

REV. A. M. STEWART'S LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 16, 1865. RELIGION IN CONGRESS.

Dear Brother Mearns:—Were an ambassador from a distant planet, or even from some far off kingdom of our own little globe, to visit our Capital with the design of writing a book on the religion of the country; and this perhaps for the enlightenment, or adoption by his own people—were he to have free access to the White House, with its executive sessions, visits and soires—then to the capitol, and there for weeks together, take notes of the openings, intervening business, discussions and closings of both Houses—wait in the halls through the Sabbaths—observe carefully the movements and connections of members during the intervals from one session to another, and then write his book, a literary curiosity would the volume be. If intelligently and truthfully written a doubt might exist previous to perusal, whether the author would set down Mammon, Beelzebub, Self, Jesus, or some unknown God as the chief divinity of the land.

Congress is a religious body, for both houses have chaplains, whether from choice, custom, or a prescription by law. The functions of these officers do not seem to be very onerous. Preaching is held in the halls each Sabbath by chaplains or substitutes. Prayer is made by the chaplain before each session of the House, nevertheless the House is not opened with prayer, as is the ordinary custom of bodies using that formality. Sauntering a few days since with a friend in the hall of the House, the hour for business arrived, when we were politely requested by a doorkeeper to withdraw, as none but members had a place on the floor at the opening. A request was tendered that we might stand inside the door while prayer was offered; which was granted, with the understanding that we withdraw so soon as this ceremony was over. Precisely at 12 M. the Speaker lifted his gavel, a small, wooden mallet, like our auctioneer's, and gave one stroke upon the desk uttering a word. The chaplain then arose and offered a brief prayer; appropriate so far as could be heard at our distance, together with various hums and noises mingling with the voice of the speaker. About a dozen members out of the two hundred were at the time in the hall. Each of these during prayer remained in his arm-chair, intent upon his own business, examining the morning news, folding papers and putting the desk in order. The Speaker alone assumed a standing and reverent posture, with apparent devotion.

Prayer ended the Speaker struck twice with his gavel, at the same time saying, "The House will now come to order." The usual custom, we believe, when prayer is offered at the opening, or at the various sessions of deliberative bodies, is for the presiding officer first to call the assembly to order—then the devotions when in order. Congress, however, seems to be too dignified a body to be called to order before the Lord; or to be in order when His presence, blessing, and grace are invoked. Not until brief, cold, informal respects have been paid to the Almighty and he unceremoniously dismissed, is the House called to order. The good speaker may plead in justification, that there are not usually enough members before the Lord and the chaplain to be called to order, and these so apparently intent upon their own affairs that no attention would be given his order, save by a sharp rap upon their individual heads with his gavel. Whether the Senate follows the same dignified course has not been learned by personal observation.

Many of the members during the prayer must have been not far distant. For no sooner was it over and the House to be called to order, than various squads who had been in the corridors and ante-rooms came into the Hall in sufficient numbers to form a quorum.

Earnest Christian hearts have been hoping and praying that one good result of our long and bloody struggle would be, to humble us as a people and make our civil and military rulers more conscious of Christ's sovereignty, and more ready to acknowledge their subjection to Him in their official capacity. Evidences of these desirable results are certainly not very plentiful or hopeful. The anti-slavery clause lately passed by both Houses will no doubt, from its rapid ratification by the various States, ere long be incorporated as a portion of our organic laws. This is well; a glorious progress; yet in this laudable effort to correct and perfect our Constitution, not an official voice, so far as known, has been lifted in either Hall to have even the name of God incorporated in our national code; nor any desire manifested to have the authority of Jesus over the nations recognized. Such things are not hopeful for our future stability and greatness. A. M. Stewart.

THE DRAFT ordered for February 15, did not take place. Volunteering under the stimulus of high bounties is going on rapidly. New York city gives one thousand dollars for each recruit. Enormous frauds have been discovered in the business of bounty-brokers in that city; many government officials are involved. The Board appointed by the President to examine and correct the quotas of the several States and districts, under the call of December 19, have reported, confirming the various decisions by Provost Marshal General Fry. This conflicts seriously with the published estimate of our Councils, which reduced the due of our city to less than two thousand.

