



DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF OUR SOLDIERS.

VOL. 1.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., JULY 8, 1863.

NO. 2.

The Soldier's Aid.

Published the First WEDNESDAY of every Month, by the "Ladies' Hospital Relief Association, of Rochester, New York," under the supervision of the following

COMMITTEE OF PUBLICATION:

MRS. J. W. BISSELL,	MRS. L. C. SMITH,
MRS. L. FARRAR,	MISS J. SELDEN,
MRS. L. GARDNER,	MISS C. STARR,
MRS. E. T. HUNTINGTON,	MISS R. B. LONG.

EDITRESS,
MISS R. B. LONG.

TREASURER,
MRS. E. T. HUNTINGTON.

TERMS.—Fifty Cents a Year, Payable in Advance.

Letters for publication, or referring in any manner to the general object of the paper, to be addressed to the Editress.

Letters containing subscriptions, or remittances, or otherwise referring to the Financial Department, to be addressed to the Treasurer.

Rooms Rochester Hospital Relief Association, No. 23 Exchange Place.

Steam Press of A. Strong & Co.

Army Aid.

U. S. Sanitary Commission.

The articles under the above head, and also under that of "Christian Commission," are intended to form a series, commencing with the origin and general plan of each Commission, which was done in the first number of THE AID, and continuing with a more detailed account of their work, and a record of their progress, as it comes to us through their published documents, or direct correspondence. We cannot forbear bespeaking for this portion of our paper a careful reading, as the one of main importance and interest, on account of the work to which it refers. It is our design to bring within the limits assigned it as full and interesting information as possible, gathered from every accessible source, and to make it a concise history of the Sanitary and Christian Aid operations of this war.

In the outline given in the first number of THE AID, of the work of the Sanitary Com-

mission, it was stated that it included seven distinct departments: "1st. *A system of Inspection, general and special*, for the prevention of disease and the investigation of wants. 2d. *A system of General Relief*, for the production, transmission, and distribution of needed supplies not furnished by government. 3d. *A system of Special Relief*, for procuring papers, pay, transportation and pensions for discharged soldiers, and all those who require such help. 4th. *Soldiers' Homes*. 5th. *A Hospital Directory*. 6th. *A system of Transportation of Sick and Supplies* by sanitary commission steamers and cars. 7th. *A system of Publication*, for the dissemination of sanitary knowledge." We shall aim in this and succeeding numbers to give such details concerning the working of the Commission in these various departments, as we can obtain, that will render us familiar with its mode of operations, and results obtained, and also such facts and incidents connected therewith as shall seem most useful and interesting, commencing in the present number with the first department named.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

This department of labor must be considered the one of main importance in which the Commission is engaged. It is this which gives it its distinctive character as a *Sanitary Commission*, and which more particularly brings it into close relations with the Government, as in carrying out its work of camp and hospital inspection it is necessary that a perfect accord should exist between its agents and the army officers.

It is a fundamental principle of this Commission *only to supplement Government*, to commence its work just at the point where Government is unable to do more; and, in carrying it on, to maintain perfect accordance with army regulations, working as much as

possible through the regular Government officials. The Rev. Dr. Bellows, President of the Commission, in a speech made at the Academy of Music, Philadelphia, says: "If the Sanitary Commission has achieved any triumph in this war, it has been entirely owing to the fact that it has followed the regulations of army life; that it has endeavored to enter into affectionate and friendly relations with the medical body in the field; to do all its work under the sanction of the Government itself; to aid in the proper carrying out of the regulations of the service; and to respect that honest jealousy of all outside interference and supplementary aid, natural to men in official position; that wholesome *esprit du corps*, which confesses no weakness or defect—a generous sentiment, and one which every man ought to have something of, in public place."

The object of the system of inspection is two fold: 1st. The *prevention of disease* by an investigation and removal of its causes; and 2d. The *investigation of wants*, with a view to their relief, either by Government or the Commission. This work is maintained in camp and hospital, employing two classes of agents: 1st. General Inspectors; and 2d. Special Inspectors of Hospitals. The first class consists of men selected from the best medical talent in the country, trained for this special duty, and sent as far as possible into every corps of the army, to accompany it for the purpose of keeping watch over camps and hospitals. They are paid liberally for their services, having been "taken from remunerative posts in private life, from families dependent on their care, and from spheres of large private practice." Their aim is: "to diffuse a knowledge of camp life, and to acquaint the men with the proper manner of managing every thing connected with the pe-

culiar dangers and difficulties surrounding soldiers in the field."

The second class includes eminent medical men, temporarily employed to make rounds of inspection in our military hospitals.

How to accomplish the end desired in Sanitary inspection, was made a matter of careful study by the Commission. Dr. Bellows says:

"The Sanitary Commission undertook to prepare a series of questions, covering every point that can be named respecting the interests of the soldier. Three hundred questions were prepared, which these persons were to carry into camp. After obtaining leave of the Major-General, the Brigadier-General, and the Colonel of each regiment, they went to every officer of the camp, and asked him every possible question connected with the welfare of his men. The object in asking these questions was in a negative manner to convey information, to convey to these people in a manner inoffensive to themselves, everything in regard to camp life which it was necessary for them to know. Our inspectors went through five hundred and seventy distinct and separate regiments and many of them twice and thrice over, besides special inspections, and left with them catalogues and publications, to the extent of some hundred thousands, and thus was diffused through our whole army much valuable information, which has no doubt in a great measure, made our army, in spite of all the diseases that have raged there, the healthiest army in effective service the God of battles ever looked down upon. I will give the chapter and the verse. At no time since the war began, has the average mortality been more than six per cent. Well, now, in the Crimean army, the mortality was twenty-three per cent.; in the army of the Spanish peninsula under Wellington, the mortality was sixteen and one-half per cent. The mortality of our army has been reduced by influences which have been exerted, God knows how, we trust in some degree through our instrumentality, to six per cent. as the general average and rule. Whether this be due to the beneficence of the Government, or to the admirable arrangement of the Commissariat, to the abundance of clothing with which our soldiers have been blessed, to a greater degree than any other soldiers in the world, or whether, perhaps, it is owing to the versatile and self-protecting character of the American people, or to the favorableness of the climate, or to the painstaking efforts which have been used by the Sanitary Commission, to disseminate widely the most reliable information through the whole army, is not for me definitely to say; but by the blessing of God, all these means having been used, our army, now near the end of its second year, is the healthiest army by far that ever has been in the field.

"In making our inspections, a large mass of statistics has been collected, which are new in our archives at Washington, throwing light upon questions of great interest, which will go far to settle many points which, after the war is over, the socialist may raise, or the statesman, in regard to the conduct of the war.

"These facts have been acknowledged by scientific men in Europe. It has been confessed in *The London Times*, which never speaks any good of us if it can help it, that we have achieved in this respect, a work never before undertaken. We sent into the army before there ever was a sick man in it, a body of men, (The United States Sanitary Commission,) whose duty it was to inquire and advise as to everything necessary for the health of the army about to enter the field. We did not wait as other governments wait, until the horse has been stolen, before we locked the stable door. We did not appoint a Commission, after a year of ravage, to find out how many lives had been thrown away; but with a spirit characteristic of American forethought, we selected a body of men at the start, before a single life was exposed, to suggest the means of preventing any needless waste of human life during the war."

From these statements we see that the system of Sanitary inspection in the hands of the Commission yields not only invaluable results to our army now, but promises also rich acquisitions, from its storehouse of facts, to the cause of Sanitary science and of humanity, in the future.

OUR HOSPITALS AND THE MEN IN THEM.

