## Third Grand National Anniversary

OF THE

# U.S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION,

HELD IN THE HALL

House of Representatives, WASHINGTON, D. C.

On the evening of Sabbath, the 29th of January, one of the largest audiences ever convened in the Nation's Capitol assembled in the Hall of the House of Representatives, to listen to, of the United States Christian Commission. The meeting was certainly of wonderful breadth an adequate idea of it. The place, the components, the character of the speakers, and the eloquence of their utterances, the effect of the whole, cannot be conveyed even by the most faithful and ardent descriptions. The galleries, and all the doorways, avenues, and even stairways leading to them, were crowded. The asemble to hear what God had done and was Admirals, Governors of States, and representative men in every position of eminence, were a part of the audience. President Lincoln and Mrs. Lincoln were there. Vice President Hamlin, Speaker Colfax, Secretary Seward, Secretary Welles, Chief Justice Chase, Postmaster-General Dennison, Vice-Admiral Farragut, General Hancock, General Patrick, Surgeon-General Barnes, Governor Yates, Governor Sprague, the leading members of the Senate and House of Representatives, and many other distinguished names on our country's roll of honor, lent their countenance and their words to the great cause. At 7 o'clock Secretary Seward took the chair. The exercises were opened by the singing of a high-sounding anthem of praise, sung by the Washington Handel and Haydn Society, who sang at appointed intervals throughout the services. The Rev. E. H. Gray, D. D., read selections of Scripture most fitting the occasion. and prayer was offered by the Rev. Samuel Hanson Cox, D. D., of New York. The na-

## "My country, 'tis of thee. Sweet land of liberty,"—

tional hymn-

was then sung by the whole audience, rising, and with indescribable earnestness and power. The introductory remarks were then made by the Chairman, as follows:

### SECRETARY SEWARD'S OPENING AD-DRESS.

Fellow-Citizens :- In coming once more into these halls of the National Legislature, although for only an occasional purpose, my thoughts revert to the circumstances under which I left

them four years ago.

Misguided legislators had found at last the long delayed occasion, and had organized a fearful rebellion. They had appointed their leader, had seized by surprise important forts, ports, and places, and their armies were rushing into the field. One after another the conspirators threw off the mask and departed from this Capitol, hurling back curses and defiance against the Government of our fathers. Foreign nations, confounded by the magnitude and boldness of the insurrection, prepared to acknow-

tion and propositions for conciliation came forth from every section of a country which regarded fraternal war as the greatest of crimes, and the most irretrievable of calamities. The people called first upon the outgoing President, then upon the incoming President, and then, successively, upon each one of our bravest generals and most honored statesmen, to save the Union, and to save it quickly, and by one master-stroke. To these frantic appeals only one truthful answer could be given or was given. That answer was, that by no one act, and one man, could the Union be saved. It could be saved only by the voluntary, energetic, heroic, and persistent effort of the whole people

The people promptly arose to make that supreme effort; they have faithfully persevered in it, and it is now, thanks to Almighty God, seen to be successful. Lost forts, ports, and places, without which the insurrection cannot succeed, have been regained. The corner stone of the rebellion has been uplifted and cast out, and we wait only at the hands of the rebels the submission, which, however delayed, necessarily follows military defeat and overthrow. In this achievement the people of the United States have not waited to follow, but they have gone before the executive, the legis-lative, and the judicial authorities of the Gov-

I have heretofore borne my testimony to this energy in the departments of war, finance, and . But the war has opened another field of activity and labor, a field not less important or interesting than those which usually lie directly in review. That field is the department of charity. We have here in our country no of charity. We have here in our country no established church or recognized ecclesiastical authority. They taunt us with not even recog nizing a God in our national Constitution. All effort, all association, and all submission is purely voluntary. Nevertheless, the Christian Commission and the Sanitary Commission, working together in perfect harmony, unorgan ized, unpaid, unprompted, and even unnoticed by the Government, have cultivated the broad field to which I have adverted, with complete and full success. They have left no wounds or sickness, or sorrows, unheeded and unre lieved, which could be reached by any other than a Divine hand.

I have consented to take this chair, only be cause it affords me a fitting opportunity to proclaim my sincere conviction that the charities the greatest and most fearful of all civil wars, though voluntarily rendered, have, nevertheless, been administered by the Christian people of the United States without any sacrifegious holding back, and in a spirit of lofty patriotism, and pure and undefiled religion.