PROF. DE LAUNAY'S LECTURES ON THE CATACOMBS are worthy of general attendance. He delivers one on Friday at Dr. Wylie's church on Broad street.

News of the Week.

XXVIIIth CONGRESS—2d SESSION.

SENATE.

February 14.—A resolution of Mr. Wilson's recognizing the superior claims of disabled and honorably discharged soldiers and sailors upon the Government, and upon employees generally, was ordered to be printed. The Secretary of War was instructed to inform the Senate if the names of citizens held as political prisoners have been furnished to the judges of the United States Courts, as required by law. The report of the Committee of Conference on the President's message, was discussed. The bill allowing a bridge of two hundred and forty feet span to be built over the Ohio at Cincinnati was reconsidered, and three hundred feet inserted. The bill passed. The bill to regulate commerce between the States, proposing an air line from New York to Washington was debated.

February 15.—The day was given up to the funeral of the late Senator Hicks, of Maryland. His remains were brought into the Senate Chamber, and a discourse was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Nadall. Previously to the services, resolutions of respect were offered by his colleague, Senator Johnson, and adopted.

February 16.—A bill was passed extending the boundaries of the port of entry and delivery of Philadelphia. The Naval Appropriation Bill occupied the attention of the Senate. An amendment postponing the restoration of the Naval Academy at Annapolis two years, (equivalent to continuing it that time in its present location at Newport, Rhode Island,) was rejected. Against the amendment, Mr. Grimes, of Iowa, said that the removal of the young men from Newport is necessary for the protection of their morals—a reflection which was indignantly repelled by Mr. Anthony, of Rhode Island. An amendment appropriating \$100,000 for additions and improvements to the Naval Asylum in Philadelphia, was adopted.

February 17.—An earnest debate occurred on the presentation of the credentials of Joseph Segar, Senator elect from Virginia, the point being whether the legislature by which he was elected can be recognized as a properly constituted body. The credentials were finally laid on the table by a vote of 28 to 13. Mr. Sumner, with a view to correct false impressions that in some future conditions of peace, the rebel war debt may be assumed by the United States, which are calculated to give it a fictitious value, offered the following resolution, which was passed:— "Resolved, by the Senate, the House concurring, That Congress hereby declares that the rebel debt or loan is simply an agency of the rebellion, which the United States can never, under any circumstances, recognize in any part or in any way.

The Navy Appropriation Bill, after a long party debate, and the rejection of the amendment establishing a Board of Admiralty, was passed.

February 18.—The Army Appropriation bill was taken up, and after further amendments, (one for increasing the pay for officers' subsistence to 50 cents per ration), was passed. Mr. Saulsbury offered a resolution, that a committee be appointed to inquire respecting the truth of a statement made in the rebel Congress by Albert G. Brown, a member thereof, to the purport that at the outbreak of the rebellion, Secretary Stanton had expressed his sympathy for the South, and an earnest hope that she would stand firm. Mr. Saulsbury pledged himself to furnish proof of this, if opportunity were afforded. The resolution lies over.

February 20.—A bill to regulate the expenses of assessors was introduced. Mr. Sumner introduced a bill to repeal the charter of the Georgetown Passenger railroad for excluding colored persons from the cars. Ineffectual attempts to increase the pay of the army were made.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

February 14.—A resolution of inquiry as to the mustering out of the men enlisted for the unexpired term of their regiments, was passed. The following provisions in the Ammendatory Tax bill passed: steam locomotives and steam engines, including all their parts, shall pay a duty of five per cent. ad valorem. When duties have once been paid on boilers, they are to be deducted from the finished engines. Water tanks, sugar tanks, sewing machines, and planing machines to pay the same tax. Five per cent. ad valorem on manufacturers of clothing when the annual product exceeds \$1000. On smoking tobacco of all kinds not otherwise herein provided for thirty-five cents a pound, and on smoking tobacco made exclusively of stems fifteen cents a pound. The Senate bills, recognizing as post routes the bridge to be built over the Ohio river to connect Cincinnati with Covington, and also the railroad bridge to be constructed over the Falls of Ohio at Louisville was passed.

February 15.—The bill, extending privileges to a railroad enterprise from the Wisconsin State line to Marquette, was rejected. The customary respect was paid to the memory of the late Senator Hicks (Hon. Wm. D. Kelley among the speakers,) after which the House proceeded in a body to the Senate Chamber to attend the obsequies.