This is the title of an interesting article from the pen of Rev. F. W. Ware, in the May number of a religious magazine published in Boston, containing a beautiful tribute to the Sanitary Commission, from which we make the following extracts:

"I had not dreamed of the vastness and perfectness of organization and detail of that body of which we have all heard so much and so many have doubted—the Sanitary Commission. As the grain of mustard seed expands from the smallest among seeds to be the greatest of trees, so has this small thought in one brain expanded into the vastest beneficence for the sheltering of all ills. Time would fail me to speak of it even as I saw it. The simplicity and quiet with which a vast amount of complicated work is done; the patience with which every case is heard; the wisdom with which remedies are applied; the system which stoops to detail and grasps great thoughts and develops vast plans; the firmness with which a desired reform is pushed; the courtesy and the gentlemanly hospitality of those at the headquarters—all impress you with a sense of the solid worth of the institution, and the real good it does. My friend took me to and through the storehouses. These are a series of large, brick Government stables, which, being possessed of in part, temporarily, the Commission have proceeded to occupy wholly, and to hold, though wanted by Government for their original purpose. They are capitally adapted to their wants. There are immense piles of boxes of assorted goods, all labelled, so that almost in the dark, at an instant's notice, whatever is demanded can be had. Every night a list is made of the number of articles remaining in store, and it is curious to compare one day with another and see the fluctuations of demand and supply—to see how this great storehouse of a nation's liberality, which some men think well nigh bursting with plethora, is sometimes reduced to a barrenness that would be ludicrous, (if it were not embarrassing,) in one's own domestic arrangements. You cannot make a plethora, and so long as the war lasts this must be the great reservoir—only to be fed by constant running in of the little dribbles from individuals, neighborhoods and families. The Commission has now the confidence of Government, which it has fairly earned. It has had a hard fight against the prejudice of military caste; it is thwarted still, but it pushes on, and is not merely making a success, but working a conviction in the minds of men ever immovable, except under the imperative logic of facts accomplished."

Christian Commission.

We continue in the present number the extracts commenced in the previous one, from the "First Annual Report of the U. S. Christian Commission," published February, 1863:

GENERAL DIVISION OF LABOR.—The Commission has had two general divisions of labor, the one at a distance from, and the other at, the seat of war.

The work in camps and hospitals at a distance from the scenes of conflict, has been under the charge of Young Men's Christian Associations, in such places as have loyal associations in them willing to undertake it, and of Army Committees formed for the purpose in other places.

The work at the seat of war has been done by the Commission, aided by the Associations and Committees near the scenes of conflict.

The various Associations and the Committees at a distance from the seat of war, have done a great and noble work, in supplying the men who were in hospitals and camps near them, and those passing on to the war, with religious reading matter and various needed stores, relieving and counselling the sick and wounded, holding meetings among them, and gathering stores and money for the Commission.

Reports of this work, so far as we have been able to gather the facts, will be given hereafter.

First, however, we submit a brief and partial exhibit of the

WORK OF THE U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION AT THE SEAT OF WAR.—This has been of two classes—"Special" and "General."

The relief and care of the wounded, during and immediately after battle; and meeting the wants of

men in such places as parole and convalescent camps, and other emergencies, may be called "Special Work."

Whilst the supply of religious service in aid of chaplains, or in their place, for hospitals and regiments without chaplains, the supply of reading matter to men in hospitals and throughout the army, the distribution of bodily comforts, and the promotion of intercourse with home, may be called "General Work."

Both classes of work, however, are done mainly by voluntary delegates, with aid and counsel from the Committees near the seat of war.

Delegates are fitted out at our headquarters, in Philadelphia, each with his commission with railroad passes indorsed on it, his memorandum-book to take notes in and instructions to guide him, his haversack, stored with food for body and soul to those needing it, his blanket and strap, to be his bed at night, in a strait, and if going to the battle-field, his bucket and cup, and lantern and candle, to enable him to give drink to the famishing, by night as well as by day.

Supplies of stores and publications are sent forward for them to the rooms of our committees or agents nearest the field of their work; and for the battle-field, a trunk for each company of three, five, or six delegates, as the case may be, packed with choicest and best articles, for instant use for the suffering on the field, is taken with them as personal baggage, to make sure that they have them the moment they get there.

They are divided into companies, and each company has its captain appointed, and they are each supplied with a metallic badge neatly engraved, "U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION," to be pinned upon the breast of his coat, and worn to distinguish him in any company.

And in some unexpected emergencies whole carloads of special stores have been bought and gathered in an incredibly short space of time by the magic of an energy that removes all obstacles, and sent forward free with the express trains to reach the field as quick as steam could take them. Forewarned of a coming battle, stores are sent in advance. These trunks are kept on hand ready packed, and stores are kept packed in preparation for a battle whenever it may occur, in boxes and barrels, marked "Stores for the next Battle." And when forewarned of a battle approaching, they are sent to the most convenient place in the vicinity of it.

Our delegates are instructed to report themselves in all possible cases to the proper authorities, whether officers, surgeons, or chaplains, as the proposed work may require, for instruction and direction, and in every case to respect the established regulations. Three hundred and fifty-six delegates have been sent, and three thousand six hundred and ninety-one boxes, &c., of stores and publications have been distributed by them in person.

These delegates have aided in the relief of many thousands of the wounded on the field, and in their removal to comfortable hospitals. They have washed and dressed them, taken off their bloody, filthy garments, and put on those clean and comfortable; cooked and given them food; prepared and given them drink by the way. They have prayerfully pointed the dying to Jesus, and when dead given them Christian burial; in some instances digging the grave with their own hands. They have written and mailed letters for them to their friends, have met their yearnings for sympathy, attended to dying requests, and in many other ways comforted, instructed, cheered, and benefited them.

They have preached the Gospel in camps and hospitals, from man to man, tent to tent, to little groups and vast assemblies, in temporary chapels and under the broad canopy of the heavens, and afforded Christian ministrations in all the many forms needed by our brave men.

THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION FOR ALL.—Men of all sections of our country, and of all regiments of our army, have been alike and impartially cared for by our delegates. They do not ask what State a suffering soldier is from, or what regiment he belongs to, before giving him relief, but first pour in the oil and wine into his wounds, and get him to the hospital, where his wants will be attended to, and then ask him all about himself, so as to inform his friends at home; or if he has lost his descriptive list, write for it for him.

Even the wounded of the enemy, falling into our hands, are not "passed by on the other side." In many instances kindness to them has opened their hearts, and induced free expression of penitence as well as gratitude.

They have visited nearly all the battle-fields of the war with their blessed ministrations, and labored in

nearly all the camps and hospitals of the whole army.

Stores and publications, amounting in value to one hundred and forty-two thousand one hundred and fifty dollars, have been distributed to soldiers in hospitals and camps.

They have given personally to our brave men, one hundred and two thousand five hundred and sixty Bibles and Testaments, one hundred and fifteen thousand seven hundred and fifty-seven books, large and small, thirty-four thousand six hundred and fifty-three magazines and pamphlets, religious and secular, one hundred and thirty thousand six hundred and ninety-seven Soldiers' and Sailors' hymn and psalm books, three hundred thousand temperance documents, and ten million nine hundred and fifty-three thousand seven hundred and six pages of tracts.

Aid has also been given in the formation of libraries, and in securing newspapers and the larger periodicals for reading-rooms in some of the United States General Hospitals.

A connected history, embracing all the details of this work, with its many thrilling scenes and incidents, would swell our report to a mammoth volume. All we can attempt is a few brief sketches of campaigns, battle-fields, and camps, with a few specimen incidents as illustrations of the whole work.

Letter from General Fisk to a member of the Christian Commission:

HEADQ'RTS 2D BRIGADE, U. S. VOLUNTEERS, }
HELENA, ARK., Feb. 16, 1863. }

MY DEAR BROTHER BOARDMAN: I greet you with a God bless you, from the sunset side of the Mississippi, "way down south, in Dixie." I am just in receipt of the programme of exercises of our Commission's anniversary, on the 29th ult., at the American Academy of Music, in the city of Brotherly Love. I wish I could have been with you, and told you our necessities, based upon my own experience and observation on the field. Oh, how the soldiers are stretching out their hands for religious reading! I assure you that my hands, head and heart find full employment in my new field of labor. I devote all the hours I can to the religious training of my men. I preach to them on the Sabbath; I bow with them in prayer in their quarters; I try to encourage the doubting, bring back the wanderer, and call the sinner to a proper recognition of and obedience to the great Captain of our salvation. Oh, for more Christian courage in the army! If every man who had named the name of Jesus at home, would have the courage to stand by the banner of the cross while in the army, it would do much to stem the tide of iniquity that floods our camps.

I would that every Christian in the land, who has an acquaintance, son, brother, husband or father in the army, would write them on this subject of Christian courage—give them "line upon line."

I am much in want of Testaments, hymn-books, cards, tracts, small books and papers. Can you send me a large box? Adams' Express has an agency at this point, and you can doubtless send them, free of charge. I wish you would have five thousand hymn-books put up for me, with the card on the cover printed: "Presented to _____, of Fisk's Brigade, by the Christian Commission," &c.

All this gives value to the little look, and leads the men to be more careful in keeping their books clean.