ADDRESS OF GEORGE H. STUART. Mr. President, Ladies, and Gentlemen: The United States Christian Commission stands before the Government of the United States this evening, to render an account of its stewardship for the past year. And in doing so, we cannot r ofrain from asking the President, his Cabinet and the members of both Houses of Congress. and all the departments of the Government, with this la ge audience, to unite with us in giving praise and thanksgiving to God for the recent desire here, fully to recognize the hand of God from the very moment that our flag on Sumpter was fired at down to the taking of Fort Fisher. We are not here to make a speech, to night, but simply to say to those who may not be familiar with us as an organization, that we are representatives of all the loyal churches in the land who are loyal to Jesus Christ as the King of kings and the Lord of lords; and are endeavoring to follow

personally, the supplies that are put into our hands by a generous public, to distribute personally hospital stores and reading matter, and to administer personally to the men who so gal-lantly fight the battles of Liberty.

The speaker then made a brief exhibit of the

work that the Commission had done the past year, remarking that he believed it to be right and proper for a charity entrusted with such funds, to give a full exhibit of every dollar and of every cent that had been placed in its treasury. This exhibit in its details had been made at the convention of members of the Commission assembled from the loyal States from Maine to California, which had for days been in session in their city, to confer over the vast and growing in-terests of this great institution. These figures would be given in full in the annual report soon to be published. The grand totals should, how-ever, be known, that the audience might feel the impress of the vastness of the work, and be cheered by the exhibit they gave of the noble liberality of the Church of Christ in the land. And these sums were reached not by extraordi and be impressed with, the claims and the work nary efforts, but simply by the statement of the The amount of cash receipts for the year is in The meeting was certainly of wonderful breadth round numbers \$1,800,000; and adding to this of power and interest. It is impossible to give the value of facilities granted, services rendered, and donations given, the grand total of values is \$2,882,847 86 for the year just closed! This, with the total values since the organization of the Commission, swell the great aggregate received to over four millions of dollars! The second exhibit shows the work of distribution. The number of ministers and laymen commissioned last year, who served for no other pay than the ways leading to them, were crowded. The simple "God bless you" of the American soldier churches of nearly all denominations had closed and sainly and he, Mr. Stuart, and these deletier doors, and invited their congregations to gates with him, would not exchange this benediction for all the coin ever coined in Uncle Sam's mints,—was 2,217, and the number now ir coing in the armies of the Republic. Cabinet the field was 276, averaging during the year 217 flicers, Senators, Representatives, Generals, constantly at work in their ministrations of love and mercy. The aggregate of working days served by these delegates is 78,869. They distributed over 47,000 boxes of stores and publi-cations received, directly into the hands and hearts of the men for whom they were intended. Nearly 570,000 copies of the Bible and portions of the Bible have been sent to the army, fur-nished gratuitously by that noble, national, catholic institution, the American Bible Society making the total distribution by the Commission, of the Word of God, 1,137,000 copies since its organization. Then they had helped the soldiers to sing of Jesus and of heaven, of home and of country, by the good old songs of Zion, and the songs of patriotism, which they had scattered among them in the shape of 490,000 copies of the soldier's hymn and psalm books, so that the camps, and fields, and hospitals were sounding aloud the praises of God. They had given them during the year 4,326,000 copies of little books, neatly prepared, full of whole-some hopeful reading, intended to bring them to Jesus, and to confirm their faith, and to counsel, warn, and encourage them. Some of these had the dear old flag on them, some the badge of the various corps—and all were gotten up to attract the soldier and the sailor, to make him feel that they were prepared for them. Then they had circulated nearly eight millions of the religious newspapers of all evangelical denominations of Christians, fresh and full of the warm life of the Christian heart as it beats at home in sympathy with the soldiers in the field, and urges their claims upon the churches of the land, and merges love of country with the love of God. And oh, how these weekly messengers are re-ceived! Verily the speaker believed that if they were to scatter gold dollars in camp, the excitement would not be greater than when these religious papers arrive and are distributed to the hungry men. Then for the sick and wounded on beds of pain, in the hospitals especially, they had furnished 3691 "Silent Comforters," inpon which, without weariness of the flesh, they might turn their eyes and drink in the water of life—the texts of Scripture that were printed in bold type and hung up before them. The speaker then alluded to the touching significance of many of the gifts received by the Commission. From all quarters of the globe representative gifts had come. From the mountains of Syria, a box from a native convert, with pieces of the cedars of Lebanon, and a crown of plaited thorns—and \$180 as a religious and patriotic thank offering. The miners of the silver mountains of Nevada had sent a ledge here a divided empire. On the side of egovernment were seen and heard only alarm silver brick, valued at many hundred dollars, the evidence of their love, and a confirmation to confinion. Unavailing appeals to reflect of our taith in the great resources of our land. "for, Mr. President, so long as the mines of California and the mountains of Nevada stand, your 'greenbacks' will continue to be good."
The immense amount of hospital stores distributed-over \$1,700,000 worth-and other items, were alluded to, together with the feature of chapels for the army, of which 205 had been built, and upon which God had poured out his Spirit, manifested his power, and magnified his grace, in the conversion and upbuilding of many souls. The speaker closed with a word of tribute to the noble unselfishness of many of the business men of the land, who had given their time, their money, their all to this work of God among our soldiers. He introduced Mr. A. E. Chamberlain, of Cincinnati, as one

such. A. E. CHAMBERLAIN'S ADDRESS.

