

Sanitary &c

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MILITARY DISCIPLINE

AND

VOLUNTEER PHILANTHROPY.

A PAPER READ BEFORE

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE CONGRESS,

HELD

IN THE CITY OF YORK,

DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1864.

BY

EDMUND CRISP FISHER.

LONDON:

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1864.



REPUBLICAN PARTY

STATE OF NEW YORK
IN SENATE
January 15, 1911

REPORT OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE
IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE SENATE
MAY 15, 1908

The following report was presented to the Senate on January 15, 1911, by the Commissioners of the Land Office, in response to a resolution passed by the Senate on May 15, 1908, relative to the lands owned by the State of New York.

The report contains a detailed statement of the lands owned by the State, and a statement of the proceeds of the sale of such lands during the year 1910.

The total amount of land owned by the State is 1,000,000 acres, and the total proceeds of the sale of such lands during the year 1910 is \$1,000,000.

The report also contains a statement of the lands owned by the State in 1909, and a statement of the proceeds of the sale of such lands during the year 1909.

The total amount of land owned by the State in 1909 is 1,000,000 acres, and the total proceeds of the sale of such lands during the year 1909 is \$1,000,000.

The report also contains a statement of the lands owned by the State in 1908, and a statement of the proceeds of the sale of such lands during the year 1908.

The total amount of land owned by the State in 1908 is 1,000,000 acres, and the total proceeds of the sale of such lands during the year 1908 is \$1,000,000.

The report also contains a statement of the lands owned by the State in 1907, and a statement of the proceeds of the sale of such lands during the year 1907.

The total amount of land owned by the State in 1907 is 1,000,000 acres, and the total proceeds of the sale of such lands during the year 1907 is \$1,000,000.

The report also contains a statement of the lands owned by the State in 1906, and a statement of the proceeds of the sale of such lands during the year 1906.

The total amount of land owned by the State in 1906 is 1,000,000 acres, and the total proceeds of the sale of such lands during the year 1906 is \$1,000,000.

The report also contains a statement of the lands owned by the State in 1905, and a statement of the proceeds of the sale of such lands during the year 1905.

The total amount of land owned by the State in 1905 is 1,000,000 acres, and the total proceeds of the sale of such lands during the year 1905 is \$1,000,000.

The report also contains a statement of the lands owned by the State in 1904, and a statement of the proceeds of the sale of such lands during the year 1904.

The total amount of land owned by the State in 1904 is 1,000,000 acres, and the total proceeds of the sale of such lands during the year 1904 is \$1,000,000.

The report also contains a statement of the lands owned by the State in 1903, and a statement of the proceeds of the sale of such lands during the year 1903.

The total amount of land owned by the State in 1903 is 1,000,000 acres, and the total proceeds of the sale of such lands during the year 1903 is \$1,000,000.

The report also contains a statement of the lands owned by the State in 1902, and a statement of the proceeds of the sale of such lands during the year 1902.

The total amount of land owned by the State in 1902 is 1,000,000 acres, and the total proceeds of the sale of such lands during the year 1902 is \$1,000,000.

The report also contains a statement of the lands owned by the State in 1901, and a statement of the proceeds of the sale of such lands during the year 1901.

The total amount of land owned by the State in 1901 is 1,000,000 acres, and the total proceeds of the sale of such lands during the year 1901 is \$1,000,000.

The report also contains a statement of the lands owned by the State in 1900, and a statement of the proceeds of the sale of such lands during the year 1900.

The total amount of land owned by the State in 1900 is 1,000,000 acres, and the total proceeds of the sale of such lands during the year 1900 is \$1,000,000.

MILITARY DISCIPLINE AND VOLUNTEER PHILANTHROPY.

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN :

IT will be difficult to find two principles more seemingly antagonistic than Military Discipline and Volunteer Philanthropy. The Discipline necessary for the cohesion and effectiveness of armies proceeds from set rules framed upon the experience of long years: it is cold, impassive, unimpulsive, non-eclectic, autocratic, tyrannical; it robs man of his individuality, deprives him of free-will—and looking only at the end to be attained, treats the soldier as a simple part of a great machine, to be strained, forced, and overwrought, if needs be, and cast aside when worn out or otherwise incapacitated. Reverse the position in all its several particulars, and we have the most distant and opposite end of a far-stretching diagonal,—Volunteer Philanthropy. What the commander of an army is in presence of the enemy, the physician and surgeon are in the sick chamber. The same law governs both their orders—the law of absolute, perfect, unhesitating obedience. Combine the two, clothe the medical professor in the garb and rank of the soldier, and you have the domineering, autocratic Army Surgeon, whose word is law, and with

whom suggestion even becomes interference, and almost dictation.