I would like one thousand of the "Soldier's Prayer-book," published by the Protestant Episcopal Book Society, 1224 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia; five thousand "Roll Call," a small tract published at the same institution; and also their card of "Promise," "Gospel Truth," &c. I have one regiment mostly Episcopalian. You cannot send me too much. I will try and be a living, acting, fighting member of the Commission.

I have never yet seen your plan for organizing Christian Unions or Societies in the regiments. Please send me a few copies. Direct mail or packages to "Brigadier-General Clinton B. Fisk, care Rev. I. G. Forman, Helena, Arkansas."

Remember me with much love to Brother Stuart. Pray for me.

Excuse this disjointed written-in-the-field scrawl.
Yours faithfully, in Christian bonds.

CLINTON B. FISK.

Ladies' Aid Society of Philadelphia.

This Society is among the earliest and most interesting of the various organizations in aid of the soldier, and is the only instance within our knowledge of a local Society act-

ing extensively as an army relief agency. This it is enabled to do through the privileges afforded it by government, combined with the ability, energy and devotion of its Secretary, Mrs. John Harris, who gives her whole time to the personal care of the sick and wounded in the camp and hospitals at the seat of war.

From its Fourth Semi-annual Report we make the following extracts:

"In offering our Fourth Semi-Annual Report our Society has continued reason to be grateful for the liberality and kindness of those who have, by generous benefactions, sustained our efforts and encouraged our labors,—the same reason to be thankful that our own industry and courage have not faltered; and still more abundant reason to believe that a kind Providence has smiled upon our humble exertions.

"Among the earliest to engage in this work of comforting and sustaining those who had devoted themselves to the hardships and risks of a soldier's life, our Association has been enabled to maintain its first earnestness and vigor until the present hour.

"To the incessant and highly appreciated labors, in the camp and in the hospitals, at the seat of war, of our Secretary, who is still absent, our Society owes largely the interest which is felt in its work. To the deep sympathies stirred by the hastily-written accounts of her work, is due, no doubt, the promptness of those liberal benefactions which insure the continuance of its usefulness. These deep feelings, these outbursts of female sympathy, sketched by one who has personally and piously ministered to the wants and sufferings of thousands of sick and wounded men; of one who has prayed with and closed the eyes in death of more than a thousand departed soldiers, has strongly moved many generous hearts, and doubtless opened fountains of liberality and kindness, which have sent forth streams of bounty, flowing to the aid of soldiers, not only through our hands, but reaching them not less surely by the hands of others.

"Being among the earliest of the Associations devoted to the relief of want and suffering in the army, certain helps and facilities were accorded to us by the highest military authorities to aid in prosecuting our labors, which have been continued to us down to this time, by officers well acquainted with our mode of procedure.

"Our Society is pleased to believe that there are none who more approve its methods than those who are best acquainted with them. So long as these important advantages are extended by the army authorities, who can best judge whether they are deserved; so long as our friends continue to replenish our stores and supply our treasury; and so long as our Secretary has health and strength to remain at her post in the army hospitals, so long we shall deem it our duty to persevere in the path we have chosen,—believing that our hands having found this work to do, it is our duty to do it with our might.

"Whilst such considerations, and many more which we cannot specify, forbid us for a moment to think of abandoning the work hitherto prosecuted with such success, we do not hesitate to advise others, who have not secured similar advantages for separate effort, to unite with us or with the Sanitary or the Christian Commission.

"In connection with either of these institutions, their labors will be suitably directed and made efficient. Individuals and associations who attempt to reach the soldiers in the field or field hospitals, without having first secured the necessary arrangements, will meet with numerous difficulties and obstructions, and may fail altogether. It is therefore advisable that all such should unite with associations having the needful facilities to reach the army. There can be no lack of choice in the agency to be selected to fulfill every charitable design. The two great institutions above named are prepared to receive aid from all who wish to promote the comfort and sanitary and religious interests of our armies. In our more limited sphere, we are ready to receive help from the hand and the purse of every one,—from all who may desire to make our Society the instrument of dispensing their kindness. Let no one conclude that the wants of the hospitals and suffering soldiery are not of the most pressing character. There has been no time when they have not been pressing. No amount of care and labor, if properly bestowed, can be too much for the moral and physical interests of our army of half a million of men. In no instance it is believed has so much been done as in our armies since this rebel war has

burst upon us, but there is still abundant and lamentable occasion for more effort, and greater supplies and continued watchfulness.

"Those who have been inmates of hospitals for months are not less objects of compassion than those who have just entered. Experience has taught that to be fully prepared for the reception of the sick and wounded on their first arrival, is of the utmost importance. In matters of sickness and wounds, the economy and advantage of being always ready and fully supplied for emergencies, is beyond all estimate. Our Society then trusts that the women of the North will not relax their efforts in this great cause, if already engaged, and that those who have not yet put their hands to it, will without delay enlist in it for the war."

We present also a short extract from the correspondence of Mrs. Harris, who for more than a year, has ministered *personally* to the wants of our brave soldiers on the battle-field and in the hospitals of the Army of the Potomac.

To the sacred but melancholy office of ministering to the soldier summoned to sudden death, she has unsparingly devoted herself. Whether whilst the battle was still raging; whether in open field, tent, or hospital, in the day or night, she has kept herself ready for the call of any who would lead her to the dying soldier. To how many she has thus ministered, we shall never know, but it has been to very many.

To the departing spirit thirsting for words of comfort, she has given the manna sent down from Heaven three thousand years ago, and which David gathered up into that beautiful psalm:

"The Lord is my shepherd;

"Though I walk through the dark valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil."

To all such it has been an unspeakable consolation that, in the hour of extreme suffering, in the very presence of the King of Terrors, they were attended by one who recalled the affection and tenderness of mother and sister. Her letters are so full of interest we are troubled to make selections. Will commence with some that give a little of her last winter's experience:

GENERAL SUMNER'S HEADQUARTERS, }
JANUARY 20, 1863, 11 o'clock P. M. }

MY DEAR MRS. J.: The wind is howling, driving the rain and snow against our window panes. We have a bright fire on our hearth, add many comforts about us, which would be enjoyed, did we not know that our brave soldiers are on the march, in expectation of meeting the enemy in deadly conflict to-morrow. Think of fifty thousand of our sons and brothers, exposed all night to a pitiless storm, marching to the cannon's mouth, jaded and exhausted, no hot coffee to-night and none in the morning to warm and cheer them. Thoughts of home and loved ones crowd in upon them, and the probability (when they were new in their war experiences, it would have been the possibility,) that home scenes will never gladden their eyes, thrills their poor hearts with anguish; thoughts, too, of the great future which may open before them ere another sunset, soothes the few, but terrifies the many as on they go to meet the foe. The left division of the army, Franklin's are in the advance. It is expected they will inaugurate the battle. Will be in line of battle, if the stormy and severe weather does not hinder, at midday to-morrow. What may be the issue of the conflict is known only to the Lord of hosts, who is now sifting our nation in His wrath.

We lie down to-night with the sad knowledge that not less than 1,000 of our sick are exposed to this terrible storm, not even shelter tents to break its force. By to-morrow night, we may add many

thousand of wounded to this suffering, shelterless, company. No adequate means to prevent freezing, should the weather continue severe, have been secured. You may form some idea of the conflict within; it is only symbolized by the storm without. And all this is the Lord's doings. Are not the hairs of our head all numbered? Does He not see every throe of anguish, hear every sigh, count every groan, and know every pain? and yet He permits them all, giving a loose rein to His creatures, that they may in their madness destroy themselves. He is acquainted with grief, and makes an exact measurement of all these ills, and then permits them. So we must feel fully satisfied that a need be for every one of them will be acknowledged through all eternity. Jesus was asleep on a pillow in the hinder part of the ship, when His timid ones called Him, and He heard them. Perhaps even now the cry of His affrighted disciples may reach His gracious ear, and "Peace, be still!" quiet this rolling sea of human passion. We will lie down and trust Him. We know He is at the helm, never slumbering nor sleeping.

**Ladies' Hospital Relief Association,
Rochester, New York.**

Our own Association has been in operation nearly a year and a half, having been organized January 17th, 1862. It has never connected itself exclusively as the auxiliary of any one agency, but has forwarded its supplies to such points as in its judgment from time to time, most demanded aid. During the latter portion of the first official year, it sent principally to the rooms of the New York Relief Society at Washington.