After a felicitous reply to the flattering intro duction he had received, the speaker alluded to the Christian character of the Commission. He thanked God for its name. The blessed Master himself had commissioned and sent forth the disciples to heal the sick, to do the same work that the Commission contemplates. He was the origin of the work. In his name and by his people it had been carried on. They dis-"the Gospel of clean shirts" side by side with the glorious gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ, to the noble soldiers who were standing between us and danger. They been told that he had just returned from the fields at Nashville. It was true. He had seen those noble men who had perilled their lives for their country, and who had lost their limbs and shed their blood freely for us—and he felt that all the sacrifices that the delegates and friends of the Christian Commisson had made were not worthy to be compared with what these men had endured. Their absence from loved ones, their sufferings, their heroism in it all, made them, in his eyes, the noblest of the noble. They were indeed worthy to be cared for. The best Government in the world does, indeed, do much for them; but it is im possible to do all. The diet kitchen, establishe ecently by the Christian Commission at Nash ville, for the army of the Cumberland, was a great supplementary blessing to the govern-mental care. There the sick and wounded are tenderly nursed, and delicately nurtured. On a single day eight hundred and fifty two men were thus cared for. Why, the bill of fare would do credit to half the hotels in the land. There were to be had chicken soup, all kinds of toast, stewed fruits, oysters, corn bread ham, baked potatoes, etc., etc., all prepared in the best style by the noble ladies in waiting there, of whom as much could be said as was ever said of Florence Nightingale. One of them, a lady from Pittsburg, met him one morning at the door of the diet kitchen, and said that forty or fifty men in the hospital must die, unless they could be induced to take some nourishment. She went through the ward and found that forty-five men, whose names she had taken down, needed and must have chicken broth. The commissary could not furnish i till next day. "To-morrow they may die," she replied. And was it so, that forty-five victories which have attended the efforts of our brave soldiers of the Union must die for want Government to crush this wicked rebellion. We of that which the people of the North could so well supply? It came home directly to the speaker. The agent at Nashville had asked if he might buy chickens at seventy five cents for the hospital, but he had answered no, the price was too high. After that, he told him to purchase at any price, and the people of the North would pay for them. And Oh, if they but understand the value of these things, would they not? The speaker then traced, in several re-

There was not a dollar in the treasury. The order must be filled. The Lord will furnish the means. So fifty barrels were sent down by the boat on the same day that the order was received. The bill came in for payment. At the same time two letters were laid upon the desk. On opening one was found to contain a check for \$200, and the other a check for \$100 from parties the speaker had not known before, and the precise amount required to pay for the onions! (Applause.) At another time, word came from the army of the Camberland that the men were dying of scurvy, and that nothing would check and cure it but crout and pickled cabbage. They did not know were to find the articles. There was the letter—"the driver to know what they were. He did not know, but "I left a letter on the desk for you,"

house on a previous order from Louisville. In the meantime God had come to their help and replenished them. But again their supplies. delay or denial; for 2000 poor fellows had come from the late battle-field near the city, and they were needing shirts, and drawers, and socks, and "they had not a shirt to bury a man in for three days." Oh, now for the trial of faith! What were they to do? Trust in food for the event, but the articles must go down by that afternoon's boat. Just then the express wagon came with several boxes, and threw them on the sidewalk, and his boy brought two letters, from Rossville and Zanesville, Olio. The letters were invoices of goods in the boxes. In one box, among other things, were 27 shirts, 33 pairs of drawers, 70 pairs of socks. In another, 33 pairs of socks; and so in the three invoices. They were shipped to the front that night. "Now," asked the speaker, "if the Lord did not send these articles in answer to

our prayers, where did they come from?"
One most important feature of the Commission's work, and one intensely appreciated by the soldiers, was the supply of writing materials to them. After the battle of Nashville, for four or five days an average of 35,000 sheets of letter paper and envelopes were distributed daily by the delegates of the Commission. Oh, how many hundreds of grateful letters were received by mothers, wives, and sisters, whose anxiety the Commission was thus enabled so effectually

