



DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF OUR SOLDIERS.

VOL. 1.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., JUNE 19, 1863.

NO. 1.

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

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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.

Steam Press of A. Strong & Co.

Prospectus.

The issue of a paper devoted to the cause in which our own and other similar Associations are engaged, was suggested among our members some time since as an aid in carrying forward our work. We felt that there was still much need of general information on the various points relating to our efforts, notwithstanding all that had been published, and that much good might be done if, in some way the valuable intelligence included in the documents emanating from the Sanitary Commission and other sources, could be more effectually brought within the scope of readers in general. We had been liberally furnished with supplies of these publications, and had distributed them, as far as we were able, to individuals within our reach, but something more seemed necessary to extend their influence. Their ultimate distribution, depending upon voluntary and occasional efforts, could not be accomplished with the dispatch and uniformity desirable, and hence to those not receiving them directly from head-quarters, the supply would be uncertain. In addition to this, their extent precluded, beyond a comparatively few readers, the careful attention they merited.

It was therefore thought, that if the most important intelligence accessible to us could be brought, by means of extracts and condensed statements, within sufficiently reduced limits, and regularly forwarded to individuals at stated intervals, a good could be accomplished not otherwise attainable.

Many would read a small periodical brought stately to their doors, who had not leisure for more extensive documents, and others might in this way be induced to seek the original publications.

It was in view of such a result that the plan first occurred to us of publishing a small paper. Another advantage was also contemplated in the stimulus which might thus be afforded to increased interest and efforts in behalf of our soldiers. During the last few months there seems to have been a general falling off in hospital supplies, owing partly to the fact that the stock of half-worn materials, entering largely into former contributions, is exhausted, and the difficulty under present prices of substituting new goods; partly to an impression that they are not so much needed; and partly also, no doubt, to distrust occasioned by exaggerated reports of fraud and waste, as well as to other causes. In as far as this deficiency arises from a misapprehension of facts, it can be remedied by keeping the community well informed, and one aim in these columns, was to contribute our mite toward applying this remedy.

Such was the original idea of "The Soldier's Aid," to which, however, we now allow a greater breadth, admitting, as appropriate to its object, whatever bears, in any way, upon the interests of the soldier, or of the cause in which he is engaged; indeed the latter is to be kept in view as our crowning aim. We work for our soldiers with a double interest; because they are suffering and needing our assistance, and because they are fighting for the preservation of institutions equally as dear to us as to themselves. We should do this from motives of humanity alone, but beyond these, we also accept the work assigned us as our part in the battle for freedom and union. The Guardian Genius of our free government rallies to her standard not only the brave and strong, equipped with musket and sabre, but ourselves also, armed with our humbler implements, as she calls upon us to bind up the wounds of her bleeding heroes.

We have partially made arrangements for a department of original "Army Correspondence," from which we anticipate much interest.

The portion assigned to the commissions and agencies in immediate contact with our army, is regarded as very important, especially to Aid Societies, from its relation to their work. We shall endeavor to secure correspondents connected with each.

We shall not aim, in our paper, at mere entertainment, nor make any attempts at fine writing, or originality. Our object is the very homely one of utility, and whatever, in the way of quotations, extracts, and condensed statements, will best serve our purpose, we are prepared to seize in the name of the cause and consecrate to our use.

In politics our creed is a brief one, "Our Country, our whole Country, and nothing but our Country;" or this other version, "Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

The present number constitutes our Prospectus, and also the first number of "The Aid." It presents the general appearance, and, substantially, the arrangements of the paper, the latter not being yet quite completed, and is issued preparatory to soliciting subscriptions. The second number will be sent to the press as soon as a sufficient amount of prepaid subscriptions is secured to meet our expenses. The avails of the paper, beyond the bare cost of its publication, which is afforded us on liberal terms, will be appropriated to the object of the association, the purchase of hospital supplies. The size will be increased whenever our subscription list shall warrant the additional expense.

We solicit, in behalf of our object, the patronage of the patriotic; in which connection we would add, that in accordance with our terms, it is very desirable to have all subscriptions prepaid. We particularly invite the concurrence of Aid Societies, and individuals in our immediate vicinity, in obtaining subscriptions as full, and at as early a date as may be convenient. We regard this region as more especially our appropriate field, but shall be grateful for whatever aid and sympathy may be extended to us from any other source.