Latterly, however, as its members have become more fully informed through publications and the statements made by agents in person, concerning the operations of the Sanitary and Christian Commissions, the tide of interest has set mainly in that direction. It accordingly took the action at its last monthly meeting, in reference to these Commissions, expressed in the following communication published in our daily papers of June 16th:

HOSPITAL RELIEF—THE SANITARY AND CHRISTIAN COMMISSIONS.—The ladies of the Hospital Relief Association of Rochester respectfully call the attention of the public and their auxiliary societies to the following communication emanating from the U. S. Sanitary Commission at New York, which readily explains itself:

NEW YORK, April 11th, 1863.

To the U. S. Sanitary Commission:

GENTLEMEN—The New York Committee of the U. S. Christian Commission have recently had assigned to them a definite district, from which we are expected to gather all the means required for carrying on our work.

This district includes the States of Connecticut and New York and the eastern half of New Jersey. We have undertaken to send delegates and a supply of reading matter to the armies and hospitals of the Atlantic coast, the Gulf of Mexico and the lower Mississippi.

This division of the field at home and of the labor abroad is well understood by the Central Commission in Philadelphia and its eastern branches, and they will not send any agents or employ any other means to collect money or stores in any portion of our district.

While we are still auxiliary to the Central Commission, and are cordially co-operating with it in its leading objects, we now think we may, without embarrassing any other branch of the Christian Commission, enter into some arrangement with you in regard to stores, which will prove satisfactory to both parties. With the hope of securing an entirely cordial co-operation in the labors of our respective commissions, we are willing to agree to send to your Depository all the stores that may come into our possession.

And further, we will agree to state the arrangements between us in regard to stores, in the public meetings which we may hold in the different portions of our field, and to recommend that all stores be sent directly to you.

On your part we presume you will be willing to agree to instruct your agents stationed on the Atlantic coast and in the Gulf of Mexico, &c., to furnish the few stores which our delegates may need to use in prosecuting their spiritual work, on their personal application to your agents, and at the same time showing their commissions from us.

OFFICE OF N. Y. COMMITTEE OF THE }
U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION, }
No. 30 Bible House. }

Ordered, that the Commission will accede to the proposal contained in the foregoing letter, and that its agents on the

"Atlantic coast, the Gulf, and the lower Mississippi, be directed through the General Secretary to conform thereto."

At the last regular meeting of the Association, it was resolved that we make these united commissions the channel through which we hereafter send our hospital stores, to be distributed by their agents in the various departments of our army above designated, *reserving to ourselves the right to send elsewhere, as the needs of our soldiers at any time may require.*

Let no one conclude that the wants of our hospitals and suffering soldiery are not of the most pressing character. It may be said that a large army is constantly passing through our hospitals—many to the grave, some crippled for life to their distant homes, and others back to camp. We believe the numbers and efficiency of those who have left the hospitals for camp, have been DOUBLED by the united and constant labors of the women of the North. In this efficient mode of aiding to suppress the rebellion and restore peace to our country, more, much more can yet be done; and whilst armies are saved to the Republic, and millions to the public treasury, the highest duties of humanity and religion are performed. Let NO LOYAL WOMAN fail to engage in this work, and let no one falter who has begun.

By order of the Association.

MRS. L. GARDNER, Cor. Sec'y.

—Since writing the above, a letter has been received from a member of the Executive Committee which says: "We want more cotton drawers and socks, bed ticks, corn and oat meal, corn starch, pickles, preserved fruit, and horse radish put up in vinegar." We trust our friends in the city and country will respond to this call *immediately.* "A word to the wise is sufficient."

MRS. L. GARDNER, Cor. Sec'y.

The regular meetings of the Society are held the first Wednesday of every month, when the reports of its various committees for the preceding month are presented. We give below the reports of donations received and goods forwarded during the month of June:

Receipts during the month ending June 30th:

CASH DONATIONS.

Jacob Anderson, \$1; John H. Rochester, \$1; Edwin Serantom, \$1; Hubbard & Northrup, \$3; R. Wild, \$1; Mr. Connolly, 50c; A. S. Lane, \$1; O. L. Palmer, \$1; Nelson Sage, \$1; M. O'Brien, 50c; E. B. Sherman, \$5; Hiram Sibley, \$10; George S. Riley, \$5; Ladies of Parma, by Mrs. Dr. Rowley, \$16.82.

MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Mrs. R. S. Frazer, \$1; A. S. Mann, \$1; F. Gorton, \$1; D. W. Powers, \$1; Wm. Alling, \$1; S. D. Porter, \$1; S. P. Allen, \$1; Samuel Wilder, \$2.

FROM AID SOCIETIES.

Beulah—12 cotton shirts, 4 cotton flannel shirts, 10 pairs cotton flannel drawers, 20 pairs cotton socks, 3 double gowns, bandages.

Brick Church, Rochester—21 shirts, 6 pairs drawers, 11 pairs woolen socks, 2 pairs linen pants, lint, bandages, 18 pounds dried fruit, 17 bottles wine.

Clarkson—5 cotton flannel undershirts, 1 pair woolen socks, 2 pillow cases.

East Avon—Bandages, old pieces, dried apples, pears, and plums, pickled onions and pears and vinegar.

Second Ward, Rochester—11 cotton shirts, 16 pairs drawers, 9 handkerchiefs, 13 pairs slippers, 7 feather pillows, 39 hop do., lint, bandages, old pieces, reading matter and dried fruit.

Eighth Ward, Rochester—4 cotton flannel shirts, 7 pairs cotton flannel drawers.

Honeoye—16 handkerchiefs, 3 dressing gowns, 4 quilts, 2 sheets, 3 pillow cases, 40½ pounds dried plums, 7 do. pears, 20 do. cherries, 17 do. peaches 14 do. apples, and 4 do. currants.

Penfield—3 pairs woolen socks.

FROM INDIVIDUALS.

Miss M. B. Allen, reading matter, dried fruit and jellies; Mrs. L. H. Alling, 1 pair socks; Mrs. A. Bonson, 42½ yards cotton; Mrs. S. P. Draper, dried fruit and lint; A. Friend, 4 pairs slippers, old pieces, lint, and bandages; do., shirt, drawers, socks, and handkerchiefs; Mrs. Fuller and Mrs. Lacey, Churchville, keg of pickles; Rose Graham, a

little girl 7 years old, 1 pair socks; Mrs. Manson Hall, Greece, books and papers; Miss E. Hayward, dried apples and plums; Mrs. E. T. Huntington, 15 yards bleached muslin; Mrs. Hooker, Webster, drier apples and peaches; Mrs. Langworthy, dried fruit; Mrs. A. Mann, 18 shirts, 6 pairs socks, necktie, and bandages; Miss L. May, Henrietta, 15 hop pillows; Mrs. A. Morse, 3 cans of tomatoes; Mrs. Piffard, Piffardinnia, 8 bottles raspberry vinegar, dried fruit; Mrs. E. L. Pottle, keg of pickles; Miss Richardson, Gibbs street, dried apples; Mrs. Rossiter, 1 flannel shirt, 3 cotton shirts, 3 handkerchiefs, old pieces, and bottle of wine; Mrs. Shelmire, 1 pair hose; Miss Fannie Smith, 1 pair socks and 2 pair slippers; Miss Van Ness, dried fruit; Mrs. Woodworth, Gates, dried apples.

Mrs. A. S. MANN, Treasurer.

Report of the Packing Committee for June, 1863.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., July 1st, 1863.

Sent from the Ladies' Hospital Relief Association rooms of this city, to the U. S. and Western Sanitary Commissions, during the month of June, 1863—5 Bales, 6 Barrels, 6 Kegs, and 4 Boxes of hospital supplies—as follows:

BALE No. 42.

24 flannel shirts, 24 pairs cotton flannel drawers, 24 pairs woolen socks, 24 handkerchiefs, 2 cotton under shirts, 2 dressing gowns, 24 new cotton shirts, 24 second-hand cotton shirts, 24 pairs cotton drawers, 24 napkins and handkerchiefs, 2 pairs slippers, 5 sheets and 1 cushion.

BALE No. 43.

48 new cotton shirts, 24 second-hand shirts, 4 calico shirts, 48 pairs cotton drawers, 4 pairs calico drawers, 24 handkerchiefs, 8 coats, 1 pair pants, 1 vest, 6 cotton flannel under shirts, 6 dressing gowns, 4 cotton sheets, 1 blanket, reading matter, dried fruit, corn starch.

BALE No. 44.

