

Chapter VII.

To show further waste of life and money -  
The labor and service among the soldiers  
Moralizing over a dead soldier -

9. The explosion of a mine - A Negro  
Surgeon - A Surgeon brought to his senses -  
A fair convert.

At 10 o'clock the firing ceased and shortly after  
the general and staff returned. On meeting with  
the General ~~the~~ Father <sup>asked</sup> him, what was  
that infernal noise about" and was informed that  
General Grant that Gen Grant had issued an  
order the day previous that all the batteries of the  
investing army should ~~open~~ <sup>from 3 to 10 o'clock</sup> that morning a brisk  
and continued fire on the Confederate fortifi-  
cations. The General further told ~~him~~ <sup>the Father</sup> that he was  
about taking him with him when but  
that to witness the effect of the bombs on the  
enemy's works, but it being so early in the  
morning he thought proper not to disturb him  
from his sleep. The following day was  
St. Aloysius day, ~~sun~~ (June 21) a day of rejoicing  
to the Father on account of some occasion it being  
the anniversary of a happy event in his life. He  
rose early in the morning and at 10 heard  
confessions till 12 o'clock <sup>when</sup> he celebrated  
Mass, preached and distributed medals to all  
the soldiers who had received communion on that  
day. In the afternoon he paid a visit to Father  
Turinault who he heard was worse and on  
the eve of leaving the army. He found him very  
weak, prostrated by fever and dysentery and  
~~desires to reach home (Canada)~~ and was pre-  
paring to leave for Montreal in a day or two; not  
knowing when he would have another chance

to see a priest Father Carrier availed himself  
 of Father Signault's presence, and made a confession  
~~preparing for death~~; After which they bid each  
 other good bye ~~and~~ On the way home Father  
~~Carrier~~ visited the Division hospital, ~~but did not~~  
~~remain long as it was rather late~~ ~~there~~ during  
 the short time he remained there he met two Catholics,  
 one an Italian and the other a German, who desired  
 to go to confession; he heard the latter but as the  
 former had not been at <sup>his duty</sup> confession for upwards  
 of twenty years, he could not undertake to hear  
 him that evening, but went the following day  
 to do so, After attending to the spiritual  
 welfare of the Italian the Father, who <sup>had</sup> been  
 suffering from dysentery for a couple of days  
 thought he could rest himself during the remainder  
 of the day, but ~~vainly~~ ~~hope~~ he had no sooner  
 reached his tent than he was sent for in a  
 great hurry to attend a dying soldier, who  
 had been wounded a few hours before. The  
 dying ~~man~~ <sup>man</sup>, he found to be a Canadian and  
 a Catholic. After hearing his confession, anointing  
 him, and resting him with the Scapular he ~~consoled~~  
 him as best he could and finally left him in the agonies  
 of death. When the Father returned he found  
 a gentleman in his tent; On being interrogated  
 he ~~said~~ <sup>and said</sup> his name gave his name as R. Purcell Bomer  
 that he was Surgeon of the 41st Ohio, that he was a

Catholic & baptized after the name of the Archbishop  
 of Cincinnati, that he had not seen a priest for two  
 years, that he was desirous of going to his duties for  
 he had always been a practical Catholic, and was  
 still anxious to fulfil the obligations of the most  
 Holy Roman Catholic Church &c. At mass the follow-  
 ing ~~there~~ <sup>thought</sup> ~~were~~ a large number of ~~Communicants~~, among  
 them General Lewis, ~~on the~~ <sup>in the</sup> afternoon of the fol-  
 lowing day a young soldier, a mere boy, was shot  
 through the lungs by a stray bullet while he was  
 standing ~~by~~ <sup>near</sup> a grave reading the epitaph of  
 his former Captain who was killed at the charge  
 made on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May before Vicksburg, The  
 wounded ~~young man~~ <sup>boy</sup> being a Catholic, and knowing  
 the gravity of his wound sent immediately for the  
 Father, The Father <sup>who</sup> hastened to where he was lying,  
 unconscious, ~~of himself and of what was around~~  
~~him~~ and almost lifeless. He could not utter ~~any~~  
 word, yet when he was aroused ~~by hard pinching~~  
 from his lethargy and made to look at the Father  
 he evidently manifested signs of recognition, but he  
 would ~~again~~ fall asleep immediately & just as the  
 Father had finished giving him the absolution and  
 extreme unction the poor wounded lad gave up  
 the ghost. Early the next morning Capt Smith of the  
 1<sup>st</sup> <sup>16th</sup> <sup>Mass</sup> <sup>Regt</sup> sent the Father a note requesting <sup>him</sup> to perform the  
 funeral rites, as used in the Catholic Church over  
 the remains of a young drummer who had been

