sup>came</sup> ~~was~~ in sight  
of the Blue jackets he cried out Say Massa  
dar be dar - des be Massa I goes no farther de  
hang me I goes no farther Massa? Putting the  
action to the word the ~~negro~~ <sup>guide</sup> turned around and  
started off as best he could, & Father Tracy  
then entered the lines of Gen. Mitchell unnoticed  
and unmolested, passed the General's Marquee  
and ~~for~~ <sup>directly</sup> ~~went~~ <sup>home</sup>. He then cleaned up  
<sup>As soon as he made himself presentable</sup>  
~~After cleaning up~~ he proceeded ~~to~~ <sup>strange</sup> to the



Headquarters of the General, in order to report himself as having come inside his lines. ~~After~~ <sup>On</sup> ~~reporting~~ himself announcing his presence in the camp to the General the latter <sup>at once</sup> responded by asking "What Guard ~~did~~ brought you <sup>sir</sup>?" "In coming I have not seen any Guard General," "What road did you come in on sir?" "On the Athens old road" "Have I not guards & pickets on that road sir?" "I have not seen any General" Here the General rang his little bell violently, & an orderly instantly entered, "The Inspector I want to see him," said the General. The soldier saluted and ~~left~~ <sup>left</sup> the General and the priest <sup>again</sup> alone. "You are from Corinth," said the General; "Yes General," <sup>answered</sup> ~~said~~ the priest, "Is Beauregard there?" "He is General," "Did you see him?" "I did," Here an officer entered, "Capt D." said the General, "Is it possible that I have no pickets on the Athens Road?" "We have General, I just came in from there," "Why, this <sup>gentleman</sup> ~~man~~ came in from Corinth and did not see a picket," "I don't believe it General," "There is the man that came in," The officer turning to Father Gracy asked, "What road did you come in upon?" "I came direct from Athens on the road," "Did you see no guards on that road?" "No Sir," "Not at about <sup>a mile</sup> ~~one~~ and a half miles back?" "No," "So I was approaching the hill," <sup>I saw</sup> a soldier crossing the road at the top of the hill, "but on arriving there I did not see any," "I don't believe you sir,"



You are like the rest of those d—d Scotch, you  
 skulked off the road into the bush when you came to the  
 post, ~~At this~~ <sup>At this</sup> violence Father Gracy became  
 indignant and mildly, yet firmly, replied "You stole  
 an oath with regard to me and do me injustice  
 Captain I am not aware that Sever did an act  
~~that should cause me to~~  
~~from which I should~~ flee the face of men, what  
 I have stated Sir is true," At this firm assertion  
 the General jumped up off his seat and getting steady  
 said ~~Let~~ <sup>Captain</sup> "Go & see that road and every  
 road around, ~~the~~ leading to the Camps of my men,  
 I do not want to be taken by surprise sitting in  
 my tent," The officer left. The General then addressed  
 the priest, "Your name is Gracy, they call you  
 Father Gracy, How many men has Bragg?" "I do  
 not know General," "How much Artillery have they?"  
 "I cannot say," "What can you say?" On this subject  
 General I can say but little, "You know I have  
 those other d—d Scotch Priests locked up &  
 that I can lock you up too," "You have the power  
 General but do you want me to lie to you?" "No  
 Sir," "Then what I have said is true, I do not  
 know, But General, were I permitted by you  
 to leave your lines, what would you think of me  
 if I went ~~did I go~~ to your enemy & <sup>gave</sup> ~~gave~~ him such infor-  
 mation as I might <sup>have</sup> ~~required~~ <sup>in</sup> your camp, & that  
 required while attending to a sacred and religious  
 duty?" By by— Sir if Sever caught you I would

