

Father Blummed O.B.
 shot white fore
 having a dying
 soldier

Chapter XXIV.

Father Sherman, Celebrate mess in camp - The march
 of the army - He takes charge of the hospitals around
 Winchester - Father Snoulders - The march to
 Gettysburg - The battle - The retreat and its hardships -
 Father Sherman goes to Mobile - He visits Bragg's army in
 Tennessee in order to attend to the Catholic soldiers there -
 His visit to Savannah and Charleston - A grandly terrible scene
 - Shells on all sides - He returns to the Army of Virginia
 Rev Hamilton

The battle of Chancellorsville ended after four
 days of heavy skirmishing and fighting, by
 Grant withdrawing his forces across the
 Rappahannock and falling back to his
 old camp ground. This was a trying
 time to Father Sherman. Night and day
 had he to labor attending to the temporal,
 as well as the spiritual work of the dying
 and wounded. Besides attending to his
 own men he had also to minister to
 numbers of the Federal wounded who had
 fallen into their hands. Among these were several
 of the Lusk Brigade to whom he gave special
 attention. He also had numbers of the
 Federal prisoners paroled as nurses to
 attend to their wounded comrades.
 On the 7th of May the army fell back

~~to their wounded companions~~ ^{May 1st} ~~On Sunday 1st~~
~~the army retreated to~~ ^{fell back to} Hamilton crossing and went
 into permanent Camp. Three days after, viz, Sunday
~~May 10th~~ ^{the 10th} it became generally known that the death
 of Jackson became generally known and there
 was universal ~~weeping~~ ^{mourning} throughout the Camp. On
 the following ^{day} Father ~~offered~~ ^{offered up} the holy
 Sacrifice of the Mass for ^{the} souls of the Catholics
~~of the regiment killed in the late and previous~~
~~battles.~~ ^{On} Every day until ^{the} 6th the men
~~made their every preparation for the celebration of the~~
~~Mass.~~ ^{On that day} the army ~~ceased~~ ^{gave}
 themselves up to religious devotion. On
 that day, the army moved and continued the march
 till the 9th ~~when~~ ^{where} the battle of Brandy Station
 was fought with ~~the usual success~~ ^{of the southern army}. The next
 morning the army moved up the valley in the direction
 of the Blue Ridge, and on the ~~evening of the~~ 13th ~~late~~
 arrived before Winchester ~~where~~ ^{then} now in possession
 of the Federal General Milroy. ~~By~~ ^{the next}
~~evening~~ ^{afternoon} Winchester was in possession of the ~~Boys~~
~~Crispian~~ ^{and} Milroy was ^{almost} ~~on the~~ ^{gloriously} ~~fighting~~ ^{to} ~~fighting~~
 Jerry. After the ~~the~~ ^{day} next Gen. Sewell asked
 Father ~~to~~ ^{to} take charge of the hospitals around
 Winchester. This he did after visiting all the ~~mo~~
~~Religious~~ ^{Religious} Father Anoulders to be a better nurse ~~th~~
 he had ^{him} appointed in his stead. After having
 created ~~the~~ ^{the} Anoulders in setting things to right

he started after his regiment the army to ~~join his~~
~~regiment~~ ~~then~~ on its way to Maryland and
overtook it ~~within two that night~~ within two
miles of Shepherdstown and continued within
its march to Plainfield, Pennsylvania, and
back to ~~over~~ Gettysburg, which place was reached
on Wednesday, July 1st, and on that same day
the famous battle of that place commenced. After
three days hard fighting the Confederate forces were com-
pelled to retire, and the labors of Father Sheeran
on this occasion were almost unendurable; for between
~~this~~ ^{the} attendance of the wounded on the field and
transporting of the ambulances in the retreat
he scarcely had had an hour's ~~sleep~~ cessation
from work during that time, and the ~~small~~
~~following~~ ^{or} the following three days and nights. On the
morning of the 7th the army reached Beagertown and
here Father ~~Sheeran~~ ^{introduced} The Rev Father
Moran, the pastor of the place & a gentleman named
W Leary to Gen Lee. During the conversation which
passed between them the General said he was ~~only~~ ^{came}
on a visit to the enemy's country and showed them
that he had the power to retaliate on them if he so
desired. He ~~also~~ ^{and} lamented that he had always to
throw his brave troops against overwhelming
numbers of the enemy. Lee in his retreat determined
to cross the Potomac, but that night when he
reached it, ~~he had to draw up his army in line of~~

