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## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF CHRISTIAN GENERAL.

### Life of General De Sonis A Source of Religious and Military Inspiration.

At present the soldier is the most prominent figure on the horizon. The boys in khaki, who are fighting on the battle front, are preparing to go to the battle front or are preparing to go to the front, command universal attention. Therefore the life of a good Christian soldier and officer is certainly an object which has a claim to our serious consideration, because of the close connection existing between such a life and the inspiration it necessarily conveys. And as an example that Christian soldier, Louis Gaston de Sonis stands unsurpassed in our times.

The life of this man has been spent partly within memory of the present generation. It has been described in detail by Monsignor Baunard, of Paris, and translated by Lady Herbert, of England, and will be treated briefly in a new *Soldier's & Sailor's* pamphlet of the Central Bureau of the C. V. There is so much of wholesome inspiration in this life that its reading is heartily to be recommended. The life itself is so eventful that a brief summary can not do justice to it. A short sketch of the daily life of the General, however, may be welcome to many readers.

It will be well to be reminded of certain facts in advance: General de Sonis was born in 1826 and died in 1887. His active life was spent in strenuous warfare in Africa against rebellious tribes, whom he subdued more than once. On the continent, he engaged in various bitter engagements, and lost a leg at Loigny during the war of 1870-71. At his burial Church and State were represented, and the envoys of both spoke in the highest terms of the military prowess and the manly courage and Christian virtue of the deceased soldier.

A day in the life of this man may illustrate the strong character which moved the man and determined his actions. His biographer writes:

"It was in the month of November, 1871, that General de Sonis arrived at Rennes, and took possession of his new post as Commander of the 16th military division of the French army.

He entered then into a new period of his existence, less brilliant, perhaps, in the eyes of men, but even nobler and more meritoriously in the sight of God. In a military point of view, it was a time of incessant and energetic work, consecrated entirely to the reorganization of the French army. The new General appeared in time of peace as he had done in time of war, always in his proper position. His house was arranged according to his rank, yet with great simplicity. Seconded by his family, he did the honors of his home with the dignity of a gentleman and yet the modesty of a Christian. Nothing worldly or luxurious was seen in it," wrote one of his habitual guests, "but an exquisite courtesy and a consideration for everybody, which pervaded the whole tone of the house."

In spite of his continual state of suffering, de Sonis would never relax the old regularity of his life. Rising every morning at five in summer and six in winter, he insisted on dressing himself alone, in spite of the difficulties caused by his mutilation. [De Sonis used a wooden leg and refused consistently to adopt an artificial one because of the shame which he believed, would be connected with such a practice]. After his prayers and meditation, he used to go to the parish church of St. Germain, which was close to his house. "His recollection edified everybody," wrote the Curé. "The good people who came to the daily Mass declared that the General's presence was a sermon in itself; and that, when he went to Holy Communion, though he could no longer kneel, his devout and respectful manner made every one strive to emulate his fervor." After Mass came work. Then he received the chief officer of his

## Foreign Mission News

### CATHOLIC MESOPOTAMIA AND ITS BISHOP.

The Propagation of the Faith Society, 348 Lexington Ave., New York City.

A personal letter received from Mgr. Manna, Bishop of Van, who has been staying in England, is so interesting, and it may interest friends of this rather unadvertised portion of the mission work. His letter reads: "The small sum collected during my tour has been sent to our poor people in Persia. There are several tens of thousands whose possessions were carried off by the Moslems, twenty-six convert priests were killed and seventy-five others are now in a destitute state. Besides, all our villages, houses, churches and chapels were completely ruined. This will give you some idea of what our poor Christians suffered and are still suffering.

"I intended to go to America, but it is difficult to make so long a journey at this time, therefore I will remain some months in Rome, waiting for means to return to my mission.

"Permit me, then, to ask for help in behalf of my people. I shall be very grateful to receive here the gifts which the charity of the faithful might give."

Bishop Manna is an Assyrian by birth and first saw the light in a suburb of what was once Nineveh the Great. Sent at sixteen to the Patriarchal Seminary at Mossoul, he was ordained priest at the age of twenty-one, and became a professor at the Dominican Fathers' Seminary at Mossoul, where he inaugurated those literary efforts that have won him such distinction. Mgr. Manna speaks seven languages, including Hebrew, Arabic and Turkish, and is the author of several philological works. At the age of thirty-four the brilliant young professor was nominated Bishop of Talbora, and from that time forward his efforts have been devoted to consolidating the Church in Syria-Chaldea, and winning back with much success the many Nestorian schismatics, having brought 100 priests and two Nestorian Bishops to the True Fold. He also erected churches, chapels and schools, and the Bishop's House at Van, only to see, when the war spread to the East, the patient work of years hopelessly wrecked.