The question has been asked us, "Should the war cease, and your paper consequently be discontinued within the year, what disposition will be made of your balance on hand?" Our reply is, "Refund to the subscribers, if this is desired, otherwise apply it to the aid of soldiers' families." We are, however, faithful with regard to so early a termination of the war, as to leave us any troublesome amount on hand.

In conclusion, we say to our friends and a loyal public, the nature and object of our proposed undertaking is before you, and while we pledge our best efforts in its behalf, we must bespeak your indulgence

for our short comings in rendering it all we could desire, and rely upon your liberality for the means of sustaining it.

The Duties of American Women in the Present Crisis.

The contest in which our country is involved, is one in which every man, woman, and child, within its borders, has a vital interest. Upon its issue hangs the fate of our Republic, and with that, of the best government ever framed by human skill.

It has been our high privilege as a nation to solve for mankind the problem of Free Government, and to prove to the world beyond doubt or cavil, in the success of our own institutions, that a great People can govern themselves. These institutions an illustrious ancestry has transmitted to our keeping, as the richest legacy ever bequeathed by one generation to another. Under their influence our country has, in three-quarters of a century, grown from the condition of thirteen feeble colonies, connected by slender ties, to nearly thrice that number of populous and wealthy States, with rich Territories beyond, all cemented into one free, prosperous and powerful nation, holding a proud rank among the nations of the earth.

The government which has been thus beneficent in its influence at home, and which has been an omen of ill to despots, and a beacon star of hope to the lovers of Liberty throughout the civilized world, is now assailed by Treason. The Union which our Fathers enjoined upon us sacredly to preserve, and which has insured our greatness, freedom, and prosperity, is quailing under the blows of a powerful rebellion. Sacrilegious hands are essaying to destroy it, and loyal ones are striking for its preservation.

In this conflict, we, as American women, cannot be idle spectators. It is our cause, in common with those who stand in the battle's front, and we must take part in the struggle with *head, heart, and hand*.

We must understand the merits of our cause, appreciate the vast interests it involves to ourselves and the world, to our own generation and those to come after us; realize the magnitude of the perils which beset it, and of the corresponding efforts required to avert them, and learn how we can most efficiently perform our part in the great work of saving our cherished institutions.

We must develop the spirit of genuine inflexible patriotism that can sacrifice *anything* before national honor, that can give labor, wealth, friends, and life itself sooner than abate one jot or tittle of the sacred trust our nation is sworn to keep inviolate; the spirit that would scorn the peace to be purchased by the infamy of surrendering our birthright; that would accept annihilation, if need be, rather than national shame and degradation. When the question is between a disgraceful peace and a devastating war, we cannot hesitate to choose the latter, even to the last breath of our national existence, for, in such a case, "the dead lion is better than the living dog."

But while we must know, think and feel, we must also *act*, doing with our hands whatever they can find to do. We must perform some *tangible duty*. For this we have but a limited range. We cannot go to the battle field, nor, with few exceptions, serve in the distant hospitals; but nearly all can aid our soldiers in some way at home, contributing for the comfort of the sick and wounded either money, materials, or labor. These contributions being most effectively made through the channels of the Aid Society, it follows that we must find here the main field for our *hand service*. With the outbreak of the War, impromptu Associations sprang up all over the country in response to the emergencies of the hour, which, as the necessity for aid increased, gradually

ripened into a systematic form, but generally without reference to more than a temporary action, to cease with the completion of the army arrangements. Experience, however, has thus far proved that government, with the Herculean task imposed upon it, cannot at any time fully meet our hospital demands without the aid of private benevolence. Unless, therefore, we decide to turn a deaf ear to the calls of our suffering soldiers for help, ignoring at once the claims of country and humanity, and excluding ourselves thereby from the only *labor* which it can be our privilege to perform in this contest, the Aid Society must take its place as an institution co-existent with the War itself.