February 16.—In view of the short time remaining for the session, the House arranged the order for business next week, so as to secure attention to the bills reported from the various committees. The bill establishing steam mail communication between the Pacific coast of the United States and China, was passed. The Postmaster General is to award the contract to the lowest bidder, a sum not exceeding \$500,000 per annum. The bill was again under discussion, and several proposed amendments rejected. The Senate bill enlarging the port of entry and delivery of Philadelphia was passed. The limits, according to the new bill, are Frankford Creek on the North and Broad Street on the South. In the evening session the tax bill was again taken up, and the clause requiring the tax on cotton to be paid in coin was stricken out.

February 17.—The Committee on Elections reported in favor of the admission of the Representatives elect from Louisiana and Arkansas. The report was not acted upon. The bill extending the privilege of time to a Michigan and Wisconsin railroad corporation, rejected a few days ago, was reconsidered and passed. The Ammendatory Tax Bill being again under consideration, an amendment was adopted, requiring every bullion broker to take out a license, and pay \$1,000 therefor, whether operating at the brokers' board or elsewhere. Whoever shall thus deal without first obtaining a license, shall be declared guilty of a misdemeanor, and be subject to a penalty of \$2,000. Whoever buys and sells gold bullion or coin above the mint value, for purpose of speculation, shall be deemed a bullion broker. All sales of gold, excepting for exportation and to pay duty on imports and interest on the public debt, to be taxed ten per centum on each purchase and sale.

February 18.—The House took up the amendments previously made, in Committee of Whole, on the amendatory tax bill. The amendment adopted yesterday in Committee, taxing gold sales 10 per cent., was not concurred in. That imposing a tax of 10 per cent. on State bank notes paid out by National and State banks, on and after January 1,

1866, was confirmed. [This, if we understand it rightly, is death to State banking.] The amendatory taxing substitute brokers \$110 for every substitute accepted, was also confirmed in.

February 20.—The bill for reconstruction of the government of rebel States was discussed.

THE WAR—CHARLESTON EVACUATED.

The interest of the week has again centered in the movements of this strategic commander. Until Saturday evening we were entirely dependent on Richmond papers for intelligence of his progress, and they were in perfect obfuscation respecting the route taken and the points menaced, knowing only his exploits as they occurred. On the 13th inst., they announced that his forces had tapped the railroad north of Branchville, and between that place and Kingsville, and between every road centering at Branchville. On the 15th they claimed that their Cavalry General Wheeler had attacked Kilpatrick at Aiken, on the Charleston and Augusta road, and after a sharp fight, had driven him five miles in the direction of Branchville. It was however announced, with less unctious, that "in consequence of the enemy having occupied Orangeburgh, in force, our [rebel] troops have abandoned Branchville."

The Richmond Dispatch, of the 18th inst., gives us the exciting intelligence that the CAPITAL OF SOUTH CAROLINA IS IN OUR HANDS. The announcement is made in the following terms:—"Columbia has fallen. Sherman marched in and took possession of the city yesterday morning. Columbia is situated on the north bank of the Congaree river, just below the confluence of the Saluda and Broad rivers. From General Beauregard's despatch it appears that on Thursday evening the enemy approached the south bank of the Congaree, and threw a number of shells into the city. During the night they moved up the river, and while they were crossing the river, above the city, our troops, under General Beauregard, evacuated Columbia. The enemy soon after took possession. The fall of Columbia necessitates, we presume, the evacuation of Charleston, which we think likely is already in process of evacuation."

CHARLESTON EVACUATED!

Without a battle or a blow, in consequence of Sherman's masterly strategy, and the waning power of the rebellion, this infamous city has fallen into our hands. This event took place on Saturday the 18th, the news coming to us first through rebel sources. Admiral Dahlgren took possession. Beauregard is retreating to Charleston. Rebel papers have intelligence of military movements on Wilmington, and on Kingston, North Carolina, and on the Virginia and East Tennessee railroad in southwestern Virginia; while Sherman was moving Northward, being on the 19th thirty miles north of Columbia.

THE REBELS.

