

DR. RICORD DECORATING BROTHER PHILIPPE AT THE ST. MAURICE AMBULANCE.



a company of the 122d Federals invaded the Mother-house, demanding the *concealed Brothers!* This time the Communists had to bend before the firmness of the gentlemen of the Press ambulance. They withdrew, saying they would return on the morrow. In face of all the Brothers had done and were doing for their country in her hour of need, comment on such dastardly conduct is unnecessary. But the days of the insurrection were numbered. On the 21st of May, the army of Versailles entered the city by the St. Cloud gate. The wounded were soon after taken from Oudinot street to Longchamps, and the Brothers again took possession of their house. Eleven hundred and eighteen sick and wounded had been taken care of in the St. Maurice ambulance.

The following letter of Dr. Horteloup will give some idea of the estimation in which the Brothers of the St. Maurice ambulance were held, and how highly their services were valued:

"I am happy to have again an opportunity of writing of the Brothers of Oudinot street as they deserve. After my friend, M. Ricord, had established an ambulance in the Mother-house of the Christian Brothers, I was for seven months amongst them, and I can truly say, greater devotedness, zeal, charity, and self-abnegation, could not possibly be shown.

"You should have seen the activity of those dear Brothers, transformed into stretcher-carriers, running hither and thither on the field of battle, picking up the wounded, while shot and shell rained around them.

"They had asked it as a favor to go out on the field; and neither the wounds which several of them had received, nor the death of others, could paralyze their energies or dampen their courage. Their chief is a model who might well in-



spire them, for he never quailed either before the enemy's cannon, or the envoys of the Commune: I have seen him as cool amid flying shells, as when he was telling hard truths to the messengers of Assi and of Raoul Rigault.

"When speaking thus, we must not forget Brother Arch-ange, Brother Exupérien, and so many others who, in those most trying circumstances, proved themselves possessed of the highest talents as organizers, administrators, and managers.

"See, above all, Brother Philippe, the good and excellent Superior-General. He is modesty personified; he is the living portrait of the man described by Horace:

Justum et tenacem propositi virum. . . .  
Et si tractum illabatur orbis, impavidum ferient ruinae.

"I can see him now running to me at the moment when a shell, breaking into a dormitory near my wards, had shaken the whole house and broken several windows. 'You are not hurt, dear doctor?' says he; 'I was afraid you were wounded.'—'How could I be afraid in such good company?' said I laughing, and shaking his outstretched hand, as I pointed to a fine portrait of him by Horace Vernet, which hung in that hall. He smiled and turned away, while I quietly continued my visit to the patients.

"When the ambulance was closed by superior orders, I received not a word of thanks from the authorities; but the Brothers amply made up for it, for they all testified the regret they felt in seeing me no longer every morning, and that regret I shared from the bottom of my heart. I shall cherish as long as I live the recollection of my attendance in that house, and I hope the Brothers will not forget me.

"B. HORTELOUP,

*"Honorary Physician, Hotel Dieu, Paris,"*

*Ambulance attached to that of St. Maurice.*

On the 17th of January, Mgr. Bäuer asked the Most Reverend Brother Philippe for some Brothers to serve in an ambulance opened in University street by the Press committee, and where the sick had as yet had no help.

Several Brothers were immediately detached from the St. Maurice ambulance. They found in two unheated rooms, in 159 University street, some sixty sick persons suffering from cold and hunger, without any sort of relief. Part of the Brothers, regardless of the Prussian shells that were raining from all quarters, and the great severity of the weather, retraced their way to the Mother-house. The nearly exhausted pharmacy and provisions of the St. Maurice ambulance were placed at their disposal. Laden with a sufficient quantity of medicines and refreshments, the Brothers went back with lighter hearts to their poor patients so anxiously expecting their return.

Amongst the Brothers employed in the University street ambulance, although all were devoted in their apostolate of charity, there was one whose name cannot be passed over in silence. This was Brother Amadeus Marie. Being charged, like so many of his brethren, with hospital duty, he distinguished himself by the most remarkable instances of heroic devotion.

Amongst other charitable acts, was the saving of the life of a mobile guardsman, the father of six children: his skull had been fractured; his case had been reluctantly pronounced hopeless by the doctors. Brother Amadeus resolved that, with God's help, the poor man should not die; and so constant was his attention to him, so skilful, so efficient his care, that the patient actually recovered, and soon returned to his home, blessing God and the dear Brother Amadeus.