There was a very high flood and so had to draw
 up his army in line of battle and prepare the pontoons.
 During these were not ready till the 13th and during ^{the time of preparations}
~~that time~~ ^{much} skirmishing took place. On the morning
 of the 14th all were on the Virginia side of the Potomac.
 By the evening of the 15th the army encamped at
 Martinsburg, & on the 22nd started for Winchester.
 & on the following afternoon passed through ^{the latter place} in the
 direction of the blue ridge, which it crossed on the
 27th. On the 29th St Lee went into Camp within
 four miles of Madison, Co. Va. The next morning Father
^{Shannon} started for Richmond and for Altar breads and
 other necessary articles & returned on the 10th of
 August. On the 13th ~~numbers of~~ ^{many} ~~prisoners~~ ^{prisoners} were thrown
~~out and numbers of the men behaved themselves very badly.~~
 On the 15th after Mass Father ^{Shannon} had all the of-
 ficers of his regiment called together and rebuked them
 severely for their conduct. On the 17th he ~~was~~ commenced
 to visit to all the catholics of the army in order to
 give them a chance to make their peace with God
 before active operations would commence. During
 this mission he received many converts into the church
 and ^{was} personally thanked by Generals Euell & John-
 son for his denunciation of vice. On the 14th
 Sept, the army ~~again~~ was again in motion, but
 only proceeded a few miles ~~from~~ ^{from} Orange Co. Va.
 where it again halted till the 19th when it
 moved ~~by way of~~ ^{towards} Roanoke Ford right over the

some road where Jackson went during his Maryland Campaign the year previous, Jackson's memory ^{now} rushed to the front to every ^{the mind of} man of the army and several of them actually shed tears. About noon this day the army diverged from the road leading to Racon Ford and by a circuitous route reached a place called ^{Warrentown} Warrentown Ford, where it encamped. Here the Father Sheeran ^{visited} some ^{other} liturgies which he did not ^{visit} ^{before} ^{the war of which had} attend before. Among a Maryland Cavalry Regiment sent a special request for him to do so. While here also Father Sheeran washed his shirts and articles of apparel; This however was not his first time to do so. On October 8th orders to march were received and in less than an hour the boys were on the road and in a few hours were across the Rapidan. On the 12th they crossed the Rappahannock, and during that afternoon ^{night} Father Sheeran's overcoat was stolen and ^{he had} to wear a blanket next day. In this apparel he met General Ewell and staff and rode with them ~~three miles, a good deal of the time~~. The General laughed heartily at the idea of the men commencing to steal from them, being the priest. Between Bristol and ^{Warrentown} Culpeper the troops had a brush with the enemy whom they succeeded in routing. As it was evident that the latter were ~~make~~ making for Centerville the Genl Lee resolved to follow them no further and ordered his wagon train to be removed to Warrentown. ~~The day~~ ^{that} Father Sheeran hearing of

several Catholics ^{were} among the prisoners taken
 visited them. The ~~or~~ next day Lee made a retrograde
 movement, in the direction of the Rappahannock which
 he crossed ~~on the 24th~~ and went into Camp.
 Father Sheeran now being informed that the army
 would remain in Camp for some time procured
 leave of absence ^{for thirty days} and started for Mobile for ~~things~~
 articles of his ^{sent to him from New Orleans} ~~remaining there~~ some months previous.
 He went by way of Richmond Macon, Ga. Montgomery
 & Selma Ala. ~~Along the way he met with~~ ^{in a very interesting} ~~various~~
~~either from~~ Soldiers on furlough, refugees from New
 Orleans, or residents whose acquaintance he had pre-
 viously ^{formed} greeted him at every place he stopped.
 On the 18th he arrived at Mobile and instantly re-
 paired ^{to the} ~~to the~~ Bishop's house who was very glad to
 see him. ~~That afternoon and evening~~ ^{in the afternoon} Father Sheeran
 and the Bishop ~~talking~~ ^{talked} over the scenes of the bloody drama
^{of Meadon} ~~which was enacted in Virginia & Kentucky~~ ^{of the} ~~the~~. The
 next morning after Mass Father ^{Sheeran} ~~and~~ in company with
 Father Duncan visited the Infirmary and general
 Hospital which were under the care of the Sisters of
 Charity. The visitation ~~coment~~ ^{coment} the Grubstake ~~Tennies~~
 and several New Orleans refugees & Louisiana sol-
 diers stationed there. Father Sheeran remained at
 Mobile until the 27th when at the request of the
 Bishop he proceeded to Bragg's army in Tennessee
 the Catholics of the Bishop ^{which} ~~learned~~ were in
 a sad state for want of ~~a~~ priests. He went by

