

Our Daily Fare.

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 20, 1864.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

ITS ORIGIN, ITS OBJECTS, AND ITS WORK, NO. 2.

THE beneficent work done by the Sanitary Commission may be classified under two general heads, viz: Sanitary Inspection and Army Relief. Of the nature and happy results of the former, which was the original object of the Commission, we gave some account in our last number. We propose now to consider the latter as fully as our limited space will permit.

Army Relief consists mainly in the distribution and application of the generous donations made for the patriotic people of the country for the comfort of their soldiers. Early in the war, large quantities of vegetable food, fruits, delicacies, luxuries and other supplies of a character not furnished by the Government, were sent forward to particular regiments, and for the volunteers from particular States, but owing to the absence of any organized means for their distribution, a very large proportion of them was wasted. Boxes and bales of life-saving and life-preserving stores were left to rot and perish in railway depots and storehouses. In some cases regiments had a great superfluity of these, and were obliged to throw them away while others were suffering because none could be procured. Thus the generous desires of the people were being frustrated, and full one half of their liberal provision for the soldiers was lost.

To correct this deplorable waste, the sphere of operations of the Sanitary Commission was enlarged, and the Board allied itself to the numerous Army Relief Associations and became the almoner of their bounty. It is specially fitted for this work, because it is officially recognized as an auxiliary of the medical staff of the army—because it enjoys the fullest confidence of the military authorities, and because it works on a system carefully conformed and subordinated to that of the army through agents specially trained. Its modes of operation also enable the Commission to prevent such distressing occurrences, as one regiment or body of soldiers having an excess of comforts, while others are wholly without them. The whole spirit of its system is national and catholic.

Under the auspices of the Commission, what had been a blind, blundering and wasteful groping in the dark, took the form of organization, system and business promptitude, and the popular supplies for the relief and welfare of the national soldiers, were administered with certainty and great economy.

These points are so clearly and authoritatively stated by General ROSECRANS, written after the battle of Stone's river, or Murfreesboro' that we feel no better service can be done to the cause than to spread his letter before the friends of the soldiers in these columns:

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, whose generous sympathy with the suffering of the sick and wounded, has induced them to send for their comfort numerous sanitary supplies which are continually arriving by the hands of individuals and charitable societies. 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 unrivaled. 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 army.

This commission acts in full concert with the Medical Department of the Army, and enjoys its confidence. It is thus enabled, with a few agents, to do a large amount of good at the proper time. Ever since the battle of Stone's river, it has distributed a surprisingly large amount of clothing, lint, bandages and bedding, as well as milk, concentrated beef, fruit, and other sanitary stores, essential to the recovery of the sick and wounded.

W. S. ROSECRANS,
Maj.-Gen. Com'd'g Department.

Every line of that letter should be carefully considered by the patriotic and liberal friends of our volunteers. It is to the admirable organization and large experience of which General ROSECRANS speaks that the country is indebted for prompt economical and certain distribution of relief, instead of partiality, lamentable waste and fatal delay. It is by virtue of that same organization, and the confidence and co-operation extended to the Commission by the military authorities referred to by General ROSECRANS, that the Commission is enabled to administer its welcome relief in the first hours after a battle is in progress when its labors and supplies are of inestimable value, instead of suffering a delay of days, when their value is almost wholly lost. It is to their mature experience that we are indebted for the priceless knowledge of what will be wanted, when it will be wanted, and how much will be wanted; and that it is on the right spot in the right time, in the proper quantities, just when and where it is most wanted.

We close this second article on the subject

with this remark, that the total cost of the distribution of the supplies by the Sanitary Commission, is less than two per cent. of the value of the articles distributed.

THE GREAT VASE.

Some one suggests that this vase should be purchased for the Presidential Mansion, to be used but not taken away by the successive incumbents of the presidential office; that is to say, that it should be part of the national plate belonging to the people themselves.

The idea strikes us very favorably, for as a present to a private individual it would be rather a burden. Even our Presidents generally retire to such very moderate establishments that so magnificent a work of art would be rather out of keeping.

Will some one then start "The White House" as a place of permanent deposit for this memorial of our Fair? In voting for this disposition of it, let every one remember he is voting to give it to himself and his children forever. Every other article of the Fair will go into private hands. Let us give this one a chance to be preserved where it can be seen, that every vestige of this great Pennsylvania Fair be not lost.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

Some of our subscribers, as we are informed, have been charged postage on their copies of *Our Daily Fare* by the Postmasters at the place of delivery. This is all wrong, and such postage should be refunded, for we have been enabled through the kindness of C. A. WALBORN, Esq., Postmaster of Philadelphia, to make a special arrangement by which all the postage on our country subscriptions has been pre-paid here.

In every case where a subscriber fails (through our fault) to get a complete set of the twelve numbers, we will feel obliged if such person gives us notice, as it is our intention to supply every one of our generous patrons with a full set, even if we have to reprint some of the numbers.

LARGE ARMIES.

The best answer to those who fear that our immense armies might, under bad and designing men, be tempted to destroy the liberties of our country, is the reflection of Sir JAMES MCINTOSH. He says: "A small army may have sentiments different from the great body of the people, and no interest in common with them; but a numerous body cannot. This is the barrier which nature has opposed to the increase of armies. They cannot be numerous enough to enslave the people, without becoming the people themselves."

If THE PRESENT could be painted by the future, it would probably appear to us brighter than the past.