Many other remarkable instances are on record of the indefatigable zeal and indomitable energy which this heroic son of De La Salle brought to the service of his sick and wounded countrymen. The doctors disputed among themselves as to who should have Brother Amadeus; always content, always smiling, he imparted to the patients somewhat of his own happy nature. He was the honor and the angel of the house.

On the 3d of February, the sick were removed from the University street ambulance to that of Oudinot street, carrying with them the warmest remembrance of the Brothers who had so well cared for them there.

*St. Paul Ambulance.*

The ambulance of St. Paul, under the Press committee, was almost entirely filled with sick and wounded during the latter half of the siege, dating from the battles of Champigny. After those terrible days, the number of beds had to be increased. The Brothers here had double duty to perform, for the classes in the St. Paul school were kept up during the siege. Those who were not employed in teaching never left the bedside of the patients day or night, acting by turns as nurse, reader, servant, cook, and preacher too, for, as may be well imagined, they had special care of souls. They lit up with a ray of hope the sickness and suffering with which the war had peopled their houses. How kind and affectionate they were to the Breton mobiles! They grieved with them; they wept with them; they fought their home-sickness by sharing it, talking to them unceasingly of the moors and gray hamlets of old Bretagne, that country of faith, and of trust in God!

To the ambulance of St. Paul was attached Brother Guil-

laume's famous canteen-kitchen. About the middle of September, the municipality of the fourth ward requested the Brother Director of St. Paul's commercial school to organize a canteen-kitchen. The Brothers, notwithstanding the cares of the ambulance and the labors of the school, accepted the charge of providing for the wants of the poor population of the district. With Brother William's wonderful executive abilities, all was easy, even what to others might seem impracticable; and so it was speedily in working order. God alone knows how this excellent religious managed to obtain the necessary provisions at such a time, but he did it. As many as three thousand persons were served there in one day. During the whole time of the siege, Brother William rose every morning at three o'clock, so as to have his cooking done, and all in readiness to commence the distribution at eight o'clock precisely.

*Arts and Trades' Ambulance.*

This ambulance was installed on the 1st of September and placed at the disposal of Dr. Ricord, who took charge of organizing the whole medical service. Two Sisters from the Convent of Hope (*de l'Espérance*) and seven Brothers of the Christian Schools gave their intelligent and devoted attention to the wounded.

The Brothers showed themselves both brave and gentle. To them were due the perfect order that reigned in the wards, and the home air one breathed there. Their rule was mild and paternal. They were kind to all, thoughtful, charitable, attentive. They ennobled with their help, and still more with their prayers, the cause to which they were devoted.

The military ambulance of St. Clotilde, which was opened in the house of the ladies of that name, on the 15th of



September, remained in operation six months, that is to say, till the April following. The Brothers of St. Margaret's school were placed at the disposal of the authorities to take care of the wounded, who were placed in their class-rooms. While they were busily engaged in organizing their ambulance, a new mayor was appointed for the eleventh ward, and with him new ideas, anti-religious principles, were imposed on the people of the Faubourg St. Antoine.

On the 19th of September, a free-thinking dame presented herself at St. Margaret's, and introduced herself as the directress of the ambulance which the Brothers had arranged in their class-rooms. She had the impudence to declare *she* would allow the Brothers to serve in the ambulance on condition that they *did not speak of religion to the patients, offer them neither crucifix nor holy water, nor introduce a priest among them.*

There was a refinement of cruelty in making such a demand of the Brothers *in their own house*, to say nothing of the black ingratitude and the detestable spirit of tyranny it manifested. As may well be supposed, the Brothers made no impious bargain to let Frenchmen, marked with the seal of baptism, die in their own house without God, without hope. Having thus failed to establish an ambulance in their own school-house, as had been intended, the Brothers offered their services in seven different ambulances, among others, in that of the ladies of St. Clotilde, No. 99 Reuilly street.

In this ambulance they took care of 144 sick and wounded soldiers, nearly all of whom recovered. The convalescents heard Mass on Sundays in the parish church, where they edified every one by their gravity and recollection. The heroic virtues, the unchanging mildness of the dear Brothers, brought about numerous conversions.