way of Montgomery & Atlanta and arrived
at the Headquarters of the Army, ^{which was then near Dalton} on Dec. 7th,
All along the way he was met with the greatest
^{respect and attention} ~~overtures~~, At Atlanta he met Gen. ~~Leslie~~ ^{Adams} who
telegraphed to Col Brent, Bragg's ~~and de Camps~~ ^{Assistant}
General, in order to announce ^{that} Father Sheeran
was on his way to the camp as well as to procure
a pass, The pass being procured, On arriving
at the headquarters he first met Col
Brent who received him kindly with many
marks of friendship. Having handed him a
letter of introduction from Bishop Cumbeon the
Col ~~then~~ said he was most glad to see him,
and instantly provided him with a horse
and ~~carriage~~ ^{orderly} whilst he would stay. He then
proceeded. Father ~~then~~ proceeded to the
residence of a Mr Tucker, a Catholic of the place
~~at which he remained while in the service~~ whose
house he made his headquarters while he remained
with the army of the Tennessee. The following morn-
ing he visited. Commenced his missionary labors,
He first visited Capt Lemmer, Col Ines and Col
Brent, and several other officers for the purpose
of getting information concerning the position or location
of the various commands ~~of~~ in order to make ar-
rangements for his intended visit. There were sta-
tioned from three to eight miles from Dalton. The
following morning after procuring a horse and carrier.

he visited the 5th Company of the Washington Artillery
 Formers Battery and Adams Brigade, and met many
 an old acquaintance and ^{many} familiar face among
 them. The next day he met with Father ~~Blumel~~ ^{Blumel}
^{Blumel} a Canadian Father who had just arrived in Camp
~~(and with clergyman currently entered on their labors)~~
 and with clergyman currently entered on their labors
 went to work. On the 12th they were joined by
 Father O'Reilly, and never did three missionaries
 affect more in so short a space of time ^{as of late} these
 three ~~good~~ ^{pious} fathers. They brought sinners to repent-
 ance who had not been to their duty for numbers
 of years, and were the means of checking vices ^{immense} ~~(not)~~
~~of the character of this~~ ~~that were not only~~
~~not only of the Catholic soldiers, but of~~ ~~many~~
 not alone of the Catholic soldiers, but of ^{many} ~~immense~~
 fathers as well. Among the Kentuckians Father Shan-
 found many intelligent and well instructed Catholics.
 On the After having visited all the commands of the army
 and given missions to each and hearing that Father
 Curran was ~~also~~ coming ~~as~~ to assist the good priests
 already ^{at} work Father ^{Shan} thought that he now might
 leave and regain the army in Virginia. On the
 morning of the 24th he visited the Tennessee Camp,
 a regiment composed entirely of Catholics & introduced
 Father Blumel to the several ^{Catholic} officers of the army.
~~On the 24th~~ ^{On the 24th} he started for Macara and on
 the following afternoon arrived there. Christmas
 Eve he assisted Father Hamilton in hearing ~~the~~

* Father Blumel was shot dead at the battle of Jonesboro,
 Nov. 1862, while ^{preparing} a dying soldier - ~~father~~

confessions, ~~Father Hamilton~~ and ~~Midnight Mass~~
~~Father~~ and preached a sermon at the Mid-
 night Mass which was celebrated by Father
 Hamilton. On the 28th he left Macon for Fort
 Valley ^{there} visited a number of ~~refugees~~ New Orleans
 refugees, among whom were a Mr & Miss Gleason
 of New Orleans, formerly members of his congregation in
 the Crescent City, Miss Gleason being a young lady of rare
 accomplishments; religious, prepossessing and gentle & talented.
 Father Sheeran thought best to place her under the care of the
 Sisters in Richmond until events would permit her to
 return to her native City. On Tuesday January 5th 1864
 joined by Mr & Miss Gleason Father ~~Sheeran~~ started with his
~~private~~ charge back to Macon, Mr Gleason there bid
 the worthy pair good bye & returned the same evening
 to Fort Valley. On the following day Father ~~Sheeran~~ had
 all their baggage booked to Richmond, and started with
 his charge via Savannah and Charleston. On the morning
 of January 8th they arrived at Savannah and drove
 straight to the Bishop's house Verot's house. After break-
 fast Miss Gleason was sent to the residence of a worthy
 lady named Prendergast, where she ~~remained~~ ^{stayed} while
 she remained in Savannah. During the day Father Sheeran
 met at the Bishop's house Fathers Dufast, Whalin,
 Creil & Prendergast. ~~Part of a group of fugitives fled to them~~
^{who were} Captured by the ^{federal} ~~Yankees~~ at the fall of Fort
 Hamilton and who was afterwards detained as a prisoner
 of war for six months. Father Creil was at that time