With this view, an imperative duty becomes clear; *we must enlist in the Aid Society for the War*. We must make its duties part of our *regular business*. The time has gone by, long since to our soldiers, when this war could seem to them a Fourth of July procession, in which, with drums beating and banners flying, they were to march joyously along, cheered by the waving of handkerchiefs and the shouts of an enthusiastic crowd. They have known long and well its perils, its hardships, and its drudgery. And so we have gradually learned the lesson that the service required of us is something more than the result of occasional spasms of patriotism; that it is *work*, unadorned, continuous work, that we must render. We have learned that varying impulses must be supplanted by a steady resolution that can assume a humble, laborious duty, and under all circumstances, whether of success or defeat, carry it persistently forward.

Let us, then, come up to the requirements of the hour, identifying ourselves in every possible way with the vast interests at stake. It may be but little that we can do, it *may be* much. But whether we can throw into our cause great treasures, or only the widow's mite, let us freely give our all, if need be, that our nation may transmit to the coming generation, unimpaired, the heritage entrusted to its keeping, and preserve for the world, by the triumph of our republic, its faith in human freedom.

☞ We find ourselves compelled to omit in the present number, the principal portion of our miscellaneous matter, and, much to our regret, an interesting letter from the Army. The letter, however, was not quite so appropriate to the present time, having been written some time since, in anticipation of an earlier issue of "The Aid." One department of our paper, therefore, "Army Correspondence," does not appear in the present number. The departments, too, are not so equally proportioned as they will be hereafter.

We feel, already, the necessity for enlarging our borders, and shall do so as soon as we are assured of the requisite funds to meet the additional expense.

Give.

"The vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew."

THE fire of Freedom burns,
March to her altar now;
Bear on the sacred urns
Where all her sons must bow.

Woman of nerve and thought,
Bring in the urn your power!
By you is manhood taught
To meet this supreme hour.

Come with your sunlit life,
Maiden of gentle eye!
Bring to the gloom of strife
Light by which heroes die.

Give, rich men, proud and free,
Your children's costliest gem!
For Liberty shall be
Your heritage to them.

O friend, with heavy urn,
What offering bear you on?
The figure did not turn;
I heard a voice, "My son."

The fire of Freedom burns,
Her flame shall reach the heaven:
Heap up our sacred urns,
Though life for life be given!

[Atlantic Monthly.]

Army Aid.

"Army Aid."

This term is applied here to the whole field of voluntary operations in aid of our soldiers, including two distinct branches; the preparation of supplies at home, and the distribution of these supplies, combined with other efforts, in the army. These give rise to two distinct forms of organization, the *Aid Society* and the *Army Agency*.

The principal Army Agencies, are the U. S. Sanitary and Christian Commissions, these alone being thoroughly organized and operating on an extensive scale. The others are State Relief Societies individual agents, and one or two independent organizations. In this department of our paper, which we regard as of special importance, we propose to condense information from accessible sources, upon the main topics falling within it. The most copious of these sources are the published documents of the Sanitary and Christian Commissions. In the present number, we give, as briefly as possible, an account of the origin and organization of these two Commissions, hoping in succeeding numbers, through correspondence and otherwise, to keep ourselves and readers enlightened in regard to their working, and in full sympathy therewith.

United States Sanitary Commission.

ITS ORIGIN.

"At a meeting of fifty or sixty ladies, very informally called, at the U. S. Infirmary for Women, on April 25th, 1861, the providential suggestion of attempting to organize the whole benevolence of the women of the country, into a general and central association, was ripened into a plan, and took shape in an appeal published in all the principal New York papers, of Monday, April 27th, 1861."

On the above morning, the ladies of New York assembled at the Cooper Institute, for the purpose specified, completely filling the large hall of the Institute. Addresses were made by many distinguished gentlemen present, at the close of which, the committee appointed to prepare a plan of operations, reported certain 'articles of organization,' constituting a new central association, termed "The Woman's Central Association of Relief."

This Association contemplated the furnishing of Sanitary supplies and nurses in aid of the medical staff of the army, during the war. A President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, were chosen, and three Committees, Executive, Registration, and Finance, were appointed; the officers were gentlemen, and the committees composed of gentlemen and ladies.

PETER COOPER, Esq., furnished rooms for meeting and a store house for receiving supplies, in the Cooper Union Building. The society was soon compelled by the rapid increase of their business, to hire a store in the building, No. 10 Cooper Union, (Third Avenue,) where they now receive all supplies, and transact the business of the Executive Committee.