On the 4th of March, the Superioress of St. Clotilde wrote to Brother Dagobertus, Director of St. Marguerite:

"MY VERY DEAR BROTHER DIRECTOR:

"When your dear Brothers left the St. Clotilde ambulance, I requested them to convey to you the expression of our gratitude. I am sure they have duly delivered my message; nevertheless, I feel I ought to thank you myself for your kindness in lending us your excellent Brothers to help us care for the souls and bodies of our dear sick and wounded.

"It was a heavenly mission they fulfilled to those good soldiers, who loved them with all their heart. What they would not tell you themselves, I write for your consolation. Your Brothers have left among us an odor of virtue which shall follow us everywhere, to encourage us in trying days. Never shall we lose the remembrance of their perfect abnegation, their charity—so humble, so simple, so devoted. You are happy, dear Brother, to possess such religious.

"I beg you to permit a pious exchange of prayers and good works to be established between our two communities: we can give you but little, 'tis true, but, I assure you, it will be from our heart.

"Be so good as to accept, etc.

"MARIE PAULINE,  
"Superioress."

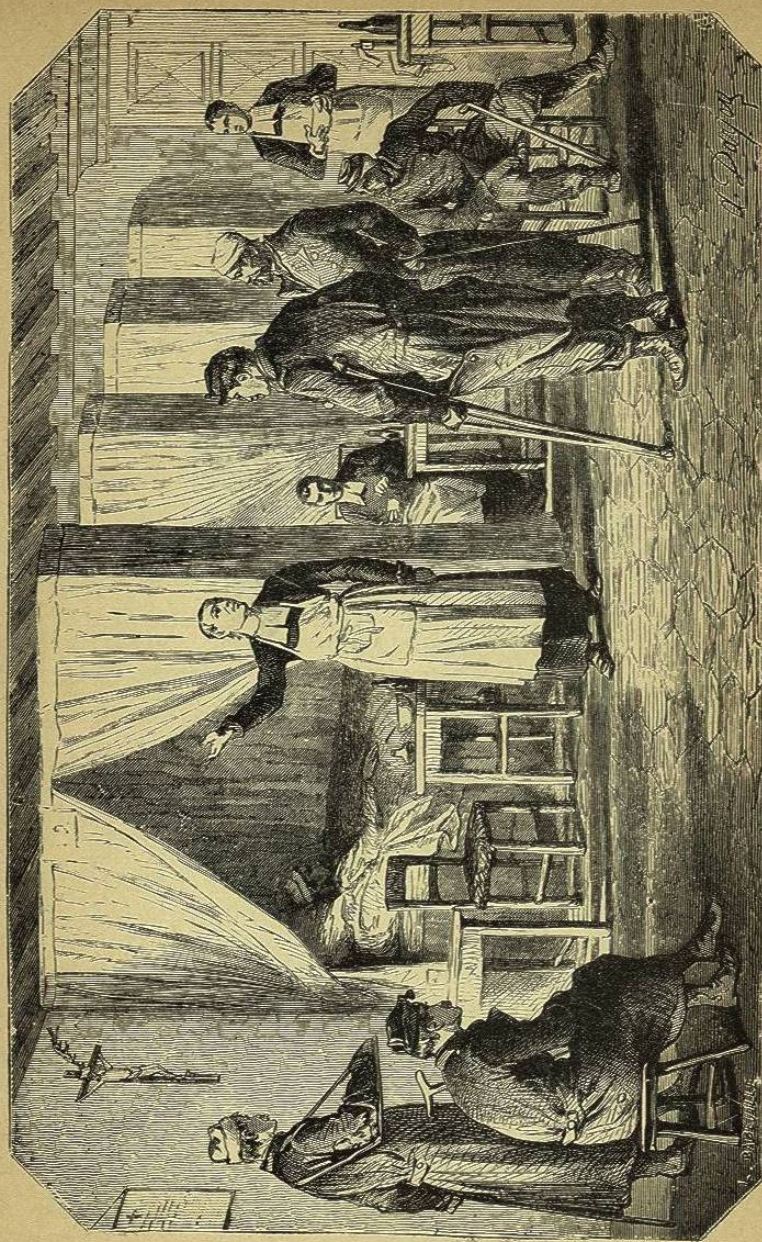
The Brothers' ambulance of Grenelle was organized on the last of August, under the military authorities, as a branch of the Gros Caillou hospital. The number of soldiers admitted into this ambulance was 680. The forty who died whilst the Brothers were in charge, all received the last sacraments. Most of those cured made their peace with God before leaving the house.