to relieve. The speaker closed with an affecting incident of an Indiana boy, of the Eighty, fifth Regiment. He sent at midnight for a delegate of the Commission. He was dying, and wished to leave his little treasures with him; to send them with a letter to his poor mother. "Are you a Christian?" the delegate asked. "Oh, yes; I was before I joined the army. Tell mother that God is with me; all is well." Then, giving three rings to the delegate, he said, "that is for with the treasure and circumstants." for mother, that for sister, and sister will know whom to give the other to. There is one thing more," he added, after a pause. A little package was taken from his knapsack and brought to him. In it were three photographs. He took up the first, looked at it intently, and said, "Oh, thank God for a pious mother! Through her prayers and instrumentality I was brought to Christ. Good by, mother, we shall meet in heaven." He kissed it, and laid it down on the cot. He took up the second, and said,
"Thank God for a pious sister! We have held
sweet communion on earth, sister, and will hold
sweeter communion in heaven. Good-by, sissweeter communion in heaven. Good by, sister," and he laid it down with the other. He took up the third, the nameless one, and as he looked fondly at it, his eyes filled with tears.

"Oh," said he, "I did hope that you and I would have many precious seasons on earth; but God has ordered otherwise. My country demanded my services. I gave them cheerfully.

But, thank God! ere long we'll both be where there'll be no wars, but all will be peace throughout eternity. Yes, thank God! we'll throughout eternity. Yes, thank God! we'll meet again;" and he put the precious picture to his lips and kissed it, and breathed his last

with the photograph lying on his ips.

A sweet hymn, called "Your Rission," was A sweet hymn, called "Four dission," was now admirably sung by Mr. Phillip Phillips, of Cincinnati. It was so warmly received that the singer was obliged to sing arain, which he did, selecting, however, another piece. Towards the close of the meeting, by the the special written request of Mr. Lincoln, the first hymn was repeated as follows:-

YOUR MISSION. If you cannot on the ocean Sail among the swiftest fiect, Rocking on the highest billows, Laughing at the storms you meet; You can stand among the sailors, Anchored yet within the bar, You can lend a hand to help them, As they launch their boats sway.

If you are too weak to journey
Up the mountain steep and high,
You can stand within the valley
While the multitudes go by
You can chant in happy measure,
As they slowly pass along,
Though they may forget the sager,
They will not forget the sone. If you have not gold and silve Bver ready to command,
If you cannot towards the needy
Reach an ever open hand;
You can visit the afflicted,
O'er the erring you can week
You can be a true disciple,
Sitting at the Saviour's feet

If you cannot in the conflict Prove yourself a soldier trul.
If, where fire and smoke are the
There's no work for you to do
When the battle-field is silent.
You can go with careful tread
You can bear away the wounded
You can cover up the dead.

Do not then stand idly waiting
For some greater work to dol
Fortune is a lazy goddess,
She will never come to you;
Go and toil in any vineyard,
Do not fear to do or dare;
If you want a field of labor,
You can find it anywhere.

The next speaker was the Rev. J. Wheaton Smith, D. D., of Philadelphia. REV. J. WHEATON SMITH'S ADDRESS.

Mr. President, Ladies, and Gentlemen: To the casual observer, even, this is an unusual assembly. This evening hour of a tranquil Sabbath; this audience, graced by the presence of the distinguished and the good; lis Hall of the nation's capital; this cause, warm with the ceaseless beatings of the nations lieart, conspire to mark and consecrate the occasion. But, sir, there is something more. This hour, and this cause, and this audience, tell of something of more than merely passing interest. As the little flower imbedded in the rocks tells of the dew and the sunlight of other centuries. so would this Christian Commission, if it should go down the path of history alone and unattended by the story of these times, decide the type of Christian civilization which prevailed in this year of grace. Do you know, gentle-men, that it is our privilege to live in an age which is the first to garnish a great war with such an institution as this? One hardly knows whether to admire most the popular virtue from which this institution has spring, or the governmental recognition which it receives. For what is this Christian Commission? What

does it do? Let me tell you. There are those here who can speak from a larger experience; but on the 13th day of May last it was my privilege, with some fiffy or six-ty gentlemen associated with me in the same

tory. Thus organized, we aim to distribute, | established, word came that they needed onions. | ulants along the muddy road to Fredericks. | speak of the past. He did not know but he burg, to meet the soldier as he lay by the wayside exhausted, to administer a little draught to cheer and strengthen him, to speak some word of consolation. And passing along, all the way from Belle Plain to the White Oak Church, all he way from White Oak Church to Fredericksburg, we saw these wounded brave men were ying or halting, and we ministered to them. On reaching Fredericksburg, it fell to my lot to be placed in the old theatre there, filled with some three hundred very bad cases. The Gov-ernment was doing all that it could; but the ighting was going on; men were there at night who were that day in the smoke of battle; surgeons were busy in the army; the men were started from the field for the hospitals; they men are dying for the want of the crout and cabbage—nothing else will answer." The speaker stepped into his office, and looking out of the window saw his greys backing upon the sidewalk a load of casks: He called to the driver to know what they were. He did not der my stump?" One man had not eaten any long but it left a letter on the did not der my stump?" One man had not eaten any long with a lot eaten any limb off et know, but "I left a letter on the desk for you," was the reply. The letter was opened. It was an invoice from the town of Lebanon, Ohio, of thirty four barrels of crout and pickled cabbage! He could not refrain from ejaculating on the spot, "Thank God for Lebanon! Thank God for the crout and cabbage!" That very day they sent it down to the army and received back a gatateful letter from a surgeon, saying that if they, had sent barrels of gold dust it would not have compared in worth with that.

