

Chapter XXV

Father Sheerans Missionary labors continued -
 An important Council - An officers office -
 The horrors of a little field ~~and a little~~ -
 A visit to the grave of Stonewall Jackson -
 The march to Washington - The battle of
 Manchester - General Mulligans' death -
~~The Father Sheeran & Father Sheerans~~ - Father
~~Sheerans~~ ^{his} arrest and imprisonment -
 His release - He leaves the army and
 returns to Richmond and continues to preach

~~on April 20th~~ ^{Father Sheerans} During his mission he
 received many converts into the church, among whom
 were was a Capt, Cleveland, son of a ^{distinguished} ~~celebrated~~
 Gen of New Orleans, On the following day Father
 Sheerans ^{visited} Gen, Cwell, and who gave him an
 orderly and ~~presented~~ ^{gave} him a small tent for
 his own use, The General on this occasion asked
 him if he would have service at ~~that~~ ^{his} quarters
 every other Sunday, ^{Father} ~~he~~ told him not, That there
 were too many Catholics who needed his services
 but that he might preach for them occasionally
 That ~~some day~~ ^{on the 25th} orders were given
 Orders were given to strike tents and reduce
 baggage, ~~finding that in the orders there was no~~ ^{As there was no}
 provision made for the Chaplain in the orders
 an officious ~~Boardman~~ ^{Officer} named Boardman a Capt,
 on Gen Staffords staff, thought to prevent Father
 Sheerans from bringing his tent along, ~~but the good foot~~
 Father ^{showed} ~~not only~~ ^{did} do so that General Lee offered
 him a place at his own headquarters, On April
 30th the army got the route in the direction
 of Martins Ford, Father ^{Sheerans} then started for
 Richmond on some business, and returned ^{in a few days} ~~again~~
 to A. C. H. on May 4th which place he reached
 about 4 P. M. and there found his orderly
 waiting him with his horse. Hearing that the
 Federal troops had crossed the Rapidan and
 Germania Ford, and that the whole ~~army~~ ^{Confederate} army

was in his house. The father ~~pushed~~ ^{pushed} rapidly on after
 his command, ~~fearing lest a little might be~~
~~fought~~ and the next morning about 8 A.M.
 came up with the brigade which ~~was~~ ^{was} then drawn
 up in line of battle on the right of the Plank
 Road running from Calpepper to Fredericksburg.
 After about two hours the troops again advanced
 and in another hour the terrible contest known
 as the second battle of the Wilderness commenced.
 For two days this ~~terrible~~ ^{great} battle raged and
 as the Federal army suffered terribly, their wounds
 was on this occasion principally attended to by
 the Confederate surgeons. Father Sheeran was kept
 busy among them, baptized several and attended
 them in their last moments. ~~On the 7th the day~~
~~after the battle~~ The number of legs, arms, feet and
 hands amputated were enormous. On the morning of
 the eighth 8th the army moved in the direction
 of Spottsylvania. ~~On the 9th~~ the good father accom-
 panying the medical surgeons and ambulances.
 During this morning forenoon the advance of both
 armies met near Spottsylvania and had a
 sharp fight, & that night ~~camped~~ ^{the} the Southern
 Army ~~camped~~ ^{camped} near by. ~~That night~~ ^{During the} ~~shermishing~~ ^{fight} took place
 between the pickets of both armies. This was continued all
 next day with occasional shell passing. For the
 next four days ~~shermish~~ ^{severe} fighting took place during
 which Johnson's division was ~~entirely~~ ^{separately} captured and

~~disorganized~~ scattered, On the ^{next} following day ~~(18th)~~
 Sunday May 13th, a change in flank was made
 and on the following two days ~~much~~ skirmishing
 was kept up and severe fight took place ~~on~~
 but no battle if except a severe fight between
 Breckenridge and Sigel's brigade in which the latter
 was defeated. During the afternoon of the 17th Father
 Sheeran visited the ^{general} ~~general~~ wounded. He found that
 many of them were several days without having
 their wounds dressed, and some of which were com-
 plete masses of maggots. There were several Catholics
 among them who had formerly belonged to ~~the Irish~~
 Brigade. He heard their confessions, anointed some,
 called the attention of the ~~surgeons~~ surgeons and
 nurses to their wounds and aided in washing and
 dressing them. On the 18th ~~the~~ Gen Grant
~~was~~ being reinforced by Louisiana Irish Legion, the troops
 from along the N. R., and from the heavy batteries
 around Washington Baltimore and other places,
 made a desperate attack on the Southern lines.
 That day's ~~little~~ battle and a skirmish the
 next morning gave the surgeons nurses & Chaplains
 of both armies ^{work enough} for several days. On the morning
 of the 21st the army moved in the direction of
 Hanover Junction and arrived there the next day.
 During this march several of the best soldiers broke down,
 men who had never missed a battle ~~for years~~ ^{or weeks}, absent an
 hour from post. The surgeons of the regiment had