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hang you," "That then is my position in your  
Camp to-day, Any ~~thing~~ <sup>knowledge</sup> that I may  
have acquired respecting the Confederate lines ~~was~~  
~~while~~ attending to my duties as a priest. Apart from  
all this I know <sup>nothing of what</sup> ~~nothing of what~~ you have asked me."  
"Well Sir," responded the General, "you speak like a sensi-  
ble man, you don't set our authority at defiance like those  
other damned <sup>fellows</sup> ~~damned~~ who call themselves ministers of  
the Gospel, I have them locked up and I am going  
to keep them <sup>so</sup> ~~there~~. I have a great number of your  
people in my Camp, and I wish you to see to  
them." "I shall do so General with the greatest  
of pleasure," "Call and see me often Mr. Tracy,"  
General I need a pass," "You shall have it."  
By order the following pass was then made out

Guards & Pickets

May 21 / 62

Required I will pass Father Tracy until  
further orders in & out lines & through the Camps

J. E. Ford, A. A. G.

by Command Major

by Command Major Genl Mitchell  
Commanding.

Thus fortified Father Tracy saw open to him an  
extensive field wherein he could render himself  
efficient for the honor and glory of God, On <sup>the</sup> news  
of Father Tracy's arrival <sup>being transferred to</sup> reaching the Confederate hos-  
pitals where <sup>were located</sup> those who were not able to bear trans-  
portation to Corinth

~~was located~~ there was a general rejoicing. One poor fellow from Louisiana, named Williams, a non-Catholic, whose case <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>considered</sup> ~~was~~ a rather precarious state, ~~raised himself up by the assistance of the window frame~~ <sup>in his bed</sup> and exclaimed "Thank God my friends at least is allowed us", <sup>and as</sup> ~~he~~ <sup>he</sup> fell back on his pillow ~~and a~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~of~~ tears rolled down his cheeks; a like feeling pervaded every inmate of the hospital. Several gentlemen who were present expressed themselves as being never so moved. Their surprise at the love ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> respect shown to Father Gracy ~~on all sides~~ by the invalids, before then some of them looked at on him as a haughty, ~~and~~ overbearing man, but from that day all esteemed him <sup>as highly</sup> ~~as highly~~ as did the poor wounded soldiers. After a few days after ~~the~~ <sup>he</sup> ~~good priest~~ <sup>Williams</sup> baptized Gracy and ~~conferred on him~~ administered to him the sacraments of the Church, <sup>and</sup> A week later he followed his remains ~~and that of a Federal soldier~~ to the city cemetery. The good father preached at both funerals. The funerals were attended by the elite of Huntsville and, through the influence of Father Gracy and Captain Halpin of the 15th Regular Kentucky Infantry, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> the Confederate prisoners then in Huntsville. These poor fellows felt and acknowledged the favor conferred upon them, of being permitted, ~~without word of any kind whatever, save their word~~ <sup>remains of their brother</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> accompany them to their final resting place. In about an hour after ~~this~~ <sup>the</sup> interment.