Again, immediately after the battle of Nash ville, they received orders for stores to be sent immediately. They had sent everything in the house on a previous order from Louisville. In thing for fifty hours, and with one limb off at and he seemed to know no one, to answer to no voice, and yet he still breathed. I never shall forget how that massive chest heaved up were cleared out, and they were now trusting and down. We watched him for hours, think-him to fill them again, when the imploring deing every hour would be his last. All night he mand came from Nashville. It could not wait lay there. In the morning he was no better, lay there. In the morning he was no better, but he began to move his feet. He seemed to be marching, and he marched till he died tramp, tramp-dead, but marching on

"His sufferings ended with the day,
Yet lived he till its close,
And breathed the long, long night away
In statue-like repose;
But when the morn, in all his state,
Illumed the oastern sky.
He passed through glory's morning gate,
And walked in Paradise."

I saw there one man, who said to me, "Sir, if you can help me a little, I shall be glad. My limb is off above the knee. It pains me very much; and if you will put a little larger bolster there it will alter my position." I did so, and sponged his wound with cold water. I then asked him how it felt. "Oh, bless you, it feels so good, so comfortable." Said I, "My dear fellow, are you a Christian man?" "Yes, sir, I am; I was a Christian at home, and I have been enabled to live a Christian life, in some respects, in the army. I hope, sir, if I should be called away as the result of this wound, that

I am ready to go."

My next case was not so good a one. Thi man was without the Christian's consolation yet he, as all of them here, are ready to speak and to be spoken to of the realities of religion One of the first questions that these men ask i One of the first questions that these men ask is, "Who sent you here, sir? Who pays you for coming? You dress our wounds, give us food and stimulants, and speak kindly words to us." Now, Mr. President, the point of the whole usefulness of this Commission consists, in a great degree right here—that we are able to great degree, right here—that we are able to say to these men that we come by your sanc-tion. We speak these words in behalf of Jesus by the permission of this our Chief Magistrate for whom we pray in our pulpits and our and around our family altars, and I tell the men that I come to them by permission of the President, under a sort of Abrahamic covenant! laughter)—that the Government has recognized he truth at last, that men have immortal souls that an army such as ours is, made up as never was an army made up before it, has higher needs than the needs of mere brute nature.

But, good and great as are these influences of the Christian Commission, they do not stop here. O, sirs, the reflex influences of any action are always the most important. Here's a blacksmith at his anvil. The iron comes out white hot. Now wield that ponderous hammer. Did you ever think of it, that it is striking two places, doing two things—moulding a bit of iron to the master's will, not only, but developing an arm like Jupiter's. That blow strikes back as well as down. The great blessing of this voluntary institution, then, is that it gives the people something noble to do. Would you oring the people up to the magnitude of a great cause like that of our country's triumph over rebellion, you must use them in the cause, not merely in the payment of taxes, not simply in answer to the draft, not simply at the other end of war despatches and bulletins, but you must bring them into living, actual contact with the realities of war, and then their heart is moved Wherein lies the secret of the great change that has swept over this great nation? The people of the land have been busy for our noble sol diers. We have grown into the spirit of the work, have entered into full sympathy with the noblest part of it. In the beautiful hymn just sung we were told that there is a mission for us We are here to-night to do something And it occurs to me that a fortnight ago to light we had brethren who were doing some thing else. A fortnight ago to night, only a little earlier than this, the deadly assault was being made upon Fort Fisher. All day the guns of our fleet had been thundering at its gates. The evening came. The gallant boys in blue are storming the sea face. Every eye is watching them. All hope seems to centre upon the assault. But no l—they do not carry t! Staggering, falling, with many a wounded many a dying one, they are being forced back

The smoke opens a little; "What flutters on the outer wall?
See! where the smoke breaks through!
Huzza! it's Terry's flag—
It's Terry's flag, his battle-flag of blue!'
Beside it floats another flag,
All torn and gashed with sears;
Watch how it flashes through the smoke,
The grand old Stripes and Stars!"

(Applause.) These were our brethren there we are their brethren here. We stand behind them ready to follow them with comforts to the field. In the cause of humanity we are here. The work of the Christian Commission will live when Grant's cannon come home, when our torn and tattered battle-flags are hung up in our village churches, and our mothers point their children there, and tell them how the field was won. Then will the work be rehearsed; this work which Christian men, and women too perform for humanity and for God. And still in a farther future, for Oh, there is something beyond the present.