To the mere theorist, the Medical Staff of Armies would appear to be all that is necessary to insure the greatest possible effectiveness of the soldier, covering him, so to speak, with defensive armour against disease and wounds, and enabling him, with the minimum of danger to himself, to inflict the utmost damage upon his antagonist. But the discipline of his dual profession, or, to be exact, of his military capacity, deprives the army-surgeon in a great degree of those advantages accruing from the discoveries of science which become immediately known, and are as immediately investigated and adopted by members of the civil branch of his profession. Every thing connected with armies is precised in fixed regulations; "IT IS WRITTEN," is the answer to every proposal for change; the spirit of inquiry is checked and nullified, and innovation is studiously guarded against as imperiling routine and subversive of discipline. On the battle-field, or in hospital, in his twin capacity of physician and surgeon, the army medical man has difficulties to contend with unknown to the civil branch of his profession. In action he is overworked, and his aids are far too few ofttimes to render him even necessary assistance; in hospital he is bound down to his fixed code of regulations; newly-discovered remedies are not furnished by the medical purveyor, and radical change in treatment has first to receive

the endorsement of his superior officer. Frequently—shall I not say generally?—his operations are in a new and unexplored field, where diseases of novel type require lengthy research and investigation before the proper treatment is discovered; or the same class of disease under different conditions of climate and contingent circumstances, produces new phases in the patient's symptoms. He is, in fact, isolated from most of the advantages which the great body of the profession enjoys, and the sick and wounded in his charge—the chief consideration, after all—are by so much less fortunate than the suffering in civil life.

It was the knowledge of these facts which led to the appointment of the Sanitary Commission in the British Army during the Crimean war, but it is open to question whether such a Commission would have been permitted to exist if Miss Florence Nightingale and her co-labourers had not proved conclusively that volunteer assistance need in no way interfere with military discipline—the first consideration among soldiers,—and that it could be of real practical benefit to the medical branch of the army, when their respective spheres of action were properly defined. Addressing itself to the Medical Staff alone, subordinating its every movement in the field and hospital to the wishes and wants of that Staff; culling its experience in every region; bound down by no fixed rules or inflexible regulations, the Sanitary Commission might become a

valuable supplementary power in the army, and an unflinching reliance of the army medical officer. Its true arena is recommendatory, its researches are in the first degree eclectic, and it brings the entire force of the whole outside medical profession to bear upon the health of the soldier. The Medical Staff cannot but gain by advice tendered from so high and disinterested a source, and it has no cause to fear for its own authority, when the action of the Commission is purely advisory and guardedly consonant with the most rigid discipline. Military Discipline, in fine, calls to its aid the Volunteer Philanthropy of the entire nation, and Volunteer Philanthropy divests itself of all things savouring of dictation, and, confining itself to suggestion, submits in its turn to discipline.

All history and experience prove that Army Medical Staffs, no matter how thoroughly and extensively organized, are sadly deficient at critical moments. The world is accustomed to look at the French nation as *the* military Power, *par excellence*, of Europe; everything appertaining to armies, to the utmost efficiency of the soldier, is there reduced to method and rule, until the art of war is so thoroughly investigated, and its rules, as it were, so completely averaged, that the art has become almost an exact science. Yet with the experiences of the battle-fields of Solferino and Magenta before us, where the wounded lay for hours, yea, days, without assistance, who will say that the best organized

Medical Staff fulfils the requirements expected of it? Such Staffs are really designed for the ordinary routine of military life, and, to some extent, for the average amount of extra casualties entailed by battle; but a more than ordinary sanguinary engagement and lengthy pursuit of the foe may upset the best calculations, and render an otherwise effective Staff utterly inefficient. It was the knowledge of this fact, gained on the field of Solferino, which led a citizen of Geneva to attempt the formation of an Universal Sanitary Commission. With the grand proposal of Monsieur HENRI DUNANT it is neither my province nor purpose to deal; but whether he succeed or fail in his enterprise, he will at all events have drawn the attention of the Governments and People of Europe to a subject of momentous interest, earning for himself and his coadjutors the proud title of benefactors of the soldier.

