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THE FAIR MOVEMENT IN THE LOYAL STATES.—No. 8.

THE METROPOLITAN FAIR.

New York, although obliged to imitate the example, and follow in the wake of the success of these great enterprises in other places, became at last thoroughly roused. Her imperial pride could not brook the suggestion that she must follow at a humble distance while others led. She was accustomed to be the pioneer in all the grand movements characteristic of the country, and she felt it an insult to her wealth and position when people began to murmur

"C'est de l' Ouest aujourd'hui d'ou vient la lumiere."

She set to work then in good earnest about the end of December last, with the determination of organizing a Fair, which should not only be more productive than any which had been previously held, but which should bring more money into the Treasury of the Commission than all former Fairs combined. Her ambition was to do as least as much, in proportion to her population, as had been done in other cities, and that amount was ascertained to be, with a singular uniformity in all parts of the country, just one dollar per head for every inhabitant. In this expectation she has not been disappointed, as more than a million of dollars has been paid to the Treasurer of the Commission as the net proceeds of the Metropolitan Fair.

There were special reasons also, independent

of considerations such as we have alluded to, which called for a great effort on the part of the friends of the soldier and the Commission in New York. As we have had occasion to say more than once in these papers, the funds raised by the various Fairs in different parts of the country did not, except to a very limited extent, go into the central treasury for the general purposes of the Commission. They were retained by the local branches for the purchase of supplies exclusively. But these supplies all reached the army, and were distributed to the soldier by means of funds provided by the central treasury. The Commission, therefore, was placed in the position of a great express company, with plenty of freight offering, but no means to carry it to its destination. The embarrassment became very great, not only because the money contributed by California, and which had hitherto been the main reliance of the Commission, ceased to flow, but because a very wide-spread opinion obtained with the public, that all the money of all the Fairs was made available for the general purposes of the Commission. This opinion, no doubt, lessened very much the ordinary steady flow both of supplies in kind, and of contributions in money.

People seemed to forget that although the collection and distribution of army supplies was a most important department of the work of the Commission, yet that it was but one of various departments—each of vital importance to the soldier, and each requiring a large

sum for its maintenance. In view of the condition of the general Treasury, it became a serious question with the officers of the Commission whether they should drop all other branches of their work and limit themselves to the charge of merely distributing the supplies which might be sent to them. This would involve giving up their complete system, embracing Sanitary inspection by medical men of general Hospitals and of Camps; special relief, as it is called, with its system of homes at various points, where, on an average, more than twenty-three hundred men, the waifs and strays of the army, are cared for every day; the Hospital Directory, containing the names of all the soldiers in all the general Hospitals of the country; Pension Agencies, for collecting gratuitously money due by the Government to the soldier or his family, and various other modes of relief of vast importance, of which great necessity had been shown by daily experience.

The Commission and its friends were determined to make a great effort to keep up these useful departments, and, thanks to the results of the Metropolitan Fair, and to what we may reasonably hope from our own "Central Fair," they can be maintained upon a sure and permanent basis.

Operations were commenced in New York at a meeting of two hundred ladies interested in the general subject of relief to the soldier. By this meeting a Board of Managers, or Executive Committee of twenty-five members,