the oldest Missionary in ^{the} South & supposed to be
the best Mathematician in the country. As Father
Sheeran wished to view the City Father Prendergast
acted as his Chapereon. After visiting the Barracks
the Park and other public places, they repaired
to Mrs Prendergast's residence where they spent the
evening. This lady was a pious Catholic of Irish
descent. Two of her sons joined the Southern army
at the outbreak of the war, of whom one died of his
wounds at once in hospital from wounds received
at one of the early battles. One of her daughters
was a nun; and another has since joined the priory
hood; such was the family into which Miss Sheeran
was marrying. On the following morning in Company
with Father Whelan ^{at Father Sheeran's} ~~he~~ visited the Sisters of Mercy, the hospitals & the residence of Mrs
Prendergast & the mother of his New Companion. That
afternoon he heard confessions at the request of
the Bishop, and the next day (Sunday) preached
the sermon at the principal Mass. After Mass
the good bishop congratulated him but said he
thought he had forgotten something. Then, he con-
tinued "You commenced your sermon in the name of
Jesus and Mary. I thought you would kneel down
and say Ave Maria, Yes! I thought you forgot
that's the way we do in France." But Bishop you
know I am no Frenchman" Yes! I know but we
do that way in France and I thought you forgot,

But Father it was very good; come now and let us have some dinner." The next day Father Sheeran in company with ~~two other~~ Father Pendergast and two other friends visited almost all the places of note down the Savannah river, including Fort Jackson, Fort Lee, Battery Lawton or equal battery, the Lady's Gunboat Savannah & Fort Karlow. In returning home that afternoon he made the acquaintance of several Confederate officers among ~~them~~ ^{them} General Anderson of Georgia. The following morning Father Pendergast took him to visit the Bonaventure Cemetery, the Thunderbolt battery, & the Catholic Convent, where at the grave of Bishop Garland the party recited their prayers and then returned to prepare for their journey to Charleston. ^{on Wednesday Jan 13th of the year 1864} At 12 M. Father Sheeran with his ^{pair} ~~four~~ charge started for Charleston, where they arrived at 6 P. M. the same day and drove at once to the residence of Father Sullivan S. of St Joseph's Church. The New Father received them in a most agreeable manner and then placed domiciled Mrs Cantwell with a Catholic lady named Mrs Cantwell who lived across the street from his own house. During the night the shells from the Federal ^{who were then bombarding the city} ~~Army of War~~ could be distinctly heard over the lower part of the city. The next morning Father Sheeran visited Bishop Lynch who was still living near the ruins of his cathedral. The bishop gave him a cordial welcome to Charleston, but lamented that he could not invite him to stay with him during his sojourn.

as he (the Bishop) himself was that day compelled
 to abandon his house on account of the proximity of
 the shells. Whilst they were conversing a large shell burst
 about ^{quite near} ~~20 yards from~~ the house. After remaining some
 time with the ~~good~~ Bishop the two clergymen visited
 the scene of the great fire in 1863, the bombarded part
 of the city, the breastworks & batteries on the wharves, the
 splendid Convent and Academy, erected by the Sisters of
 Mercy. These latter, as well as the Chapel there, attached,
 had suffered from the dreadful missiles of War and
 were therefore reluctantly abandoned by the good sisters.
 The Chapel was entirely destroyed with the exception
 of the Altar and Statue of the blessed Virgin, which
 miraculously escaped any injury. That afternoon the
 Bishop spent some time with the two Rev gentlemen
 at Father Sullivan's house, and told Father Sheeran
 that whenever he came to the diocese he had all
 the faculties ^{that he} the Bishop could give and ~~as had the~~
~~that of his Congregation.~~ In the evening the two Fathers
 paid a visit to Mr Cantwell's residence, to see that
 good lady, ^{& family} as well as Mrs Gleeson. At the request
 of the Bishop, ^{on the following morning they} ~~the following morning they~~ met his
 Lordships. ~~They~~ ^{He} ~~and the~~ ^{accompanied} by Mrs
 Gleeson met his Lordships at the ~~Camp~~ ^{house} from
 which could be seen the harbor and in fact the
 whole City. The Bishop had with him a powerful
 glass and an ~~affair~~ ^{affair} ~~two or~~ and showed them
 the various Islands, Batteries, rivers, positions of the