## Cardinal Gibbons Asks Aid of School Children.

### To the Teachers and Pupils of our Parochial Schools:

His Eminence, James Cardinal Gibbons, has issued a patriotic appeal to the children of all the Parochial schools in America to rally to the American Red Cross and take their full part in the splendid work it is doing in helping to win the war and preserve our liberties. The plan is to have every school in the country, Parochial, public and private, become a Red Cross auxiliary, and every pupil thus a Junior Member.

Following is the letter of Cardinal Gibbons.

January 26, 1918.

To the Teachers and Pupils of our Parochial Schools:

The President of our beloved country, who is also the President of the Red Cross, has issued a call for all schools of whatever kind to become auxiliaries of the Red Cross, and each pupil in each school a Junior Member of the Red Cross. His desire is not only to add the efforts of all the children to the work of the Red Cross in sustaining the fighting forces of the nation, but to teach by practice to the children those lessons of unselfish love and service which must be part of the education of every child if this republic is to endure as a Christian nation, and remain the haven of Freedom.

In this time of peril our country needs the services of all the children as well as the adults; and in the days to come she will need still more the clear heads, the honest hearts and strong and steady hands of men and women who today are school children.

Therefore I ask, and urge, that each of you make full response to the call of our President, and that each school become a Red Cross Auxiliary, thus making every pupil a Junior Member. It is a privilege, no less than a duty, for the children to help bear the burdens of the momentous hour of America's trial, and in the days of her gratitude for final victory, to rejoice that they have helped to preserve her as the home of Liberty.

Faithfully yours in Christ,  
J. Card. Gibbons,  
Archbishop of Baltimore.

## W. Bourke Cockran Speaks at Convention Hall.

### In the interests of the Knights of Columbus War Camp fund W. Bourke Cockran, one of America's foremost orators, addressed a mass meeting Monday evening in Convention hall.

The audience was thoroughly representative. Clergy and leaders of the civic life of the city on the platform and a throng which filled the building to overflowing vied with each other in expressing by applause the enthusiasm evoked by the rounded periods of the former congressman whose skill in developing a theme and mastering his audiences have made him nationally famous.

Eugene J. Dwyer, the leader of the Knights' campaign, introduced the speaker, explaining briefly the objects of the campaign. The programme began with a band concert, including the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner" and the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mr. Cockran argued that the workman and the warrior, the camp and the shop have contended for the lead in the ongoing of civilization and that under the burdens imposed by predatory militarism the necessities of life increased beyond all bearing till war became the only way of escape. Those who precipitated the war, he said, were simply the instrumentalities by which God declared that the world should be freed from the crushing load. America's entrance into the war was for the vindication of divine justice.

Mr. Cockran was followed by Bishop Thomas F. Hickey who thanked the orator for his splendid effort. He also endorsed the War Camp Welfare movement which had been officially recognized by the government.

The meeting closed with the singing of "America" and the "Holy God."

## Rev. John M. Sellinger, of Ithaca, Made Army Chaplain.

### Ithaca, N. Y.—Rev. John M. Sellinger, Ph. B., assistant rector of Immaculate Conception Church, Ithaca, is the first priest of the Rochester diocese who has been officially designated as a chaplain of the regular army. He will report immediately at Fort Sheridan, Ala., after having received his credentials from government and church officials at Washington.

Father Sellinger is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Sellinger, of 5 Montrose street, Rochester, N. Y., and is a graduate of the Cathedral School, St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries. After ordination he was appointed assistant at St. Mary's Church, Rochester, where he served for a year, and was then transferred to Ithaca, where he has since done successful work.

## THE CHINESE DO STRANGE THINGS.

### A contemporary contains this list of the strange things the Chinese do. It seems doubtful if babies are above crying even in China, but there is no telling.

Perhaps our missionaries will know whether or not these facts are true:

- Their soldiers wear petticoats; their compass needles point south; their babies never cry; they wear white when they mourn; their seat of honor is to the left; their family name comes first; pupils turn their backs to the teacher, and fireworks are set off in the daytime.

It is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of Rev. John Forbes, W. F., to be Coadjutor Bishop to Mgr. Streicher, Vicar Apostolic of Uganda. Fr. Forbes has been Superior of St. Mary's School, Rubaga, for the past few years, and before that he was Superior of the Postulate of the White Fathers in Quebec. Fr. Forbes is himself a Canadian, having been born at Isle Perrot about fifty-three years ago. His experience also includes a residence in the Holy Land, where the White Fathers conduct a college. Bishop Forbes of Joliet, Canada, is his brother.

The venerable Oblate missionary, Rev. Damase Dandurand, is said to be the oldest living priest, being ninety-eight years old. Fr. Dandurand was born near Montreal in 1819, and became the first Canadian to enter the Oblate Order. He has just celebrated the

## The Great Wall of China; The World's Oldest Fortification.

### Now that everyone reads daily of our soldiers "digging in" somewhere in France, a glimpse of the world's ideas: fortification, the great Tartar wall of China, has unique interest.