A Norfolk letter quotes from a Wilmington, North Carolina, paper, that specie commands \$75 in paper for one, in that city. The St. Louis Republican says: "Andrew J. Donelson, who will be remembered as a prominent citizen of Tennessee, and who was a candidate for the Vice-Presidency on the ticket with Millard Fillmore in 1857, recently came within the Federal lines at Nashville, took the amnesty oath, and has since been privileged to go where he pleased in that State without let or hindrance from the Federal authorities. During his term in Dixie he did not enter into either the civil or military service of the rebels, and did not compromise himself in support of the cause of secession further than circumstances compelled."

FOREIGN.

The latest arrivals bring Liverpool dates dated to February 2. The most important intelligence for our side of the Atlantic is the sensation produced in London by the intelligence of the fall of Port Fisher, an event which was regarded as putting an end to the blockade-running trade, and pretty much closing in the rebels from foreign supplies. Its first effect was upon American securities, running up the five-twenties from 47 to 54, a higher figure even than in the home market, and creating a rush for them at that. The rebel loan took a corresponding fall, the precise figures not stated. Minister Adams had, on the 28th ult., a long conference with Earl Russell—a circumstance, which, occurring at this juncture, excited comment. Concerning the rumored French foothold in Mexico, the London Morning Post says:—"The last advices from Mexico allude to the rumored cession of Sonora to France as a guarantee for the French-Mexican debt. A preliminary treaty to this effect was, it is reported, concluded in the latter end of November. The Mexican Government is, however, to keep the sovereignty of Sonora. The immediate occupation of Sonora by French troops is also mentioned, a portion of the same having, it is said, already left Acapulco for that destination."

One very satisfactory item of intelligence from the continent is that the French Government has issued stringent orders against interference with the Protestant Missions in the Society Islands. This is interesting, not alone for its specific effect on the ground named, but as another indication that the ultra-montane influence has become powerless at the Parisian court.

SPAIN AND PERU have settled their quarrel, Peru paying three millions of dollars and Spain surrendering the Chincha Islands. THE GOVERNMENT OF BOGOTA has issued an order prohibiting the passage of foreign troops across the Isthmus in future. Reception is made with regard to the United States troops, owing to the situation of their territories on the Pacific.

LATER—Southampton advices by the Saxonica, a later arrival, are to the 8th inst. The only items of interest are that, in Frankfort, United States bonds have advanced to a figure 5 per cent. higher than they command in New York; and that the Queen's speech at the opening of the British Parliament on the 7th inst., says:—"Her majesty remains steadfastly neutral between the contending parties in America, and would rejoice at friendly reconstruction."

ITEMS.

The cost of war is great, but in Europe they maintain an armed peace, at the rate, in the aggregate, of nearly a thousand millions of dollars annually.—Two tons of stores for our men in rebel prisons left Fortress Monroe for Richmond, February 10.—Eleven vessels loaded with cotton from Savannah, reached New York, February 14. The price of the article is about eighty cents, just one half of what it brought when at the highest.—Hon. H. S. Foote, late member of the rebel Congress, declining on his arrival at Washington, to accept the terms of an amnesty prolamation, was not allowed to remain in the country, notwithstanding his avowal that he had renounced the rebel cause. He has embarked for Europe.—The commission to conduct the usual assay at the United States Mint, have completed their labors, and made a highly satisfactory report concerning the assay department. This department has been for a long series of years in the hands of Jacob Reckford, Esq., as chief, and the accuracy of its operations are probably not excelled in the world.—

The paymasters of Meade's and Sheridan's armies leave Washington this week provided with full means to settle accounts with Uncle Sam's boys in full, bounties due included.—About fifteen hundred bales of cotton arrived at Cairo on the 13th and 14th inst. on its way up. One of the fruits of the late advance of Grant's army on Hatcher's Run is about \$40,000 worth of tobacco and cotton captured from the rebels. The cotton was in bales, and thrown up as a temporary breast work.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT was ratified by Indiana, February 13. A salute of one hundred guns was fired at the State House. In the Kentucky Legislature, on the 16th instant, a majority of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate reported that the Constitutional amendment abolishing slavery should be rejected. The minority report insists upon compensation as a condition precedent to the ratification. Four of the Committee are for rejection, one for compensation, and one for unconditional ratification. The Nevada Legislature ratified the amendment on the 16th instant.