followed the Brigade that morning so that there was
 no one left to see after the poor fellows but Father
 Sheeran himself. As there were a great many empty
 ambulances the good Father asked Dr. Stephens <sup>(later promoted
to Division Surgeon)</sup> to let these poor brave, but now broken
 tired soldiers ride in them. The Dr. replied that they might
 follow after and if they should break ^{down} ^{as Corp. McConse} they might get on.
 The Father Sheeran thought too hard treatment for men
 who were always at their post and insisted on the men
 being carried, but the sapient Doctor paid no attention
^{and} rode off rapidly, the ambulances following and
 leaving the ~~hand~~ ^{poor} broken down soldiers to shift for
 themselves or fall into the hands of the enemy. ~~This~~
~~was a very fatiguing night for the Father.~~ Being pretty
 well broken down by the almost incessant labors of
 the previous ~~two or three weeks~~, ^{Father Sheeran} ~~he~~ was near giving out
 this night. A hundred times did he recover himself from
 falling off his horse, as sleep had overpowered him.
~~A thousand times was he tempted to tie his horse under~~
~~to and go to sleep in a fence corner, but the thought~~
~~of falling into the hands of the enemy would keep his~~
~~memory and remove such temptations.~~ Being no longer
 able to remain on his horse without exposing himself
 to a fall he dismounted and led his old grey. ~~or rather~~
~~had him to follow him.~~ This was no better for he soon
 fell asleep whilst walking and was in danger of being
 trampled by the horse or run ^{over} by some of the wagon.
~~So mounting again he continued his journey suffering increased~~

~~morning~~ ~~till about 10 o'clock in the morning~~ ~~when he came~~
~~up with his Brigade camped in a field, the wagoners~~
~~and hospital nurses had already commenced cooking~~
~~supper, and although without food from early the~~
~~morning before, he threw himself down on the ground~~
~~and slept till daylight. On awaking his first~~
~~thoughts were about these poor men left behind~~
~~and was satisfied ^{that} they fell into the hands of the~~
~~enemy. Father ^{then} reported Dr Stevens to Col York~~
~~and Gen Euell. The latter settled the affair by telling~~
~~the ^{Father} to give tickets to such men to get into the~~
~~ambulances and then to let him know who would re-~~
~~fuse to carry them. In the morning of the 23rd, a~~
~~line of battle was formed on the north Anna River, left~~
~~resting on Fredericksburgh R.R., and the night ex-~~
~~tending in the direction of the Central. The cause of the rapid~~
~~march to the junction from Spotsylvania was now evident.~~
~~The enemy by a sudden movement thought to cross~~
~~the North Anna and get possession of the junction~~
~~before them but in this they were foiled. Sooner~~
~~had they taken up the position than the Federals~~
~~appeared in force on the opposite side of the river,~~
~~and instantly the dogs of war were let loose. During~~
~~the evening and night intrenchments were set up. From~~
~~thence until the 27th ^{being} skirmishing and ^{some} sharp~~
~~fighting took place, but no actual battle. On that~~
~~forenoon Gen Grant moved down towards the Pamunkey~~
~~River and ^{the} ^{Union} army moved ^{after} via Taylorsville,~~

in the direction of Richmond, The next morning on reaching
 Beale's Station ~~it was~~ the Federal army ^{was} seen moving
 toward Coal Harbor, and ~~th~~ were the Confederate wagon
 trains were ^{then} encamped near a yellow tavern, within seven
 miles of Richmond, Father Sheeran and Smolders then held
 a consultation which resulted in Father Smolders remaining
 with the army while Father Sheeran proceeded to Richmond
 to stay there the following day and procure some clean clothes.
 On Monday May 30th hearing that the ~~great~~ Federal
 army had crossed the ~~Rapidan~~ ^{Potomac} and were making toward
 Cold Harbor on the north side of the Chickahominy,
 and that the Southern Army was occupying a line
 between them and the latter river with their right
 wing on Cold Harbor, and their left some distance
^{west of the} from Mechanicsville road; Father Sheeran started in quest
 of his command, Some four miles from Mechanicsville ^{where} ~~the~~
~~he~~ reached the hospital of his brigade. ~~He~~ found that
 his services were much needed. ~~At~~ During the forenoon a sharp fight
~~had taken~~ place between Gen. Rhodes' ^{command} and part of the Federal ^{troops},
 in which a large number on both sides were killed and wounded,
 all the wounded were brought to the Confederate hospital, Among
 them were many Catholics to whom Father Sheeran ^{gave} the utmost
 attention ~~to~~, ~~that~~ ~~some~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~there~~ ~~were~~ ~~Beale's~~ ^{very} ^{near} ^{every}
 day without any thing being advance being made on either side,
 but with terrible slaughter, on that day Father Sheeran
~~again went to Richmond for clean clothes and~~
~~turned the following Monday (June 1st) on the following~~
~~day Tuesday he reached his brigade and that night~~

