

Four Catholics and a number of
infidels in hospital — Pious soldiers
saving their temporary Church from
destruction — On board the Red Rover
— His reception and services there —
Celebrating Mass under fire —

After having been
being fortified with the following pass commenced to visit
all the hospitals,

"Rev. F. Carrier will be permitted to visit all hospitals
of the 15th army corps until further orders,"

By Command of Major Gen Sherman — & Ewing Brigg Gen
Having reached the division hospital the Surgeon in
charge received him ^{kindly} and was particularly very
polite when he showed him Gen Sherman's pass,
He accompanied the Father through the ~~ward~~ differ-
ent wards and explained the different ~~drives~~ complaints
or wounds of the sick soldiers ~~in them~~, The Father
approached every patient, & inquired of him, first how
he felt, where he was wounded, or what was the nature
of his ailment, his name, the regiment he belonged to,
~~and~~ ^{at the same time} giving him a chance to see the
large cross suspended on his neck, ~~the cross~~ ^{the cross} was ~~seen~~ ^{would be seen} than the patient would
recognize him as a Catholic priest; if a Catholic
he would say so, & and if an ~~Quaker~~ Quakerman, he would say,
"Oh your Reverence is a Catholic clergyman, God bless
you, I have not seen a priest so long?" ~~To those who~~
~~did not reveal themselves, he inquired if they were~~
~~satisfied with their religion, rather than if they were~~
~~baptized, would they wish to be so, & so, telling them~~
~~at the same time who they were he was,~~ After going
through all that ordeal he only found ~~twelve~~ Catholics
out of one hundred and thirty five patients, twelve Catholics
whose confessions he heard, The great majority of the rest

were complete infidels who were never baptized and who were deprived of all religious instructions or ideas. Among those whose confessions he heard was an Indian who after receiving absolution said, "Ah! Father what a happy day for me. I would have given the whole world when I fell wounded on the battle field to have a Priest at my side for a few moments only. Thanks be to God, and to you Father, I am now at peace with my maker and with myself. I desire nothing more." After returning from the hospital the General kindly offered the Father his chief of staff to accompany him on a visit to the surrounding ~~wild and~~ country. The visit trip was delightful and the party returned back about dusk laden with the ~~most~~ most select choice floral selection of every ~~kind~~ ^{kind} and description. That same evening a terrific tempest took place, and notwithstanding ^{which} ~~which~~, numbers of soldiers attended the confessional; and were it not for the presence of these ~~Christian soldiers~~ ^{Chapels} ~~warriors~~ the tents would have been blown away. They held fast to the cords ~~which~~ & held them in spite of the tempestuous ~~bursts~~ ^{hurricanes} of rain, flashes of forked lightning and peals of terrific thunder which were then raging. ~~Then~~ After a short time the ~~hurricane~~ ^{great storm} ~~thunder~~ and lightning ceased but the rain kept falling in ^{such} torrents that the floods threatened to carry into the bottom of the ravine, ^{which was} a short distance off, all that the tents contained. The pious ~~sons~~ ^{fathers} of ~~men~~ who held fast

by their temporary, & half yet sacred edifice during the hurricane, now turned out and dug deep trenches around the tent, and succeeded ~~if not in totally~~ preventing the floods from entering it) at least in preventing its utter destruction. Having had a letter of introduction to Gen. From the ~~Rev. Mr. Lambert~~ ^{Father Carrier} of Paris to Gen. Lator ~~resolved~~ ^{early next morning} to call on that worthy soldier, & General Ewing and Capt. Loomyn volunteered to accompany ~~them~~ him. Gen. Lator being attached to Dr. Clerman's corps the ~~two~~ ^{men} had a ~~long~~ ^{quaint} ride before reaching his headquarters, where they found the fat stout gray haired and good natured old general in his disabilities. He received the party as old friends and felt highly gratified at their visit. In addition to seeing the General personally, who was a fervent Catholic, and an exemplary and true soldier, Father Carrier wished to ~~decide~~ ^{ascertain} if there were many Catholics in his brigade, and to ~~manifest~~ ^{manifest} his presence among them so that in case of need they might know where to find him. After about two hours conversation with the ~~General~~ ^{General} the ~~party~~ ^{party} left for home. That evening and next morning a large number of confessions were heard and in the afternoon Gen. Ewing invited the Father for another ride, viz. to visit ~~the~~ ^{the} fortifications. At 4 p.m. the following ~~company~~ ^{company} started in order he said to inure him to the hardships of war, and to make him proficient in the art of