At an early period in the history of the civil war in the United States, the citizens of the North recognized the necessity of supplementing the Army Medical Staff. The movement commenced with the women, and took the form of preparing lint and bandages for the hospitals; but it was soon discovered that vastly more would be required by the enormous force about to be put in the field, and that much really valuable assistance might be rendered by voluntary philanthropy. Two questions presented themselves for solution:—*Firstly*, what kind of aid would be accepted by the War

Department?—*secondly*, how could that assistance be rendered without infringement of military discipline, so as to be acceptable to the Medical Staff? The answer to these important questions could only be obtained at head-quarters, and a deputation of influential citizens was forthwith despatched to Washington. After asking for the appointment of a Special Commission to be charged, as the Deputation expressed itself, with “preventing the evils that England and France could only investigate and deplore,” the envoys demanded for it the following powers from the Government.

“1. The Commission being organized for the purposes only of inquiry and advice, asks for no legal powers, but only the official recognition and moral countenance of the Government, which will be secured by its public appointment. It asks for a recommendatory order, addressed in its favour to all officers of the Government, to further its inquiries; for permission to correspond and confer, on a confidential footing, with the Medical Bureau and the War Department, proffering such suggestions and counsels as its investigation and studies may, from time to time, prompt and enable it to offer.

“2. *The Commission seeks no pecuniary remuneration from the Government. Its motives being humane and patriotic, its labours will be its own reward.* The assignment to them of a room in one of the public buildings, with stationery and other necessary conveniences, would meet their expectations in this direction.

“3. The Commission asks leave to sit through the war, either in Washington, or when and where it may find it most convenient and useful; but it will disband should experience render its operations embarrassing to the Government, or

less necessary and useful than it is now supposed they will prove."

"The general object of the Commission is, through suggestions reported from time to time to the Medical Bureau and the War Department, to bring to bear upon the health, comfort and *morale* of our troops, the fullest and ripest teachings of sanitary science in its application to military life, whether deduced from theory or practical observation, from general hygienic principles, or from the experience of the Crimean, the East Indian, and the Italian wars. Its objects are purely advisory.

"The specific points to which its attention would be directed may here be partly indicated, but in some part may depend upon the course of events, and the results of its own observations and promptings, when fairly at work. If it knew precisely what the results of its own inquiries would be, it would state them at once, without asking for that authority and those governmental facilities essential to a successful investigation of the subject. As the Government may select its own Commissioners,—the persons named in the recommendation of the Medical Bureau being wholly undesirous, however willing, to serve, if other persons more deserving of the confidence of the Government and of the public can be nominated,—it is hoped that the character of the Commission will be the best warrant the Government can have that the inquiries of the Commission, both as to their nature and the manner of conducting them, will be pursued with discretion and a careful eye to avoiding impertinent and offensive interference with the legal authority and official rights of any of the bureaus with which it may be brought in contact."

"The Commission proposes a practical inquiry into the material of the volunteer force, with reference to the laws and usages of the several States in the matter of inspection, with the hope of assimilating their regulations with those of the army proper, alike in the appointment of medical and other

officers and in the rigorous application of just rules and principles to recruiting and inspection laws. This inquiry would exhaust every topic appertaining to the *materiel* of the army, considered as a subject of sanitary and medical care.

“The Commission would inquire with scientific thoroughness into the subject of diet, cooking, cooks, clothing, tents, camping grounds, transports, transitory depots, with their exposures, camp police, with reference to settling the question, How far the regulations of the Army proper are or can be practically carried out among the volunteer regiments, and what changes or modifications are desirable from their peculiar character and circumstances? Everything appertaining to outfit, cleanliness, precautions against damp, cold, heat, malaria, infection; crude, unvaried, or ill-cooked food, and an irregular or careless regimental commissariat, would fall under this head.