48 new cotton shirts, 24 second-hand shirts, 5 calico shirts, 48 pairs cotton drawers, 3 pairs calico drawers, 24 towels, 48 pairs woolen socks, 4 pairs cotton do., 9 coats, 1 vest and 1 pair pants, 4 cotton flannel under shirts, 6 dressing gowns, 3 cotton sheets, 2 quilts, and dried fruit.

BALE No. 45.

24 flannel shirts, 24 pairs flannel and cotton flannel drawers, 24 new cotton shirts, 24 second-hand cotton shirts, 12 pairs cotton drawers, 24 pairs woolen socks, 20 pairs cotton socks, 48 handkerchiefs, 18 flannel bands, 3 pillow slips and 6 sheets, 15 cushions.

BALE No. 46.

12 pairs cotton flannel drawers, 12 cotton flannel shirts, 24 new cotton shirts, 48 second-hand shirts, 12 pairs cotton drawers, 24 flannel bands, 24 pairs woolen socks, 5 dressing gowns, 1 pair linen pants, 1 neck-tie, 29 hop pillows, 1 army cloth dressing gown, 12 flannel shirts, 5 sheets and handkerchiefs, and reading matter.

BARRELS No. 41 UP TO 46, INCLUSIVE.

Lint, bandages, and 45 hop pillows.

KEG No. 46.—Pickled cucumbers.

KEG No. 47.—Pickled pears.

KEG No. 48.—Pickled onions.

BOX No. 34.

14 bottles wine, 1 bottle fruit in sugar, 1 can fruit, 1 jar fruit, dried apples, dried peaches and plums, 6 cushions.

BOX No. 35.

Dried fruit.

BOX No. 36.

1 jug tomato catsup, 1 jug vinegar, 1 jar pickled pears, dried apples, plums, bandages, and dried peaches.

BOX No. 37.

24 bottles wine, 3 cans fruit, dried fruit, bandages and lint.

MRS. L. C. SMITH, Chairman.

We would say to Aid Societies in our vicinity, that we have made arrangements for forwarding our goods to the Sanitary and Christian Commissions and to the New York Society at Washington, free of charge; and

that all supplies sent to our rooms will be faithfully forwarded, according to the plan adopted at our last meeting, unless a preference is expressed by donors for some other destination, in which case they will be sent as desired, where the quantity is sufficient to form a separate package.

The Soldier's Aid.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., JULY 8, 1863.

Business and Benevolence.

It would seem that, like the earth itself, everything upon it has two poles, which, from the very nature of things cannot be fully combined. Especially does this seem true in the domain of human development, where every virtue has not only its opposing vice, but its opposite virtue, also; and in action, every advantage its conflicting advantage, neither of which can be wholly attained without a partial sacrifice of the other. Thus we often see that which is the most *pleasing* brought into collision with what is the most *effective* in securing a proposed good, that is, the most *useful*.

Such a collision frequently occurs in human action, between spontaneous, individual efforts on one hand, and the systematic proceeding of an organized body on the other; indeed, we apprehend that the two poles of *system* and *spontaneity* are developed to a greater or less degree in all benevolent operations. While we love and reverence the beautiful and lofty impulses of human nature going out in individual acts of benevolence and heroism, with which such operations abound, we are compelled at the same time to admit the necessity of a systematic plan of effort in most cases, which must guide and supplement impulsive action, and even to some extent supercede it.

Abundant illustrations of this fact are furnished at the present time, in connection with the efforts made throughout the country in behalf of our soldiers. Supplies for the sick and wounded in our military hospitals are prepared at home, involving in many cases much self-sacrifice in the labor and expense bestowed upon them, and then a choice is to be made between various agencies in the field for their distribution. At this point come in most prominently the opposing advantages and disadvantages of individual and corporate agencies, of *spontaneous* and *systematic* action in aid of the soldier.

This war has called out many noble men and women, who, acting in their individual capacities, have exhibited a self-sacrificing devotion and efficiency on the battle ground, and in the camp and hospital, beyond all praise. It has also developed one of the most remarkable organizations, considered in reference to its

object, the extent and complex nature of its work, and perfection of its system, ever known. We refer to the United States Sanitary Commission, which is more particularly considered in this connection, as the agency which is brought by many into unfavorable contrast with individuals.

In selecting an agent to be entrusted with the disposition of the precious freight designed for our suffering soldiers, there are certain advantages which determine many donors strongly in favor of *individual agents* well known for their ability, faithfulness and benevolence. These advantages may be included under two heads, the personal confidence and interest felt in the agent, and the increased glow of interest in the work inspired by the prompt and detailed reports received from him concerning the disposition of stores made. In reading such a report of the appropriation made of our gifts, *directly* to those for whom they are designed, we feel as if we had been almost privileged to bestow them with our own hand, and we render our heartfelt tribute of admiration and gratitude to the missionary agent who is performing this work of love for us.

There cannot, in the nature of things, be just the same kind of interest in the proceedings of an organized body, especially where its operations are extensive and complicated. Individuality must, in a great measure disappear, and spontaneous, independent efforts be shaped into accordance with a general system of action. There must be more of the aspect of business, with less striking manifestations of simple, out-gushing benevolence, and from this contrast may arise doubts and suspicions, and impressions of a "soulless corporation." It is only necessary, however, to consider candidly the vast work called for in aiding the Government to care for our soldiers, to be convinced that our benevolence toward them must take the form of business, if one tithe of that work is to be accomplished. It is a work that no number of isolated individuals can perform. It involves various kinds of labor, requiring various species of talent and culture, and for these the appropriate persons must be obtained regardless of other considerations. It requires uniform and persistent labor in its several departments, and also a subordination to authority in carrying out a general plan; all of which could hardly be relied upon in purely voluntary efforts.

The nature and necessity of this work, which is undertaken by the Sanitary Commission, but few, probably, fully understand, the majority regarding the Commission only as an agency for distributing sanitary stores, it being under this aspect, chiefly, that it comes into relation with home operations. That this is but a small part of its duties

will be seen from the outline of its plan given in the first number of *THE AID*, and from the numerous publications of the Commission.

It is of course impossible within the limits of a short article, to dilate upon this plan. Suffice it to say that the Commission has undertaken the work of supplementing Government in its care of the sanitary interests of our army, that its field of labor is co-extensive with that of military operations, and its duties as various as the necessities to be met, and that to accomplish its object of good to our army the most efficiently and *economically*, a systematic business mode of operations, involving *whatever pertains thereto*, is essential. The work of the Commission is one which, in its fullness, no number of individuals acting independently, could possibly accomplish, and which no other agency has attempted. It is one essential to the welfare of our army, and lastly, it is one dependent for its ability to labor thus, upon voluntary aid at home. It would thus seem that in consideration of its *work* alone, apart from the personal character of those engaged in it, of its service to our army, independently of the motives which prompt it, such an agency *must be sustained*. Even if it were *merely* a business, a machine grinding out its good results as soullessly as a mill does the grain for our daily bread, we must regard it as an instrument of good, indispensable to the sanitary welfare of our soldiers.

That such only, however, is not the character of the Sanitary Commission, it is quite unnecessary to assert. It had its origin in a benevolence, that has constantly impelled it and moulded its whole course of action. It is perhaps the best illustration to be found, certainly of which the annals of war furnish any record, of benevolence working through the channels and machinery of business. And if it cannot achieve *all* the good desirable, or embody within itself *all* the modes of benevolent working, cannot furnish full scope for all the spontaneous philanthropy and patriotic enthusiasm longing to work with eager hands in the same cause, it only furnishes one more instance of the fact that nothing human has yet been developed *quite* perfect.

The Commission has been subjected to much misrepresentation, owing partly, no doubt, to its governmental connection, which brings it within the pale of a prejudice so unjust to many high minded, disinterested men, holding offices under Government. Many, with full confidence in the Commission itself, have distrusted the final link in its chain of operations as a distributing agency, viz: the distribution of stores, as a general rule, from the disbursing room directly to the soldiers, by *army surgeons* and

other officers, from a habit of considering official position as a species of moral Upas, blighting alike to conscience and humanity. The statements and arguments of the Commission have done much toward abating this prejudice, while its own action, blessed as it has been in its results to our soldiers, and the cordial testimony in its favor by those best qualified to judge, have secured for it a well established confidence throughout the loyal community, and have entitled it to the gratitude of all whose best interests are identified with the welfare of our army.

Our Paper.