"CRAZY NORAH."—New people who have lived long in Philadelphia have failed to hear of what being so long known by the above appellation. Death closed her strange career, on Wednesday of last week. She died at the house of a friend in the southeastern part of the city. Her true name was Honora Power. She was an Irish girl, and her insanity first developed itself on the occasion of the popular riot in 1821, growing out of the differences between Priest Hogan of St. Mary's church in this city, and the Bishop of the Diocese.

UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

Cash Acknowledgments for the week ending February 15, 1865.

Table with columns for location and amount. Includes Philadelphia Contributions as follows: Mrs. Dr. Ashmead, Philad'a, 50 00; Geo. E. Taylor, Philad'a, 100 00; West Arch Street Presbyterian Church, Philad'a, per W. Hall, 157 07; St. Mark's P. E. Church, Frankford, 387 00; Morning Bible-class, St. Mark's P. E. Ch. Frankford, 18 00-400 00; per Rev. D. S. Miller, John Stuart, Manchester, England, 250 00; Thomas Bell, Philad'a, 25 00; Elias D. Kennedy, Philad'a, 50 00; Miss E. O. Lloyd, Philad'a, 2 50; C. P. Bayard, Philad'a (add'l), 300 00; Ladies' Aid Society, Philadelphia, formed Dutch Ch. Philad'a, per Mrs. Rob't Pettit, Treas., 81 07; Reeve L. Knight & Son, Philadelphia, 87 50; E. W. Atkin, Philad'a, 200 00; Miss R. Farbur, 5 00; James Ledward, 5 00; Coloured Infant Sch. school of St. Andrew's Ch. Philad'a, per Rev. W. F. Cooke, 25 00; Hall W. Griffin, Philad'a, add'l, 50 00; Mrs. B. Griffin, Philad'a, 25 00; Mrs. Markle, Philad'a, per Rev. O. S. Centre, 1 00; Cash, 4 00; Ladsy Ch. Comm. Old Pine St. Presby'n Church, per Mrs. Rowley, 50 00-1918 14

MONEY.

Table with columns for location and amount. Includes Philadelphia Contributions as follows: Mrs. Hannah Hollowbush, Pottstown, Pa., 2 00; L. E. Davis, do. do., 2 00; Wm. Johnson, do. do., 2 00; Wm. Minster, do. do., 20 00-27 00; Army Com. Seranton, Pa. per R. A. Henry, Treas., 57 00; Collection at Kingston, R. I. per Thos. P. W. Mason, Treas., 30 50; Proceeds of Concert at Shippensburg, Pa. per G. N. Grayson and D. K. Wagner, 100 25; Fresh Ch. South East, N. Y. per Geo. F. Good, Treas., 5 00; Mrs. L. H. Russell, Honesdale, Pa., 5 00; E. H. Wood, Co. 146th N. Y. S. Vols. Congregation of Rev. M. During, Woodland, Mich., 3 00; Union meeting of Methodist and Presbyterian Churches, Canastota, Pa. per W. B. Morrison, (add'l), 61 00; Ladies' Aid Society, Coatesville, Pa. per W. B. Morrison, 15 00; Stephen Howard, Nova Scotia, Congreg. Wm. Lake, Mich. per J. Van Valkenburg, 46 00; Chris. Commission, Bangor, Me. per T. G. Stickney, 350 00; Chris. Commission, Albany, N. Y. per Wm. Mulford, 150 00; First Baptist Ch. Binghampton, N. Y. per Rev. Chas. Keyser, 42 16; Ladies' Aid Association, Eightstown, N. J. per M. S. Morrison, 25 00; S. O. West, Malone, N. Y., 47 00; Episcopal Church, Morocco co. N. J. per R. T. Martin, Treas., 24 50; Little Girls' Fair, Wilmington, Del. per A. C. Pickett, L. Shoemaker, and H. Fields, 6 15; Contribution received at Office of the Commission in Middle Military Division during January: M. Thompson, Iron Furnace Co., 25 00; M. Simmons, 5 00; N. S. Williams & Co. Hartford, Ct. (avails of sale of Nurse and Spy), 100 00; A. Friend, 2 00; Henry Adams, 2 00; John Wilson, 2 00; John Wilson, 2 00; J. C. Wilson, 5 00; Wm. Wilson, 5 00; Chaplain Caborn, 14th Pa. Cav., 3 00; A. Soldier, 1 00; Chris. Commission, Springfield, Mass. per Henry S. Lee, Treas., 750 00; Miss Caroline H. Sherman, Trenton, N. J. German Reformed Presb. ch., St. Lawrence co. N. Y., per Rev. Robert McMillan, 50 00; Third Avenue Mission ch. New York, per David Witmore, 25 00; Trinity church, Swedesboro, N. J., Collection at Lawrenceville, Pa., per Mrs. M. Haskell, 11 50; Meeting at Doylestown, Pa. Mrs. William Wolf, Centre Hall, Pa. Presb. church Showell, Monroe co. Pa., per Rev. J. K. Davis, 6 00; Presb. church Providence, Luzerne co. Pa. per Samuel W. Fry, 16 00; Young Men's Association, Garrettsville, Olesgo co. N. Y., per Rev. R. G. Wallace, 5 00; Ladies' Aid Society, Farmington Hill, Tioga co. Pa., per Miss H. D. Close, 16 25; William Alexander Smith, New York, N. C. D. Chamberlain, Carlisle, Pa., 5 00; George Metzger, Carlisle, Pa., 20 00; Request of Miss E. Weston, Mt. Joy, Pa., per James Smith, ex'r, 10 00; Ladies of West Charz and West Buckmantown, N. Y., per Rev. N. J. Day, Fair Festival held by little girls belonging to Miss Mary Reiley's School, Gerard, Erie co. Pa., 72 00; E. Wolf, Newfoundland, Pa., 2 00; Moravian ch. West Salem, Ill., 50 00; Freeman Gould, Edwards co. Ill., 5 00-22 50; Rev. J. M. Harrison, Gambier, Ohio, 100 00; F. T. Miller, New York, 15 00; Total, \$4491 62; Amount previously acknowledged, \$1,079,364 52; Total Receipts, \$1,074,866 14