of the poor Williams Father <sup>Henry</sup> was called upon to attend  
the funeral of a Federal soldier. How unlike, those  
two funerals, were! the <sup>one</sup> ~~former~~ <sup>was</sup> attended <sup>by a</sup> deathlike  
silence; the <sup>other</sup> ~~latter~~ <sup>with</sup> martial pomp, and ~~with~~ <sup>gandy</sup> decorations. Father <sup>Henry</sup> preached at both ~~funerals~~ <sup>occasions</sup>  
~~on the occasions~~ The sermons were so effective that Captain Halpin  
that sent of the ceremonies so impressive that  
Captain Halpin sent an elaborate account of  
the affair to the Cincinnati Enquirer, which was  
published on receipt, <sup>with</sup> ~~as~~ <sup>with</sup> as laudable ~~expressions~~ <sup>comments</sup>  
~~on the affair~~. On the day following the  
funeral solemnities Ceremonies Father <sup>Henry</sup> was ~~sent~~  
requested by the ~~Protestant~~ <sup>Protestant</sup> ~~Church~~ <sup>Church</sup>, whom  
Gen. Mitchell had locked up in the court-house,  
to visit them. He <sup>called upon them</sup> ~~was asked~~ <sup>with</sup> the request  
and ~~asked~~ <sup>inquired</sup> after ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> salutations of the day  
on inquiring <sup>if there was anything</sup> ~~if there was anything~~ <sup>if he could do anything</sup>  
for them, <sup>One of the</sup> ~~they~~ <sup>replied</sup> <sup>that</sup> <sup>there was</sup> <sup>nothing</sup> <sup>like</sup>  
to know how he got along with the old bear  
Mitchell. <sup>He</sup> <sup>replied</sup> <sup>that</sup> <sup>he</sup> <sup>had</sup>  
no trouble <sup>at all</sup> <sup>with</sup> the General, that ~~the~~ <sup>he</sup> <sup>always</sup>  
treated him as a general gentleman. Well <sup>they</sup> <sup>said</sup>  
<sup>the other</sup> "he has been fore more <sup>favorable</sup> to you than to us" <sup>Some</sup>  
of the ~~other~~ <sup>then</sup> <sup>began</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>make</sup> <sup>some</sup> <sup>imperfect</sup>  
<sup>remarks</sup> <sup>on</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>subject</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>religion</sup> <sup>when</sup> <sup>the</sup>  
<sup>good</sup> <sup>friend</sup> <sup>turned</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>leave</sup>. <sup>They</sup> <sup>all</sup> <sup>called</sup> <sup>on</sup> <sup>him</sup>  
<sup>of</sup> <sup>him</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>remain</sup> <sup>longer</sup>, but <sup>the</sup> <sup>simple</sup> <sup>house</sup> <sup>wishes</sup>  
<sup>good</sup> <sup>day</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>remarking</sup> <sup>that</sup> <sup>if</sup> <sup>he</sup> <sup>could</sup> <sup>be</sup> <sup>of</sup>  
<sup>service</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>them</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>let</sup> <sup>him</sup> <sup>know</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>left</sup>

Father Tracy <sup>unintentionally</sup> attended ~~intelligently~~ attended  
 to his arduous duties throughout the camp and  
 hospitals until the end of August when Genl Buell  
~~fell back~~ <sup>fell back</sup> into Kentucky from North Alabama.  
 There were some who considered residents of Hunts-  
 ville who considered Father <sup>Tracy's</sup> ~~appearance~~ <sup>attention</sup> in attending  
 to the spiritual wants of the ~~Union~~ <sup>Federal</sup> soldiers a suffi-  
 cient cause <sup>for</sup> to brand him as a traitor, and <sup>as one</sup> ~~therefore~~  
~~an individual~~ <sup>among</sup> who should not be allowed to remain <sup>among</sup> ~~there~~  
~~in~~ <sup>the priest</sup> In consequence of this state of affairs ~~Father Tracy~~  
 was advised by some of his friends to leave Huntsville  
 for a short time; consequently, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of  
 September he started on a mission to Florence  
 in his destination  
 to Tuscomb in Alabama. Before reaching his  
 destination, he had to cross the Tennessee river  
 in a flat boat, and when about midway in the  
 stream, the Sergeant in charge of the boat squad  
 noticed the address on his valise: "J. F. Tracy,  
 Mobile, Ala." — "So you are from Mobile?"  
 said he — "I was in Mobile some time ago"  
 answered the priest. The circumstance was con-  
 sidered suspicious, and on reaching  
~~the Mobile~~  
 wards the officer condescended to see him, and accosted