We are happy in being able to report a most gratifying success in our canvass for the necessary support of our paper. The public have, as far as called upon, manifested their sympathy with our object by a generous response upon the subscription list. Owing to the absence of some of our Directors, and the temporary inability of others, however, but a comparatively small portion of the city has yet been called upon, not over two or three wards having been canvassed with any degree of thoroughness, and it is not yet time for returns from the country. But the prospect of entire success is so favorable that, with the aid of our advertising columns, we venture upon the enlargement of the paper sooner than we had supposed would be possible when our first number was issued.

We regret that through some unaccountable mistake, so many of our subscribers failed to receive the first number. We can only say in relation to it, that a carefully prepared list, including the name of every subscriber brought into our rooms, was sent by us to the printing office, that the papers were superscribed at the latter office, in accordance with that list, and mailed. With the care thus taken at both offices to insure accuracy, we can only account for any failures in the transmission of papers, by some inaccuracy or want of completeness in writing a name forwarded to us. Many names we found difficult of deciphering, and others were given with but the last name. We would, therefore, request great care hereafter on the part of those who send in the names of subscribers, to give the Post Office address in full, and distinctly written.

BREAD CAST UPON THE WATERS RETURNED AFTER MANY DAYS.—The following incident is narrated in the Second Annual Report of the "Women's Central Association of Relief, New York:"

"The Sanitary Commission have recently been much gratified by learning that one of its California contributors, who was an officer, and had been badly wounded, came on in the hospital car which runs between New York and Washington. Fully sensible of the ingenuity and tender sympathy which it exhibited, he touchingly remarked, that 'he little dreamed when he gave his mite to the Commission that he should soon have it returned to him ten fold.'"

Army Correspondence.

For The Soldiers' Aid.

From the 140th Regiment—Army of the Potomac.

JUNE 24th, 1863.

Another month has nearly rolled away, and with it the many great and important changes which go to make up the history of our country, a history for the present sad and fearful. But in the bright vista of the future shines out in all its magnificent splendor, a brighter history, one not fraught with gloom and sadness, but with all those inestimable blessings of tranquility, the fulfilment of that sacred sentence in the Declaration of Independence, which claims for every man the right of Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

* * * * *

My last letter left the Army of the Potomac very comfortably ensconced in the old quarters where they had spent the dreary months of winter, and to which they had returned after the memorable visit of that army to Chancellorsville, but the stay on the last return to those camps was destined to be short.

* * * * *

The army was put in motion, and with energy and determination the brave soldiers went forward at the bidding of their chief, on the march from the old camps to the famous Bull Run and Centreville, which was no boys' play. The weather was hot—sultry—and the sun poured out his rays on the men in all his majestic splendor and force. Some cases of sunstroke and the giving out of some by exhaustion, was no more than might reasonably be expected under such circumstances, but with such exceptions, the army arrived safely at its destination on Monday, having started on their onward journey on the Saturday evening previous, thus accomplishing in two days what it took two weeks to accomplish last fall on the march to the place just left.

* * * * *

In the recent moves which have been and are to some extent being made to invade Northern territory, a bright prospect exhibits itself in the general uprising to stay the foe. For a time all considerations of party and domestic bickerings seem to be laid aside, and the people rush to the rescue. Pennsylvania and loyal Maryland shall not be laid waste by the ruthless despoiler. There are those in the North, and many of them too, who would hail the day as the consummation of their dearest hopes, when this cruel war was transferred to Northern soil, who would glory and do rejoice in all the reverses which our gallant army meet from time to time. But thank God, such are not THE PEOPLE, they are but a handful compared with the mighty legion who compose the American Nation. Let us hope, let us believe a bright future is before us. It cannot be long before a collision occurs between

the main contending forces here, which will tell with great effect for good or ill. Let us have faith it will be with us here as it has been with our brethren in arms at nearly all other points of late, a uniform success. Leaving the future as has been the past in the keeping of a kind Providence, I close this short letter, hoping the next time I write, the end of this unhappy fratricidal strife may be in view.

POTOMAC.

For the Soldier's Aid.

From the Gulf.

The following letter has just been received by a member of our Committee of Publication, from her son, who is connected with Mack's Battery. Apart from its interest otherwise, it possesses a peculiar value in being the first epistolary communication from Port Hudson since the reported repulse of Gen. Banks, on the 14th:

PORT HUDSON, MISSISSIPPI, June 13, 1863.

Three weeks ago to-day, the forces under Gens. Banks and Auger invested this place, which, according to predictions, would fall an easy prey to the conquering horde of Yankeedom; still, the "rag" floats, and rebeldom holds its own. I do not mean to say that we consider this place able to stand an assault, but it seems to be the commanding General's intentions to save life at the expense of time, which, however wearisome to those engaged, will be best in the end.

We are firing slowly all the time, each battery taking its turn, and all at times go in for a full hand.

One thing is certain, we have dismantled or broken every gun on the parapet of the left and centre.

They have a few guns in the woods and some light batteries left. All we want now is, for them to show their ugly "physiogs" near the front and a special donation party, at which shot and case shell will predominate, will be ordered for their especial benefit. * *

Camp life is rather dull, too much so to suit us. We eat, sleep, blow and yawn; get permission to go after water, and stay two hours; fire a few shot, and wish the "grub cart" could be sighted.

JUNE 16th.—Since writing the above we have moved two hundred yards nearer the enemy's intrenchments, and of course so much nearer the enemy's sharp shooters, who fire at us every time we show ourselves. The bullets come whizzing over our heads, passing two hundred yards to our rear, the spent balls only stopping near us. They bring us our breakfast and dinner *very early in the morning*, and our supper as soon as it is dark enough, though sometimes they bring up the cart at noon. "Johnny Reb." is getting more accurate in his aim, and it is not as safe to risk it now.

Gen. Banks published an address this morning telling and praising what has been done,

and calling for one thousand volunteers as a storming party to finish this job. Each of the survivors to be given a medal, and promotion as opportunity offers.

Gen. Payne was wounded in the charges made on the 14th. He was wounded in both legs, and mortification, it is said, has set in. Had he been spared a few hours longer the effect would have been different. No orders were given to his command after he fell. *He was too brave.* Riding in advance of the column scarcely two hundred yards from the enemy's works. By the way, he was a law partner of Carl Shurz. He is very much respected by the whole corps. Every man knows when *his* name is mentioned that a brave, true, honest, firm patriot is referred to.

Gen. Banks is confident of the final success of this expedition, and its object, and we all think the last act of the Spring campaign will open the Mississippi to the Union, and strike one of the finishing blows to this rebellion.

Miscellaneous.

Three Words of Strength.

BY SCHILLER.

There are three lessons I would write—
Three words as with a burning pen,
In tracing of eternal light,
Upon the hearts of men.

Have *Hope!* Though clouds environ now,
And gladness hides her face in scorn,
Put thou the shadow from thy brow—
No night but hath its morn.

Have *Faith!* Where'er thy bark is driven—
The calm's disport the tempest's mirth—
Know this—God rates the hosts of heaven,
The inhabitants of earth.

Have *Love!* Not love alone for one,
But man as man thy brothers call,
And scatter like the circling sun
Thy charities on all.

Thus grave these lessons on thy soul—
HOPE, FAITH, and LOVE—and thou shalt find
Strength when life's surges roll,
Light when thou else were blind.

Letter from Mrs. Swisshelm to the New York Tribune.

CAMPBELL HOSPITAL, Washington, June, 1863.

DEAR TRIBUNE:—I receive many letters inquiring if the sick soldiers get the comforts sent for their use, and stating the belief that surgeons and nurses appropriate them to their own use. I have visited four hospitals, and spend all my time not thus employed in distributing stores here and taking care of the sick. Trustworthy committees, men or women, whom I know personally, and can trust implicitly, have visited every other hospital in and near this city, and in all except Campbell and Army square, we have found a serious deficiency in the supply of fruit acids. I find chaplains and other friends of sick soldiers very willing, nay, anxious, to dispense the delicacies sent me. The fact that there is a little store room where a sick man can get a lemon or pot of jelly without a written order, signed and countersigned by two or three Government officers, is hailed as important, and from this I judge there is some trouble in getting supplies conveyed to the men who need them. I feel that red

tape sometimes gets between the sick man and his glass of lemonade, until the man is dead and the lemon rotten, and that this happens when there is no intention of wrong. It may be, likewise, that surgeons and nurses steal from the sick. I have had no opportunity of aiding in any hospital but this, and have reason to believe the surgeons here are somewhat exceptional in their care of patients; but, unless they were omniscient, they could not be quite certain that no wrong is done.