~~remained at the hospital attending to the wounded Federals~~
~~immediately brought in, ^{during the afternoon} on the morning of June 9th~~
~~the hospital was removed to James farm, where~~
~~at 4 1/2 A M on June 10th Mass was offered up~~
~~On Saturday June 11th again visited Richmond~~
~~and at the Infirmary at 6 A M on Sunday~~
~~and start for the front at 9 1/2 A M where~~
~~General and George Perkins, members of Congress~~
~~from Louisiana, ^{were} to pay a visit to the La.~~
~~Brigade and address the men, Father Sheeran~~
~~was introduced to these gentlemen for the first~~
~~time at the Headquarters of Gen. York. The Brigade~~
~~band was present and played some of their favorite~~
~~airs; All the men of the Command were present to~~
~~and listened with much attention to the remarks~~
~~of these made by these gentlemen. Both the members~~
~~and Father Sheeran took dinner with the General~~
~~and after some agreeable table talk the members re-~~
~~turned to Richmond & Father Sheeran left for~~
~~the hospital. The night of the 13th the battles of the~~
~~Hidderness being fought ^{Engels corps} the army moved and the route~~
~~passed. However juncton Mechanicsville and encamped~~
~~on the 16th within six miles of Charlottesville and on the~~
~~18th reached Lynchburg where Gen. Euell had~~
~~a smart engagement with the Gen. Hunter, and who retreated~~
~~on arriving ^{at Lynchburg} Father Sheeran proceeded to the ^{residence} house~~
~~of Father Teas, the pastor of the place and there met~~
~~Father Soulders~~

A column under Gen Early
~~part of the army~~

On the night of the 13th ~~Gen Early's Corps~~ ^{part of the army} was ordered to Lynchburg where it arrived on the ~~14th~~ ^{afternoon of the 13th} and attacked Gen Hunter, then in front of Lynchburg. Hunter retreated in the direction of Liberty, and Early pursued him next morning. On arriving at Lynchburg Father Sheeran proceeded to the house of Father Seers, pastor of the place, where he remained till the morning of the 21st when he again started after the army. ^{the} On the afternoon of the following ^{day} he passed through ~~Liberty~~ ^{called upon hospitals} and found a good many soldiers wounded, principally Federals. After attending to them, accompanied by his orderly, he again started on his after ~~his boys~~ ^{the army}. That night both slept in the woods, and in the afternoon of the 23rd overtook Breckinridge's corps encamp bringing up the rear of the column, and ~~at about~~ ^{soon after} ~~four o'clock~~ came up with his brigade. That night the army camped ^{near a beautiful stream} at a tributary of the James River, and at 3 1/2 P.M. on the following ^{morning} got the route across the James River, via Buchanan, the valley pike, viewed the natural bridge, ~~but morning near which camps were put up for the night~~. The next morning at ~~2 P.M.~~ ^{2 1/2 P.M.} the army was in motion & marched to Lexington. On entering this town all orders were issued that all should visit the grave of Stonewall Jackson. Hence the army filed off to the right and entered the cemetery where lay the remains of the Confederates greatest hero. It was a solemn scene as they marched past the grave, with uncovered heads in slow paces and sorrowful countenances, which

bespoken souls that were deeply impressed, ~~so~~ ^{no} doubt to
 they remembered the many times the departed chief led
 them to victory and the long and arduous marches
 in which they followed him. The people of Lexington
 received the soldiers with the ~~most~~ ^{warm} patriotic demon-
 strations and the ladies were out waiting on their way
 with ice water and other refreshments. At 4 P.M.
 The army resumed its march ~~the next~~ ^{on that night}
~~they~~ ^{it} encamped near an old cemetery ^{which caused} and all kinds
 of ghost stories were told before going to sleep. The next
 morning ^{they} march was resumed ^{after the} ~~the~~ ^{white} they
 passed through Fairfield, Greenville,
 Stanton & Mount Sidney to the north branch of
 the Shenandoah river near Mount Crawford where they
 arrived after two days, viz on June 28th and en-
 camped for the night. As Father As Harrisburg was
 only 7 miles distant Father Sheeran started there and
 stopped over night with a Mr Scanlon of that place.
 The next morning as he was preparing to move off with
 his command passing ~~the town~~ ^{while} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~there~~ ^{was} ~~passing through~~
~~the town~~ ^{at} ~~that~~ ^{time} ~~he~~ ^{he} ~~advised him to~~ ^{advised him to} ~~wait~~ ^{wait} ~~until~~ ^{until}
~~all day~~ ^{all day} ~~and that he could easily overtake his brigade~~ ^{and that he could easily overtake his brigade}
~~on the following day~~ ^{on the following day} ~~as he had needed new shoes and~~ ^{as he had needed new shoes and}
~~his horse~~ ^{his horse} ~~rest he took his advice~~ ^{rest he took his advice} ~~about an hour~~ ^{about an hour}
~~while here~~ ^{while here} ~~after~~ ^{after} ~~Father Sheeran~~ ^{Father Sheeran} met Gen. Early standing in front
 of one of the hotels of the place, and as usual had a
 shake hands. "Well General" said the Father "I have a
 grave complaint to make for the manner in which you
 have treated me." "How is that Father?" "Well, General