The United States Sanitary Commission, originated in this Association, which has now become auxiliary to it. Among the objects of the Woman's Relief Association, it designed to establish a recognized union with the medical staff of the federal and state troops, and to act as auxiliary to their efforts; and "to unite with the New York Medical Association, for the supply of lint, bandages, &c., in sustaining a central depot of stores." Dr. BELLOWS, as Chairman of the Executive Committee, with Dr. E. HARRIS, having united with a committee of the New York

Medical Association, for the supply of lint and bandages, viz: Dr. W. H. VAN BUREN, and Dr. HARSEN, went to Washington, early in May, for the purpose of establishing the connection with the U. S. Government," above referred to.

Here it was discovered that to carry out the plans of the Woman's Central Relief Association, "a much larger kind of machinery, and a much more extensive system than had been originally contemplated," was necessary, and the idea of a "Sanitary Commission," with a resident organization at Washington, suddenly presented itself to the committee, as the only means of accomplishing the benevolent intentions of the women of the country.

The plan of this Commission was initiated by a letter to the Secretary of War, setting forth at once the importance and the practical difficulties of reconciling volunteer efforts in behalf of the Army with the regular workings of the Commissariat and the Medical Bureau, and asking that "a mixed Commission of Civilians distinguished for their philanthropic experience and acquaintance with sanitary matters, of Medical Men, and of Military Officers, be appointed by the Government, who shall be charged with the duty of investigating the best means of methodizing and reducing to practical service the already active but undirected benevolence of the people toward the army; who shall consider the general subject of the prevention of sickness and suffering among the troops, and suggest the wisest methods which the people at large can use to manifest their goodwill towards the comfort, security and health of the Army."

Such a Commission was ordered by the Secretary of War, June 9th, 1861, and went into immediate operation. Eleven of the gentlemen named in the Commission continued active members, and seven others were afterwards added. Of these eighteen, "three are of the United States Army, five physicians, two clergymen, four lawyers and statesmen, and four men of science, of many States, of various religious denominations, and all gentlemen of eminent position and character. The Rev. Dr. Bellows, of New York, is President of the Board, and the whole Board, with the exception, perhaps, of the Secretary, gives all its service gratuitously." This Central Board had, at the time of issuing their first Annual Report, (December, 1861), appointed about four hundred "Associate Members" from every part of the loyal States, including many gentlemen accomplished in Sanitary Science, whose counsel has been of great value.

The order appointing the Commission vested it only with the power of "inquiry and advice in respect of the Sanitary interests of the United States' forces," and, in the character of an auxiliary and advisory body it has given much voluntary aid to the War Department and Medical Bureau in meeting the great and sudden demand upon their resources.

ITS WORK.

We avail ourselves, under this head, of the following article from the *New York Evening Post*, of a recent date:

The United States Sanitary Commission has been in existence now nearly two years. It was formed originally by a number of gentlemen well known either as physicians or persons prominent in charitable works. Its object is to do for the health and comfort of our soldiers, what the army surgeons and the army supplies could not do. It was also intended from the first that the agents should pay particular attention to the health of camps. From the reports of these agents, inspectors, and other servants, it was proposed to compile special reports on the health of armies; and these are already of great and permanent value.

The Commission was authorized and ordered by the President, the Secretary of War, and the Surgeon-General, who assigned it special duties and granted it certain special powers and privileges.

Its distinctive feature, however, is that it is not a Government undertaking, but a private and supplementary enterprise of the people of the United States, dependent for its support, from first to last, on their voluntary contributions. Fortunately, the able hands under whose superintendence the Commission came into being, drew to it at once the confidence of the community, and its useful labors among the soldiers have been sustained by contributions more and more liberal as the value and magnitude of the work it was doing was more fully recognized.

Since its organization, in 1861, the Sanitary Commission has expended nearly four hundred thousand dollars in money, and has distributed hospital stores of the value of several millions of dollars. At the present time it disburses, for the benefit of the sick and wounded of the army, about one thousand dollars and ten thousand articles of clothing each day. From the battle of Murfreesboro to the 11th of May it distributed over eleven thousand packages.

