

Chrysler 11.

Father Tracy's arrival at General Rosser's
headquarters - His reception and mission -
General Harts' Commission - Father Ireland
- attending to the dying and wounded -
Stone River - Mass on the battle field -
The wounded Confederate Officers -

for the horses to ~~arrange~~ for the horses for that night,
which order the ~~infidel~~ Colonel ^{did not} obey, ~~and~~
~~leaving Mass~~ ^{The} next morning ^{Father Tracy said Mass} for the few Catholics in Gu-
atemala, ~~and then~~ Father Tracy started for Yuka. On the
way he spent a night at St. Chichiken at the
residence of Dr. Dr. ^{celebrating Mass in} the morning he said Mass
which was attended by all the Catholics of the place &
by almost all the soldiers ~~who were~~ stationed there.
Of the latter quite a large number received the Sacra-
ment approached the Holy Sacraments. During that
whole morning ^{before Mass} ~~previous to Mass~~ being celebrated as in it
was both pleasing and praiseworthy to ^{see the} Chaplain
of ~~one of the~~ ^{going} ~~regiments~~ ^{round} among the Catholic
soldiers, ~~and~~ urging them to their religious duties. ~~When~~
When Father Tracy arrived at the Head-quarters of Gen
Procerans. he was met and welcomed by the
General ^{in person} ~~and~~ ^{there} quarters furnished for him &
his quarters were at once furnished for him
and an orderly appointed to care ^{for} his horses.
The next day a large hospital tent was pitched
on the grounds ^{near} the Yuka Springs ~~which~~
and a chapel was established ~~therein~~
~~and~~ ~~Word~~ was at once sent to the regimental
officers to notify their men of the presence of
a arrival of a priest. That afternoon and
night the ^{latter} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~busily~~ ^{was} ~~engaged~~ ^{was} ~~in~~ ^{was} ~~crowded~~ ^{was} ~~with~~
was kept ~~so~~ ^{was} ~~busily~~ ^{was} ~~engaged~~ ^{was} ~~in~~ ^{was} ~~preaching~~ ^{was} ~~the~~ ^{was} ~~Confessions~~ ^{was} ~~of~~ ^{was} ~~penitents~~ ^{was} ~~both~~ ^{was} ~~officers~~ ^{was} ~~and~~ ^{was} ~~men~~
That same afternoon ^{also} General Stanley arrived with all

his command except that portion left with ^{Colonel} Murphy ^{in order} to transport the stores &c from Tuscombia, ^{the following} ~~the next mor-~~ ^{supplies to} his command except that portion left with Colonel Murphy, who was to transport the stores etc, from Tuscombia. On the following morning, however, the valiant Colonel ran away, leaving a large quantity of Supplies to the Enemy. This disgraceful action on Mur-phy's part caused great ^{indignation} in the Camp and loud and bitter were the threats on all sides. One stalwart grenadier on learning how the dastard had treated Father Tracy, exclaimed:

~~Confused towards him~~ ~~that he~~ ~~was a cowardly grenadier~~ ~~the being told by the priest that such was the case,~~ ^{and} Ah then! none but a ^{fool} ~~misguided~~ ^{man} would do that; and sure he must be that, to be ashamed of his religion and deny his country. In truth he ~~was a disgrace to his country~~ ^{for he was a disgrace to his country} ~~is gone over to them~~ ^{these words were not lost on those then present} ~~present, they were remembered and spoken of often af-~~ ^{terwards} ~~for~~ ^{for} five days, until September 12th, ~~he was~~ ^{he was} kept busily engaged hearing confessions. On that day he received General Stanley into the Church & on the ~~very fol-~~ ^{day} following five others. On the ^{14th} ~~fourteenth~~ he desired to return again over his missionary grounds; but General Prosserans would not permit it, as ~~he said~~ ^{they} were about falling back to Corinth, and ~~that~~ ^{as} they would ~~never~~ ^{very soon} expect some fighting, ~~and~~ ^{and} would therefore require ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{the} services of the ~~priest~~ ^{priest}. That night and ^{the} next morning the army moved for a point between Corinth & Jacinto, called the Big Springs, ^{and} On the 14th they commenced moving back again.