I began this work feeling that surgeons and nurses were the natural enemies of the patients, and resolved that privates and non-commissioned officers alone should have the benefit of the stores sent me; but one night two nurses of one ward were detailed to sit all night long beside the beds of two patients who each had a limb amputated recently. One was to watch if an artery burst, and place his hand on a certain spot, and send instantly for the surgeon; the other was to keep his hand firmly on the limb to still the spasms of the nerves. For night lunch they had a piece of bread and some apple sauce. They asked me for something, and my only regret was that I had nothing good enough for the good, faithful fellows—soldiers of the Union, both of them, but partially maimed from severe wounds, won in defense of our Freedom, and living now on the pay of private soldiers. Ladies and gentlemen who send stores for me to dispense, shall I see that my night nurses have a comfortable meal, and that my day nurses have some acknowledgment of faithful service?

As for the Surgeons. Surgeon Kelly is our executive officer, and with his family and Assistant Surgeon Baxter, occupies quarters here quite equal in extent and architecture to a first-class railroad shantee. Mrs. Kelly spends whole days cooking our canned fruits which are likely to spoil. The nicest tid-bits on the table come into the wards to some sick man. When the general ward master brings in a wagon load of stores, these two surgeons come to my store room, unpack the boxes, assort the fruit, place the linen in the closet, the cans on the shelves—work hard for hours, and thus save expense in handling. I know that if they attended any one of these patients at home, as they do here, there would be nothing in the house quite nice enough for them to eat; when I find a pot of extra nice preserved fruit, if they did not accept a part of it I should feel that they wronged the generous wish of those who are so ready to aid the suffering soldiers. With these exceptions, I *know* that the stores sent me go to the men for whom they are specially assigned, and think that all exceptions are less than one cent on the dollar. Chaplains of hospitals and benevolent ladies and gentlemen carry them to the beds and give them into the hands of the sick men.

Then for the officers. In one of our wards lies Lieut. Fallon, one of Hooker's old division, who was in the eight hours unsupported fight at Williamsburg, and who since lay while the Eleventh Corps ran over them, and until the victorious enemy came within fifty yards of them, when they rose, fired their volley and charged bayonets. His limbs are riddled with bullets received in that charge. One night in the small hours, he was taken with cholera morbus, and as the retching strained and tore open the healing wounds, I forgave him his shoulder straps, and should have compelled him to drink hot green tea and hot cinnamon tea, if he had been a Major General.

I try to fulfil what I think is the wish of those who honor me with being their almoner, and give to any soldier according his need. I

keep no accounts, take no receipts, for I generally transact my business with both hands busy tending a mutilated limb, or while in bed from some slight illness or fatigue. My bed is in my store room, and I lie, when unable to be up, and give out stores for this and other hospitals.

The men long for ham and apples and dried fruits. They need tea of the best quality and sugar. I have bought eighty-five pounds of sugar, and got five pounds from the Sanitary Commission—have paid \$20 freight, bought one box of lemons and a barrel of apples and seven bottles of wine and brandy; we need pure wines and brandies. These I should like sent me direct to Campbell Hospital, so that I can know before receipting for them, that the bottles have not been emptied by freight agents. Blackberry and cherry wine or brandy are much needed, but above all, I want good green tea, best white sugar, and spices to make into tea; should like feather and hop pillows, six by eight inches, and all sizes above are needed, and they should all be in white covers. Soft old table linen should never be made into towels, but be torn of suitable size to cover the stump of an amputated limb; every hospital shirt should have wristbands.

JANE G. SWISSELM.

P. S.—We need apple butter.

Left Behind.

BY MARY CLEMMER AMES.

O, hear the music coming, coming up the street;
O, hear the muffled marching of swift on-coming feet;
O, hear the choral drum beat—the bugle piercing sweet!

Our volunteers are coming, coming up the street;
Throw open wide the windows, beloved ones to greet—
We're ready, waiting, eager, our bonny, bonny boys to meet!

Our volunteers are coming! They've lived through every
fray,
Through marching, through fighting, through fever's cruel
prey—
To be mustered out of service, the gallant boys to-day!

Your tattered battle-banner, unfurl it in the air!
I'm seeking one beneath it—I'll know him, bronzed or fair;
Oh! glad returning faces, our darling is not there!

The trumpets clash exultant, the bayonets flash me blind,
And s'ill my eyes are seeking the one I cannot find;
O, tell me true, his comrades, have you left our boy behind?

Say, soldiers, did you leave him upon the battle plain,
Where fiendish shell and cannister pour fierce their fiery rain?
Did ye leave him with the wounded, or leave him their
slain?

Or, weary in the wasting camp, sore worn with sun and scar,
Did turn your faces to the North, to homes beloved afar,
And say, Good-by, we go, but *you* enlisted for the war?

Be pitiful, O, women, with pity softly kind!
You clasp your war-worn veterans; there are mother's eyes
tear-blind,
There are women broken-hearted for boys left behind.

Can the hero crush the woman, and cry, O, let it be.
Let arms and homes be empty, for thy sake, Liberty!
O, generation perish! The land shall yet be free!

O, hear the music dying, dying on the wind,
And still my eyes are seeking the one I cannot find;
O, tell me not of "glory," our boy is left behind!

—Missouri Democrat

How to "Aid" the Soldiers.

Let every one read the following extract from a letter from John Hogarth Lozier, Chaplain of the 37th Indiana Regiment, published in the Rochester Daily Democrat and American, June 27th, 1863: He says:

I'll tell you what I want you to do: I want you to do at least twice as much for the soldiers this year as you have ever done before. I don't want any young lady in all this land, who says she is "Union," to let the next month pass without, *with her own hands*, making some garment for the soldiers, either in the field or hospital. I want every "Union man" to show his faith by his works, and to go out now into the patch, and lay off one row of potatoes to every son, brother, or other kin folks he has in the army; then hill up those potatoes nicely and dedicate them

to the soldiers. And, see here, unless you have a great many relations in the army, you must keep out of the short rows. Dig these potatoes when ripe, and give them to the Sanitary Commission. Every bushel that you give to the soldier is better than to have sent him the best doctor in the country. Then I want the house-wife that "bosses" that fine garden just over yonder, to go out to the onion bed and lay off a row of onions for every relative and friend she has in the army, and if, when she has counted the rows, they are not sufficiently numerous to satisfy her conscience, she may use them like the boys say the secesh women use their shortening in their twenty-five cent pies—the "long way."

And then I hope the Soldiers' Aid Societies will, in addition to their other kind offices, resolve themselves into a fruit drying committee, and collect plums, cherries, berries, peaches, and apples, and dry, (not can,) them by the quantity. Let next autumn witness a revival of the old fashioned "apple cuttings," the proceeds to be distributed among the soldiers, unless the war ends in the meantime.

And now I wish I could multiply myself into a committee of about five hundred thousand. I would go to every bright eyed little patriot in the land and take him by the hand, and I'd tell that little boy that I wanted that little hand to pick and dry one quart of blackberries for the soldiers; then I'd tell that little girl that that little hand must pick a quart of cherries or plums, and that she must make a little bag for the plums or cherries, and one for her brother's berries, and that they must put their names on the parcel, and send it to the Commission, and then, although they may not hear it, God will hear some poor, sick soldier say, "God bless that dear child."

I have had opportunities to learn what the soldiers need in the hospitals. Dried fruits are most needful for those in hospitals, and potatoes, onions, dried apples, kroust, &c., for the well in the camps. It is our desire not only to supply the sick with delicacies and needful clothing, but also to act upon the old adage, "An ounce of preventive is worth a pound of cure;" and by furnishing regular supplies of vegetables to our noble boys in the regiments, prevent their becoming sick. If those who love the soldiers will help us, we will bring many of their noble boys home again, who may otherwise be left in some Southern grave yard.

"Is that Mother?"

Among the many brave, uncomplaining fellows who were brought up from the battle field of Fredericksburg, was a bright eyed, intelligent young man, or boy rather, of sixteen years, who belonged to a Northern regiment. He appeared more affectionate and tender than his comrades, and attracted a good deal of attention from the attendants and visitors. Manifestly the pet of some household, he longed for nothing so much as the arrival of his mother, who was expected, for she knew he was mortally wounded and failing fast.

