

## "Miles Christi."

LOUIS GASTON DE SONIS,

CARMELITE TERTIARY.

### CHAPTER XIII.—(CONCLUDED).

**A**NOTHER time we find De Sonis by the bedside of a young Corporal of the line, the son of his gardener, who was dying of consumption. "I used to go and see him very often," he said to an intimate friend, "and often accompanied Our Lord when they took him Holy Communion. What edification I gathered from that good young fellow, who offered so willingly his sufferings and his life to God! all the family merit the Divine Blessing. It is impossible to see more faith and resignation than amongst these poor people."

At the beginning of 1878, the General's sufferings increased. He had a third abscess in the stump of his leg and wrote: "I am absolutely nailed to my sofa, and have tried in vain to use my wooden leg, so as to be able to move once more. At first, I was very much depressed; but now I have placed myself unreservedly in the hands of God, which have borne me so long with a mother's tenderness, without ever having let me fall." A little later he wrote: "I have not forgotten that a good part of my body is already dust; and, thus freed from a portion of the weight which attaches us to this earth, I should be very guilty if I did not obey the movement of grace which leads me upwards."

It was only in the month of July that he could resume his inspections, after which he went to Paris and saw

the War Minister. Paris was then in a fever with the great exhibition, and M. de Sonis wrote:

"Bismark is quite right to think we are mad. I left Paris thoroughly disgusted with all I saw and heard in that Babylon. I did not even go and see the great exhibition, which would not certainly have comforted me for all the rest."

Mr. Gresley was then War Minister. "They think him too mild," wrote De Sonis, "and we shall very soon come to Laisant, who will make short work of us all." We are bound to say, however, that one man remained faithful to him, and that was M. de Freycinet, who was then Minister of Public Works, and came to St.-Servan, where he hastened to admit the General, whom he received with all the officers of his garrison. He wished to spare the invalid the fatigue of going upstairs to the prefecture, and went down to meet him in the Mayor's Hall on the ground floor.

"He received me there," wrote De Sonis, "with marked sympathy, only expressing his regret that he did not know I was at St.-Servan, as he would have come directly to see me. I spoke to him as follows: 'We come here to salute the Minister of Public Works; but, as soldiers, we also wish to thank you for the efforts you made during the war to save the honor of France. I had expressed these feelings to you in