“The Commission would inquire into the organization of military hospitals, general and regimental; the precise regulations and routine through which the services of the patriotic women of the country may be made available as nurses; the nature and sufficiency of hospital supplies; the method of obtaining and regulating all other extra and unbought supplies contributing to the comfort of the sick; the question of ambulances and field service, and of extra medical aid; and whatever else relates to the care, relief, or cure of the sick and wounded—their investigations being guided by the highest and latest medical and military experience, and carefully adapted to the nature and wants of our immediate army, and its peculiar origin and circumstances.”

There was every necessity for the establishment of such a Commission with such objects, and armed with the required powers. The Army of the United States had suddenly risen from 15,000 to 80,000 men, while the old Medical Staff, based on the

peace establishment, stood in absolute need of re-organization and proportionate increase. But the bureaucracy there, as elsewhere, frowned upon all suggestion as impertinent interference, and steadily resisted reform ; and it was only after many days' delay that the required authority was accorded by the War Department, and the Sanitary Commission of the United States came into being.

The organization of the United States Sanitary Commission, the mode in which it obtains its vast resources from the masses of the people and distributes them over an area half as large as the Continent of Europe, is well worthy investigation. The Commission, it may be said, has greatly exceeded the duties marked out by itself at the commencement of its career ; it has gone far beyond merely advising the Medical Staff, for it now supplements it in an extraordinary manner, even to the extent of rendering medical assistance in the hospital and field, and in the front of battle itself.*

The supplies furnished to the different armies of the Republic by the Commission are of the most varied description, comprising everything required by the soldier outside of purely military requisites. The Government has not pecuniarily aided the Commission in this labour of love to the extent of a single dollar ; every article, every pound of the two millions sterling contributed in specie, has been given by the citizens as a free-will offering. The

* See Appendix, (Note A.)

Commission, in fact, has been the Almoner of the people, the channel through which its offerings have been conveyed to the soldiers. No better idea of its work can be found, than by giving a list of the supplies furnished by it to the Army of the Potomac, at the close of the battle of Gettysburgh, which took place in the month of July, 1863.

CLOTHING, &c.

Drawers, woollen	5,310 prs.	Oil-silk	300 yds.
„ cotton	1,833 „	Tin-basins & cups	7,000
Shirts, woollen	7,178	Old linen and	
„ cotton	3,266	bandages	100 brls.
Pillows	2,114	Water tanks	7
Pillow-cases	264	Water coolers	46
Bed-sacks	1,630	Bay Rum and Eau	
Blankets	1,007	de Cologne	225 bots.
Sheets	274	Fans	3,500
Wrappers	508	Chloride of Lime	11 brls.
Handkerchiefs	2,659	Shoes & Slippers	4,000 prs.
Stockings, woollen	3,560 prs.	Crutches	1,200
„ cotton	2,258 „	Lanthorns	180
Bed Utensils	728	Candles	350 lbs.
Towels & Napkins	10,000	Canvas	300 yds.
Sponges	2,300	Mosquito-netting	648 pcs.
Combs	1,500	Paper	237 qrs.
Buckets	200	Pants, Coats, Hats	189 pcs.
Soap, Castile	250 lbs.	Plaster	16 rolls

FOOD, &c.

Poultry and Mut-		Berries	48 bsh.
ton	11,000 lbs.	Bread	12,900 lvs.
Butter	6,430 „	Tamarinds	750 gals.
Eggs	8,500 doz.	Lemons	116 box.
Garden vegetables	675 bsh.	Oranges	46 „

Coffee . . .	850 lbs.	Dried Fruit . . .	3,500 lbs.
Chocolate . . .	831 „	Jellies . . .	2,000 jars
Tea . . .	426 „	Preserved Fish . . .	3,600 lbs.
White Sugar . . .	6,800 „	Pickles . . .	400 gals.
Syrups . . .	785bots.	Tobacco . . .	100 lbs.
Brandy . . .	1,250 „	Tobacco pipes . . .	1,000
Whiskey . . .	1,168 „	Indian Meal . . .	1,621 lbs.
Wine . . .	1,148 „	Starch . . .	1,074 „
Ale . . .	600 gals.	Codfish . . .	3,848 „
Biscuit, rusks, &c.	134 bar.	Canned Fruit . . .	582 cans
Preserved Meats	500 lbs.	„ Oysters	72 „
Ice . . .	20,000 „	Brandy Peaches . . .	303 jars.
Concentrated		Catsup . . .	43 „
Beef Soup . . .	3,800 „	Vinegar . . .	24 bots.
Concent. Milk . . .	12,500 „	Jam. Ginger . . .	43 jars
Prep. Farina . . .	7,000 „		