Shortly after daylight the two fathers proceeded to the
hospital to ~~look~~^{look} after the wounded, Father Ireland remained
~~there~~^{there, while} Father Cracy went to the front, Miss ~~had~~^{had} fled
during the night. The wounded were moved into Enka,
~~the~~^{camp} ~~from~~^{both} priests had ~~now~~^{then} plenty to do. They were careful to
show no distinction between Federal ~~and~~^{or} Confederate
their services were equal to all, but to ~~have~~^{give} their services
equally to all. The army then moved back towards
Jacinto from ~~where~~^{which place} Father Cracy permitted to return
to North Alabama. He was supplied with the following
pass.

"No 879." I, J. G. Greer of Madison County,
State of Alabama, do solemnly affirm before
God, the Sovereign Judge, that during the war with the
so called Confederate States, or ^{any} of them that I will
truly and strictly behave myself as a peaceable
Citizen; that I will neither do myself, nor incite others
to do, by word writing, or act, anything prejudicial
to the military forces of the U. S. nor give information
about them which will enable others to do them harm
or interfere with their operations, nor will I pass within
or without the Federal lines except by permission of the
military authorities. So help me God, J. G. Greer Catholic Provost
M. Wiles - Capt. 44th Ind, Vol. Provost Marshall General,
By Command Major General Prosser and

Sept. 23rd/62

In the morning of the 24th, Father Tracy started
from Jacinto ^{for Enka, where he arrives} during the day he ~~arrived~~ at Enka, and
by permission

and spent a couple of hours with the wounded. When
 about to ~~about~~ to proceed on his journey, ~~met~~
 his acquaintance a man by the name of London. ~~made~~
 his acquaintance and ~~after finding out being~~ ^{on learning}
 which way ~~the priest~~ ^{the priest} was going ~~stated~~ ^{stated} that
 he ^{too} was ^{leaving} ~~going~~ ^{undiscovered} the same as far as Guiscombia. The
 priest was ~~rather~~ ^{pleased} to have London's company, ~~but~~
^{though} was ~~rather~~ surprised to see him with a Government
 horse and saddle, ~~he~~ ^{he explained} ~~being asked~~ how he came by them
~~however, by stating~~ that the soldiers stole his and that the Provost
 Marshall had given them to him ^{in their stead}. When crossing Bear
 Creek they ^{met} ^{overtook him by} a Squad of Capt. Roddip's Cavalry, and
 as London became alarmed, ~~and~~ the priest asked him what
 he had to fear. The Cavalry passed on and when
 about a mile ^{distance} ~~off~~ London, suddenly turning his horse
 around, ~~and~~ started back for ~~him~~ by another road.
 He had not gone far when he was ~~taken~~ met by the same
 Squad of Cavalry ~~who took him~~ ^{who took him} ~~and~~ taken prisoner,
 and charged with being a spy. ~~He~~ ^{where he was} brought to the
 Camp of Capt. Roddip's Brigade, ~~and~~ charged with
 being a spy. When Father ~~in~~ ^{reached} Chearikee he
^{too} was arrested and placed under guard, and would
 have been taken to the Camp had it not been for
 the Fr. D. He was however kept under guard all
 night, The Sentinel, who was ^{planning to keep guard} ~~sent to do duty~~ over him
 was more than astonished when he saw his prisoner and
 with an oath said that he would never do duty over him.
 The priest remonstrated, told him he was a soldier and

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requested him to do his duty and ^{not} get himself into ~~any~~
difficulty. "I would ~~say the priest~~ sooner have you
^{"saw the first} here than any one else; it will be all right in the morn-
ing," ^{then changing the conversation Father J. Greer asked:} "how long is it since you have been to your duty?"
"Not since Father, since you have been to go I was with
you," ^{Father,} when I made my first Communion, over two
years ago," "Well now," said the priest, "prepare yourself
while you are walking up and down, 'See what God
has done for you, O my child always in
what is not thy sin,'" The soldier complied with the
~~priest's~~ request and settled his accounts with Almighty
God. The next morning Capt Roddy called ~~to hear what~~
on Father J. Greer who showed Pent Recoran's pass and then made
~~on Father J. Greer and showed all things~~
Satisfactory. ~~The priest showed the Captain Recoran's~~
~~pass, after which the latter asked the Captain what~~
~~he said that he the priest~~ ^{offer} to give
him ^{a pass} ~~the same satisfaction~~ in case he, ~~the priest~~, again
entered the Federal lines. ~~He then signed the fol-~~
^{Thereupon} ~~lowing~~ The following parole was ~~then~~ presented to him
to sign. I hereby pledge my parole of honor that I will
not convey any information to the enemies of the Con-
federate States, this 25 Sept / 62 J. G. Greer.

