

7. Besides the clergymen who had charge of the school of which I write, there were a number of lay teachers, one of whom, a venerable-looking old gentleman, attended every night from motives of charity. The others were respectable young men, who, having themselves received the advantages of the school in their youth, devoted their leisure hours to teaching its pupils, out of gratitude to an institution which had so materially assisted them in life.

8. Amongst the different trades represented in the most juvenile class, consisting of nearly thirty boys, whose ages ranged from eight to twelve, I was amused to see three sooty little fellows, who, with no small air of professional pride, announced themselves as chimney-sweeps. From the state of their garments, and the rich ebony hue of their complexions, it would not have been difficult to pronounce as to their occupation; but I must say I never saw merrier or happier little sweeps before. One of them, amidst the hearty laughter of his class-fellows, assured the gentleman by whom I was accompanied that he never washed his face more than once a week; and from the pleasant chuckle with which he followed up his announcement of the fact, and the twinkle of his bright eyes, he evidently appeared to think it a capital joke.

9. I waited until the hour for the breaking up of the school, and did not leave the house until the entire troop of boys had tramped down the stairs and out into the street—the youngest in front, the oldest, with the teachers, bringing up the rear. On going out, I found them drawn up like a company of soldiers, and ready to march at the word of command. That was soon given, and instantly the troop was in motion; while at the same time the little fellows in front commenced, in their shrill, but not unpleasing voices, a sacred hymn, which acquired volume and richness as it was caught up by the older boys, and swelled by the full deep tones of the teachers. Taken, as I was, completely by surprise, the effect was no doubt much enhanced; but the harmony was in reality admirable. They thus proceeded until they arrived at a square, or open place, from which several streets branched off; and here they

21st of June, 1591. He was beatified by Gregory XV. in 1621, and canonized by Benedict XIII. in 1726. His feast is celebrated June 21.

separated into small parties, each under the care of a clergyman or teacher, who did not abandon his charge until he had seen them all safe in their respective homes.

Adapted from MAGUIRE.

JOHN FRANCIS MAGUIRE, an Irish journalist, for many years editor and proprietor of the "Cork Examiner," was born in Cork in 1815, and died there, October 31, 1872. He was a member of Parliament for Dungarvon from 1852 to 1865, and afterward for Cork until his death. In 1853 he published a volume entitled "The Industrial Movement in Ireland in 1852," and in 1857 "Rome and its Ruler." This latter work was twice enlarged and revised—a third edition, under the new title, "The Pontificate of Pius IX.," appearing in 1870. He was also the author of "The Irish in America," 1858; "Life of Father Matthew," 1863; and of a political novel, "The Next Generation," 1871.

V.

96. THE BATTLE OF MENTANA.

EMBOLDENED by his success at Mon'te Rotondo, Garibaldi determined to advance on Rome; and finding no obstacle in his path, he pushed his advanced posts to within a short distance of its walls. The chief strength of the bands lay at Mentana and Monte Rotondo, between which there is but a short distance. Their numbers had increased to between twelve and fifteen thousand; the recent victory—if it could really be called such, when taking the opposing forces into account—having inspired them with confidence and daring.

2. As every moment rendered the position of the capital more critical, General Kanzler resolved on striking a decisive blow, and thus bringing matters to a crisis. The enemy having announced that they were about to march to the conquest of Rome, the general prepared to meet them in their chief position, and there give them battle. The French general agreed in the policy of the aggressive movement, and expressed his willingness to join in the expedition, and support the Roman troops with a column under his command.

3. At three o'clock on the 3d of November, 1867—about six weeks after the first actual invasion of the Pontifical territory by the enemy—the combined force, consisting of five thousand men in all—three thousand Roman and two thousand French—mustered near the Por'ta Pi'á. The fitful light of torches revealed the serried ranks of the soldiery, and flung into darker shadow the huge masses of ruin that backed the impressive picture, filled in by groups of friends and sympathizers who

were there to grasp a hand or whisper a parting prayer. Of the Pontifical troops, one-half, or fifteen hundred, were Zouaves, the most Catholic military organization in the world. Baron de Polhés commanded the French brigade, which formed the reserve.