~~He~~ ~~had~~ the day before by a negro. The burial  
 was to take place ~~the day before~~ at 2 p. m., and  
 the Father did not know what answer to give.  
 The dead youth had been baptized in the Catholic  
 Church, but he never went to confession and of  
 course never made his first communion; besides the  
 Father had heard that he was not a very edifying  
 youth in the Camp. However, as he was young  
 (not over 14 or 15 years of age) and as he used to call  
 himself a Catholic, the Father thought proper to ac-  
 cept the invitation of the Protestant Capt Smith,  
 & at the appointed time went. The body was laid in  
 a rude coffin and surrounded by all the men com-  
 posing the company, to which the boy belonged. They  
 were under arms and in grand profound silence. The  
 Father put on his stole and commenced the re-  
 citation of the usual prayers after which he  
 addressed a short exhortation to those present  
~~and~~ principally on the necessity of being always pre-  
 pared to appear before God, after the usual cere-  
 monies both spiritual and military, a cross was placed  
 over the grave, and all returned to their quarters.  
 That afternoon evening the Father, not having much  
 to do, thought over matters respecting the improve-  
 ment of his condition, and wrote a petition to Gen  
 President Lincoln to have him appointed as  
 Chaplain in Grant's Army. <sup>Mr. Lincoln having been informed of this</sup>  
~~army corps if he so desired. This step was taken~~

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in order to give the Father a larger field for his  
<sup>labors</sup> and place him in a position where in which he  
 need not be dependant on any one man, He also  
 wrote a letter to the Archbishop of Cincinnati  
 requesting him to endorse it, and showed both  
 to Gen. Cuming ~~before~~ before forwarding them,  
 The General highly approved of the Father sending them  
 without delay and wrote a letter himself to the  
 Archbishop for the purpose of recommending the  
 measure in question and <sup>also requesting</sup> ~~for him~~ <sup>them</sup> sending without  
 the least possible delay to the President in  
 Washington, During that afternoon and all the  
 forenoon of the following day, almost a  
 solemn silence reigned in both armies. During  
 dinner the latter day the General said to the Father  
 jokingly, "Monsieur Carrier, if you come with me this  
 afternoon at 3 o'clock you will see something grand  
 What is it, and where is it to be seen?" "Oh I  
 won't tell you just now, just make up your mind  
 to come," "Well, be it so then" At 3 o'clock the  
 horses ~~were ordered to be saddled~~ were brought to  
 the tents & the party mounted and galloped away,  
 towards <sup>any</sup> the eminence inside Gen. Lighthurn's fortifi-  
 cations, Before starting however, the General told the  
 General Father the ~~object of the~~ ~~for~~ scene.  
 they were to witness viz the explosion of an  
<sup>improved</sup> ~~underground~~ rebel fort, by Gen Logan's <sup>superior</sup> men  
 had been working at it for several days past.

The explosion was to take place at 4 p. m., but  
 it did not come off before 5 p. m., on account of  
 the fuses being made of materials that burned much  
 slower than was anticipated. The Confederates who  
 were in the fort, "never suspected  
 anything of what was going on underneath them  
 When the party approached the Fort Hill the  
~~thru the fort~~ the eminence commanding Fort  
 Hill (the ~~thru the fort~~) they left their horses  
 at its foot and <sup>under</sup> for shelter and then ascended  
 the steep acclivity at a double quick. As they  
 were directing their steps towards a certain observation  
 of ground General Lightner who was standing  
 at some distance <sup>by</sup> a tree, cried out, "Hurry  
 road gentlemen quick. I had just had one of my men  
 instantly killed on that spot." The party <sup>halted</sup> ~~halted~~ <sup>they</sup> ~~halted~~  
~~halted~~ <sup>cleared out</sup> and went to see the dead man hoping  
 that he was not absolutely dead; but vain hope  
 he had been shot through the brain, and  
 never uttered a word after. The Father could  
 not ~~know~~ <sup>be sure</sup> whether he was a Catholic or a protest-  
 ant, but it mattered little ~~then~~ <sup>for</sup> what could  
 be done with a dead man. The Father was much  
 moved by the terribly sudden and perhaps im-  
 provided death of the soldier and sadly turned  
 away and went and sat at the foot of a  
 tree. There ~~he~~ instead of gazing on the ~~the~~  
 doomed fort and holding himself ready to witness