you took us out of the breastworks at Richmond and never told us where we were going, and the consequence is I left, without money or clothes, only what I had on my back and since I have had to live on the charity of my friends." "I guess Father you are better off than I am, I brought with me but one pair of drawers and had to do without them whilst they were being washed. And my ^{brother} Gen. had but one shirt and he had to go to bed to get it washed. So I think there are people worse off than you Father." The next day after a ride of 25 miles Father Sheeran came up with his Brigade near Mount Jackson. ~~On July 1st~~, the march was continued through Sharpsburg and on the following ^{two days} ~~passed~~ ^{through} Cedar Creek & Winchester to within about a mile and a half of Martinsburg, when the column halted and ^{had} after a skirmish with some Federal ~~Cavalry~~ ^{Cavalry} drawn up in line of battle entered the town. ~~The latter, however, retreated and the column entered the town, then encamped that night outside at some short distance.~~ Father Sheeran had supper with an esteemed Catholic of the place named Doll and afterwards returned to camp. The next ^{day} Father Sheeran visited several friends in Martinsburg and took dinner with Gen York at Dr W^m Cherry's. ~~What at 2 P.M. the column moved off and on the following day~~ about the ^{noon} ~~same hour~~ ^{the troops} ~~arrived~~ passed through Shepherdstown, crossed the Potomac and ~~on~~ ^{at} ~~house~~ ^a ~~half~~ ^{mile} and marched in the direction of Sharpsburg. About half way between the Potomac and

Sharpsburg the column turned ~~out~~ to the right and made along the Canal in the direction of Harpers Ferry, or South Mountain where they are, and on the following morning, ~~on~~ July 6th, crossed the Antietam River and moved along the base of the South Mountain, ~~where~~ ^{where} from where the Federal positions on the ~~the~~ ^{high} heights and around Harpers Ferry, could be distinctly seen. There was skirmishing that night and some cannonading. In the morning the column was drawn up in line of battle some two miles up the Mountain. That day ~~much~~ ^{some} skirmishing took place but no severe ~~fight~~ ^{fight} ~~that~~ night the column retreated, and many of the soldiers tired and weary lay down on the road side and fell asleep, but a squad of Cavalry bringing up the rear soon aroused them from their slumbers by telling them ~~that the Yankees were following them~~. ~~About 4 P.M. on the 7th~~ ^{On the 7th} a man ran out from the side of the road caught Father Sheeran's horse by the bridle and said "D-r you get off my horse" "Do you know whom you are talking to sir" responded the good Father, "I don't care" said he "who you are, you must give up my horse" "Now my good friend" said the Father "let this horse go or I shall let you know who owns it" "Oh my horse" responded the soldier "and you took it while I was sleeping" One of the boys then whispered to him "Do you know you are talking to Father Sheeran, that's his horse" The poor fellow got quite confused, asked the Father pardon, but said

Some ~~danger~~ passed took ~~the~~ ^{my} horse while ~~he~~ ^{he} was
 sleeping and he thought that, that Father was ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ
 At half past two the column went into camp
~~pretty~~ ^{pretty} well tired and sleepy, They ^{men} had not
 much more than time to close their eyes when orders
 came to prepare for marching At 4 ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~be~~ ^{be} on
 the road ~~again~~ ^{again} After a heavy march of ^{nearly} two days
 they arrived at ~~Frederick~~ ^{Frederick} reached the suburbs of Frederick
 City, turned off to the right and crossing some
 fields got out on the Baltimore pike where they halted
 The medical train however entered the City and the
 good father ^{Sheeran} accompanied it. After receiving many
 salutations from the citizens, and paying a short
 visit to the Jesuit Fathers, Father ^{Sheeran} ~~and~~ ^{so} went
 to the camp. The Federal army had fallen back
 During the ~~day~~ ^{the afternoon} the battle of the Monocacy was
 fought, and the wounded ^{were} brought into Frederick
 and cared for by the good sisters of charity.
 Not knowing that the army intended moving
 soon Father Sheeran returned to the house of the
 Jesuit Fathers in order to say mass the next morning
 During the day he made several unsuccessful efforts
 to purchase some articles of clothing, but however
 obtained a summer coat and pants from the Rev
 Father Callahan for which he paid ~~him~~ ^{an order}
~~for the~~ ^{for the} Provincial at Baltimore. The
~~refused to~~ ^{refused to} ~~accept~~ ^{accept} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~offer~~ ^{offer}
 morning being Sunday Father Sheeran said mass at
 6 o'clock but had and then commenced to write