All the perishable articles in this list (amounting to over 60 tons), were taken to the ground in refrigerating waggons. The estimated value of the articles, exclusive of the cost of collection and transportation to the scene of action, was 75,000 dollars; kitchens, sleeping apartments, shelters, were established by the Commission's numerous agents; and crowds of wounded attended to, who could not be treated by the over-taxed surgeons of the army. There was every need of this, for no less than 14,860 wounded (of whom 1810 belonged to the opposing forces) crowded the hospitals, beside 5,452 of the enemy who were captured, and treated elsewhere. The Commission made and makes no difference whatever in its gifts to friend or foe, regarding the sufferers as *men*, not *soldiers*.

This is but an example of the Commission's labours on a single field: multiply this result by the different armies operating over an extent of territory large as the battle-fields of the first Napoleon, involving expenses for transport (all paid by itself or furnished gratuitously by public companies), shipping, and trains being in charge of its own agents, and waggons, horses and mules owned by itself, and some idea may be formed of the magnitude of its operations. The outgoings are public, the incomings are not so well known; yet these involve a greater amount of labour and management than even the former. In all the cities, towns and villages of the Free States, the citizens, and notably the women, have organized themselves into Branch Aid Societies, which furnish contributions in kind and money to a Central Committee in the various districts; these again communicate with the Main Branches in the great centres, such as New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Chicago, and Saint Louis, whence the supplies are distributed to the troops in the field. As a still more popular mode of engaging the sympathies of the public, Sanitary Commission Fairs have been held in many of the principal cities, and large sums raised thereby for the benefit of the soldiers. The State of California sent in one lump 500,000 dollars (£100,000 sterling) in gold to the Treasurer. The Fair at Chicago realized 50,000 dollars, that held in the city of Cincinnati 268,611 dollars, Brooklyn over 400,000 dollars, Philadel-

phia over 700,000 dollars, and the city of New York upwards of 1,000,000 dollars. Yet, vast as are these contributions, the calls for aid are still greater, and that notwithstanding the increasing liberality of the public as the operations of the Commission become more widely known.

It is well to remark that the Commission makes it a rule to pay all its employées, not merely as a matter of justice, but of sound policy. Every expense, from first to last, of carrying on these gigantic operations is, however, *less than three per cent of its income*. Its doors are ever open to all comers, and any one may inspect its books who sees fit.

The Medical Staff of the United States Army at present regards the Commission as its faithful handmaiden in the field, the hospital and the camp, and nothing but praise is now heard from those who formerly were its bitter opponents.* The reason is obvious. The Sanitary Commission has solved a question which is still an enigma to other nations, for it has proved by three years of colossal labours that Military Discipline and Volunteer Philanthropy can exist side by side, and work together harmoniously for the exceeding benefit of the Army.

Lest I be accused of national partiality for an organization which will reflect glory upon the American people long after this war is over, I may be permitted to quote the words of an English

* See Appendix (Note B.)

philosopher, whose reputation stands as high in my country as in his own. Mr. JOHN STUART MILL thus writes in reference to the United States Sanitary Commission :—

“It would be unpardonable did I omit to express my warmest feelings of admiration for the Sanitary Commission. History has afforded no other example—though it is to be hoped that it will hereafter afford many—of so great a work of usefulness extemporized by the spontaneous self-devotion and organizing genius of a people, altogether independently of the Government.”

This Volunteer Sanitary Commission has furnished to the different armies of the Republic since the commencement of the war, four millions of pounds sterling of army necessaries, comforts, and luxuries. Its establishment, organization, magnitude and achievements prove three things :—

Firstly. The Armies of a Nation can be rendered incomparably more efficient by the volunteer aid and assistance of the people,—without the slightest infringement of military discipline, or interference with the constituted medical authorities of armies.

