

## "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 VI.

TENEZ. LAGHOUAT. SAIDA. 1860.

De Sonis appointed Commander at Tenez—The town of Tenez—Thanksgiving to God—The Roman Revolution—Longing to go to Rome—His family at Tenez—The Arab—Disinterestedness and integrity of the Commander—Appointed Commander of Laghouat—The route from Tenez to Laghouat—The town of Laghouat—The reception—Visit to the Church—The capital of the desert—Admiration of the Arabs—Mgr. Pavy visits Laghouat—Insurrection at Djelfa—De Sonis represses the revolt—The Bishop's visit—De Sonis is thrown over and recalled to Mascara—Birth of his sixth child, Martha Carmel—Pelissier appoints him Commander at Saïda—His religious influence—He visits the Circle—His integrity—The Caid exposed—The ostrich hunt—Birth of Marie Joseph—The light of faith—The "Arab kingdom" of Napoleon III—Repatriation of the Arab soil—Insurrection in the south—Peril of the colony—Death of Martha Carmel—His distress—*Sursum Corda*—The solitude of a village on the sea-shore—Progress of the insurrection—De Sonis is sent to quell it—De Sonis buries the victims of the fight of Aoumat—Meditation under canvas—*Tu qui es!*—Birth of his son John—Letter to his sister-in-law—The apostolate—A young officer—A child of his zeal—End of the campaign—Return to Saïda—Alone with God—The Emperor wishes to attach him to his person—Noble refusal and fidelity—Promoted to be Lieutenant Colonel—Holiday at Castres—He is recalled to Africa, and reinstated at Laghouat.



On the 18th of March, 1860, M. de Sonis landed at Oran to take up his post at Mascara. Hardly had he arrived when he was appointed Commandant of the Circle of Tenez. "I am very much pleased with my new posi-

tion," he writes, "as I am absolute master of this part of the Province, and administer it as a General does his division. My only superior is the General, and I am therefore more independent than in a regiment." Tenez was a little town of about 5,000 inhabitants, situated on the Mediterranean to the west of Algiers. "The climate is very healthy," wrote de Sonis, "and any sort of illness is rare, which is a great blessing for the father of a family.