Pass J. G. Greer in & out

P. A. Roddy Capt. commanding

Sept 25th / 62

London was sent to Prier & condemned as a spy
to be hung; but ^{escaped} got away ~~or was let away by~~
Quishman who Father J. reached Huntsville on the 28th

The battle of Corinth began on the third day of October, 1862, the Confederates under Price and Van Dorn being the attacking party. That day they seemed to have the advantage. The following day the contest was renewed at day break, and for some hours continued to be waged with indifferent success. At length the great struggle followed, a struggle exhibiting the masterworkings of modern generalship in a high degree.

For a time the Confederates lay quiet in the angle of the woods near the railroad. Presently two lines were formed, one at right angles to the other — the one destined with its reserves to sweep over the railroad, through the abatis into the village — the other with its reserves to attack battery "Robinett," which was the key to the whole position. If once taken and held, Corinth was undeniably in possession of the South. The line destined for the occupation of the village came rapidly forward at a charge across the railroad, over the fallen timber, driving the Federal line before them like chaff. All that grape and canister could do to impede their progress was attempted, but in vain. They still came onward until they reached the public square, ^{where they} ~~and~~ formed in line of battle ~~directly in front of General Halleck's headquarters.~~ The Federal line of battle was formed directly opposite.

The two armies advanced. A terrible hand-to-hand fight ensued, and for a time the destruction of the Federal line seemed inevitable. It gradually yielded, and fell back until the Enemy had nearly reached the Corinth House. Here General Rosecrans rode along the line, and with a few cheering words revived the courage of the men. The Confederate reserve at this time was directly in range of the guns on the south to the left, and huge shells began to drop in their midst, creating great confusion and loss of life. At the same time the order was given to charge bayonets, and the Federal soldiers ^{springing} ~~springing~~ to their work with a will, the Enemy were soon flying.

across the public square. The fiery missiles from the two batteries hastened their movements, and by the time they reached the cover of the timber their retreat was a rout.

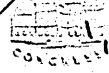
The other line with their reserves were well advanced in the direction of battery Robinett.

In the meantime General Price and his principal officers held a consultation to devise means to take the battery. The importance of its capture was admitted, and the danger of the attempt thoroughly considered. General Price not being willing to assume the responsibility of ordering the attack, called for volunteers, and Colonel Rogers of Arkansas at once tendered his brigade as the forlorn hope, and Colonel Ross his brigade as a support. They massed their troops eight deep and advanced under a heavy fire of double charges of grape and canister. A terrible Enfilading and flanking fire was poured upon them from every battery bearing in that direction, aided by incessant volleys of musketry from the supports of the batteries and the Federal regiments drawn up in line parallel with them.

The first shell from battery William exploded in the centre of the advancing column, killing thirty or forty. Every discharge caused great gaps in their ranks, but ~~still~~ ^{they} pushed on. Twice did they approach almost to the outer works of the battery, and twice were they compelled to fall back. The third time they reached the battery, and planted their flag upon the edge. It was shot down - raised again - again shot down. They swarmed about the battery, they climbed over the parapets, and for a time it seemed as if victory was theirs. But the Federal who were working the battery fell back behind the projecting earth-works, out of reach of the Federal shells, and immediately all the batteries bearing upon the position were turned upon battery Robinett, and a shower of missiles came raining down upon the brave invaders. Mortal men could not

^{as they} stand the fire and they retreated. Slowly ~~they~~ ^{they} turned their steps towards the forest, from which they had started, the order was given to the two regiments supporting the battery to charge, and the miserable remnant of ~~troops~~ ^{gallant men}, who had escaped the batteries was now almost annihilated. The dead bodies of the Confederates were piled up, in and about the intrenchments, in some places eight and ten deep. In one place directly in front of the point of assault, two hundred and sixteen dead bodies were found within a space of a hundred feet by four, among them the commanders of both brigades making the assault: - Colonel Rogers and Colonel Ross.

So ended the battle of Corinth, leaving General Rosecrans the victor.