Secondly. The American Civil War affords the brightest precedent of spontaneous *and yet organized* benevolence, and furnishes an example which other nations will do well to emulate.

Thirdly. The whole of the American people—men, women, and children alike, in thus rendering their armies efficient, prove conclusively that the

war is not carried on—as many in Europe suppose, —by the Government of a minority, but is waged by the great mass of the citizens themselves. In no other way can you explain the colossal achievements of this Volunteer Commission.

APPENDIX.

NOTE A.

AFTER the defeat of General Burnside's army at Fredericksburg, in the month of December 1862, the surgeons sent forward by the Sanitary Commission treated upwards of 8,000 wounded on the field. At Gettysburgh, 13,050 Federals, and 7,260 Confederates were cared for by the medical employées of that body. There have been few engagements during the war in which the Commission has not similarly rendered aid to the overworked medical staff of the different armies. During General Gillmore's attack on Fort Wagner, in Charleston Harbour, the Relief Agents of the Commission marched with the assaulting columns to the very moat around the fort: the *Port Royal Free Press* thus refers to their courageous labours:—

“The Officers of the Sanitary Commission have won for themselves a splendid reputation in this Department. They have, by their discretion and zeal, saved many valuable lives. Under the guns of Wagner, in the hottest of the fire, their trained corps picked up and carried off the wounded almost as they fell. As many of our men were struck while ascending the parapet and then rolled into the moat, which at high water contains six feet of water, they must inevitably have perished had they been suffered to remain. But the men who were detailed for service with Dr. Marsh (chief agent of the Commission in the Department) went about their work with intrepidity and coolness worthy of all praise. The skill and experience of the members of the Commission has, since the battle, been unremittingly employed to render comfortable the sick and wounded.”

The Commission has established a special “Field Relief Corps,” the members of which are provided with light waggons, containing such remedies and necessaries as surgeons most require in the heat of an engagement; and these waggons with

their attendants are always to be found in the front of the battle where men are falling the fastest. At the close of the action, the members of the *corps* hunt up the straggling wounded, assist them to the ambulances and temporary hospitals, and treat them both surgically and medically when the attention of regular army surgeons is engaged elsewhere.

DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL RELIEF.

The objects for which this Department was created, are thus described by the Commission itself.

1. To supply to the sick men of the newly-arrived regiments such medicines, food, and care, as it is impossible for them to receive in the midst of the confusion, and with the unavoidable lack of facilities, from their own officers. The men to be thus aided are those who are not so sick as to have a claim upon a general hospital, and yet need immediate care to guard them against serious sickness.

2. To furnish suitable food, lodging, care, and assistance, to men who are honourably discharged from service, sent from general hospitals, or from their regiments; but who are often delayed a day or more in the city—sometimes many days—before they obtain their papers and pay.

3. To communicate with distant regiments in behalf of discharged men, whose certificates of disability or descriptive lists on which to draw their pay, prove to be defective; the invalid soldiers meantime being cared for, and not exposed to the fatigue and risk of going in person to their regiments to have their papers corrected.

4. To act as the unpaid agent, or attorney, of discharged soldiers who are too feeble, or too utterly disabled to present their own claims at the paymaster's office.

5. To look into the condition of discharged men who assume to be without means to pay the expense of going to their homes; and to furnish the necessary means where we find the man is true, and the need real.

6. To secure to disabled soldiers railway tickets at reduced rates; and, through an agent at the railroad station, to see that these men are not robbed or imposed upon by sharpers.

7. To see that all men who are discharged and paid off, do at once leave the city for their homes; or in cases where they have been induced by evil companions to remain behind, to endeavour to rescue them, and see them started with through tickets to their own towns.

8. To make reasonably clean and comfortable before they leave the city, such discharged men as are deficient in cleanliness and clothes.

9. To be prepared to meet at once with food or other aid, such immediate necessities as arise when sick men arrive in the city in large numbers from battle-fields, or distant hospitals.

10. To keep a watchful eye upon all soldiers who are out of hospitals, yet not in service; and give information to the proper authorities of such soldiers as seem endeavouring to avoid duty, or to desert from the ranks.

SOLDIERS' HOMES.