96

400

402

a letter to the ~~father~~ ^{Governor} of Baltimore. ~~He~~ ^{he} ~~had~~ ^{had} ~~no~~ ^{no} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~finish~~ ^{finish} ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~troops~~ ^{troops} ~~were~~ ^{were} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~motion~~ ^{motion} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~report~~ ^{report} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Federals~~ ^{Federals} ~~were~~ ^{were} ~~ad-~~ ^{ad-} ~~vancing~~ ^{vancing}. The next day the Army halted within 22 miles from Washington. On the following morning at 3 A.M. the Army was again in motion and at 3 P.M. had advanced to within 5 miles of Washington and within ~~these~~ ^{of their outer fortifications}. There was much skirmishing during ~~the~~ ^{and sharp fighting} whole remainder of the afternoon. The next morning the whole column was drawn up in line of battle. In the afternoon the Federals sent out several lines of skirmishers and the Confederates fell back in order to draw them from their works and then ~~went~~ ^{gave them battle} ~~from~~ ^{from} them and drove them killing and wounding ~~a~~ ^{several} ~~good~~ ^{good} many, and capturing some. Among the Captured were several of the Sixth Corps from Grant's Army. This satisfied Gen Early that his mission to Washington was accomplished, viz. to draw the Federal forces from before Richmond. That afternoon Father ~~had~~ ^{for Father's} ~~the~~ ^{his} ~~misfortune~~ ^{misfortune} to ~~lost~~ ^{lost} his horse by the carelessness of his orderlies who allowed both horses to straggle off. At dark the whole column was in motion and the good Father mounting on an old Carriage joined the cavalcade. The route was taken by way of Prossville to the Potomac which was ~~crossed~~ ^{reached} about 36 hours after leaving the heights before Washington. ~~When~~ ^{During} the column the ~~divisions~~ ^{divisions} ~~During~~ ^{During} the march Father ~~discovered~~ ^{discovered} his horse with an officer of the ~~1st~~ ^{1st}.

97)

401

(403)

5th Alabama who immediately gave it up on being clamed.
 On ~~reaching~~^{crossing} the Virginia side of the Potomac the men were
 informed that they would rest for the day. Towards
 evening it was rumored in Camp that the officers of the
 Division were going to a party given by the ladies of Leesburg.
 As the rumor turned out to be true Father S. spoke to
 some of them on the subject, and not only disapproved
 of but denounced such reckless carelessness on the part
 of commanding officers. He then asked the general how it
 looked when men were in the very face of the enemy to see officers
 neglecting their comrades and running around the country
 to "Landings". The General appeared to be brought to his
 senses at least to reflect a little. General continued the
 Father "There is one thing I hope may happen should your
 officers go to that party." "What is that said he." "I hope the
 General will throw a shell among them when they are making
 fools of themselves dancing." "Is not that much to be said?"
 "In General, it would be just what you deserved, and would
 it not be well for your general to give our men the liberty of doing as
 their officers. He succeeded in beating the party up and some
 of the officers who were on their way to camp were ordered back
 to camp. The following morning at 4 o'clock the column
 was again on its way, passed through Leesburg and
 Hamilton during the forenoon in the direction Schreckers
 Gap; then half about half way up the blue ^{ridge} ~~ridge~~ the
 Federal troops made their appearance and for three
 successive days attempted to dispute their return towards
 Richmond until the battle of Rockford, fought on the ^{Shenandoah} ~~the~~ third

day/compelled the Federal forces to retire. On the following
 night, ~~on~~ July 19th the column resumed its march. On
 the 21st a disastrous occurrence happened ~~near Winchester~~ ^{near Winchester, Va.}
 Dismen ~~was~~ were led into a trap by Gen Averell and
 lost four pieces of artillery and a good number of killed
 and wounded. On the 22nd & 23rd the army remained
 in line of battle. On the latter day the profanity of the officers
 calling at Headquarters was terrible. The good Father made
 an effort to check it. The officers apologized but the next
 moment committed the same fault. Seeing the state of things
 the Father resolved to quit the command and that night
 took Genl York one side to let him know of his intentions.
 The Genl ~~was~~ ^{was} struck as with a thunderclap. He begged
 him to reconsider the matter and not to quit the command
 after being so long with it, telling him at the same time
 to get his mind such and such ones referring to those whom
 he had repaid for carrying Genl ^{York} replied the Father. I don't
 blame them so much for I cannot expect much better of
 them, but I blame you for you are worse than they, and
 "Well" said the General "Father if you consent to remain
 with us you will never hear another profane word from
 me" You have made such promises before Genl, and you
 know how you have kept them. After ^{that Genl, in reply} repeated promises
 of the most solemn kind that he would reform on this
 point Father ~~consented~~ ^{consented} to remain, and so the
~~army~~ ^{army} ~~which was to be his~~ ^{which was to be his} services. On 24th July
 a battle was fought at Winchester & Father ~~attended~~ ^{attended}
 attended to both Confederate and Federal wounded
 when the days carnage was over. Among ^{the} Federal