VERMONT.

Northfield—Aid Society, per Mrs. E. K. Jones, 1 box.

MAINE.

Bangor—Branch U. S. C. C., per T. G. Stickney, 2 boxes.

OHIO.

Cincinnati—Branch U. S. C. C. 5360 papers. Total number packages of Stores, 96.

GEORGE H. STUART.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIAN COMMISSION, No. 11 Bank Street, Philadelphia.

THE FINAL CAMPAIGN.

All the signs of the times combine to show that the present is the final campaign against the great rebellion. The success of our armies and navies, the spirit of our soldiers, the opinions of our officers, the divisions, demoralization, and financial difficulties of the enemy, assure us that the triumph of justice, liberty, and peace is at hand. Every energy should now be directed to prepare our armies for the last desperate struggle; for the rebellion will die, as it has lived, in blood. Especially should these noble patriots who shall be called to offer their blood on the altar of liberty, be prepared, so far as we can prepare them, for this solemn service, by Christian instruction and earnest prayer. And when they fall, every succor that the love of Christ and the country can afford, should be at hand for their relief; nor should any soldier be allowed to die without having the hope of eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ presented to him, and without prayer to God for mercy in his name. This duty the delegates of the Christian Commission perform.

In one hundred and forty chapel tents our soldiers now assemble daily to read the publications furnished by the Commission, or to write letters to loved ones at home, and every night in the week, and three times on Sabbath, most of them being crowded with earnest worshippers, many of whom rise to ask prayer, and profess their design to lead Christian lives. Sixty additional tents are urgently demanded. The leading preachers of our cities are offering their services, and with one voice attest the presence of the Spirit of God in these assemblies.

The spring campaign has already opened. The delegates of the Commission are even now nursing the wounded from Dabney's Mill and Hatcher's Run; and at any moment we must be prepared for a general engagement, and an outlay of a hundred thousand dollars for battle field stores.

In this emergency the treasury is empty. The Christian Commission has no funds in bank, no investments of capital. Its only reliance has ever been faith in God and in God's people. This is God's work. He will provide the means for it. Every Christian is His agent. To such we now appeal for immediate help.