fully the effect of the explosion, as all those present were doing, he fell into a deep and irrepressible reverie; for the scene he had a minute before witnessed had too strongly impressed his mind to care about explosions or the like. Finally, becoming disgusted by being in such a place, he abruptly left and returned home on foot & as soon as <sup>when</sup> he reached the tent threw himself on his cot. He however did not remain long there when he felt some remorse of conscience ~~not knowing his services might be required~~ <sup>and thinking that the General might be displeased with him for not remaining with him</sup> returned to witness the explosion. It was now near 5 o'clock and no explosion yet. Gen Blair came and sat by him and offered him his field glasses <sup>in order to</sup> ~~to~~ view the troops in the fort. The father ~~saw~~ <sup>confederate</sup> witnesses them moving leisurely and apparently as unconcerned about danger as if they stood on an <sup>and yet it happened before to happen how many of these would, in a moment, be shattered to pieces</sup> ~~solid~~ rock. While viewing them he commenced to tell the General the result of his observations when all at once a <sup>long explosion accompanied by</sup> ~~large~~ upheaving of the earth took place and hales of cotton, mules, men, and implements of every sort were cast into the air. then a dreadful dust and smoke <sup>followed</sup> ~~took place~~ which almost shrouded the remainder of the scene. Although the mine succeeded very well yet it failed to meet the expectations of the bystanders. Among the incidents which occurred during the explosion was that of a negro who was thrown from the fort inside the Federal lines, & when the dark day was

and when asked how he came there, replied, "I don't know Massa, some machine carried me off" How far up were you thrown? Oh about three miles, <sup>1/4</sup> He was not the least hurt, There were altogether only a few <sup>Killed</sup> ~~only~~ and the Federal ~~army~~ gained little advantage by it, The following morning as the Father was going to Gen. M<sup>r</sup> Person's Hospital to attend a large number of soldiers belonging to the 9<sup>th</sup> Ind. (an Irish Catholic regiment) who had been wounded the day before at a charge made upon the enemy, after the Fort had been blown up, he was met on the way by a young boy, mounted on a mule, who gracefully and politely saluted him saying "Good morning Father, you are a Catholic priest are you not?" "Yes my little friend, but how did you recognize me as such?" "Oh I saw your cross, only Catholic Priests carry it." "Are you a Catholic yourself my fine fellow?" "Oh yes Sir, and my mother too." "Where do you live?" "In the Country, <sup>five</sup> miles from here, my father is a planter but he is not a Catholic." ~~He uttered this last expression & sentence with a subdued voice and sad expression of countenance.~~ We have a chapel in our house, the Priest of Picksburg and the Bishop <sup>Elder</sup> of Hatchez used to come <sup>sometimes</sup> before the war and say Mass for us, my brother would like to have you come too say Mass too in our chapel;" "Will did your mother know that I was here?"



"Oh, but we did not know that there were Catholic  
 priests with the Gankes. We only thought that they  
 had preachers with them" "Why, I am a preacher  
 too". "Oh, but you are not ~~answered~~ he laughing  
 a Protestant preacher" answered he laughing  
 "You are a Catholic priest, a Catholic preacher"  
 "But I am a Gank" "Ah I know all about  
 that" said he smiling. "Catholic priests are not  
 Gankes" "So you would like ~~me to~~ go and  
 say mass at your Father's house" "Yes Father" "Well  
 I will go tomorrow" "to see your Father" "Well, all right  
 I will tell my mother of it and my Father too," "So  
 so, Good bye" "My little fellow" and both parted,  
 On entering Dr. Persons's hospital the first thing  
 that struck the caught the Father's attention were  
 numbers of hands, legs, fingers toes &c &c thrown about  
~~to the dogs~~ <sup>in the courtyard</sup>. A human limb cut off from the body  
 and kept with decency is even then painful to look  
 at, but when it is thrown away, to be eaten up  
 by dogs or hogs human nature, shudders and  
 revolt at such an abominable affair. The Father  
 went into the house full of indignation, and horror  
 and immediately inquired of the chief surgeon  
 After being shown his cabinet room he entered  
 and as he appeared before him said with an air  
 of severe rebuke "Are you aware Sir, that the limbs  
 of our ~~infatuated~~ soldiers are cast into the Courtyard  
 exposed to be devoured by dogs or swine?" "Naked & soiled at