403 wounded was the celebrated Genl. W. Mulligan, His body was riddled
 97 with balls, Father Sheeran attended to him in his last moments and
 405 found him to be a sincere and fervent Christian. He lived but a short
 time after making his confession and ~~on two days after his body was~~
~~haunted over to his wife who went with the body to his home~~
~~without when the days carnage was over, The army~~
 continued its march via Martinsburg to Darksville
 where it ~~rested for a few days~~ ^{arrived on} Saturday, Sunday, 3/1st, and
 went to ~~Camp~~ ^{where it remained until} August
 4th. During the rest Father Sheeran remained ~~principal~~
~~at Winchester~~. On the day of the route he overtook the
 army ^{Camped near} at Shephardstown, and ^{found} most of the officers away
 in the town on a spree ~~for~~ ^{for} Father ~~having~~ ^{having} had his horse
 put away and feeling ^{very} tired spread his blanket outside
 his tent and went to sleep for the night. About 10 P.M.
 the officers returned, some of them pretty ^{tight} ~~well~~ ~~fuddled~~ and
 one of them shamefully drunk; ~~indeed so much so that he~~
~~did not know where he was nor where he was going to.~~ He was
 no less than a Col. ^{a very} ~~competent~~ ^{man} ~~riding~~ ^{on} a large
 horse. The Father was at the time lying on his back and in
 a kind of slumber. He heard the noise of the horse approach-
 ing, but anticipated no harm as he was lying close to the tent.
 Suddenly the foot of the horse was pressed upon his left
 breast and just as suddenly ~~he felt~~ ^{he felt} the whole weight
 of the animal and his drunken rider ~~pressing upon him~~ ^{pressing upon him}
 as into a jelly. He ~~could~~ ^{could} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~stand~~ ^{stand} ~~over him~~ ^{over him} and the horse continued
 his journey. Not knowing what had happened, The Father
 was brought into the tent and having received some stimu-
 lants became composed and went to sleep again. The next
 morning ~~Genl~~ ^{Genl} ~~York~~ ^{York} seeing that he was much bruised
 thought to send him into Winchester in an ambulance
 but the ~~good~~ ^{good} Father, ~~fearing~~ ^{fearing} ~~that~~ ^{that} there might be
 an engagement and his services needed, thought better

10/1

405

(407)

On his way he called to see several wounded soldiers and visited some ~~several~~ friends and arrived in Richmond on the 18th, ^{where} ~~which~~ he again left on the 21st for ~~Staunton~~ ^{Charlottesville} and reached Harrisonburg the next morning, where he learned for certain the ~~the~~ defeat of Early's Army at Winchester by Sheridan and its almost ~~the~~ ^{complete} disorganization a further defeat at Fisher's Hill. After remaining two days at Harrisonburg, Father Sheeran learned that Gen. Early, ^{after his defeat at Winchester} turned off towards Port Republic and that the Federals were making towards ^{this cutting him off from his command} Harrisonburg, ~~from which he~~ had heard of the battle he formed an opinion that a proportion of the wounded men ~~we~~ belonged to his Brigade and that a good many of them were Catholics. He also formed an opinion that there would be no priest to attend to them as Dr. Costello of Harper's Ferry had not been there for more than a year, although it belonged to his parish. After a serious reflection he concluded to try an experiment, and ride into the ^{Federal} lines and ask Sheridan for a pass to go to Winchester to see after the wounded. The next morning ^{at 7 o'clock} Sept. 26th he commenced his experimental journey ^{at 7 o'clock}. Having travelled some seven miles he met with three Cavalrymen dressed in Confederate uniform but was shrewd enough to observe that they were Federals in disguise. One of them halted the Father and proposed the following question, "Do you belong to the Rebel Army?" To this "I belong to the Confederate Army?" Well

then get in here" pointing to where ^{he} should go. "No Sir I
 will not ~~leave my post~~ Here the soldier drew his pistol, seeing his
 object the Father ~~said~~ remarked "you are perhaps
 mistaken in the opinion you have formed of me," I am
 a Catholic priest and wish you to bring me to Gen.
 Sheridan, I am desirous of going to Winchester to look
 after our wounded and want a pass from your General.
 At this the soldier ~~dropped~~ ^{lowered} his pistol and changed
 his countenance saying "I am a Catholic myself Sir, and
 am glad to meet with you." They were conversing for a few
 minutes when another Federal soldier came up and taking
 particular notice of ^{the Father's} ~~his~~ spurs, inquired if he belonged
 to ^{the} Rebel army, meeting with the same response as his
 companion he ~~was~~ attempted to take the spurs, when
 the Father informed the soldier of who he was, and ~~the sol-~~
~~diery~~ ~~of~~ ~~disgusted~~, The first young man brought him to Gen.
 Wright, commanding the 6th Corps then in advance, and
 gave him an introduction, Father Sheridan soon made
 known the object of this visit ~~to~~ The general having
~~examined~~ ^{examined} his papers ordered his ^{adjutant general} ~~to~~ to write a pass for himself
 and horse, ^{after} the general thanked him for the kind manner
 in which the good Father treated the Federal wounded
 at the battle of Kearnstown, and bid him good bye and
~~to~~ ^{some three miles} from the front he met Gen
 Sheridan and staff ^{riding} on the right of the road, In
 advancing towards him he was met by his ~~body~~ who
 being apprised of the Father's business ~~told~~ said Gen
 Wright's pass was sufficient, That night the good