Federal fleet, as well as those of the Confederate forces on land, whilst the viewing of the harbor an engagement occurred between one of the batteries in the harbor and one of the Iron of War ^{batteries} in the harbor. It lasted about an hour and a half, but the scene was truly grand to those in the Capito as they could see every shot fired, As Father Sheeran had been requested to preach on the following Sunday, he retired to his room after dinner to reflect on his sermon, but was not long in his meditations before he was disturbed by the whizz, whizz, whizz, of a terrible shell coming eddies over the house and falling in a lot some fifty yards distant. As this was a quarter of a mile higher up than any other shell had yet reached it was evident ^{that} the ~~enemy~~ ^{Federals} had opened a new battery and the whole neighborhood was in ^{great} alarm, soon another shell came in the same direction, and then another and another and continued in this way for nearly two hours. Father Sheeran now, feeling himself in an unpleasant position began to lament that his curiosity led him to be ~~located~~ ^{located}, not caring however so much for himself as for his own safety as for that of his Ward. He had her however instantly removed out of danger & under the care of the Sisters who were then residing in the suburbs of the town, and removed himself to new quarters for the night. The shelling continued over the lower part of the city all night, which made Father Sheeran feel

very uneasy for the good Father Sullivan, who
 remained at his house all night, and in the morning
 early ^{he} repaired to see if he were yet living. & He found
 him all right. As this day was Saturday ~~parish~~
~~was~~ Father Sullivan sent around word that Father
 Sheeran was to preach the following day. The latter
 celebrated ~~the~~ ^{early} ~~recess~~ ^{at the early mass} ~~at the~~ ^{at the early mass} ~~the~~
~~Doyle's principal mass the one at which Father~~
~~Sheeran was to preach.~~ At the ~~10 o'clock~~ ^{early} celebration
 Father Sullivan made the following announcement in his
 broken English, "My Brethren the Rev Genl. you see
 now at the altar is a Redemptorist Father and
 the Chaplain of Gen Lee's army. He will preach for you to-
 day at last mass and I know will tell you many
 good things. He has stood upon twenty battle
 fields and was not afraid; you must not then be
 afraid of the Gun the shells to-day; but come and hear
 the good father; but not and not only come your-
 selves but bring your neighbours, ^{and} immense concourse
 of people attended the 10 o'clock mass the celebration
 of which was ended before the sermon commenced in
 order that if ~~the~~ any shelling took place the congregation
 could be dispersed at any time; all having got
 the full benefit of the ~~the~~ ^{early} ~~sacrifice of the mass~~
 The choir sang some of its most beautiful pieces.
 The sermon was on Mortal Sin, and was listened
 to with the most profound attention for about
 half an hour, when suddenly the whole congregation

~~and by mistake set their ears, and in a few seconds~~
 comes a hundred pounds parrot shell, ^{whirring} ~~whirring~~ directly over the roof of the church and then
 plunges right into the earth some fifty yards
 distant, suddenly a wild ^{cry} was heard on the
 organ loft, and something tumbled down stairs.
 Some half dozen people ran to the door and most
 of the congregation jumped to their feet. For a
 second Father Sheeran himself felt panic stricken
 but soon overcame his feelings and addressed the
 congregation in an authoritative tone, commanding them
 to keep their places saying "What are you afraid
 of? Do you think God is not able to protect you
 from ~~parrot~~ shells, is he not able to protect you
 in the church as well as out of it? Keep still, there
 is not one bit of danger." Before giving the congregation
 any further time for reflection, he resumed his sermon
 and fused into it as much animation as possible.
^{The congregation} ~~The congregation~~ seemed to forget all about the shells
 and not being disturbed by another, they listened
 during ^{a full} ~~another~~ half hour with the most earnest
 attention. After dinner Mass Father Sheeran was
 visited by ^{young} ~~young~~ souls of Gen. Beauregard's staff.
 The Bishop dined ^{that day} with the two ~~good~~ Fathers and
 then took Father Sheeran out to view the fortifications
 around Charleston. Both returned to Father Sullivan's
 in the evening where after a substantial supper
 he bid the bishop good bye and returned to his quarters.

