

## "MILES CHRISTI."

LOUIS GASTON DE SONIS,

Carmelite Tertiary.

[Reprinted by permission from "The Life of General de Sonis"—From His Papers and Correspondence, by Mgr Baunard. Translated by Lady Herbert. Art and Book Company, London and Leamington.]

### CHAPTER V.

MOROCCO. OCTOBER, 1859.

Fresh campaign—De Sonis asks for it—Incursions of the tribes—Their cruelties—Departure from the frontier—Oran—Colonel Arthur de Montalembert—The 1st Chasseurs d'Afrique—The cholera—De Sonis' Fiat—Junction of the expedition at the camp of Kis—Ravages of the cholera in camp—The enemy disappear—De Sonis devotes himself to the cholera patients—The assault of Ain-Taforalt—Submission of the tribes—Return—Colonel Fenin taken with cholera—Colonel de Montalembert seized—His order of the day—De Sonis helps both the dying officers—He brings them a priest—Pere Mermillod in camp—The return by Isly—The dying Colonel's adieu—Death of Colonel de Montalembert at Maghnia—Terrible losses in the army from the disease—Official report—Return to France—De Sonis is appointed chief of a squadron—Holiday at Castres—His wish to defend Pius IX.—He enters the Third Order of Mount Carmel—Pilgrimage to P'ibrae.



ON the 22nd of August, 1859, de Sonis' regiment returned to Algiers, when both men and horses certainly needed a rest. But this was not granted to them. AN expedition against Morocco had been decided upon, and the 1st Chasseurs d'Afrique were selected for the service. In reality, de Sonis was not obliged to take part in it, as his squadron had not been included in the order. But he considered himself bound, in the interests of his family, to go where there

was most chance of advancement, and therefore gave up, for the present, the thoughts of rejoining his wife and children, though he felt the sacrifice terribly. The objects of the expedition was to punish certain tribes from Morocco, who, under the leadership of a pretended Cherif, or Prophet, had gathered a number of men together under the pretext of a holy war, had pillaged the French camp, killed thirty or forty of their soldiers, and declared that, thirty years having elapsed since the French conquest of the country, their occupation of it, according to Mahometan prophecies, must now cease.

In order to destroy this fanatical prestige, the French War Minister de-