Daring cameramen have caught the vastness of the great wall for Lyman H. Howe's Travel Festival, which comes to the Armory on Monday, February 4th.

The Chinese first invented gunpowder and the Howe films picture some of the earliest forms of cannon, ornate guns used in 1430, some years before Columbus made his excursion to America.

These pictures are interesting parts of a comprehensive motion picture tour of China, which is one of the headlines of Mr. Howe's newest Travel Festival. A visit to the wilds of the Yukon country, a lively day and night at Coney Island, a thrilling mountain hunt in Montana, and exciting pictures of Uncle Sam's powerful army caterpillar tractor in action are other features of the new program, along with Mr. Howe's latest animated cartoons.

The Archbishop of Milwaukee recently blessed a large new addition 196x40 feet, 3 story, to the Capuchin's Convent at Mt. Calvary, and also dedicated a St. Bernard's Workingmen's Home, for the homeless workers.

In the most of our cities the Catholic women are doing organized work for the Army.

## Rochester Young Men Awarded First Prize.

### An essay submitted by Louis A. Langie of this city in the intercollegiate essay contest conducted by the Catholic Historical Society of the United States, has been awarded first prize by the board of judges. The contest was conducted by the society with the purpose of furthering interest in Catholic historical research, and competition in the contest by the student bodies of all the Catholic colleges and universities in the country, was invited by special letter.

The topics prescribed were historical in nature, and were three in number. "The Centenary of Illinois," "Catholic Social Services" and "Missionary History of Oregon Territory and the Marcus Whitman Myth." Interest in the contest was stimulated by the offer of a \$100 cash prize for the best essay submitted. For his treatise, Mr. Langie chose the last of the three subjects, giving a brief resume of the brilliant work done by early Catholic missionaries in the northwest, or Oregon territory, as that country was then known, and also an able refutation of the authenticity of the standstill and for a time much credited "Marcus Whitman Myth."

Louis A. Langie is a son of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Langie of Seneca Parkway and is at present a Junior for the bachelor of arts degree at Georgetown University, Washington, D. C.

## NEWS FROM IRELAND

### Lanster

Rev. J.W. Cox, G.C., Four Rd., Athlone has subscribed £100 towards the new schools about to be erected to the memory of the late Right Rev. Monsignor Kelly, Dean of Elphin.

For the last month there has not been a single case of any kind in the Athlone baronet's Court.

### Ardee Rural Council have decided to let a 12-acre field, at Athlone town; in acre field, to laborers for tillage, at a rent of 28 per acre.

### Minster

E. N. C. Bor has been appointed agent to the Waterford branch of the Bank of Ireland in succession to the late M. Fitzgerald.

### The Thurles Urban Council unanimously increased the salary of the town surveyor, John Walsh from £30 to £36 a year.

### District Auxiliary, K. of St. John Elect Officers.

At the January meeting of the District Auxiliary, Knights of St. John, No. 1, the following officers were elected:

Pres., Mary Huether; 1st vice Pres., Mary Staab; 2nd vice Pres., Elizabeth Dean; Rec. Sec'y, Catharine Harter; Fin. Sec'y, Louise Meyer; Treas., Elizabeth Gaffney; Messenger, Teresa Trommel; Sentinel, Rose Carbone; Guard, Mary Cronin; trustees, M. Buckley, Margaret Roger and Mary Uhl.

### K. of C. To Give Military Minstrel

A Military Minstrel will be given at the Avon Theater, on Monday evening, Feb. 11th, for the benefit of the K. of C. War Camp Fund.

### Bookkeepers for Corporations

Would find the work of Semester C in the R. B. I. Pace and Pace Accountancy Course valuable and practical. Details and problems of the organization and conduct of corporations, as well as the analysis of the accounts and statements concerned, are thoroughly covered by a practical accountant employed by a Rochester corporation. The law portion of the course is given by an able Rochester attorney. This course begins Monday evening, February 4. It is open to all corporation bookkeepers and their assistants. Call up the R. B. I. office for details.—Adv.

## WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

### February, Our Lady of Sorrows.

Sextagesima Sunday  
3 S St. Blase Bp. M.  
4 M St. Andrew Corsini Bp.  
5 T St. Agatha V. M.  
6 W St. Dorothy V. M.  
7 T St. Romulad Ab.  
8 F St. John de Matha C. F.  
9 S St. Appollonia V. M.

St. Stanislaus Church in Chicago, now fifty years old, has as a parish 3,000 families, and an enrollment of 4,000 children in its school. Nine priests are in the parish and 64 Sisters.

## C. B. of C. V.

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