Father ^{Therion} stopped with a Mr W^m Fall, a very worthy
 Catholic gentleman of the place, during the evening and
 next morning he visited the hospitals and heard some
 confessions. After breakfast he started for Winchester
 and after calling at all the hospitals ^{along} the way, reached
 there safely at 7 P.M. The following ^{day} morning, ^{Oct 27th}
 the Father visited all the Confederate hospital and
^{told} the inmates that he came to stay with them for some
 time. The poor invalids were highly delighted when he
 made the announcement. At Mass the next morning
 there were several Federal soldiers present. ^{during the service} Father the
 Father gave notice ~~this morning~~ of the object of his visit
 to Winchester, ^{namely} that he came to see after the Confed-
 erate wounded, but was ^{said, he} willing to extend his services to
 the wounded of the Federal hospital; and further
 that he would have Mass every ^{Sunday} morning and requested all
 Catholics to attend, and that he was ^{ready} willing to hear the
 confessions of all who came with proper dispositions.
 In conclusion he requested the Federal soldier that if
 they knew of any of their companions sick or wounded
 to who needed his services to let him know and he
 would ~~fully~~ attend to them. Having procured a
 pass to visit the Federal Hospital at ^{with the Father}
 made his rounds of both hospitals ^{daily & repeated} until Oct 12th and caused the
 invalids to be attended to in a becoming manner. On
 the ^{days} he received numerous visits from Catholics of Federal
 army, all of whom were kind and respectful and prom-
 ised to come to Mass on the following Sunday. During

^{afternoon}
 the ~~day~~ the Father was called to see a Capt. Brady
 of the 16th Massachusetts, who was lying dangerously
 ill at the Lagan house. He had been wounded at the
 late battle of Winchester, had a leg amputated and
 two other wounds. He was very low when the Father
 visited him; but after receiving the Sacraments he
 rapidly recovered and was soon able to be taken home
 by his brother, who came from Boston to wait on him.
 The father attended him until the day he was removed.
 From the 12th to the 19th ~~there was a~~ ^{there} ~~struggle~~ ^{struggle} between Early's
 division and the ^{Federal} troops around Winchester. On that
 morning a great battle was fought, in which ~~the~~ part
 of the Federal army was taken by surprise and
 retreated ~~from~~ ^{from} Winchester. The same
 morning Sheridan arrived from Washington and
^{calling} ~~leading~~ the Federal troops advanced them against
 Early and for ever routed and disorganized his
 army. For the following five days the wounded of
 both armies poured in to Winchester and the good
 Father attended to them indiscriminately. During these
 days some of the Confederate wounded were transported
 to Martinsburg. On the morning of the 27th after
 visiting the hospitals ~~the father learned that a~~
 large wagon and ambulance train ~~were to~~
 start for Martinsburg and Gen. Duffer & staff
^{intended} ~~were to~~ accompany it and then join their command
 of cavalry in front of Petersburg. About nine
 miles from Winchester Mosby captured the party

who were sent to Libby Prison. Every day until the 31st Father Sheridan visited the hospitals and attended to the wounded. On that day, as General Sheridan was in town and as ^{nearly all} ~~most~~ of the Confederate soldiers were convalescent and numbers of them removed to Martinsburg, Father ^{Sheridan} resolved to call on ~~the General~~ ^{Gen Sheridan} in order to know by what route he wished him to return home. Accompanied by Capt. Fitzgerald of the 17th Pa. Cavalry, he proceeded to Headquarters and there the Capt. introduced him to the Adj. Gen of the Potomac Capt. Latta of the 119th Pa. Infantry, the same officer who had refused Father Miller and him, ~~the~~ ^{the Father} ~~pass.~~ ^{and} told Capt. Fitz. that ~~he~~ ^{he} had a slight acquaintance with the Adj. Gen. The Father then asked him if he could see the Gen. Sheridan. The Adj. told him to take a seat and he would see. Capt. Fitz. and the Father then took a seat ^{and in} for about ~~some~~ ten minutes ~~when~~ the Adj. returned with an armed guard and told him "to take that man" pointing to the Father to the Provost Marshalls. Arriving there crowds assembled to know the cause of his arrest, but no information could be received. The Marshall on reading a note handed to him by the guard called for an orderly and ~~to~~ ^{whom} he told to take the Father to the military Prison. That afternoon the Father was visited by numbers of Citizens and Catholic soldiers of the Federal army, all of whom deeply sympathized with him, ^{while} ~~several~~ ^{several} ~~of the~~ ^{of the} ~~mass~~ ^{of the} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~vowed~~ ^{vowed}.