> Think you the notes of holy song On Milton's tuneful ear have died? Think you that Raphael's angel throng Has vanished from his side? Oh, no! we live our lives again, All warmly touched or coldly dim; The pictures of the past remain, Man's works shall follow on.

Still shall the soul around it call The shadows that it gathered here:
And painted on the eternal wall The past shall reappear.

We shape ourselves the joy or fear Of which the coming life is made, And fill our future atmosphere With sunshine or with shade. The tissue of the life to be
We weave in colors all our own,
And in the field of destiny
We reap what we have sown.

The Chair next introduced the Rev. Dr. Buter, formerly of Washington, now of the Phila-lelphia Divinity School of the Protestant Episopal Church.

He said that he stood in the place, he would not say "filled" the place, of the venerated Bishop of Ohio, Bishop McIlvaine, whose patriotic exertions at home and abroad, and whose love and labor for the Christian Commission, the country knows. He feared that the substitute system, in the army of benevolence at

could claim to be one of the first in ministering religious consolations to soldiers after the out-break of the war. He followed the first squad from Pennsylvania from the depot to the Capitol, and spoke words of Christian cheer; and he also followed them to the Capitol, which, in the language of an officer at the time, was to be their tomb. He obtained permission to preach to that regiment after they had taken their place in the Senate House, and occupied the seats only just vacated by traitors. By some unavoidable hindrance the programme was not carried out, but he had the privilege of addressing the Eighth Massachusetts regiment, some two weeks after, and adjuring them, in the name of the Lord of hosts, to be strong and the name of the Lord of hosts, to be strong and to quit them like men. And again, in connection with Bishop McIlvaine, who called upon him on the Friday preceding the battle of Bull Run, he went to Alexandria, on a mission to the soldiers. Information had been sent him by General Scott, that a battle had probably taken place, and that the wounded in large numbers would be sent to the hospitals at Alex-andria, and he proposed that they, Bishop Mellvaine and the speaker, should go down to minister unto them. They went as far as Fair-fax Court House, and as no hattle had taken place, they thought to return that night, but being admonished of danger, they remained at a private house, where the then Secretary and Assistant Secretary of War, and several army officers and correspondents, to the number of twenty, spent the night. The circle formed for family worship that night, with the venerable Bishop in the centre with open Bible, the speaker should never forget. In his clear, rich tones, he read, "The Lord of hosts is with us, the he read, "The Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge," and thus strengthened our hearts. Afterwards, the Secretary of War, returning from Russia, meeting the speaker in Rome, told him that he had since learned that a party of Virginia Black Cavalry were hovering near, waiting to capture the Secretary and his party. This incident was mentioned as a claim of the speaker to address his brethren, since if he had not the Commission itself, he had the spirit of it in that early day. He had received the first order of General Scott to preach to the "Confederate" prisoners at the Capitol Prison—an office not the most pleasant for some reasons at that time. One prisoner, a fiery Georgian doctor, did all he could to oppose him and to dissuade his fellows from attending divine service. On being remonstrated with, he said, and the speaker almost feared to repeat t, "You have been sent here to preach Northern Christianity. I want men with Southern principles, with a Southern Bible, and a South-ern God." But the Commission had since made a surprising history. He had heard of it abroad; he had seen and admired its workings, and as a poor teacher of preaching in a theo logical seminary, he would say that if his students would enter the work of the Commision, they could learn such homileties as no books or professors could ever teach, and he would recommend his own and other students, as many of them had already done, to spend at least a part of their vacation in its service. Let them stand face to face with death, if they would learn to speak of the Conqueror of death; let them go down into the places of blasphemy, and ribaldry, and sin, if they would learn to speak of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, and of the solemnities of the judgment; let them go where plain, honest men, from the depth of strong convictions, are speaking of the love of esus and of the sufficiency of his salvation, if they would learn to speak from the heart to the neart as dying men to dying men; let them minister to the dying, if they would learn how to preach to the living. The first impression the Doctor had received on returning from abroad, was the immediate connection between the church and the home with the army. The men in the army have tasted this sympathy, and praised God for it. The Christian Commission had contributed largely to bring this about. Self-denying men, before whom his soul bowed in homage and gratitude, had gone down into these devoted labors; the old pastors of the soldiers had gone down to cheer their hearts, and godly, noble women had gone yea, the mothers, and the wives, and the sis ters! Oh, sirs, the standards of England wave rightfully in the presence of Florence Nightin-