horsemen up, Oct 4/91. The following company started
 riding two abreast, Gen. Sherman & Steele, first, Gen. Ewing
 and Major Hammond; Capt Cornyn & Father Carrier, Capt
 Soiland ^{and} Lt. Eddington and three orderlies. The com-
 pany rode up to the very ^{top of the} fortification, ~~and~~ firing on both
 sides was brisk. They rode all around the fortification
 under the lead of acting Brig. Gen. Woods, till they
 arrived at a defile quite unprotected from the ene-
 mies sharpshooters, when some soldier shouted at
 them not to stop there. ~~A ^{very} ^{immediately} ^{upped} ^{the} ^{road} ^{westwardly} took~~
~~place to the other side of the defile where they halted~~
 and took a peep at the enemy's breastworks. The father
 having an eager desire to see the enemy's works put
 his head over the parapets when a bullet from the
 rifle of a ~~sharp~~ sharpshooter struck the parapet
 within a foot of him. Hearing to cross the defile again.
 The father turned to Gen. Sherman and said "General
 for one who is not accustomed to the music of the
 ball & finds no entertainment in them, I would as
 well not hear ~~them~~ at all" "Well" said the General
 laughing "such music is rather strange and unusual
 for professors or civilians, but to old troopers there is
 still a good deal of harmony in it" ~~and is especially~~
~~pleasing on account of the quickness of its movements and~~
~~times.~~ All the party agreed in the General's remarks
 except the "civilian" who begged the privilege to differ
 from them in ~~the~~ ^{fact}. The ride to Headquarters was
 a perfect race and the Father was much jaded, not

being ~~injured~~ killed in equestrianism, On entering the tent he threw himself on his cot and fell fast asleep into a sound sleep from which he did not ~~awaken~~ ^{wake} till the following morning at 6 A.M. and then he found himself scarcely able to leave the bed. While he was considering the possibility of arising, there came peeping into his tent an ~~old~~ ^{old} Indian who said "Is there mass this morning your reverence, There are four of us here who wish to go to confession," There all possibility of ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~from the good Father~~ ^{any} and he arose said mass and heard numerous confessions, At dinner (which took place at noon) Gen Ewing again invited him to another ride, in the afternoon, ^{to General Logan's headquarters} which ~~he~~ ^{he} hesitatingly accepted on the condition that the General would ride slower than he did the day ~~before~~ ^{previous}. At 3 o'clock for Gen Logan's headquarters. Their route lay under the cover of the breastworks but their course was marked by showers of bullets the whole way with an occasional shell bursting over their heads, On entering Gen Logan's tent ~~with~~ ^{the} Father, to his great surprise, was introduced to Maj. Gen W. S. Grant the able commander of the Department of the Tennessee, He was also introduced to Gen M. P. Sherman, Brig Gen Logan and numbers of other officers. As the Father shook hands with Gen Grant he said "I am happy to meet a great soldier and a successful general, Victory follows you wherever you go; The nation's hopes are now in ^{you} General Grant," The General in reply thanked