The Battle of Corinth was fought, on October 3rd, 1862, and saw down attacking Procerans, ^{who} they were however de-
feated, ^{then with a heavy loss} ~~and left~~ their dead and wounded ^{being ever left} on the field.
The southern people were ^{called on} ~~made~~ to attend to the wounded.
A letter was made on ~~then~~ but they responded very ^{finally} ~~promptly~~ as they were afraid of the Yankees. Father Greasy ^{was at} ~~was~~
first appealed to, and ^{answered} ~~responded~~ as promptly as ever
in the work of charity. He went to Corinth to see
Genl. Procerans, obtained the necessary ~~permission~~
permissions to buy & bring stores and bring the Con-
federate wounded to Iuka, and to buy such stores
and hospital clothing as he wanted. ^{Having} ~~he~~ made the
purchases, ^{he} returned to Iuka & treated all the wounded
like which only which would not be done were
it not for ^{to find} ~~them~~ for the hospitals were more like
places of amusement, for the young ^{surgeons} ~~surgeons~~ ^{gentle} ~~gentle~~
And their ~~body~~ friends than a place where nurses were
needed. The Mr. says the beds of the patients were not cleaned
^{nor were} ~~And~~ their wounds ~~addressed~~. Father Greasy sent a full
account of the state of affairs to General Procerans
who soon had every thing made right. After re-
maining ^{a week} ~~a week~~ ~~with~~ ~~nursing~~ attending to the spiritual
and temporal welfare of these patients the good priest
returned to Iuka, left for Corinth. On the day ~~that~~
he arrived there General Procerans was ordered
to Cincinnati to take command of the 14th Corps,
and requested the priest to accompany him.
He which the letter promised to do as soon as he saw to the

~~Spent~~ welfare of ~~those~~ invalids in the hospitals in Corinth.
 After remaining two weeks at this work & here he re-
 mained two weeks at his good work, during which time
 he baptized thirty-two soldiers, ten of whom died ~~and~~ ^{the others}
~~part~~ ^{part} then, on the 5th of November, he
~~joined~~ ^{joined} Gen. Rosecrans at Bowling Green, Kentucky.
~~This was on the first 5th of November, & at week after~~
 he accompanied the General to Nashville, to which
 place the order of ^{march} ~~route~~ was given for Sunday, but
 at the suggestion of Father Tracy ~~through the influence of Father Tracy~~
 as there was nothing pressing in the affair, the
~~march~~ ^{at the suggestion of Father Tracy} was postponed until Monday. During this ~~march~~ ^{route}
 the priest had the pleasure of being escorted by his
 by his old regiment of the plains, the 60th
 Regular (who were principally Irish) on arriving
 in Nashville the General. During Rosecrans's sojourn
 at Nashville a few days after arriving in Nashville
 the General received the following Special field order.
 Headquarters 14th Army Corps Dep.,
 Cumberland, Nashville, Tenn, Nov 24/62.

Special Orders no 25

LI

The Rev J. G. Tracy, Chaplain at these head-
 quarters is authorized and directed to visit the various Camps
 Hospitals and Garrisons of this army for the purpose of
 allowing the Catholics belonging to the same an opportunity
 of fulfilling their religious obligations. Every necessary
 facility for the becoming discharge of his duty will be
 afforded to him by the commanding officers at each
 point, By Command of Major Gen. Rosecrans
 M. T. Lee Major 15th U.S. Infantry.

* Page 31 final number old manuscript.

Father ^{my} was at once provided with ambulances,
 drivers, & orderlies from the 10th Ohio Infantry, and
 first visited the 14th Michigan, Infantry then doing duty
 at Stone River near the Hermitage. The priest he
 stayed with ^{the regiment} ~~there~~ ^{for} ~~several~~ ^{some} days and during that time
 was kept very busy hearing ~~hearing~~ confessions,
 giving instructions and attending in general to the
^{spiritual} religious wants of the Soldiers. While here he received
 five persons into the church and made numerous
 esteemed acquaintances, among ~~whom~~ ^{them} ~~was~~ a
 Dr. Spouting of the 10th Mich., This gentleman
 the ^{priest} always accosted by the salutation of Charley
 O'Malley or the Irish Dragoon, which name stuck
 to him while he remained in the army. The next
 mission was to the Regular Brigade, Camped West
 of the Penitentiary, ~~where~~ ^{there} he spent ten days
 and he found ~~there~~ ^{both} officers and men ^{now} almost entirely
 Catholics, He is ^{not} ~~then~~ ^{was to} visit ^{with whom} the Catholics, ^{and} ^{as} ^{soon}
 he ~~spent~~ ^{passed} a week ~~with them~~, ^{Christmas being near at hand} ~~to being then close on Christ~~
 As Father ^{my} returned to the City to spend the holidays
 On arriving at Headquarters he was informed that
 a move on the Enemy was about to be made
 in a ^{few} ~~couple~~ of days. On ^{at} ~~hearing~~ ^{he} ~~this news~~ ^{he}
~~the priest~~ ^{the} ~~lost no time~~ ^{he} ~~to go~~ ^{went} ~~around~~ ^{amongst}
 the Camps & ~~see~~ ^{the} ~~the officers~~ ^{the} ~~hear~~ ^{hear} confessions, and
 On December Christmas Eve, he was out along
 the lines as usual, and came in late expecting to
 have a pleasant Christmas, but to his great astonish-
 ment