The work of the Commission falls under the following heads: First, a system of inspection, general and special, for the prevention of disease and the investigation of wants. Second, a system of general relief—for the production, transmission and distribution of needed supplies not furnished by government. Third, a system of special relief for procuring papers, pay, transportation and pensions for discharged soldiers, and all those who require such help. Fourth, soldiers' homes. Fifth, a hospital directory. Sixth, a system of transportation of sick and supplies by sanitary commission steamers and cars. Seventh, a system of publication, for the dissemination of sanitary knowledge.

We have about eight hundred thousand men in the field. Of these, it is estimated that at any given time one hundred thousand are sick or disabled, in regimental hospitals, convalescent camps, and general hospitals. After a great battle, this number is suddenly increased. Up to a certain point, and in a methodical way, the government cares for these sufferers by its surgeons and other agents. What these are unable to do, or what the regulations of the service do not provide for, that the Sanitary Commission stands ready to supply. It supplements the care of the government, and aims to exercise a special providence over each individual soldier; to see that he has all he needs of food, clothing, medicine, and comfort; to step in at that point where he is left by the government, and carry him on, with all tenderness, until he is able to take care of himself.

So well has this great work been performed by the good and able men who conceived this project, and by the agents who have come to help them, that the Commission has long ago won the esteem and confidence of the public to that degree, that now more than three fourths of all the contributions made by the people for the benefit of sick and wounded in the army pass through this channel.

In the camp the Commission employs general inspectors, surgeons, who accompany the army and keep watch over camps and hospitals, remove the causes of disease, investigate the wants of sick and wounded, and distribute stores where they are needed. In the hospitals it employs special inspectors to examine their condition, and visitors to comfort and administer consolation to the suffering. Near all important bodies of troops it collects depots of stores, in charge of store-keepers, who issue these upon the requisitions of the surgeons and distributing agents.

When the disabled soldier leaves the camp for his home, he finds on his way Soldiers' Homes, set up by the Sanitary Commission at various central points, as at Washington, Baltimore, Louisville and Cincinnati, where he finds comfortable quarters, kind care, food, medicine, clothing, whatever he needs. Up to May 1st, seventy-five thousand men had been entertained in these Homes, which have become one of the most important and beneficent branches of the labors of the Commission. Here those who are waiting for their papers or their pay receive help and advice as well as board and lodging.

When the sick or wounded soldier arrives at the hospital, his name is at once entered upon the Commission's Hospital Directory. Of these two are kept, one at Washington and one at Louisville, besides local directories at Philadelphia, New York, and Cincinnati. On the 1st of May the Washington Directory contained seventy thousand names, that at Louisville seventy-six thousand. At these two points reports are received from all the army hospitals, and a friend or relative inquiring by letter after a soldier wounded or sick, most often receives particulars of his whereabouts and condition by return of mail. Hospital cars, and steamboats fitted up for the reception and care of sick and wounded, have been provided by the Commission.

Lastly, it has accumulated an immense and invaluable mass of facts and experience in regard to the health of armies, which, when digested into a volume at the close of the war, will form the most important contribution ever made to army hygiene.

This is the work the United States Sanitary Commission has done and is doing. It is a work the people of the United States have reason to be proud of, for it is their work—it is a private enterprise of the nation, and it has been successful in every way.

The Christian Commission.

An account of the origin and organization of this Commission, is contained in the following extract from a "Circular Letter to Contributing Societies," appended to the Annual Report of our own Association, published in March, 1863:

"The Christian Commission, was instituted at a National Convention of Delegates of the Young Men's Christian Associations, held at New York, November 16th, 1861. It consists of prominent gentlemen of different religious denominations, and has for its primary object, as its name indicates, the spiritual welfare of the soldier. With this however, it connects relief for the bodily wants of the sick and wounded.

"Its office is in Philadelphia, 13 Bank street, and the general direction of its affairs is entrusted to an Executive Committee of five, whose action is subject to the approval of the Commission.

"Its operations, though extensive, and complicated, are now completely systematized. It has its local agencies at various important points East and West, which it finds either in the already existing Christian Associations, or in societies organized for the purpose. These, acting through army committees, appointed from their own number, collect from Aid Societies, Churches, individuals, &c., money, stores and publications, and forward them, either to the Executive Committee at Philadelphia, which sustains to the local committees the relation of a Central Army Committee, or to some point in the field. Where it is possible to do so, as in case of those near the field, the local association assists in the distribution of its own stores, through delegates sent with them.