forms hovering near him are the angels that he's going to, or the angel-like ones he is Another strongly marked feature he had noted on his return was, the sanction of Christianity to the war. Christianity had said to the magistracy of the land, "It is in the very spirit of St. Paul that you wield the sword not in vain." It says to the soldier, "You may feel that the benediction of the minister of the peo-ple of God, and of the Word of God, and the God of them both, is with you as you go forth to fight the battles of your country. might be called enthusiasm, but no evil was ever struck a blow but it started up the cry of "fanaticism." Oh, sirs, the time has come, the glorious emancipation time. The American pulpit is emancipated! American Christianity is emancipated! The ministers of God have made up their minds that they will not accept from the lowest-toned men in the land, with brutal dictation, what they shall preach or what they shall not preach; but that they will preach the truth as it is in Jesus. Our emancipated pulpits have said, and will say with increasing volume of utterance, that loyalty to government is obedience to God, and that re-bellion is as the sin of witchcraft; it will cry out that human slavery is an outrage to man and disloyalty to God, and it will not hereafter be silenced, even though a member of Congress should call it fanaticism.

gale, for the gem on the brow of Queen Vic-

toria bows in homage before that gracious pres

ence; but our Florence Nightingales are num-

bered by hundreds. Woman in her gracious

maturity, and the sweet maiden in the camp and the hospital, minister to the sick and the

dying, and the poor boy soldier, in the contu-

sion of his mind, does not know, but begins to think, that it is his mother's kiss that is upon

his brow, and he dies soothed and happy; or

mind, cannot tell whether the bright young

in the failing consciousness of his wandering

The speaker then pictured a great future for the church of Christ. The war had strangely educated the American people. He had found a shade of sorrow on all classes. Alas! what nome has not felt the thick darkness? But he had found also unwonted energy-almost of desperation, an intense activity in all departments of life; and the church of Christ had felt it, in giving and in praying. If only now the Holy Ghost should lescend on the ground broken up and prepared, what harvests of souls should we reap! The prominence of lay efforts, the opportunity of the church to enter and possess the wonderful field before her, were forcibly presented, and the blessedness of the work the Christian Commission eloquently set forth, with a closing prayer and benediction. "Brethren, let the Spirit of the living God animate you. Not only this generation, but the generations which are to come will rise up and call you blessed, as I call you blessed!

## ABSENCE OF BISHOP AMES. Mr. Stuart here explained the absence of the

Rev. Bishop Ames, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who was announced to speak. He had come all the way from his home in Indiana, to Baltimore, where he was taken quite ill, and was unable to proceed further. His interest in and love for the Christian Commission had often been well tested. As his substitute, the speaker was glad to introduce General Patrick as one who had specially befriended the Commission ADDRESS OF REV. C. M. BUTLER, D.D. from its very beginning; and, speaking for the army and navy, he could take the opportunity to say that from General Grant and all the generals under him, down, the Commission had received every attention and all the facilities that they could desire. After alluding to the Lord of lords; and are endeavoring to follow his blessed example and walk in his footsteps in the track of war; to mitigate, as far as human aid and human sympathy can, the fearful evils which accompany it in its march onward to vic.

The speaker then traced, in several terms of the same last it was my privilege, with some fifty or six-last it was my privilege, with some fi