him two or three times in a quite embarrassed manner, ^{& modest} ~~obviously his modesty had been troubled by the short address~~ of the Father. The General then made the Father sit by him on a little cot and both engaged in a somewhat lengthy conversation. He asked the Father if he came directly from the North? On receiving an affirmative answer he said "You are attached as professor to a college in Indiana?" "Yes General," replied the Father "I have been years in the college of Notre Dame Indiana and I am still attached to it." "Well," said the Gen, "You will find that the life of a soldier is quite different from that of a professor and that our tents are not so comfortable as the halls of a college." "General" replied the Father "I understood that before I left Notre Dame, I did not expect to find in the soldiers camp all the comforts, the conveniences and ease of home." "Very Well" responded the General "I am glad to find you prepared to meet the hardships of war. I hope you will remain with us as long as you can." Then changing the conversation, he asked the Father how he liked the Federal fortifications to which the responded "Very Well, General, I am perfectly astonished to see how much has been done in so short a time." The Father then took the liberty of asking the General when he hoped to be in Vicksburg, to which the latter responded by saying that as every thing was in working order well he hoped the siege would not be long. When the Father expressed

his fears of with regard to Johnson's Army coming upon them in the rear, he said with great composure;
 "There is nothing to apprehend from him, I have troops enough on the Big Black and at Haines Bluff to prevent his further ~~progress~~ ^{advance} towards Vicksburg."
 After some further conversation the Father handed him a letter of introduction from Mr. Sherman; After reading it he said "I thank you Mr. Carrier for this letter, I will be happy to afford you every facility ⁱⁿ your praiseworthy purpose, I am going to give you a full pass," ^{leaving} the action to the word he stepped into the adjoining ^{tent} to the adjutant's office and wrote with his own hand the following ~~ample order~~ a general pass

~~General Porter Army of Tennessee June 10th 1863~~

~~The Gen J. L. Carrier will be permitted to pass all guards and visit through all the camps of the meeting army of Vicksburg and the troops at Haines Bluff under otherwise directed~~

~~W. S. Grant Major Genl~~

When the General was handing the order to the Father he said "Now Sir, I will be always happy to give you every facility in my power," "Thank you General, you are extremely kind" responded the Father, The General then said, "Let us see what Gen Logan has been doing of late," The four Generals walked first and the rest followed accompanied by the

Father followed, They went along the extensive lines of approaches and fortifications built by the ~~popular~~ ~~and able~~ Gen Logan, Having visited every rock of Gen Logans fortifications all the party went away in different directions; Gen Grant returned to his Headquarters ~~as presented on a very common bread and accom-~~panied only by one orderly and one aide-camp, Gen McPherson went to inspect some other works in his division, Father Carrier and Gen Cuming retraced their steps towards their tents, taking ~~care~~ great to avoid certain dangers which might await them at different passages on the road, After returning the Father felt ~~the~~ ^{the} following ^{day} being Sunday, the Father heard numerous confessions before mass which he offered up at 10 o'clock, He preached after the first Gospel; and after Mass ~~recited~~ the conclusion of the Holy Sacrifice he visited with the Scapular those who had that morning received Holy Communion, After dinner he visited the hospitals of the 2nd Division and addressed to every patient a few cheering and consoling words regardless of his creed, They all kindly thanked him except one dark despairing infidel, who desired to be left alone, "I came here" said the Father "as a friend who desire to cheer, with the consoling truths of religion those who like you are suffering and in pain (he had lost one of his legs) and who soon might experience the realities of a future life" The wretched and hopeless man then turned toward the

wall and said not a word, After hearing some ~~confessions~~
 the Father returned to his tent ^{ministering to the needs}
 of all those in need the Father returned to his tent,
 After remaining three days at Headquarters hearing
 confessions writing communications ^{and many} the Father
^{decided} resolved to visit the ^{Dr. J. P. Board of the} hospital boat the "Red Rover"
 Having procured an ambulance ~~and~~ started for the
 landing point, viz Chickasaw Bayou, in order
 to take the boat for Youngs Point, which it was
 about 3 ^{1/2} ~~1/2~~ ^{PM} in the when the boat reached
 Youngs Point, and there was the "Red Rover" lying
 just at the mouth junction of the Yazoo and Miss-
 issippi Rivers, being landed on the Louisiana side
 of the Mississippi and not a single craft, about
^{plain} the Father did not know what to do in order
 to reach the "Red Rover", He ^{thought} then
 struck ^{his} ~~hand~~ and he hoisted his ~~hand~~ hand
 kerchief as a signal to the boatmen of the Red Rover
 to come for him, but all in vain, ^{as they did not see him} they ~~did not see him~~
 A stalwart Fishman was ~~now~~ passing by and the
 Father requested him to hail with all the powers
 of his lungs the boatmen of the Red Rover, Although
 the ~~boat~~ Fishman made the surrounding hills echo
 and re-echo repeatedly it was of no avail, The
 distance was too great, Again he resumed the waving
 of the ~~hand~~ handkerchief and again he despaired
 and was about to fold and pocket the unrecognized
 flag, when two heavy surgeons approached and seeing