"The field is divided into districts, in each of which a District Committee of three is appointed by the Commission, to receive and forward donations, and exercise a general supervision of the interests of the Commission, in that district, reporting at least monthly, to the Central Committee. The District Committees act in conjunction with the local Army Committees, or as substitutes for them, where the latter do not exist.

"The Commission sends to the field christian gentlemen, clergymen and others, who render gratuitous service in furtherance of its objects. These delegates are sent to the hospital, camp and battle ground, and their duties range under two heads: the relief of the bodily wants, and the promotion of the religious interests of the soldier. To the first end they distribute sanitary stores and other comforts among the soldiers, especially in the hospitals, and aid in the care of the sick and wounded in the hospitals and on the battle field. To the second end proposed, they assist the Army Chaplains, or, where there are none, act as substitutes, distributing religious publications, holding stated and frequent prayer meetings with the soldiers, addressing the men personally and collectively, encouraging the formation of Christian Associations, called Havelock Societies, aiding to facilitate communication between the Societies and the christian public, and also between the soldiers individually and their friends, administering christian instruction and consolation to the sick, wounded and dying, and performing the last rites for the dead. The Commission sends its delegates, and makes its distributions, wherever, in their judgment they are most needed, and its benefits have been felt in the hospitals and on the battle grounds through Virginia and the South-west.

"It has, in the promotion of its work, the sympathy of the highest officers of the army and government, and all the facilities which they can supply. It has likewise, railroad, express, and telegraph privileges for reaching the field with their delegates and packages, and for transmitting messages, and ambulances are placed at their disposal, for conveyance to any part of the field.

"It will take charge also of stores sent to its care, designed for a particular individual, regiment, or hospital, faithfully forwarding them to their destination free of charge, the latter however, not being distributed by its delegates, in person."

The Annual Report of this Commission was published in February, 1863, from which we extract as follows:

DESIGN.—The design of the Commission has been to arouse the Christian Associations and the Christian men and women of the loyal States to such action towards the men in our army and navy, as would be pleasing to the Master; to obtain and direct volunteer labors, and to collect stores and money with which to supply whatever was needed, reading matter, and matters necessary for health not furnished by Government or other agencies, and to give the officers and men of our army and navy the best Christian ministries for both body and soul possible in their circumstances.

EXTRAORDINARY FACILITIES.—To carry out this design, Christian men, ministers, merchants, lawyers, surgeons, and others, have offered their services freely, in numbers ample to distribute all the stores and publications contributed, and all the Commission has had means to purchase.

Our Chairman, Geo. H. Stuart, a merchant of Philadelphia, has given the Commission office room and room for storage; the services of clerks, porters, &c., and his own time and labors, free of all charge; and we have thus been enabled to collect and distribute our stores, select, send and direct our delegates, and conduct our correspondence in the best business manner, without expense.

The Government, various Generals, and other officers in command, the Surgeon-General, Medical Directors and Surgeons in charge, have kindly aided us by passes, stores, ambulances, transportation, and opportunities of labor.

All railroads applied to have given free passes to our delegates, and telegraph companies, free transmission of our messages.

The American Bible Society has freely given us Testaments for distribution; the Tract and Publication Societies and Boards have generously contributed publications, and the people have given stores,—not enough to save the necessity of buying many things to meet emergencies and special demands, yet very liberally.

ECONOMY AND DIRECTNESS OF THE WORK.—The generous aids and valuable facilities afforded us have enabled us to do a great work at small cost, and confer untold blessings upon our brave men at little outlay of money; our stores have all gone directly to them from the hands of our own delegates, or of those known by them to be worthy of all confidence.

The money expended in arousing the people at home to co-operate with the Commission, has been very little indeed. The Christian men who have gone without pay as delegates to relieve, supply, and instruct the soldier, in hospital and camp, have just as freely told the story of their work, and of the soldier's necessities, which has served to interest the people, and secure their prayers, money, and stores better than any paid agency could possibly have done, while the Association and their rooms have served without cost, as the agency to receive stores, and forward everything without cost, and thus an economy unequalled in any great work since the days of the Apostles, has been secured, both at home and in the field, in collection and distribution.