the Surgeon  
 this inquiry ~~in~~ <sup>dryly</sup> and abruptly answered "Yes Sir  
 what about it?" "What about it?" "Sir it is shameful  
 and ~~indeed~~ <sup>wicked</sup> criminal on the part of an hospital  
 superintendent to leave a leg, an arm, or a hand  
 sacrificed in the service and for the good of  
 the country, before a Dog; Why not bury them?"  
 This severe rebuke made the Doctor very impatient  
 and he angrily answered Chaplain, if you care  
 so much about amputated legs and arms, go  
 and bury them yourself" Doctor <sup>expressed the</sup> ~~your~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~your~~ <sup>humane</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>humane</sup>  
 is only excelled by your impudence, ~~(Here the Doctor shut~~  
~~up with concentrated and ill-restrained ire)~~ The Father  
~~continued~~ <sup>he continued</sup> "If there were no one to do it, I would  
 not come to you to see ~~it~~ <sup>about</sup> it, but I must tell you  
 one thing, I am going to visit this hospital with or  
 without your permission these orders (showing him Gen.  
 Grant and Sherman's passes) from high authorities  
 have the hospitals of the army open to me at all  
 times, and if these amputated limbs are not re-  
 moved from the Court yard before I leave this  
 place, I shall ~~not~~ <sup>you direct to</sup> ~~direct~~ <sup>direct</sup> my steps towards  
~~you but~~ <sup>but</sup> ~~toward~~ <sup>toward</sup> that of General Grant and  
 if I do not obtain any satisfaction there, I shall most  
 assuredly write to the Surgeon General of the U.S.A. or  
 even to the Secretary of War," The Doctor never said  
 a word and the Father retired, He had however  
 scarcely left the ward when the Surgeon stepped  
 towards him and apologized saying that he did not

I know any thing about the amputated limbs  
 lying carelessly thrown away & unburied, & that it  
 was the business of the Wardmaster to attend to that;  
~~that is the business~~ "I have given orders for their im-  
 mediate removal and burial," "Very Well"  
 said the Father ~~and~~ that was the end of it,  
 The next morning ~~The Father started off to see the~~  
~~Catholic family~~ ~~he promised the day before, accord-~~  
 ing to promise the Father started to see the ~~Catholic~~ family  
 of Major Cook, Following the directions <sup>which</sup> the little  
 boy had given him the day before he ~~he~~ experienced  
 no difficulty in finding out the plantation and  
 entered a large and <sup>splendid</sup> ~~fine~~ mansion that stood alone  
 in the middle of a ~~fine~~ and extensive farm,  
 containing at least ~~two thousand~~ <sup>three thousand</sup> acres, Upon inquiring  
 if that was Major Cook's house he was answered  
 in the affirmative and at the same time was ushered  
 into the parlor where he found the Major engaged  
 with an officer of the army, The Major received  
 the Father very kindly, offered him some refresh-  
 ment, said he was happy that to have him in his  
 house and that he was expecting him since  
 morning. Mrs Cook came next, ~~and~~ seemed full  
 of joy at seeing the Father at her house, she  
 said "we were in hopes Father, that you would have  
 come this morning to say Grace for us at our little Chapel  
 and I am sorry you did not bring your vestments with  
 you, we cannot have Grace to-morrow either. Won't you

come another day to say Mass for us all, for we  
are quite a number of Catholics in our house. Ah  
do come?" ~~"The Father promised to come."~~  
~~"I will see about that."~~ "Thank you very much, but won't  
you see our chapel?" <sup>again the day</sup> The Father was struck with  
the beauty of the chapel and the taste with which  
it was decorated. After returning to the  
parlor the Major asked him how he liked  
Mrs. Cooks Chapel. "Very well indeed" replied the  
Father. "It is real tasty and fragrant." The father  
was then introduced to several members of the family  
including Mr. Bolles, Mrs. Cooks sister & Miss Minnie, sister  
of Mrs. Cook. ~~of a~~ a Protestant young lady, a  
sister-in-law of Mr. Bolles, and all Mrs. Cooks  
children. After spending a pleasant day, the Father  
& promising to call the following Monday, <sup>the Father</sup> and say  
Mass for them, the Father left. As he was going  
away through the garden accompanied by all  
the folks in the house, Miss Bolles the Protestant  
young lady expressed a desire to speak to him in  
private; The Father at once consented and bade  
Miss Fanny to go with them. Miss Bolles then told  
the Father that she had read of late many good  
religious books, that she was not satisfied with  
the Protestant sect, that she had for some time  
a strong desire to see a Catholic priest <sup>who</sup> might  
explain to her some points of the Catholic Church  
that were not very clear ~~in her~~ to her and that she