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He was ^{told} informed that a move was to be made at 4 o'clock in the morning. ^{To satisfy himself as to the truth of the report} he at once repaired to the General ^{who confirmed his information} and was informed that such was the case. Father Gracy then said "General it is tomorrow is the greatest day in the Christian Era, tomorrow is the birth-day of our Lord Jesus Christ." ^{He then responded} "I did not think of it," and then to Col. ^{Gareschee} Gareschee, chief of staff, ^{who was} the only person present, he said "Colonel, can we countermand it?" "Oh yes General," ^{he answered} Gareschee, "Send orders to the Corps Commanders, and all will be right." ^{The order was then} The order was countermanded and on the morning of the 26th the army moved forward at daylight, when about ~~ten~~ eight or nine miles from Nashville on the Murfreesboro pike shots were exchanged as the Southern army could be seen and shots were exchanged during the whole of that day and the following day, with very few casualties. The next day, December 28th, was Sunday, and the ^{General} opposed operations unless it became a necessity. He attended Mass that morning and spent the greater part of the forenoon in religious devotions, and ~~spent the greater part~~ After Mass Father Gracy attended to the wounded throughout the ^{whole} day ^{until} night weary and tired. On Monday he went to Stewarts Creek, stopped there over night, and ^{the next morning} after Mass next morning

went to the front to find the general, whom he met within two miles of Indefessboro, The day was spent in heavy skirmishing all along the line, and the ~~garrison~~ priest rode to ~~and~~ ^{everywhere} ~~forward~~ to see after the wounded. ~~It~~ ^{was} ~~were~~ ^{few} ~~but~~ ^{what} ~~was~~ ^{expected}, who however were few ~~to~~ ⁱⁿ the number ~~expected~~, It was in the arduous discharge of his duties on that day that he first met Father ~~Christy~~ ^{Christy}, Chaplain of the 78th Pa. Infantry, who ~~was~~ ^{was} ever afterwards a very ^{of Walter Whipple's} friend. In the following morning, December 31st, the deadly strife was expected, & on the night of the 30th the scenes around the Camp fires were ~~rather~~ ^{some} sad to behold. At one in particular, where the ~~poor~~ ^{poor} fellows were clustered, the ~~for~~ ^{impending} ~~expectation~~ ^{battle} was the all absorbing topic, "Which of us boys shall a stalwart fellow will go up to-morrow?" "Not I" said one "Not I" said another, "Nor I" said each & all, ~~but~~ ^{however} in spite of their assurance. Some were downcast, & ~~some~~ ^{others} would glance at a token of friendship ~~as~~ ^{as} presented by some fond friend at home; Others again would carry on their games, & even curse and swear as just as if they were seated in some New York gambling house, ~~but~~ ^{the} morning dawned, At a few minutes past 4 o'clock Father Gracy said Mass and Genl. ~~Proctor~~ ^{Proctor} & Col. ~~Garesche~~ ^{Garesche} went to ~~communion~~ ^{communion} & some others went to Communion, ~~and~~ ^{and} that communion was destined to be poor Garesche's last, After