PUBLIC INTEREST.—An amazing feature in this work, is the interest it has excited wherever it has become known. Meetings under the auspices of the various Associations and Committees, have been thronged from first to last, and full of interest; stores have come in unsought, and contributions have been liberal and cheerful.

Our Anniversary, held in the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, Thursday, January 29th, and the great meetings in the Academy of Music in New York, over which Lieutenant-General Scott presided, at Music Hall, Boston, and at the Capitol, in the Hall of Representatives, Washington, were meetings such as the world has seldom known for weight of numbers and influence, and depth of power and pathos.

WORK AND SCENES AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.—Steadily the labor at headquarters in Philadelphia has increased. Relief has been sought, and by division of work and systematic arrangement, found. Much that was done at first in the central office, has been turned over to the agencies at Washington, Baltimore, and elsewhere, and yet the growth of this work has been so great, that the burden, instead of diminishing, has grown from day to day. Besides the constant and ever-increasing work, there come with great battles and grand emergencies, special occasions calling for almost superhuman activity, energy, endurance, and skill.

We will give some further extracts in our next number, but, in the meantime would commend the

Report itself to the careful reading of all who can obtain it, as one of very great interest.

By a recent action of the Commission, the New York branch has the States of New York, Connecticut, and the Eastern half of New Jersey, assigned to it, as a field from which to draw supplies, and the Atlantic coast, Gulf of Mexico, and Lower Mississippi, as its field of labor. This branch has entered into an arrangement with the Sanitary Commission, in virtue of which they transfer to the former, all Sanitary supplies intended for their use, receiving in return, from the depots of the Commission in the field, whatever their agents may need in prosecuting their work at those points. In consequence of this arrangement, they recommend that all donations of Sanitary Stores from the above States, designed for them, be sent to the United States Sanitary Commission.

Miscellaneous.

A Call to my Countrywomen.

We regret that our narrow limits will not allow the transfer to our columns of the eloquent article, entire, from which the following short extract is made. It is contained in the *Atlantic Monthly* of March, 1863:

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"When a great Idea, that has been uplifted on the shoulders of generations, comes now to its Thermopylae, its glory-gate, and needs only stout hearts for its strong hands,—when the eyes of a great multitude are turned upon you, and the fates of dumb millions in the silent future rest with you,—when the suffering and sorrowful, the lowly, whose immortal hunger for justice gnaws at their hearts, who blindly see, but keenly feel, by their God-given instincts, that somehow you are working out their salvation, and the high-born monarchs in the domain of mind, who, standing far off, see with prophetic eye the two courses that lie before you, one to the Uplands of vindicated right, one to the Valley of the Shadow of death, alike fasten upon you their hopes; their prayers, their tears,—will you, for a moment's bodily comfort and rest and repose, grind all these expectations and hopes between the upper and nether millstones? Will you fail the world in this fateful hour by your faint-heartedness? Will you fail yourself, and put the knife to your own throat? For the peace which you so dearly buy shall bring to you neither ease nor rest. You will but have spread a bed of thorns. Failure will write disgrace upon the brow of this generation, and shame will outlast the age. It is not with us as with the South. She can surrender without dishonor. She is the weaker power, and her success will be against the nature of things. Her dishonor lay in her attempt, not in its relinquishment. But we shall fail, not because of mechanics and mathematics, but because our manhood and womanhood weighed in the balance are found wanting. There are few who will not share in the sin. There are none who will not share in the shame. Wives, would you hold back your husbands? Mothers would you keep your sons? From what? For what? From the doing of the grandest duty that ever ennobled man, to the grief of the greatest infamy that ever crushed him down. You would hold him back from prizes before which Olympian laurels fade, for a fate before which a Helot slave might cower. His country, in the agony of her death-struggle, calls to him for succor. All the blood in all the ages, poured out for liberty, poured out for him, cries unto him from the ground. All that life has of noble, of heroic, beckons him forward. Death itself wears for him a golden crown. Ever since the world swung free from God's hand, men have died,—obeying the blind fiat of nature; but only once in a generation comes the sacrificial year, the year of jubilee, when men march lovingly to meet their fate, and die for a nation's life. Holding back, we transmit to those that shall come after us a blackened waste. The little one that lies in his cradle shall be accursed for our sakes. Every child will be base-born, springing from ignoble blood. We inherited a fair fame, and bays from a glorious battle; but for him is no background, no stand-point. His country will be a burden on his shoulders, a blush upon his cheek, a chain about his feet. There is no career for the future, but a weary effort, a long, a painful, a heavy-hearted, struggle to lift the land out of its

slough of degradation, and set it once more upon a dry place.