4. The morning was raw, cold, and rainy, as the little army marched from the Eternal City, which had witnessed so many warlike expeditions defile through its gates. It were needless to say what blessings followed its banners, around which centered the hopes of a people who for several weeks past had been a prey to incessant alarm. The French soldiers had only reached Civita Vecchia (chee've tä vek'ke ä) on the 29th of October, and were fresh for the task before them; while the Papal troops were well-nigh worn out by fatigue, through forced marches, watching, fighting, and want of sleep. But none marched with a prouder carriage or a lighter step than those who were now about to crown an arduous campaign by a victory which was to drive Revolution, broken and discomfited, across the Roman frontier, and make ridiculous the idle vauntings of Garibaldi and his chief supporters.

5. General Kanzler claimed the honor of leading the expedition, and directing the attack on the enemy's chief position, which was not more than five or six hours' march from Rome. Monte Rotondo, the headquarters and strong position of the enemy, was the principal object aimed at by the movement. It had been taken, after a fight of twenty-seven hours' duration, from a small garrison of three hundred and fifty Legionaries, by an overwhelming force commanded by Garibaldi in person. That was on the 26th; but since then it had been considerably strengthened by barricades, earthworks, and other means of defence.

6. Mentaná, which has the honor of giving its name to the battle and victory of the day, stands as it were in the way to Monte Rotondo, and presents itself as the first object of attack. This little town was strengthened by walls and an old castle, which could not withstand heavy siege ordnance, but were quite capable of resisting the fire of the light guns that accompanied the expedition, and which, during the day, had to be removed to new positions, from one rough eminence to the other.

7. Mentana, now the advanced position, presented the appear-

ance of a formidable outpost; and much had been done to add to its natural strength. Not only was it supported by Monte Rotondo, whence it derived constant reinforcements, but the position was rendered more formidable by the nature of the country, which is hilly, wooded, and rough, with occasional farm-buildings, hedges, walls, and ruins. For more than two miles in front of Mentana the hills commanding the roads from Rome were filled with Garibaldians, led and commanded by officers of the Italian army.

8. With a really able leader, and a good cause to fight for, a small army of resolute men might have easily held it against a much larger force than that which marched on the morning of the 3d of November through the Porta Pia. But the leader, though brave, was not really able; and the cause was not one to make heroes of those that followed the standard of a chief whose motive of action seemed to be, not an enlightened love of Italy, but a furious hatred of the Church.

9. About one o'clock in the day the advanced guard of the Papal army, consisting of some companies of Zouaves,¹ came into conflict with the enemy, who occupied the wooded eminences at both sides of the road leading to Mentana. The presence of the foe was first indicated by a brisk fire, and in a moment after every hill was alive with Red-shirts.² The Zouaves, who had the honor of receiving the first fire on this memorable day, advanced gallantly on the enemy, and carried the heights at the point of the bayonet. The French general bears the warmest testimony to their conduct on this occasion. "These thickets," he says in his official report, "were rapidly and brilliantly carried by the Zouaves, who established themselves on the heights which dominate Mentana."

10. Tremendous resistance was offered at one point in the onward movement. Next to Mentana itself, it was the strongest of the enemy's positions. Driven before the bayonets of the Zouaves, the Garibaldians massed in great strength behind the walls and in the buildings of a farm known as the Vigna di Santucci,³ before and round which for a time a fierce and des-

¹ Zouaves (zwävz).

³ Vigna di Santucci (vín'ya de

² Red'-shirts, so called on account of the Garibaldians' uniform. sán tüt'chee).

perate struggle took place. From wall and window a storm of bullets rained on the advancing Zouaves, in whose ranks death was now making gaps. But led on by Charette, who displayed at this critical moment all the splendid courage of his race, the soldiers of the Pope surmounted every obstacle, and carrying the place by assault, drove the enemy headlong from the position.

11. The infantry pushed on eagerly for Mentana, against which, when they had attained a favorable position, small batteries of Roman and French artillery opened fire, which was briskly responded to by the artillery and sharpshooters of the enemy. From hill to hill, from vineyard to vineyard, the Papal troops drove the foe, pushing steadily on to Mentana, round which the battle raged with fury. Their aim was to gain ground both to the right and the left of this formidable position; but the enemy, perceiving the movement, deployed two strong columns to take them in flank on both sides at once, and his maneuver succeeded, especially on the right. The battalion of Carbineers, which had advanced far into a plantation of olive trees, at a very short distance from the houses, soon found itself between two fires, and in spite of sensible losses, held its ground.