On the next morning, ~~Wed.~~ Monday, January 18th,
after bidding Father Dillon's Good Bye, he, with
his precious Charge, left for Wilmington N. C., and
at 6 o'clock on the morning of the 19th reach there.
After spending a couple of very pleasant days with
Dr. Concoran the resident pastor of the place Father Sheeran
took the cars for Petersburg where he arrived, at
2 P. M., on the morning of the 2nd Feb. At the
request of Father Imhof, Pastor of Petersburg Father
Sheeran promised to stay over Sunday and preach
for him. His Ward was taken care of by the Miss
Keelys, worthy young Catholic ladies of that place.
During his short sojourn at Petersburg he was visited
by many of the boys of the Washington Artillery,
who were then stationed around that city. On
Sunday he preached according to promise and
left the following afternoon for Rich-
mond, where he arrived at 4 P. M. The same evening
and instantly repaired to the Convent where the
Sisters received them with their usual kindness. The
Bishop who happened to be at the Convent at the
time manifested some pleasure at his return and
treated ^{his} travelling companion with much kindness.
Having partaken of some refreshments prepared
by the good Sisters Father Sheeran at the his
request accompanied him home. After having set-
tled Miss Gleason with the Good Sisters Father Sheeran
attended to some business in Richmond until February 5th.

and then started for his brigade which was some
 seven miles from ^{Port House} ~~the~~ on the Fredericksburgh
 Plank road. He reached camp about 2 P.M. in
 time to have dinner. Here ^{he} was ~~the~~ surrounded
 by many swarms of soldiers who welcomed him warmly
 and heartily shook his hands, many of them saying
 "we missed you much." ^{The 44th Regt} ~~the~~ the division
 received marching orders and ^{he} ~~went~~ off for Portons
 Ford ^{instantly} ~~immediately~~ anxious to know the cause of
 this movement. Father ^{moved} ~~went~~ to the head
 of the column. As he rode ^{forward} ~~passed~~ the troops he received
 many a "How do you do father?" and "when did you
 return?" ~~from the officers and men.~~ After coming
 up with General Johnson, the Division Commander,
 Gen. J. D. Colman and the other members of the General
 staff, welcomed him back saying "Father we
 have missed you." The General then informed him
 that the Federals were crossing at Portons Ford,
 which was nine miles ahead. When about a mile on
 the way a rain fell as if the flood gates of heaven
 opened. When within three miles of Portons Ford
 the loud and frequent reports of Artillery were
 heard. Soon to the distant sound of the distant
 musketry ~~much to be~~ was also audible, and
 the division now pressed forward at a double quick
 regardless of the mud and darkness, at a double
 quick to participate in the deadly strife. About
 8 o'clock the Federal troops had again crossed

the Rapidan and all was quiet again since
~~the falling of the rain and winds~~, Campfires
were soon lighted along the Southern lines and
as this was a sure signal that no other advance of
the enemy was expected that night, Father Sheeran began
to look about where he would locate himself
for the night. As he was wet, cold and hungry,
and as the troops had taken neither tents nor
blankets with them he found himself in a rather
unpleasant position. At the request of one of the
drivers he slept in an ambulance, but what a
night! It was cold and he was wet and without
blankets. ~~But this was not all, There were four
horses tied to the wheels of the ambulance. For
about an hour these poor animals made the most
unharmonious noise imaginable, the corner they
so gradually descended, and of course even with the
most comfortable bed no sleep was attainable.
Having disposed of their corn and no doubt feeling
the good effects of it, they began the exercise of
rolling, and now commenced the father's misery.
One would give the ambulance a jerk in one direction
another would soon counteract this by a sudden
pull in another and thus for nearly two hours
would did they rock ~~us~~ not to sleep, but
out of all patience and frequently ~~out of~~
~~the ambulance~~, Toward morning he fell into a
slumber from which he was disturbed by the rebels.~~