Father Gracy having finished the holy Sacrifice,
 Father Cooney ~~performed the same ceremony~~ ^{also performed the same ceremony}. A
 short time after the conclusion of the latter service Father
 Gracy celebrated High Mass in a little tent opposite
 it in a little tent opposite to the General's Marquee.
 The General knelt humbly and devoutly in the corner
 of the tent, and a ^{no less} ~~by his side~~ ^{devout} ~~by his side~~ ^{by his side}, no less
 devout by his side. A ^{group} ~~group~~ of humble soldiers
 meekly knelt in front of the tent, groups of
 officers, troopers & spurred for battle, with heads
 reverently uncovered, stood outside, and mutually
 uttered their prayers, what grave anxieties, what
 exquisite emotions, what deep thoughts moved the
 hearts and minds of these pious soldiers unto whom
 God & their country had delivered, not merely the
 lives of thousands of men who on that day died,
 but the vitality of a principle the cause of self
 government and of human liberty. ^{After Mass}
^{being over} the General called the priest to breakfast but
^{they were} ~~he~~ scarcely seated when the ^{fighting began} ~~business~~ ^{fighting} ~~business~~ ^{fighting}
~~commenced~~. The general cried "mount gentlemen" The staff
^{in an instant} were ~~instantly~~ ^{in an instant} in their saddles and galloped away
 at break neck speed to Harker's front, & Every mem-
 ber of this ^{little band} ~~staff~~ was a conspicuous target on that oc-
 casion. A tremendous cannonading was ^{then} ~~now~~ heard
 and the battle was fairly opened. Father Gracy now
~~left~~ ^{left} the General & staff to look after the wounded
 after the lapse of a few minutes
 his faithful orderly's horse was struck and Father Gracy

was left to himself amongst the wounded and dying.
 At one time ^{During the battle day} the army was giving way and
 Father Gracy was obliged to fall ^{back} and join the General on
 the crest near the A new line was formed and the
~~General dashed along the line~~ ^{General dashed along it, encouraging the men} in spite of an incessant
 shower of shot, shell and rifle balls. About this
 time Father Gracy rode to the front, raised himself in
 his saddle and with a stentorian voice cried out
 "Men prepare yourselves I will give you the general absolution"
 It happened that the command in front of whom the
 the priest stood were almost all Catholics. He recited
 the Confiteor aloud for them, ^{and} then told them to make
 an act of contrition while he pronounced the words of
 absolution. In an instant all the hats were off and
~~the~~ the soldiers were on their knees. The scene was
 indeed striking! The ceremony over, the father ^{priest} dashed
 through the line to the rear of the batteries where he joined
 a portion of the staff. The battle raged, wounded
 men were called to the rear and the ^{priest} was again at
 his work. ~~Then soldiers slightly wounded~~ ^{he took}
~~notice~~ ^{he took} ~~was only~~ ^{was only} the mortally wounded that he took
^{those slightly hurt he did not notice.}
 notice. He carried with him two canteens one with
 whiskey & the other water. ^{During this struggle, as on many others,} he was ^{frequently}
 with some poor fellows head on his knees giving
 him a reviving draught and cheering him up in
 his last moments, ^{so as to enable him to} ~~in order that he might get the~~
~~use of his tongue.~~ make his confession, and prepare
 himself for eternity. The water which he carried

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with him was for the purpose of Baptism, for numbers of the protestants in the army were never baptized. And a great many ^{of them} required the services of the priest on the battle field. At the final charge, Father Creery joined the General & staff. The carnage was terrible & ~~after it was over all the priests in the camp were to work on the field.~~ Father Creery met and Christy met one ~~and then both~~ worked near each other till after dark. ~~After attending to the wounded till late in the night they both lay down together.~~ During the latter part of the night they both lay down together. After attending to the wounded till late in the night they both lay down together on a pile of wet ^{comrads} tents to take a sleep, there being no tents pitched that night evening, as the following day was expected to be another of slaughter. The morning dawned, ^{It was} as January 1st 1863. The two fathers had a cup of coffee and were off for the field. They went to places they ^{had} ~~and~~ ^{was} ~~visited~~ for. There lay the Blue & Gray jackets side by side. As there was little or no fighting that day it afforded the fathers an opportunity to pass around the Hospitals. There were five ~~fathers~~ ^{priests} doing duty on that day. The other three were two not other three were Fathers Cooney, Higgins & Guatoni. While in the hospital the Father was called ^{by} ~~by~~ Major B., correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial to see a countryman of his, a rebel, who was wounded, on the previous day. On the priest being introduced the Rebel ^{glared} ~~scanned~~ him from head to foot. The priest