12. At half-past three o'clock the Roman reserves were almost exhausted, and General Kanzler appealed for the first time to the French general for support. The French soldiers, who until that moment had impatiently watched the Zouaves, dashed forward, with their habitual valor, on the enemy's lines. Colonel Frémont of the first of the line, with his battalion, supported by three companies of chasseurs à pied, not only checked the enemy's column, but on reaching the extreme left of the Garibaldians, opened on them a fire so heavy and murderous that he forced them to fly precipitately. The brave colonel was so venturesome as to move round Mentana itself, to a short distance from Monte Rotondo, which he would, perhaps, have entered with his column before the Garibaldians, if he had not judged that he was altogether too isolated from the rest of the Papal troops.

13. Lieutenant-Colonel Saussier of the twenty-ninth of the line executed an analogous movement on the Roman left. Having fallen in with a column of the enemy, fifteen hundred

strong, occupying the heights of Monte Rotondo, he took up a position so advantageous that, in spite of his inferiority in numbers, he succeeded in first checking, and finally in repulsing them.

14. The short November day was rapidly drawing to its close; but the Roman general determined, if possible, to bring the fight to an end before the night fell. He gave orders accordingly, and informed the French general of his intention. The attacking column drove the enemy from the vineyards still in their possession, but, in spite of the most heroic efforts, could not penetrate into the village, which was defended with determined bravery by the foe, now literally at bay. From castle, and wall, and detached houses that flanked and defended the position, a furious fire was kept up. It was the last desperate effort, but for the moment it was successful.

15. Night now began to throw its mantle over the combatants; therefore the final attack was deferred to the following day. The allied troops encamped on the battle-field, within half rifle-range of the object of strife; precautions being taken that the enemy should not take advantage of the darkness to effect a retreat. General Kanzler calculated on the surrender of the Garibaldians, to whom it would be more favorable than a second and certainly successful attack. This anticipation was fully justified; for the next morning Mentana surrendered, and Monte Rotondo was also found to have been evacuated during the night.

16. Thus ended the march on Rome, which was to have accomplished so many wonderful things; among others, given to Italy its capital—but not before it had been thoroughly sacked by the scamps and cut-throats who formed no small element in the army of Italian regeneration. For this final exploit these gentlemen had been preparing themselves at every stage of their progress. We have referred to the conduct of the Garibaldians in other places. General Kanzler thus describes their concluding achievement: "The town of Monte Rotondo afforded our troops a mournful spectacle. The churches had been plundered and defiled. The inhabitants had been terrified by the outrages and exactions of which they had been the victims." The same scoundrels would have defiled St. Peter's—nay, the Tomb of the Apostles—and destroyed what they could

not plunder from the Vatican. Happily for religion and civilization, the progress of these modern Goths and Vandals was arrested, and their boastful march turned into shameful flight.

17. The noble men and women who were inspired by charity to follow the army to the battle-field, that they might afford succor to the wounded and consolation to the dying, made no distinction in their holy ministrations. The disguised soldiers of Victor Emmanuel and the fierce Garibaldian were as tenderly treated by them as the heroic youths who had quitted home and family in the spirit of Crusaders. And the same Catholic soldiers, whom the anti-papal press of Europe stigmatized as "mercenaries" and "janissaries of the Pope," displayed the utmost compassion to the fallen foe, and even insisted that they should be the first care of the surgeons and Sisters of Charity. A lady who earned honorable distinction for her courage and humanity in attendance on the wounded of Mentana tells of a poor Breton Zouave, to whom she was giving the last orange in the ambulance, and whose sufferings from thirst were dreadful to witness, insisting on dividing it between two of his fellow-wounded, both of them Garibaldians! It was, she says, his last act of heroic charity, for he went to receive his reward before daybreak.

Adapted from J. F. MAGUIRE.

VI.

97. MENTANA.

LIGHT through the thunder-cloud,
Breaking in glory,
Falls on a battle-field
Trampled and gory;
Falls on the happy dead,
Rests on those faces,
Beautiful still
With youth's innocent graces.