a strong tendency to become a Catholic. The Father then told her that he was at her disposition and would be glad to render her any services, especially when such would be the means of her conversion to the Catholic Church. Continuing he said "If you are earnest sincere & singleminded in seeking after the truth, and at the same time, you pray to God and the B. V. Mary, you will find the truth and will get to be in the Catholic Church." After advising her to prepare herself, and telling her that he would call tomorrow and stay two days, ~~he~~ mounted his horse & rode off to camp. The following morning day (June 2<sup>d</sup>) he rose early and heard numerous confessions, preached, and after Mass distributed medals to the communicants. The firing was very brisk but particularly from the Confederate side. Their misshetry was especially disagreeable and annoying. ~~More than a hundred of~~  
~~mini balls fell in the little field in front of~~  
~~the Father's tent. It was so close that the guard~~  
~~in front of Gen. Comings' tent were ordered to take~~  
~~refuge behind trees. A few balls fell harmless~~  
~~within one or two feet of the Father's tent.~~  
~~the former tent~~  
 one even fell in it, & several struck the tree to which the tent was attached and buried themselves a couple of inches in it. A Cannon ball fell within ~~15~~ <sup>few</sup> feet of the tent, and another struck a large Sycamore tree with such violence that it cut it in two.

and a broken limb in falling, came very near killing the General and Capt. Cornyn who were sitting in their tent. As the Father had promised to go to Major Gook's this day to instruct the neophytes he started accompanied by Capt. Cornyn at 2 p.m. and an orderly, ~~who was to show the way to the General and promise to have at the Major's next day.~~ As soon as the Father arrived at there he commenced his instruction to Miss Bolles, who after three hours which continued for three hours, after which she said she was fully convinced that the Catholic Church was the only true Church of Christ. The next morning the Father heard the confessions of all the Catholic inmates of the house, and Miss and Anne appeared near so ~~much~~ penitent as Miss Bolles. Just as the priest had finished the imparting an instruction for her benefit ~~he and was about to administer the Sacrament of Baptism.~~ The General arrived and entered the Chapel ~~thence witnessing the~~ the General arrived, all then assembled in the Chapel where the Baptism took place, Miss Fanny being God mother for nearly all the converts for ~~fifty~~ miles around also took the ~~responsible~~ position in this ceremony. Mass was then celebrated and the General served it, after which the new convert was invested with the scapular. After breakfast the major took the party to his garden to show them his floral sections. The garden contained fully ~~ten~~ acres of land, and was laid out with the



greatest too to and Skill, ~~at 1 p. m.~~, The party  
 bade farewell to Major Cook, his <sup>wife</sup> ~~body~~ and the  
 other persons that were in the house and rode  
 off at a furious quick pace to the camp.  
 The next day the ~~Wather~~ <sup>and the general</sup> paid  
 a visit to General Frank Blair the General  
 Commanding the division, Gen Blair never before  
 manifested so much kindness and familiarity than  
 on this occasion, He felt evidently flattered by  
 the visit and tried to show his appreciation  
 of it by a great display of <sup>giving</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>liquor</sup>  
 as well as politeness, amiability and goodness  
 generally. \*

~~It~~ It is to be regretted that the  
 writer ~~has~~ has not had materials to  
 follow this sketch all through the  
 memorable siege of Vicksburg. The following  
 is a portion of Father Carver's diary  
 and evidently commences with the  
 reception of the news of the surrender  
 of the City of Vicksburg. It is ~~is~~ As it  
 is the only portion placed in our  
 hands and as the writer has not  
 materials to follow Father Carver's  
 career with the army to its close, her  
 sketch of the Reverend gentlemen,  
 in consequence, ends rather abruptly.