then asked ~~the Doctor~~^{him} if he were an Irishman. "Yes Capt,"
 was the reply. "What part of Ireland are you from?"
 "Faith from all parts" "What County were you born
 in?" "Kerry;" "What is your name?" "James O'Driscoll Capt"
 "I am not a captain I am a priest" "Bad luck to
 the bit of me you can fool that way. A priest
 eh?" with top boots spurs and soldiers coat and
 hat, "The priest here opened his overcoat and
 James saw the black cloth. "James where do
 your people live?" "In Pittsburgh," "In Pittsburgh
 Pennsylvania?" "Yes father," "With your people living
 in the North how came you to be in the Southern army?"
 "Well faith father I will tell you that, I was ditching
 all winter for a planter & he would not pay me un-
 less I would go into the army. And he said he would
 present me with \$300 as well if I did so,"
 "Well did he give it to you?" "No, Sure when I was going
 he said he'd keep it till I'd come & go back," "Was
 that the only thing that induced you to join the army?"
 "Well now faith I liked a bit of fun, and I saw
 all the boys going. & I thought to myself I'd go too"
 "Then you were not forced into service?" "No, you Reverend
 I went into ~~it~~^{the} with a good will, and I'd let no man
 get forward me in that" "The poor Father Gracey
 then bid James Good-bye and the sister the latter
 And as the latter ~~wound~~^{wound} was ~~not~~^{not} serious ~~and~~
~~As his wound was not serious~~ And the doctor taking
 a liking to ~~him~~^{he}, made a nurse of him at
 & as such he drew pay from the Government ^{till} the end of
 the war

you a priest with you? Not for the last six
months or more," "Well, my poor fellow, I am a
priest and I suppose during the past night,
lying here in this mud, you have made as good a prep-
eration as ever you made in your life. I will hear
your confession" The officer at first did not at
first believe that his visitor was a priest from the
dress worn by the latter, & he raised his eyes and
looked at him in such a manner as if to say
'you can't fool me that way old fellow' The priest
desimounted, pulled out his canteen & handing it to
the wounded man said "Here Captain, take a draught
of whiskey. you must indeed stand in need of it
after lying here all night," The Captain put it to
his lips and was about to take a drink a gentle sip
and was about returning it, when the priest
insisted that he should take a good drink, At
the same time the priest ^{he} ~~pulled~~ ^{produced} out his stole and
threw it around his neck, which the soldier on beholding
the soldier actually ^{shed} ~~the~~ tears fell; After hearing his
confession the priest again handed him the canteen
After drinking the Captain said "I wish I were sit-
ting up by that tree" (pointing to one about fifty yards
distant,) "I will help you there" said the priest; The officer
then threw one arm around the priest's neck and humped
along dragging a broken limb after him as gracefully as possible
As soon as he was seated by the tree than several shots were
fired at the priest from the ~~rebel~~ ranks, I was the
Confederate

Bullets not far from their heads entered the tree not far from ~~their~~ ^{his} heads which caused Ryan to exclaim "Oh the damned Rebels, what are they shooting at you for" The good priest immediately ~~leaped~~ ^{got} into his saddle and fled over the crest, followed by a volley from the rebel ranks. Having made the rounds of the line he returned to Headquarters to report. Having mentioned the affair about the Captain the General said "Father get an ambulance and have that man taken off the field to hospital at once" General saw it would be impossible without being men, said the priest, "Never mind" responded the General "By the time you get there our line will have advanced to drive them out of that skirt of woods" Father Constantly started off and had Father J. Leapt. Ryan placed in the ambulance and sent to the rear. That night Gen Bragg left Murfreesboro & on the following morning General Proxerans ~~entered~~ ^{established} his headquarters there. Father Grace was assigned the Masonic hall for a Chapel. That and on that same morning after Mass the good priest as usual, visited all the hospitals. The first was that of the wounded enemy left by Bragg in Murfreesboro. The greatest number of Catholics and Irish whom he found here were from the Companies of Clayburn and Chatham. After seeing to all the Confederate

* In the Annals of the Army of the Cumberland great praise is given to Father Grace during his stay with the troops at Stones River & Murfreesboro

soldiers in danger, he turned his attention to the wounded men of the command in the way which he was chaplain, who were just being brought in from the field to ~~Imperial~~ Imperial. After passing through the hospitals without finding Capt Ryan whom he sent to ~~see~~ see hospital ~~on~~ on Saturday, he called on Dr Swift to know of his whereabouts, but ~~the~~ Doctor could not account for him. Father Tracy then started off in order to find if he were yet alive. He rode back two and a half miles to the Field Hospital, searched every cabin and tent without finding him. ^{He} returned to Imperial and ^{inquired} ~~asked~~ the hospitals again. On passing through those occupied by the Confederate soldiers, he asked aloud in each one if any one knew of Capt Ryan. He met with no response until he reached that one occupied by the wounded of General Chestnut's command. There in answer to his inquiry a truly lovely voice replied, "Yes sure that is my Captain, one of the best men that ever God let live and he was wounded on Friday, ~~by the d - n - h - l - l horse, God and you forgive me father but I can't help it.~~" "Where is he now?" said the priest, "I had him taken off the field and sent to hospital on Saturday morning and I want to see that ~~his~~ his ~~so~~ so he is cared for as his wound is a dangerous one." "Ah then father he is where he will be cared for."