Will every returned delegate at once appoint and address meetings in his own locality, tell what he has seen and heard in the army, and receive and forward the offerings of Christian patriotism? To the Ladies' Aid Societies and Christian Commissions we confidently appeal, that they immediately set about soliciting individual subscriptions from their friends, and, without waiting to make up large sums, forward them as fast as received. If any information is desired, write to 11 Bank street, Philadelphia. Mother, wife, would you wish your loved one to die on the field, without any to receive his last message for you, or to kneel beside him and offer a prayer for his departing soul?

Will ministers unite in holding Christian Commission meetings in their respective towns, without waiting for the visits of agents, and allow every member of their congregations the privilege of contributing to this noble work? Forward the amount as soon as possible to the most convenient Branch of the Christian Commission or to the Treasurer, Mr. Joseph Patterson, at the Western Bank, Philadelphia. GEO. H. STUART, Chairman Christian Commission, 11 Bank street, Philadelphia.

The following are among the many recent items of interest reported from the field: ONE OF THE SAVIOUR'S BOYS.—A colored boy, quite young, very low of fever, said, "I love the name of Jesus. I am one of the Saviour's boys. It is a good deal on account of my mother, who died three years ago. You ought to be a good man, whether you are or not. I think you are, or you wouldn't come and ask me if I am a Christian boy, in a letter, said 'Oh, tell mother Brown I am trying to seek for God. She has often told me to seek him.' (Weeping aloud.) Ask her to pray that I may live faithful." Later, in prospect of death, having given brief directions about secular matters, he concluded: "Tell it (the letter) up with religious matters." He died in great agony from lock-jaw, but leaving a comforting hope that he had "in (the recently-found) Lord."

I have had a growing interest in the colored soldiers. I was afflicted daily for five weeks that I could not respond to the frequent call by boys and men for 'a spelling book,' 'a spelling book.' I greatly rejoiced in almost the last service I rendered at Point of Rocks, that of distributing the long-delayed, but at last arrived, "Union Primers" and "First Readers" among my colored patients so eager to learn to read. God bless our dear soldiers all, and the United States Christian Commission. R. N. MANLEY, Boonville, N. Y.

Lower Providence—Aid Society, per Miss M. J. Perry, 6 boxes. Shade Gap—Blair & Nimick, 1 box. Quakerstown—1 box. Redbank—Ladies' Aid Society, 1 box. Clarkburg—1 box. Boalsburg—Ladies' Aid Society, per Mrs. A. S. Hutchinson, 1 box, 1 keg. Reading—Citizens of Berks county, per R. C. Nicolls, Harris Top—1 box.

NEW JERSEY.

Bridgeport—2 boxes; Ladies' Relief Association, per Miss Lucy W. Mulford, 1 box. Paterson—Ladies' Chris. Com. of 1st Presb. ch. per Miss E. W. Rogers, 2 boxes. Trenton—Friends, per W. S. Johnson, 1 box. Fairton—Soldiers' Relief Association, per Miss A. O. Westcott, 1 box.

NEW YORK.

Albany—Branch U. S. C. C., per Wm. McElroy, 2 boxes. Buffalo—Ladies' Christian Commission, per Mrs. J. D. Sawyer, 21 boxes. Utica—Branch U. S. C. C., per Dr. D. W. Bristol, 3 boxes. Cohoes—Ladies' Christian Commission, 1 box. Buffalo—Branch U. S. C. C. 600 religious papers. South Ballston—E. D. Garnsey, 1 barrel. Poughkeepsie—Ladies' Chris. Com. 1 box. Chateaugay—1 box. Newburgh—Reformed Dutch ch., Ladies' Chris. Com., per Rev. G. H. Mandeville, 1 box. Geneva—Friends, 1 box. Saratoga—Ladies' Loyal League, per Miss Sarah M. Foster, 1 box. Rochester—Branch U. S. C. C. 2 kegs. Delta—Ladies' Christian Commission, per Miss J. E. Frisbie, 1 box. South Lorraine—U. P. church, per R. D. Williamson, 1 box.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Boston—Army Com. Young Men's Christian Association, per L. P. Rowland, 20 boxes, 3 barrels, 1 keg, 2700 papers. Springfield—Bridgman & Whitney, 2 boxes. Middleboro—Soldiers' Aid Society, per Mrs. W. S. Andrews, 1 box.