# GENERAL PATRICK'S ADDRESS.

He came merely to testify what he had seen, from his stand-point in the army. At the out-break of the war, the various bureaus of the from Pennsylvania from the depot to the Capi-tol, and spoke words of Christian cheer; and when the noble Sixth Massachusetts arrived, had arisen. As the States sent their quotas into the field, they sent with them agents to supply them with what they needed, over and above what was supplied by the general Government. Independent and local relief associations were formed all over the land, and what they had gathered was sent to particular regiments. In the course of time, however, and in the first year of the war, the Govern-mental departments of supply were so extended as to be able to meet every military want of the soldiery. From that moment the necessity for State agencies ceased, and experience had shown him that, for want of system in making up and distributing supplies raised by local re-lief committees, very little good was accomplished and much evil, from waste, and want of system in their special distribution. He would not for a moment dry up these fountains of liberality—God forbid! but he would have the generous streams that flow from them dithe generous streams that flow from them di-rected through such channels that they would reach the soldiery with the greatest safety and despatch, and be distributed with discretion and economy. There are two great voluntary agencies now in the field—the Santary and the Christian Commissions. It was to supplement the medical department that the Santary Commission was organized. Through its agency ar immense amount of stores had been distributed. and an immense amount of good had been done. The vast amounts of money paid into its treasury shows well the strong hold it has upon the affections of the people. But it was soon discovered that something more than ministries to material wants was demanded. Chaplains were few, and those few were tied to their regiments by the inexorable laws of the military service. Beyond their regiments and regimental hospitals their labors extended not. Who, then, should give spiritual advice and consola-tion to those who, on the march, or in the charge, fell by the way, or were borne to the rear of the line of battle, wounded, agonizing, dying? Who should enter the great hospitals of the corps and armies in the field, where no chaplains are known, and minister to those who crowded its tents, multitudes of whom nust soon appear before the judgment seat of Christ, where some other claim than that of patriotism or bravery must be presented ere hey could hope to exchange the soldier's garb and the musket for the white robe and the palm of victory? It was to meet such wants as these that the Christian Commission was organized. and to such labors it has mainly addressed it self. But in a campaign, and wherever battles are fought, the Good Samaritan is ever needed, and it was found that every delegate should be supplied with a small stock of cordials, restoratives, articles of nutritious diet; and to supply these, store wagons, and coffee carts,—boilers on wheels,—were found to be necessary, and these; under the direction of delegates have contributed vastly to the comfort and well being of multitudes of our suffering soldiers in a par-ticular, for which hitherto there had been no dequate provision. Again, during the cold season, in the late autumn, winter, and early spring, when the army is of necessity mostly stationary, it has been found that religious services could not be held profitably or safely in the open air. Chapel tents were not known under the returns of the quartermaster's department. These the Christian Commission furnished for the morning and evening Sabbath service, and for the daily hour of prayer. Again, where mammon reigns with the great mass of those who follow our armies to fatten on its necessities, how is good reading to be supplied. Traders will not or cannot furnish it except at most exorbitant rates; it is only through the Commission that it can be supplied at cost—and that not at the soldier's cost—and its character guaranteed. But the speaker would not go further into the details of this great and good organization. It was a grand off-spring of the hour, and the country. Nothing like it had ever before existed. During the seven long years of the Florida war it was unknown; and not until the last year of the war with Mexico had we anything even of its kind. hen books and papers were sent from the American Bible and Tract Societies, and a New Orleans Society, to the small army of General Scott, which had swept through from the coast to the City of Mexico. Everything passed through the single port of Vera Cruz. Books and the colporteurs reported through his office and issued their supplies thence, and were sent to their labors wherever the flag could protect them. But that war was on foreign soil, against a people of strange tongue. How different the now. Now people of the same tongue and blood and customs—a divided family—op-pose each other, and every man must be vouched or, and not only his allegiance demanded, but fervent loyalty and love for every stripe of that flag that everywhere greets his eye and pro-claims in every breeze that lifts its folds to neaven a nation's hope and faith uncrushed! The General then suggested several requisites

n the work of the Commission. They should have agents somewhat permanently retained, that they may become well acquainted with the rules and regulations of the army. There should be a considerable force of these ministerial and other laborers always in the field. He knew well that these suggestions were not heartily seconded by some of the best friends of the Commission, but the main reason was the want of funds to sustain the measure. Should it be said that such an organization should want for means to make it just as efficient as it is possible to make it, when the silver and the gold and the cattle on a thousand hills are His? The General also desired to see more trequently on the field the pastors of the leading churches of the great cities. Oh what a blessing would they carry to their old church members in the field, whose souls yearn to hear their familian voices as in bygone days! What audiences they would gather. How their own souls would blest; and returning to their people fresh from the field and full of its inspirations, they could in turn touch their people's hearts and bring them into closer sympathy with those who have gone out for a season from them, taking their lives in their hands, for the sake of their country, their alters, and their homes. Let not the great and wealthy churches of the land withhold their dearest, most venerated pastors and teachers, but send them forth to this glorious work in the field from which they and all shall most surely reap a rich reward.

There was one other phase of the Commission's work to which he would allude. In the providence of God we had now reached a standpoint in the war from which it required no prophet's ken to see the downfall of the Confede racy. Internal dissensions through all rebeldom, now known to few, would soon be known The foe, by the movements of our armies and fleets, are so hemmed in and beleagured, as to crush out all hope in the hearts of their leaders, and to fan the fires of freedom in multitudes of hearts throughout the rebelland, who would hail with joy the downfall of a cursed government. Not long shall we have to wait, if the smiles of the Lord of hosts continue to rest upon us, and I believe they will, ere the cursed fabric that pride and ambition have reared will be cast to the earth, and they who have worshipped therein in their madness and folly will be scattered to the winds. With the downfall of rebellion, the glorious agency of the Christian Commission will be summoned to heal the wounds that war has made, to bind up the broken in heart, to comfort all that mourn, to open the doors of progress to the liberated captive, and,—who so well?—to disabuse the masses of their prejudices and aid in bringing back into the fold those have been led away by strange shepherds. God grant that the time may speedily come when the Commission shall enter upon the work! (Amen!)

A word in conclusion. Until this night my feet have never stood within the walls of this rebuilded temple of our broken covenant. Is it any wonder, then, that as I survey the grand proportions of this hall, my thoughts go back to the days of old, the years of other genera-