Ere she arrived, however, he died. But he thought she had come, for while a kind lady visitor was wiping the death sweat from his brow, as his sight was failing, he rallied a little, like an expiring taper in its socket, looked up longingly and joyfully, and in the tenderest pathos, whispered quite audibly, "Is that mother?" in tones that drew tears from every eye. Then, drawing her towards him, with all his feeble power, he nestled his head in her arms, like a sleeping infant, and thus died, with the sweet word "mother," on his quivering lips.

Advertisements.

AT WM. Y. BAKER'S FANCY GOODS STORE,
No. 66 State Street,

Will be found a splendid stock of **FANCY ARTICLES,**
Of every description, not only ornamental, but useful, such as will please the tastes of all, as well as add to their comfort. Call and see. jy8-1t WM. Y. BAKER.

SUPERB KID GLOVES—For a dollar. Nothing equal to them in this country. An assortment received this morning—all sizes, and all we shall be able to get for a month to come. jy8 CASE & MANN.

THE OLD AND RESPONSIBLE D. LEARY'S STEAM FANCY DYEING AND CLEANSING ESTABLISHMENT,
TWO HUNDRED YARDS NORTH OF THE NEW YORK CENTRAL RAILROAD DEPOT,
On Mill st., Cor. of Platt st.
(BROWN'S PLACE,) ROCHESTER, N. Y.

The Reputation of this Dye House since 1828 has induced others to counterfeit our signs, checks, business cards, and even the cut of our building, to mislead and humbug the public.

NO CONNECTION WITH ANY SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENT.

Grape, Brocha, Cashmere, and Plaid Shawls, and all bright colored Silks and Merinos, cleansed without injury to the colors. Also,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN'S GARMENTS CLEANSED OR COLORED,

Without ripping, and pressed nicely.

Silk, Wool, or Cotton Goods, of every description, dyed all colors, and finished with neatness and dispatch, on very reasonable terms.

Goods dyed Black every Thursday.
All goods returned in one week.

GOODS RECEIVED AND RETURNED BY EXPRESS.

Bills collected by the Express Company.
Address, **D. LEARY,**
Mill street, corner of Platt street,
Rochester, N. Y.
jy8y1

\$2000 LOST—On a lot of Embroideries and Laces, which we have this day put on sale at an enormous sacrifice.

The stock embraces muslin and cambric collars and sets, real lace collars and sets, veils, mourning collars, and sets, and other goods, together with a general lot of articles in

OUR EMBROIDERY DEPARTMENT,

Which we are selling utterly

REGARDLESS OF COST.

There are lots of splendid bargains in these goods, many of them cost

TEN TIMES

The price we have put upon them to sell at.

As we want to close them all out, we have made prices on them to reduce the sale of them to everybody, whether needing them or not. **CASE & MANN,**
jy8 37 and 29 State street.

ANOTHER LOT OF CHEAP GOODS—On our Embroidery counter. Also, a mixed lot of articles on our Hosiery counter, at about 25 cents on the dollar of their cost, including one hundred gross Pearl Shirt Buttons at 18 cents per gross. Also, a lot of dress trimmings, buttons, etc., at about 5 cents on the dollar. One dollar will buy enough to last a year or longer. There are many goods of real use and value in the lot. **CASE & MANN, State street.**
jy8

WIDE AND NARROW WHITE BAREGES.
jy8 **CASE & MANN.**

SUN SILK—And other desirable Shawls, seasonal goods at jy8 **CASE & MANN'S.**

MOURNING MOZAMBIQUES—mall plaids, black grounds, fine quality, just received. **CASE & MANN.**
jy8

BLACK AND COLORED WORSTED GRENA-DINES—Up to two yards wide, at **CASE & MANN'S.**
jy8

EXTRA SUPERFINE BLACK ALPACAS—Pure Mohair goods. Also, fine and medium qualities, at **CASE & MANN'S.**
jy8

MEAT MARKET. LAW & HORTON,

At No. 130 Buffalo Street,
Have a well arranged Meat Market, which is always liberally supplied with everything necessary to meet the public want. This market is

CENTRALLY LOCATED,
And is well worthy the liberal patronage that it is receiving. All Meats delivered, free of charge. jy8-1t

POWELSON'S Photograph and Fine Art GALLERIES,
No. 58 State Street, corner of Market, Rochester, N. Y.
and
No. 230 Main Street, Buffalo, N. Y. jy8-1t

PRICES REDUCED. GREAT CLOSING SALES OF SPRING AND SUMMER DRY GOODS.

There has not been a time within the past five years when Dry Goods were sold comparatively as low as we are now selling them.

Having made unusually large purchases within the past thirty days, and during the panic at panic prices, being really less than one half the actual cost to import at present rate of exchange, or manufacture, at now ruling rates for cotton and wool, we are enabled to offer to our trade all kinds of Goods even below our former season for the past five years, and at prices from 30 to 50 per cent. below the prices in February.

Our stock is the most varied and desirable to be found in Western New York, and at present prices are a saving of over 50 per cent. to the purchaser buying now, as all kinds of goods must advance again, probably to higher prices than the highest point previously reached.

NEWCOMB, SACKETT & JONES,
40 State Street, Rochester, N. Y.

Pensions, Bounty, Back Pay, etc. THE UNDERSIGNED—Offers his services to all those who have claims against the Government, growing out of the present war.

He refers to the fact that for several years he has bestowed his undivided attention in procuring Bounty Laws and Pensions, and believes that his experience (as extensive as that of any other person in the State,) will be of very great service in the speedy adjustment of claims.

It is very desirable for claimants that no errors be committed in preparing claims, as they involve not only trouble but delay and loss.

PENSIONS.—1. Invalids disabled since March 4th, 1861, in the military or naval service of the United States, in the line of duty.

2. Widows of Officers, Soldiers, or Seamen, dying of wounds received, or of disease contracted in the military or naval service.

3. **CHILDREN**, under sixteen years of age, of such deceased persons, if their widows die or marry.

4. **MOTHERS**, who have no husbands living, of such deceased officers, soldiers and seamen.

5. **SISTERS**, under sixteen years of age, dependant on such deceased brothers wholly or in part for support.

INVALID PENSIONS, under this law, will commence from the date of the pensioner's discharge, if application be made within one year thereafter. If the claim is made later, the pension will commence from the time of application.

BOUNTY—The heirs of those who die in the service are entitled to a Bounty of \$100.00.

SOLDIERS DISCHARGED by reason of wounds received in battle are entitled to a Bounty of \$100.00.

Applications may now be made at my Office for Back Pay for Soldiers, or in case of their death, for their Heirs.

Applications by letter, or otherwise, will be promptly attended to. **ALFRED G. MUDGE,**
Rochester, August 11, 1862.—jy81t No. 2 Court House.

O. L. SHELDON'S LIFE, FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE OFFICE

NO. 16 ARCADE HALL, OPPOSITE P. O. ROCHESTER, N. Y.

MANHATTAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,
New York,
Cash Capital and Surplus\$1,800,000

New England Life Insurance Company, Boston,
Cash Capital and Surplus,\$1,800,000

Phoenix Fire Insurance Company, Brooklyn, N. Y.,
Cash Capital and Surplus,\$300,000

Manhattan Fire Insurance Company, New York,
Cash Capital and Surplus,\$200,000

Niagara Fire Insurance Company, New York,
Cash Capital and Surplus,\$300,000

Pacific Fire Insurance Company, New York,
Cash Capital and surplus,\$266,000

Thames Fire Insurance Company, Norwich, Conn.,
Cash Capital and Surplus,\$118,700

Handen Fire Insurance Company, Springfield,
Cash Capital and Surplus,\$286,000

Policies issued in the above first class companies, and losses promptly adjusted and paid. jy8-1y **O. L. SHELDON.**

ANDREWS' MEAT MARKET.

Let all epicures and lovers of good living be sure to call at **No. 26, Corner of Sophia and Allen Streets,**

where they will ever find the greatest variety, and best quality of meats, at fair prices.

I need not enumerate, as the public know where to find the best. jy8-1t **WM. ANDREWS' M. M.**

WM. S. OSGOOD,
Manufacturer and Wholesale Dealer in
Sperm, Lard, Pure Winter, Solar, Whale, Kerosene and
Machinery Oils,

Alcohol, Camphene, Turpentine, Varnishes and Burning Fluids of all kinds.
Store, No. 112 BUFFALO STREET, (opposite the Rochester Savings Bank,) Rochester, N. Y. jy81t