vengeance against the ^{adjutant} ~~body~~, and those who had a hand
 in ~~its~~ his arrest, ~~for~~ ^{the} first three nights ~~of~~ his
 arrest he was allowed, ~~to sleep outside~~ through the
 interference of some Catholic officers, to sleep outside. but
 on the 4th ~~the~~ ^{even} the greatest strictness prevailed, ~~on~~
~~the following day~~ ^{the} ~~for~~ ^{the} Father with a large batch of prisoners
~~was~~ sent to Martinsburg, ~~the~~ ^{on} arriving there
 he introduced himself to the Provost ^{marshal} and made known
 his case, that officer having examined the list of prisoners
 found no charge against Father Sheeran and allowed
 him his parole for the night, which he gladly ac-
 cepted and repaired to Dr. W. Cherry's where ^{he was} received
~~very kindly~~ His parole extended to the following
 Tuesday by calling ^{at the} the Marshall's office every day.
 During this time he said Mass daily and heard
 numerous Confessions. ~~On~~ ^{On} Tuesday he, along with
 a number of other prisoners were transferred to Balti-
 more ~~where~~ ^{which place} ~~they~~ ^{they} spent reached that evening,
 and spent a most horrible night in prison
 along with a number of pickpockets & blasphemers
~~and~~ sleeping on a floor beset with ^{rats & vermin} ~~vermin~~. The
 next morning the Father discovered ^{that} his present abode
 was the old slave pen. During the day, he ~~some~~
 communicated ^{twice} with the Father Provincial but received no
 response so the latter would not be permitted to
 respond. Towards evening one of the hard cases ap-
 peared to be very ^{respectful} to him. On talking ^{to him} Father ~~Sheeran~~ found
 he was brought up a Catholic. He then called the

187

411

(443)

whole party to an account for their conduct the
 previous night. They all expressed sorrow and promi-
 sed to not repeat it again, which promise they
 kept. On Nov 11th they ^{prisoners} were transferred to Fort
 Mifflin, where Father Sheeran was detained until
 Dec, 5th From thence until and then released only
 on condition of not giving any information to the Con-
 federate army. From thence until the 17th he re-
 mained around Baltimore and Annapolis, where
 the Father Provincial prevailed on him to sever his
 connection with the army and if possible to take
 charge of a parish under the army Bishop
 of Richmond. After the Father Provincial telling
 giving him the General orders and telling him to take
 whatever money he and Father Smulders stood
 in need of. Father Sheeran in company with Fathers
 Haller & Dennis started by the Cars for Cumberland,
 and reached there about ~~at~~ the afternoon, of the following
 day. He remained in Cumberland till the 19th when he
 left for Martinsburg. At There the provost marshal
 told him ~~he should~~ ^{he should} go by way of Harpers Ferry to
 Winchester as ~~more by~~ was about on the valley, Pike Road.
 On the 21st he left Martinsburg for Harpers Ferry,
 where he remained with Dr. Collier, Pastor of the
 place, until the 26th when he left for Winchester
 & arriving there about 6 p. m. ^{of the same day} and repaired to
 the house of Mr. Hassett where he was received
 with every demonstration of kindness, ^{being sick, he} and remained

18/

412 (414)

made of doors ~~took~~ until the 28th when he repaired
 to Provost Marshalls to have his pass extended, and to
 apply for another through the lines, in order to have
 every thing ready (when his health would permit
 him) to start for Richmond. The former applica-
 tion the Provost Marshall granted but the latter
 he referred to Gen. Sheridan. After much ~~disto~~^{just}
~~and through fear that~~ Sheridan permitted
 him to go, ~~and on the morning of January 3rd~~
 During his stay he was lionized not alone by the
~~citizens~~^{but also} by members of Catholics in the Federal army
 and even some Irish boys serving in 18th Pa Cavalry
 attended to his horse and while he was in
 prison, and had him in splendid condition.
~~against his release when the~~ On January 3rd¹⁸⁶⁵
 the good father left Winchester for Richmond
 and took his route by way of Woodstock, Jackson
 Harrisonburg, and Stanton, stopping with familiar
 friends ~~along the way~~ in each place, and reached
 Richmond on ~~January~~^{the} 10th about 6 p. m.,
 where he remained under medical treatment until
 the fall of ~~Richmond~~^{that City} suffering much from
 his breast and eyes, a few days ^{"The struggle of the surgeons"} after ~~which~~^{when}
 matters ^{had} settled down, he obtained a pass and
 started for Baltimore in company with ^{thirteen} 13 sisters.
 He then visited Philadelphia & Reading, Pennsylvania
 and New York, but finding his health again failing
 him he returned again on May 6th to his own beloved
 Crescent City New Orleans, but ~~subsequently~~
 returned to New York.