the calous floating in the air, one of them, with great politeness said and pointing in the direction of the Red River said, "We belong to that boat sir, and have a bark on this side and will ferry you over if you so desire," "I thank you very much gentlemen" responded the Father. "You will greatly oblige me in taking me with you," Off. On reaching the place where the bark was lying the kind physician took the Father's travelling bag and umbrella and placed them in the boat and then helped himself in just as if he had been a lady, Four vigorous men armed with ~~guns~~ ^{guns} soon landed them on board the Red River. Here the same surgeon, who had spoken to him first on the bank of the river, took hold of his baggage and bade him to follow him. He conducted him directly to the sister's parlor, although the Father up to that time had manifested no desire to see them nor indeed had he even told them who he was; But the Physician readily ^{inquired} and introduced him to the sisters, having asked the Father's ^{name} just before entering the parlor. None of the sisters knew of the existence of a Father Carrier, nor were they expecting a ^{parent} Father from Sister Lane, nor had the letter which he had ^{wrote} written them the day after his arrival at Gen. Sherman's Headquarters reached them, so they were quite taken by surprise; yet it was an agreeable surprise; After the introduction the kind surgeon begged leave to withdraw and which permission was granted as soon as the good father had thankfully acknowledged the

~~good success rendered by him~~, although the Father had
 lost his credentials ^{from the Mississippi}, still the good sisters believed ^{him} to be a
 priest and made their confessions under such an impression.
 Towards evening she went to ~~his~~ ^{the} surgeon, Dr. Dr. Bishy,
 who the Father had by this time learned was Director and
 acting Head Surgeon of the Coast Hospital and asked
 him the privilege of remaining in his floating hospital
 till the Friday following, "Certainly" he answered any
 length of time, "We would be glad to have you remain
 with us ~~any~~ length of time for a much longer
 period." The Father then expressed a wish to see
 the Captain of the boat, who by the way, was only
 third officer of the boat on board, Dr. Pinkney, the
 Medical Director of the Mississippi flotilla was the
 first in rank, & Dr. Bishy the Chief Surgeon was the
 second, Dr. Pinkney generally stayed on board the
 Steamer but at that time was absent in Memphis.
 The Captain was a jolly old sailor talkative and would
 be with, but a person a great historian with having
 read little apparently, After tea ~~he was in his room~~
~~during which time~~ & the Father took tea with the
~~and he returned left his leave of the Captain~~
~~at all being satisfied by his conversation, having~~
~~formed a very favorable impression his intelligence.~~ The
 Dr. Bishy, having assigned a regular splendid room
 for the Father he retired there early and slept
 soundly during the night, The next morning the Father
 early & said Mass at 5 o'clock on a neat altar the

Sisters had prepared, After Mass he breakfasted
 with Dr. Kirby and his assistant surgeons the
~~the place of honor being reserved for the Father~~
~~Dr. Kirby giving him the place of honor.~~ After
 breakfast The Father asked permission of the chief
 surgeon to visit the sick on board; The request was
 instantly granted, so he ^{went} to every bed and spoke a
 few consoling words to every man; After dinner which
 he also had with Dr. Kirby, he returned to the Sisters
 Parlor where several sailors and invalids were waiting
 for him to hear their confessions. ^{and} It was late at night
 when he got through with them, ~~Early at 1/2~~
^{Early} ~~at 1/2~~ next morning the Father ~~and~~ after reciting
 his prayers went to hear the confessions of some
 poor bed stricken ~~soldiers~~ sailors, after which he
~~celebrated~~ celebrated Mass and gave Communion to
 some ~~forty~~ persons, ~~many of them being old and~~
~~invalids~~, The large majority of them had not been
 at confession for years; some for ^{ten or twenty} 10-15-20
 and one for ^{forty eight} 48 years. ~~XXX~~ All the Catholics that
 were on board went to their duty excepting two,
 and even one of these asked the Father to hear
 his confession just as he was going away.
 The singular and wonderful workings of the Grace
 of God which was witnessed that day in many
 a remorseless yet ~~awful~~ guilty ~~Heart~~ ^{Heart} was beautiful
 to behold, It was one of the greatest if not absolutely
 the greatest harvest days of the Father's life, After