A soldier, named Blanc Adrien, arrived at the ambulance about the middle of September; he was attacked by the black small-pox. In a few days he was reduced to the last extremity, having lost all bodily strength. "There is nothing more to be done," said Dr. Audhoui; "this patient's body is in such a state of putrefaction, that in twelve hours he will have ceased to live." The Brother in charge of the patient insisted on knowing if something else could not be tried. "I tell you he is already in a hopeless state. Nothing would be of any use," replied the doctor; but he added: "Still, if any one had the courage to pierce all the pustules, and afterwards wash him lightly with water, he might possibly recover. But I doubt it."

The Brother at once hastened to make a little bistoury, as thin as possible. In a few minutes he went to work, having no opposition from the patient, who was perfectly insensible. The witnesses of this tedious operation appeared astonished at the devotion of the heroic religious. A soldier exclaimed in admiration, "I would not do that work for 100 francs an hour!" "And I," said the Brother Infirmarian, "would not do it for a million; but for God's sake I do it with pleasure!" The disciple of the Venerable De La Salle silences in himself all the suggestions of natural repugnance; he devotes himself for God and his fellowmen. Blanc Adrien recovered; during his convalescence the doctor often reminded him that he owed his life to the courage of the Brother Infirmarian. The poor fellow needed no reminder of the fact; he showed himself truly sensible of his obligation to the charitable religious.

In the Bullier ambulance, established by the military authorities, eleven Brothers entered as nurses. After a while this ambulance became so exposed to danger from the shells



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of the besiegers, that it was found necessary to remove it to the meadows of St. Germain l'Auxerrois. This ambulance was closed on the 8th of March. About 500 sick and wounded were there attended by the Brothers, and some forty prepared for death.

In what was called the *Irish* ambulance of the Press committee, so called because it was opened in the Irish College, the Brothers were in charge, and showed themselves truly admirable in generous self-devotedness and heroic charity.

In this ambulance, Brother Berrier died a martyr to the service of the sick and wounded. For fully four or five months he remained, at the peril of his life, in a fever ward where the patients would have no other but him to attend them. He sank at last under the disease he had so often combated in others. He received Holy Communion with great fervor and peace, and died murmuring the sweet name of Jesus. Dear Brother Berrier was lamented by all. The patients mourned for one who had so tenderly nursed them. The doctors were loud in praise of a Brother who was, they said, God-like in his charity; the administrator of the Irish foundations wished his name to have an honored place in the annals of the siege of Paris.

The following ambulances of Paris were also served by the Brothers: that of Tournefort, established in the house of the Ladies of Mercy; that of the *Société des Dépôts et de Comptes-Courants*; the ambulance *de la Paix*; that of *Notre Dame de la Plaisance*, and that of the *Ministère de la Justice*, Place Vendôme. In that of St. Nicholas d'Issy, some remarkable occurrences took place. On the 18th of March, liberty, honor, law, and institutions fell into the hands of the men who had assumed power; it was the reign of crime in idiocy, and hatred in fear. On the 1st of May, the St. Nicholas house was



invaded by the Federalists. The Brothers sent the boarders home; the shells fired from the surrounding heights rendered the place untenable. The infirmary, converted into an ambulance, received over one hundred and fifty men of the national guard, who were taken to Paris after the first dressing. The grand hall became an amphitheatre; a great number of dead were exposed there. The "Defenders of the Republic," then the 64th, 172d, and 248th battalions, successively lodged in the establishment. Another battalion also came there, but had to fly before the regular army. The Brothers boarded the staff and prepared the food for the common Federalists. Those wretches established a magazine of powder and projectiles in the cellars. They carried off mattresses, bolsters, and coverlets, which were never seen again. The horse belonging to the house was likewise stolen in the name of the Commune.

In the Press ambulances established in other parts of the city, the Brothers of the Christian Schools left touching memories of Catholic zeal and charity. Day and night they attended the sick with unwearying care, and that perfect self-devotedness which is characteristic of their Order, and a part of their very life.