2. Well they lived—well they died—
Who could weep o'er them,
As on the soldier's bier
Homeward he bore them?

- Gaze on those boyish brows
Looking to heaven;
Well have they earned their crown,
Well have they striven.
3. Bright was their path and brief,
Martyrs of duty;
Over their life there hung
Visions of beauty:
Dreams of a higher love
Floated around them;
When the call came at last,
Ready it found them.
4. It found them in many lands,
Strangers and parted;
It knit them as brothers,
The brave, the true-hearted;
They heard in low whispers
How gently it drew them!
The voice was their Master's,
He called them, He knew them.
5. He called and they answered;
That voice, how it rallies,
From Canada's woods,
And from England's green valleys,
From the rocks of Bretagne,
From the banks of the Ebro,
The sons of Crusaders,
Each young heart a hero!
6. On, then, to victory!
Angels watch o'er them!
The deep gulf below,
And the grim foe before them!
Rises their battle-cry
Nearer and nearer
"Evviva Gesu!"¹
"Evviva Maria!"²

¹ Evviva Gesu (ev vē'vā zhā-zū'), Live Jesus!

² Evviva Maria (ma rē'a), Live Mary!

7. Hark ! through the Red ranks
 Those echoes are ringing,
 And down from the gray rocks
 The foemen are springing :
 " What ! yield to the traitors ?
 No, welcome death rather ;
 We'll die for our Pontiff,
 We'll die for our Father ! "
8. There—it is over now,
 God's be the glōry ;
 Ye who have heard it
 Forget not their stōry ;
 Lay them to rest
 In the lonely Campagna (cam pan'ya),
 But first kneel and kiss
 The red soil of Mentana !

Author of " Christian Schools and Scholars. "

VII.

98. THE PERSECUTION OF THE HOLY SEE.

[An Allocution addressed to the Cardinals in the Consistory of March 12th, 1877, by His Holiness, POPE PIUS THE NINTH.]

PART FIRST.

VENERABLE BRETHREN:—We have many times in the sorrowful years of our troubled Pontificate assembled you here around us, to deplore with you the evils by which the Church has been undeservedly afflicted, and to protest against the efforts made in Italy and elsewhere for the ruin of the Church and of the Apostolic See. But in these last years We have had to witness new and more violent attacks and outrages, which the Church of God has suffered in various parts of the Catholic world, from enemies who thought that in our calamitous position, left as We were without human aid, there was a fit opportunity for assailing the Spouse of Jesus Christ. We should indeed have wished, Venerable Brethren, to describe to you to-day the cruel and widespread persecution to which the

Church is subjected in many parts of Europe ; but, reserving this description for another time, We will speak to you now of the daily increasing hardships and sufferings of the Church in Italy, and of the dangers with which We and this Apostolic See are more and more threatened.

2. It is now the seventh year since the usurpers of our Civil Power, trampling under foot every divine and human right, and in violation of solemn treaties, took advantage of the misfortunes of an illustrious Catholic nation¹ to seize by force of arms what remained of our provinces, and, storming this Holy City, filled the whole Church with sorrow for so great a crime. In spite of the hypocritical and false promises which the usurpers then made to foreign governments, declaring that they would respect and honor the liberty of the Church, and give full and perfect freedom to the Roman Pontiff, We did not fail to foresee what would be our condition under their rule. Knowing well the designs of men whom the spirit of revolution and iniquitous ties have bound together, We publicly declared that the object of the sacrilegious invasion was not merely to destroy our Civil Power, but, by its destruction, to destroy afterward more easily the institutions of the Church, to subvert the authority of the Holy See, and to overthrow the power which, notwithstanding our unworthiness, We hold as Vicar of Christ on earth.

3. This destruction and overthrow of whatever belongs to the structure and organization of the Church may be said to be almost complete ; if not to the extent desired by our persecutors, at least so far as to have brought about great ruin : for We have only to look at the laws and decrees that have been made since the beginning of the usurpation, to see clearly that, one by one, and day after day, the means and safeguards which are needed for the proper administration and government of the Church have been withdrawn.

4. The suppression of Religious Orders² has, in fact, deprived

¹ An illustrious Catholic nation, France, then engaged in its disastrous struggle with Prussia.

² Religious Orders. Four thousand religious houses, belonging to various Orders, have been suppressed by the Italian government since the seizure of Rome in 1870, and fifty thousand Religious, men and women, turned out of their own doors, robbed of their dowries, and left without means of support.