of musketry in the direction of the river. About
10 A. M. ~~after making~~ the road to the front and
found the boys in good spirits enjoying themselves
around the camp fires. About 10 A. M. hearing that
there were some of his regiment wounded he started for
the hospital some four miles distant. Arriving there
he only found four wounded, but ~~he~~ ^{heard that} ~~there was a man~~
~~Catholic~~ ~~who died in the morning from his wounds.~~ Having
been requested by Col. ~~Rankin~~ to return to ~~Camp~~ ⁱⁿ
order to take rest and refreshment, ~~and see of a battle~~ ^{who said that in case}
~~he would send him word the Father, after~~
~~visiting the hospital, he paid a further.~~ On Sunday
the following morning the Brigade returned to Camp but on the 1st next
afternoon was ordered for picket duty for a
week to Mortonsford. Father Sheeran of course
accompanied them. And on reaching Gen. ~~Stuart's~~ ^{head}
~~quarters~~ ^{the Gen. & Col.} ~~invited him to visit~~
~~his company with them all the picket posts ex-~~
~~tending along the Rapidan some four miles.~~ After
remaining a week the brigade returned home to camp
on the way back Father ~~Sheeran~~ ^{was} visited by request
Gen. ~~Emell~~ ^{and} lady. The latter although respectful
to ~~Catholic~~ ^{Dogmas} was very fond of discussing re-
ligious subjects. She opened with Father Sheeran
and the responses of the latter made the General
laugh heartily and caused the lady to cut short
her controversy. Having returned to camp, a

for the brigade
 on Feb 17th a mission was opened the following
 morning by Fathers Sheeran & Smolders. It ended
 on February 28th when Father Smolders went
 to Charleston to assist ~~the~~ ^{with} the Easter
 Confessions. During that time almost every Catholic
 in the brigade ~~attended~~ went to confession and ~~Communion~~
 with many converts were also made. On Wednesday
 2nd March at 4 ~~pm~~ ^{pm} order were given to march
 in the direction of Chancellorville. During that
 evening ~~Gen~~ ^{Gen} Meade had pushed the head of his division
 across the Rapidan, since then the battle of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Gettysburg~~
~~was~~ ^{was} fought which ended in the retreat of
 the Federals across the Rapidan. Everything
 appearing quiet till the ~~evening~~ ^{1st} of the Father Sheeran
 visited Richmond on business. ~~He returned~~ ^{He returned} on the 14th to D.C.
 On March 23rd two of the divisions ~~Johnson and~~
 Rhoads fought a regular pitched battle with
 snow balls, led ~~by~~ ^{by} ~~the~~ ^{the} commanding Johnson
 and Rhoads division. Johnson's men coming
 off victorious. From there until the 16th he heard
 the confessions each ~~day~~ ^{day} in the camp of the Irish bat-
 talion. On the ~~evening~~ ^{evening} of the ~~16th~~ ^{16th} ~~he~~ ^{he} arrived at
 the headquarters of his own brigade but found
 that they were off again on picket duty. The
 next morning (St. Patrick's day) after mass accord-
 ing to ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~1st~~ ^{1st} ~~he~~ ^{he} started to the camp of Father
 Smolders, Brigade in order to give a mission there.
 That evening while walking through the camp Father

in order to see what was going on. Father Sheeran was agreeably surprised to hear, ~~not the profanity which is usually heard in strange camps, but the sturdy voices of many of our~~ members of the Catholic soldiers ~~united in an adjacent tent united in reciting the rosary of the Blessed Virgin. The good soldiers who were thus engaged in this devotion were from~~ proved to be from the parish of St. Alphonsus in New Orleans. After spending four days with the Brigade and with fruitful results Father ~~left~~ left for the Prayer battery composed principally of young men from Savannah Ga, many of whom were Catholics, but had not a priest to visit them since the beginning of the war. They were in Camp at Somerville Ford, and on reaching there ^{he} was treated by the Captain (although an sepreacher) with all possible marks of respect. During that afternoon he provided him with a comfortable tent with a good fire, place where he heard confessions during the afternoon. The next morning ^{he} said Mass in an adjacent house and gave Communion to all the Catholics of the Company but three, and had the Reverend Capt as one of his audience during the sermon. After bidding the boys good bye he started for Posey's brigade but the ^{members} ~~members~~ were so much ^{affected} ~~affected~~ that he determined to visit his own Camp that evening and return in a couple days. The day previous, viz March 23, two of the

