



GENERAL DE CHARETTE,
EX-COLONEL OF THE PONTIFICAL ZOUAVES AT ROME.

GENERAL CHARETTE.

Above we give to our readers a fine portrait of General Charette, whose visit to Montreal has been made the occasion of a magnificent reception by the French residents of the city.

We quote the following from the Paris journal :

"If fidelity ever imposes hard sacrifices upon the world, surely it is upon the soldier in particular. To serve with the Duc de Modena after having been the companion in arms of Gallifet and of d'Espinilles, is hard indeed. Providence recognized in Athanase de Charette this devotion. He found France and Frenchmen at Rome. Besides this, the young officer stood in

the front rank for honor and loyalty. Francis of Austria was a character dropped out of the middle ages. He offered the Pope to enlist as a private soldier in the Pontifical army. The Pope refused ; Francis sent him Charette.

There have been two principal episodes in the life of Baron Athanase de Charette. At Rome, he always seemed to me like a crusader combined with a magnificent mousquetaire.

I have no space to enumerate all his feats of arms. He was ever in the front ; he exposed his person to every danger. This remarkable courage, the prerogative of the ancient cavaliers, did not prevent him, in 1870, from carrying out

an admirable retreat from Montefiascone to Civita Vecchia, and thence to Rome.

Rome fell on the same day as Sedan. Charette flew to the aid of France. For eighteen years fifty journals had cried down and mocked at the Zouaves ; they had been treated as foreigners, as ragamuffins, as Jesuits. They forgot the insults, but they remembered their country.

M. de Charette on the soil of France entered on the second period of his military life. He was in all places under all circumstances an accomplished military commander. Scarcely re-organized, the Zouaves rushed to the cannon's mouth. They were never spared. M. de Charette was

even reproached with having exposed his men too freely. This reproach is an insult to the Zouaves. Prodigious of his life, of his heart, of his name, Charette knew well that the soldiers loved him for this prodigality. He was their idol, because he cut out for them a road to the front.

The Comte de Chambord has had since his majority four great servants—the Duc de Levis, Berryer, Lauretie and Charette. It is the last-named whom he called "his best friend," it is he, in fact, who is the veritable incarnation of his feelings and his political views. M. de Charette is in France the most faithful representative of the policy of Rome and of Frohsdorf."