There is a period in the soldier's career when he may be considered no longer under military surveillance and care, and yet not restored to civil life and the sympathy of his friends or family; men, for instance, discharged or waiting for their discharge from service, or sick or wounded, and unable to proceed home. To meet such cases,—and there are tens of thousands such,—the Sanitary Commission has established "Soldiers' Homes" in the great cities of the North and within easy distance of the principal armies. At the "Home" on North Capitol Street, Washington, the Commission had provided no less than 89,986 nights' lodging, and 331,315 meals up to the 1st October 1863, and at Cairo, Illinois, to the same date, 79,550 lodgings and 190,150 meals. It must be borne in mind that all this relief is furnished absolutely gratuitously.

"NURSES' HOMES."

Similar homes have been provided for the nurses (male and female) of the Army and the Commission when not engaged in their duties or about to proceed to other fields of labour. Relief is here given also to the wives, mothers and sisters of the troops in search of relatives in the army, and who might otherwise be friendless and destitute.

OTHER OBJECTS OF THE "SPECIAL RELIEF."

This branch of the Commission obtains "discharge papers" for the men entitled to them; their back-pay; and railroad and other tickets at reduced rates for soldiers returning home. "The Hospital Directory," established by this Department, contains the name and address of every sick and wounded man in all the military hospitals throughout the country, with a full statement of the ailment from which he is suffering, and his present whereabouts.

AN IMPORTANT FACT.

The various labours of the United States Sanitary Commission are purely gratuitous. No charge has ever been made, no return other than simple thanks is ever expected for its constantly increasing *labours and outlay*.

NOTE B.

TESTIMONIALS FROM ARMY OFFICERS.

GENERAL GRANT.

“HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE.

“Vicksburg, Miss., Sept. 28, 1863.

“Commanding Officer, Cairo, Ill.

“Sir,—Direct the Post Quartermaster at Cairo to call upon the United States Sanitary agent at your place, and see exactly what buildings they require to be erected for their charitable and humane purposes.

“The Commission has been of such great service to the country, and at Cairo are doing so much for this army at this time, that I am disposed to extend their facilities for doing good in every way in my power.

* * * * *

(Signed)

“U. S. GRANT,

“Major General.”

MAJOR GENERAL ROSECRANS.

“HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND.

“Murfreesboro, February 2, 1863.

“The General Commanding presents his warmest acknowledgments to the friends of the soldiers of this army. * * * While he highly appreciates and does not undervalue the

charities which have been lavished on this Army, experience has demonstrated the importance of system and impartiality, as well as judgment and economy, in the forwarding and distribution of these supplies. In all these respects, the United States Sanitary Commission stands unrivalled. Its organization, experience, and large facilities for the work are such that the General does not hesitate to recommend, in the most urgent manner, all those who desire to send sanitary supplies to confide them to the care of this Commission. They will thus insure the supplies reaching their destination without wastage, or expense of agents or transportation, and their being distributed in a judicious manner without disorder or interference with the regulations and usages of the service.

"This Commission acts in full concert with the Medical Department of the Army, and enjoys its confidence," &c.

"W. S. ROSECRANS.

"Major General, Commanding Department."

MAJOR GENERAL MEADE.

"HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

"Friday, April 8, 1864.

* * * * *

"It has been my duty to make inquiry as to the practical working and benefit of the United States Sanitary Commission, and it affords me great pleasure to be able to bear testimony, so far as this army is concerned, to the inestimable benefits and blessings conferred by this noble association on the suffering, sick, and wounded soldiers.

* * * * *

"Now, although the Government is most liberal and generous in all its provisions for the sick and wounded, yet it is impossible to keep *constantly on hand* either the *personnel* or supplies required in an emergency of this kind. * * * All the additional aid from every source was here most urgently needed, and it gives me great pleasure to say that, *from the*

reports of my medical officers, I am satisfied the United States Sanitary Commission were fully up to the work before them.

“GEORGE G. MEADE,

“Major General, Commanding Army of the Potomac.”

OPINIONS OF TWO ARMY SURGEONS.

THE MEDICAL INSPECTOR OF THE ARMY OF
THE POTOMAC.

“We could not do without the Sanitary Commission.”

THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF THE ARMY OF
THE POTOMAC.

“It gives no trouble: there is no interference.”

THE END.