unintentionally.  
Father Tracy attended ~~indefatigably~~ attended  
to his arduous duties throughout the camp and  
hospitals until the end of August when Genl Buel  
~~sent him~~ <sup>helped back</sup> into Kentucky from North Alabama.  
There were some who considered residents of Hunts-  
ville who considered Father <sup>Tracy's</sup> ~~his~~ <sup>attention</sup> ~~efficiency~~ in attending  
to the spiritual wants of the ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~fact~~ <sup>fact</sup> ~~as a~~ <sup>as a</sup> ~~suffi-~~  
cient cause ~~to~~ <sup>for</sup> branding him ~~as~~ a traitor, and ~~therefore~~ <sup>as a</sup>  
~~an individual~~ <sup>among</sup> who should not be allowed to remain ~~in the~~ <sup>among</sup>  
~~in the~~ <sup>the priest</sup> ~~in consequence of this state of affairs~~ <sup>Tracy</sup>  
was advised by some of his friends to leave Huntsville  
for a short time; consequently, on the 2nd day of  
September he started on a mission to Florence  
~~Alabama~~ <sup>his destination</sup> ~~before reaching~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~  
had to cross the Tennessee river in a flat boat,  
then about mid-way in the river, <sup>sergeant</sup> ~~a~~ <sup>in charge</sup>  
of the boat squad, passed around the buggy in  
which ~~was seated~~ <sup>the priest</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~on the rear of~~  
~~the buggy~~ <sup>which</sup> ~~was tied~~ <sup>his valise</sup> ~~the name and address of~~  
~~the priest~~ <sup>bearing his address:</sup> ~~And the name was marked~~ J. G. Tracy  
Mobile Ala. In ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~sergeant~~ <sup>seeing this address</sup> ~~he~~  
<sup>said to</sup> ~~accepted~~ <sup>the priest</sup> ~~as follows~~ <sup>you are from mobile.</sup>  
"I have been in Mobile some time ago." ~~In reaching~~  
the bank <sup>Father Tracy</sup> ~~the priest~~ <sup>was informed</sup> ~~that he could not land~~  
~~he~~ <sup>should</sup> ~~consider himself a prisoner.~~ <sup>He</sup> ~~had once~~  
<sup>asked</sup> ~~demanded~~ <sup>to be brought before</sup> ~~the officer in charge.~~ <sup>His request</sup>  
~~was met with violence.~~ <sup>In about an hour</sup> ~~after~~  
wards the officer condescended to see him, and accosted



him as follows, "What business have you within our  
lines?" "I am a Catholic priest and on my mission  
attending to my duty," "He'll go are, ~~Don~~ All  
the you d - n preachers are here. ~~It is you I like~~  
to catch you fellows," "Captain," <sup>said the priest,</sup> "don't be so fast,  
you might mistake your man," <sup>as he spoke,</sup> ~~and the priest~~  
pulling producing two passes, one from General  
Ruell & the other from General Mitchell; ~~and~~  
looking at these the officer <sup>asked:</sup> ~~reclaimed,~~ "why did  
you not show these to me at first?" ~~No matter then~~  
~~for securing an attitude of defiance~~ "No matter"  
<sup>he continues, assuming a defiant attitude</sup>  
"they are of no account, you must stay here to-night;  
to which the priest replied, "I greatly desire to see the  
Commandant of the post at <sup>said Father McJ</sup> ~~your command,~~ "Have you  
any orders for him; if so let me <sup>see</sup> them?" "I cannot  
let you see them", "If you have well give them to me  
and I will send them up", "If you can send them  
up, you can send me up", "If I did I should send  
a guard with you, <sup>and</sup> I have not the men to spare  
<sup>as</sup> ~~and~~ I do not know how soon I may be attacked.  
After a little <sup>further</sup> ~~more~~ conversation, <sup>however,</sup> a Sergeant <sup>was sent with</sup> ~~accompanied~~  
the priest ~~to~~ the quarters of the <sup>post</sup> Commandant,  
~~the latter was~~ a Colonel of a Wisconsin Regiment <sup>Murphy</sup> ~~named~~  
Murphy. This Murphy, as on other occasions besides  
the present, <sup>gave</sup> ~~did not~~ fail to let the priest <sup>to understand</sup> ~~know~~ that  
he was not a Catholic, ~~by his actions did his best~~  
to hurt the feelings of ~~and~~ during <sup>this</sup> conversation did  
his best to hurt ~~the~~ feelings of ~~the latter~~, In the best



[illegible]