[illegible]

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reluctantly removed and attended to. Father G. saw that
every attention was paid him but it was in order
to save his life it was found necessary to amputate
the limb just above the knee. When out of danger
the priest obtained permission for him to return home.
A few months afterwards a sister of his, on a visit
to Nashville, sent a letter to Father Cray expressing
a desire to see him; As he thought it was pass-
port business, he paid no attention to it being
amused to a great extent that way by ladies; On
the same day he received the letter he accompanied
Gen. Stanley on an expedition. When they returned
at the end of four weeks the army was being
paid off, and the good father was called upon
to go to Cincinnati with money from numbers of
the men around Head-quarter. On his return
he was ^{to} conduct ~~for~~ to the seat of war five sisters who
were ^{ordered to attend the fugitives} ~~promised~~ by Buckhup Purcell. On arriv-
ing in Nashville he was handed a note by Father
Kelly, then ^{administrator} ~~Adm.~~ of the Diocese of Nashville. It
was from Miss Ryan, He called at Mrs. D's to see
the young lady. After ^{giving his name} ~~announcing himself~~ to a
negro servant who opened the door, the latter left
~~him standing until she announced his name~~
it to the father inside. Almost reluctantly she ran back
and father ushered him into the parlor, where he
was ~~searcely~~ seated until three ladies ~~had~~ entered.
The first ^{they} politely bowed, but the other dropped on her

41
\$
(5)

knelt at the feet of the priest & asked his blessing.
She arose saying Father from my brother, I know
you, and as a father I revere you and love you.
After ~~some~~ conversion Miss Ryan handed
the Father ^{her} a letter which she requested Father
not to open till he reached home, the next
morning after Mass he ^{read} enclosed which was as
follows:

Laton Rouge La.

Very Revd Father Cracy,
Sir,

Under God to you I am indebted for my
life. I would like dear father to say much to you
But as I believe you a man of deeds more than
words, I will be briefly asking you to accept
the assurance of one who shall ever cherish
and pray for the name of Father Cracy. As
my watch and gold you spurned please accept
this small token of regard, the emblem of our
salvation and which united you and I. My
Mrs. sends her loving regards to you and hopes
she will have an opportunity in person to thank you.
My sister Mary Ann who will hand you this
will say much I cannot.

J. S. Ryan late Cap 12th
Louisiana Reg

Thursday Jan 29th / 63

The token of friendship mentioned in the letter

was a diamond cross valued at \$700,
which we have ourselves seen. Father Tracy
~~proceeded~~
proceeded next day to Cincinnati and forwarded
the money as directed and returned to the front
with ~~four sisters~~ ^{five sisters} (Sister Anthony and four
others). The Sisters were at first stationed at the
hospital ~~at the~~ near the Chathamoga depot,
after which they were transferred to distributed
between hospitals A & D. The good sisters ^{in a few days} were
found to be so efficient that the Surgeons ~~are~~ made
urgent requests for more of them. After ~~the~~ ^{Father's} ~~reporting~~
reporting at Headquarters he was sent with
Col. Minty's Brigade to ~~M^c~~ to M^r Minville, Tenn.,
in pursuit of some Confederate battalions. In
M^r Minville the enemy ~~got~~ were reinforced and
Minty ~~had~~ had to return in a double quick ^{charge}. On the
retreat, ~~Father Tracy~~ ^{from M^r Minville} got sick and ^{he} gave up his horse
and saddle and took an ambulance. The road
was so rough ^{and} he got such terrible shaking
that he was almost ^{quite exhausted} ~~about~~ ^{when} he got back to Mur-
freesboro. Arriving at Headquarters he made known
his will to quit the army as up to that time he had
served without pay. He was requested by many of the
general officers not to leave but to take a Chaplaincy
in one of the regiments ~~now~~ ^{then} in the field. He would
not however ^{accept} ~~join~~ ^{as such} in one of the Volunteer
regiments as he then would be required to take an oath to
some particular State. Up to that time he had never