CONNECTICUT.

Westport—1 box. Hartford—Soldiers' Relief Association, per Mrs. S. S. Cowan, 1 box.

VERMONT.

Northfield—Aid Society, per Mrs. E. K. Jones, 1 box. MAINE. Bangor—Branch U. S. C. C., per T. G. Stickney, 2 boxes.

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THE FINAL CAMPAIGN.

All the signs of the times combine to show that the present is the final campaign against the great rebellion. The success of our armies and navies, the spirit of our soldiers, the opinions of our officers, the divisions, demoralization, and financial difficulties of the enemy, assure us that the triumph of justice, liberty, and peace is at hand. Every energy should now be directed to prepare our armies for the last desperate struggle; for the rebellion will die, as it has lived, in blood. Especially should these noble patriots who shall be called to offer their blood on the altar of liberty, be prepared, so far as we can prepare them, for this solemn service, by Christian instruction and earnest prayer. And when they fall, every succor that the love of Christ and the country can afford, should be at hand for their relief; nor should any soldier be allowed to die without having the hope of eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ presented to him, and without prayer to God for mercy in his name. This duty the delegates of the Christian Commission perform.

In one hundred and forty chapel tents our soldiers now assemble daily to read the publications furnished by the Commission, or to write letters to loved ones at home, and every night in the week, and three times on Sabbath, most of them being crowded with earnest worshippers, many of whom rise to ask prayer, and profess their design to lead Christian lives. Sixty additional tents are urgently demanded. The leading preachers of our cities are offering their services, and with one voice attest the presence of the Spirit of God in these assemblies.

The spring campaign has already opened. The delegates of the Commission are even now nursing the wounded from Dabney's Mill and Hatcher's Run; and at any moment we must be prepared for a general engagement, and an outlay of a hundred thousand dollars for battle field stores.

In this emergency the treasury is empty. The Christian Commission has no funds in bank, no investments of capital. Its only reliance has ever been faith in God and in God's people. This is God's work. He will provide the means for it. Every Christian is His agent. To such we now appeal for immediate help.

Will every returned delegate at once appoint and address meetings in his own locality, tell what he has seen and heard in the army, and receive and forward the offerings of Christian patriotism? To the Ladies' Aid Societies and Christian Commissions we confidently appeal, that they immediately set about soliciting individual subscriptions from their friends, and, without waiting to make up large sums, forward them as fast as received. If any information is desired, write to 11 Bank street, Philadelphia. Mother, wife, would you wish your loved one to die on the field, without any to receive his last message for you, or to kneel beside him and offer a prayer for his departing soul?

Will ministers unite in holding Christian Commission meetings in their respective towns, without waiting for the visits of agents, and allow every member of their congregations the privilege of contributing to this noble work? Forward the amount as soon as possible to the most convenient Branch of the Christian Commission or to the Treasurer, Mr. Joseph Patterson, at the Western Bank, Philadelphia. GEO. H. STUART, Chairman Christian Commission, 11 Bank street, Philadelphia.

The following are among the many recent items of interest reported from the field: ONE OF THE SAVIOUR'S BOYS.—A colored boy, quite young, very low of fever, said, "I love the name of Jesus. I am one of the Saviour's boys. It is a good deal on account of my mother, who died three years ago. You ought to be a good man, whether you are or not. I think you are, or you wouldn't come and ask me if I am a Christian boy, in a letter, said 'Oh, tell mother Brown I am trying to seek for God. She has often told me to seek him.' (Weeping aloud.) Ask her to pray that I may live faithful." Later, in prospect of death, having given brief directions about secular matters, he concluded: "Tell it (the letter) up with religious matters." He died in great agony from lock-jaw, but leaving a comforting hope that he had "in (the recently-found) Lord."

I have had a growing interest in the colored soldiers. I was afflicted daily for five weeks that I could not respond to the frequent call by boys and men for 'a spelling book,' 'a spelling book.' I greatly rejoiced in almost the last service I rendered at Point of Rocks, that of distributing the long-delayed, but at last arrived, "Union Primers" and "First Readers" among my colored patients so eager to learn to read. God bless our dear soldiers all, and the United States Christian Commission. R. N. MANLEY, Boonville, N. Y.

Schools, Academies, &c.

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