

ent drank your health. This was just before the battle of Montebello." In fact, they heard at Serraval that an engagement had already taken place near the town of Voghera, towards which they were marching with all speed, and where they arrived at five o'clock the next day, having only passed through Tortona without stopping. On their way they met the train containing the Emperor, which revived the ardor of the troops. The first skirmish had ended favorably for the French. An ambulance had been opened at Voghera, and the way the wounded men bore their sufferings filled de Sonis with admiration. Marshals Canrobert and Baraguay d'Hilliers came to visit them, and the latter, showing his mutilated arm, exclaimed: "My children, I have passed through the same as you!" De Sonis spent the whole of that night and the following day among the wounded, helping the surgeons, congratulating and cheering the men on their bravery, and always slipping in some little word of religious consolation. In a very few words he set before them the example of our Lord as their model, their friend, and their best teacher. Then he would suggest some short ejaculatory prayer, which he said with them, and when he left them it was with loving words, and a blessed medal or some little Christian emblem. Then he visited the battle-field, which presented a strange contrast, being full of spring flowers mingled with broken arms, shakos, kapis, cartridges, and here and there patches of congealed blood. He went into the little church, which had also been turned into an ambulance. The old Cure of Montebello was a man of the last century, and had a vivid remembrance of the previous battle fought upon that spot in 1800, which

he described to de Sonis, who listened respectfully, and on leaving him begged for a Mass for those in both armies who had just appeared before God. The cavalry division was now concentrated under the command of General Desvaux, and was composed of four regiments. The 1st Chasseurs d'Afrique, under the order of Colonel de Salignac-Fenelon was composed of four squadrons: Captain de Roquefeuil commanded the 1st; Captain Dubessay de Contenson the 2nd; Captain de Sonis the 3rd; and Captain Guyot the 4th. Guyot and de Roquefeuil were both killed the same day at Solferino.

After camping for three days at Montebello the regiment marched in the direction of Alexandria. On the 1st of June they were at Novara, which the enemy had abandoned, and on the fourth they heard the cannon of Magenta. The 1st Chasseurs were posted on the right bank of the Tessino, and passed the night in a wheat-field, bridle in hand, waiting for the order to act. None came; but from the multitude of ambulances and carriages which passed full of wounded, they knew that the battle must have been a bloody one. On the 5th the French victory was declared. The Chasseurs were ordered to cross the river and go towards Cerano, where a return of the enemy was feared. But not an Austrian was to be seen, and in the evening they returned to the station of San Martino, after a harrassing day's march, bringing back a multitude of wounded of both nations. The Emperor and the King of Sardinia were together in a dirty little inn, sharing a frugal supper and full of joy at their victory. De Sonis, as usual, devoted himself to the sick and wounded, and looked after his own men with the utmost care, preparing them for