After ~~shaking~~ bidding his friends good bye, ~~and~~
imparting a blessing to the sister and promising to return
again in about a month, he jumped into the little
boat and started off, the Coldest dark by sailons,
~~under command of a "Pilot" 10 years old~~ ^{rowed} ~~threw~~ the
little craft off the steamer and soon landed him
on the opposite bank of the river, by the packet
boat "Diligent" which was returning to Chickasaw
Bayou. At the latter place he found one of Gen.
Craw's ~~men~~ ^{men} ~~orderlies~~ ^{orderlies} with his horse, which he
immediately mounted, and ~~arrived at~~ ^{wrote to} Headquarters
at 3 1/2 p. m. Early the following morning the
Father was awakened by the noise of a constant
& heavy cannonading; all was in a blaze. Hundreds
of pieces of Artillery, all along the extensive line
of the Federal fortifications, and many thousand
discharges of musketry from ~~our~~ ^{our} ~~innumerable~~ ^{innumerable} covered
roads, rifle pits stockades &c were vomiting death
destruction desolation and death on the Confederates
~~works~~, and undoubtedly spreading consternation and
terror throughout the doomed City of Vicksburg.
The Father instantly dressed himself and ran full
of excitement to the General's tent, but there was
no one there, all the tents in fact were deserted
and the horses gone excepting the Father's own,
which stood solitary and ~~restless~~ ^{restless} ~~at~~ ^{at} the bottom
of the river. Meanwhile the cannon were playing
most busily and dreadfully, their savage music,

And the Father thinking no doubt that a terrible fight was going on determined to go wherever his men were, Throwing his ~~belt~~ ^{uncertainty} ~~and~~ he met one of the General's ^{men} ~~followers~~ and asked him where his chief was, who told him that the Gen was at the head of his brigade leading his men to another assault on the enemy's works. * The Father instantly took his hat and some holy water * for baptizing purposes and started off with all the enthusiasm and fire of a Frenchman "Horn to be a soldier of the Cross" He had not ~~however~~ proceeded far when he met with a Lieutenant of the Gen's staff who asked him where he was going so hurriedly; to which the Father responded that he was of course going on the battle field and to follow ~~the~~ ^{his} men into Vicksburg. "Stop stop, Father Carrier, we are not ready yet to go there" Then said the Lieutenant "There is no engagement" - "What?" replied the Father, "are you not fighting now?" "Oh we are only shelling the city and firing at the ^{works} ~~rebels~~" "Well even so my presence is probably required there" "Not at all, not at all there is no danger of our men, the rebels keep ^{very} ~~quiet~~ ^{silent} and like scared rabbits have gone into their burrows." The Father then ~~turned reluctantly~~ As the Lieutenant was soon to return with the General the Father requested him to tell him that if he could be of any ^{use} ~~help~~ where he was & let him know it by one of his orderlies so he was holding himself in readiness to go wherever his duties would call him,

27 1/2

94 (96)

In that time the Father thought he could not
do a better action than to offer up the Holy
Sacrifice of the Mass for the success of the Federals
~~armies and for~~ the souls of those who were falling
under the murderous fire; putting his ~~actions~~ thoughts
~~into action~~ he did so in the presence of ~~two~~ ^{some} soldiers
and amidst the continual & deafening discharge of
the artillery and musketry on both sides.