"Therefore let us have done at once and forever with paltry considerations, with talk of despondency and darkness. Let compromise, submission, and every form of dishonorable peace, be not so much as named among us. Tolerate no coward's voice or pen or eye. Wherever the serpent's head is raised, strike it down. Measure every man by the standard of manhood. Measure country's price by country's worth, and country's worth by country's integrity. Let a cold, clear breeze sweep down from the mountains of life, and drive out these miasmas that befog and beguile the unwary. Around every hearthstone let sunshine gleam. In every home let fatherland have its altar and its fortress. From every household let words of cheer and resolve and high-heartedness ring out, till the whole land is shining and resonant in the bloom of its awakening spring."

Mrs. Swisshelm.

The following interesting letter from this lady appeared a few days since, in the N. Y. Tribune:

CAMPBELL HOSPITAL, WASHINGTON, }
May 29, 1863. }

I have been here, in the hospital, ten days, dressing wounds, wetting wounds, giving drinks and stimulants, comforting the dying, trying to save the living. The heroic fortitude of the sufferers is sublime. Yet I have held the hands of brave, strong men while shaking in a paroxysm of weeping. The doctors have committed to my special care wounded feet and ankles, and I kneel reverently by the mangled limbs of these heroes, and thank God and man for the privilege of washing them. I want whisky—barrels of whisky—to wash feet, and thus keep up the circulation in wounded knees, legs, thighs, hips. I want pickles, pickles, pickles, lemons, lemons, lemons, oranges. No well man or woman has a right to a glass of lemonade. We want it all in the hospitals to prevent gangrene. I will get lady volunteers to go through the wards of as many hospitals as I can supply with drinks. My business is dressing wounds where amputation may be avoided by special care. I write at the bedside of Arsanjus Littlefield, Augusta, Maine, wounded ankle—where I have been since two o'clock, this morning, his life hanging in doubt.

Four days ago, I unclasped the hands of A. E. Smith, of Belvidere, New Jersey, from around my neck, where he had clasped them, dying, as I knelt to repeat the immortal prayer of the blind Bartimeus—laid down the poor chilled hands, and ran to Mr. L., then threatened with lock jaw. Oh, God, there is plenty of work; with the great advantage of the most skillful physicians, the utmost cleanliness, the best ventilation, the exceeding and beautiful tenderness of ward masters and nurses, there is much to do if the right persons appeared to do it. Dr. Baxter, physician in charge, will not permit female nurses here, and from the manner in which he cares for his patients, and the reason he gives for his decision, I have no disposition to quarrel with it. The Chaplain, Rev. N. M. Gaylor, and lady, are indefatigable, and aid in the distribution of all comforts to the wounded.

In answer to my letters, I say we would rather have fruit and wines than money. All sent to me at No. 424 L street, will find gratuitous storage from the Hon. D. M. Kelsey, of Illinois. I will find a person to keep account of all that comes, and acknowledge it, without paying clerk hire, and God do so to me and more also, if I do not use my best efforts to have everything committed to my care go to comforting and sustaining our wounded men.

A Tribute to our Gallant McVicar.

It would seem that the daring of so fearless a spirit would inspire a whole army with a kindred ardor. I love that bravery that fears nothing, yields nothing, that steady, unflinching purpose, that makes all things bend to the high standard of freedom to all under the flag of our Union.

Such a spirit animated our brave McVicar, fallen in defence of a cause which he had left his home under another government to espouse, because it was the cause of liberty. And will not the blood of our martyred hero rise up like incense before the God of battles, to plead for us and insure a success in our struggle for freedom worthy the sacrifice?

Brave, noble patriot, we thank thee, and pray that thy mantle may fall on some one worthy to follow in thy footsteps.

L. C. H.