THE CITY.

UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

THIRD ANNIVERSARY.

The Academy of Music Thronged.

GREAT ENTHUSIASM.

The third anniversary of the United States Christian Commission, according to announcement, was celebrated last evening at the Academy of Music. That an organization having the influence and means for good possessed by the Christian Commission should have attracted such numbers to its anniversary as were present at the Academy of Music last evening is not to be wondered at; but that such unanimity of feeling in a wish for the continued success of the Commission should prevail, was gratifying to those who have used their efforts in making the Commission what it has proved itself to be—a work for the good of the soldier, physically and spiritually, without personal aims to gratify, or personal ambitions to serve. The anniversary showed that all the efforts made by this organization were appreciated by a people, many of whom have had the good influence of this Commission brought within their own households.

The Academy was beautifully decorated with flags. The entire fronts of the family circle and balcony were covered with flags, beautifully festooned. The private boxes were gaily decorated with U. S. flags and with flags of the Christian Commission. These are blue, with the words "U. S. Christian Commission," in white letters, upon them. The stage was set with a drop curtain scene, and the front part of the stage was brilliant with the American colors. At half-past seven o'clock the exercises began by the whole audience joining in singing the hymn,

"All hail the power of Jesus' name."

After the singing of the hymn Mr. George H. Stuart, president of the Commission, announced that he had just received a telegraphic despatch from Hon. Schuyler Colfax, Speaker of the House of Representatives, announcing that the constitutional amendment had passed. Of this number 164 were to 56 nays, and that "Liberty had thereby been declared through all the land and to all the inhabitants thereof." This announcement was received by loud and long-continued cheering and applause. After the excitement had subsided prayer was offered by Rev. O. P. Krauth, D. D. In the prayer the reverend gentleman thanked God for his kindness in having furnished means for publishing the tract that had been enjoyed by the Commission during the past year, and invoked His blessing for continued usefulness.

Rev. Dr. Bomberger then read the Psalm beginning, "God is our refuge and strength."

An abstract of the annual report was then read by Mr. Charles Dimond, of Boston. The evidence of the report is as follows:

GENERAL SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND VALUES FOR 1864.
WITH AMOUNTS FOR 1862 AND 1863.

Cash receipts of central and branch offices for 1864	$1,297,755 28
Hospital stores donated central and branch offices, for 1864	1,169,503 37
Publications donated central and branch offices, for 1864	33,084 38
Bibles and Testaments donated by the American Bible Society	72,114 83
Value of volunteer delegates' services	139,600 00
Value of railroad, steamboat, and other transportation facilities	106,765 00
Value of telegraph facilities, from Maine to California	26,450 00
Value of rents of warehouses and offices donated to the Commission	6,750 00
Total values for 1864	$2,883,947 86
Total values received by the Commission in 1863	916,837 65
Total values received by the Commission in 1862	231,266 29
Total values for 1862, 1863, and 1864	$4,030,441 30

GENERAL SUMMARY OF WORK AND DISTRIBUTION FOR 1864.

Boxes of hospital stores and publications distributed during the year	47,103
Value of stores distributed	$1,714,261 85
Value of publications distributed	446,674 26
Value of stationery distributed	24,834 74
Value of 256 chapels and chapel tents erected during last winter and the present, in the various armies	114,859 78
Copies of Bibles and Testaments and portions of Scriptures distributed during the year	569,594
Copies of Hymn and Psalm Books distributed during the year	489,247
Copies of Hymn and Psalm Books distributed during the year	4,826,676
Copies of bound volumes of books distributed during the year	33,872
Copies of magazines and pamphlets distributed during the year	346,536
Copies of religious, weekly, and monthly newspapers distributed during the year	7,990,788
Copies of pages of tracts	18,631,362
Copies of "Army Comforter," do	8,061
Duplicates of sermons preached during the year	2,217
Aggregate number of days of delegate service	78,869
Average number of delegates constantly in the field during the year	217
Number of delegates now in the field	276
Balance of cash on hand at the central office, Jan. 1, 1865	$5,420 12

An address was then delivered by Rev. Alexander Reed, of this city.

"He showed that our soldiers and sailors were in need of such help as the Christian Commission afforded. It was their duty to administer to the soul as well as the body. The question is, has it succeeded in its object? There have been sent out about 3,000 men by this Commission. How they done any good? At Gettysburg, it is said, that the Christian Commission saved one thousand lives. At City Point, in one day, the Commission fed twelve tons of delicacies for sick and wounded to three thousand men. Was that doing any good? One day, after the battle, he came at Gettysburg, the cooking wagon came along steaming and smoking, and distributing coffee, tea, and chocolate—moving through the army and distributing minds from carnage to the chocolate per hour. One soldier said as it passed along, "There goes the Christian Light Artillery." After the battle, "Chaplain, where was God?" he asked. "Boy, where, what do you think of it?" The Doctor said, "I thank God for it." We can't separate the physical and spiritual work of the Commission. They go together always. The speaker then made some humorous remarks about the Priest and the Levite. The priest could read the sermon, or the sermon, or the text, but was not a minister. Ministering was that was not in his line, he passed him by. In the Armory Square hospital there are thousands of us who are alive now would have been cead long ago but for the Christian Commission." One old lady brought a dollar to the Commission. "Why, said the man, do you may found in poor John's clothes. He had been brought to a knowledge of Christ through the Christian Commission, and he thought the Christian Commission, and he thought he would have given it to the Christian Commission. A number of other touching incidents were related of soldiers giving their money and their hair to their dying hours to the Christian Commission. What had the rebels said? One said, We can stand your bullets, but we can't stand your Christian Commission. One poor fellow, who had been seriously wounded at Gettysburg, said, after the blood had been washed from his wounds, that he had been a very bitter rebel, but when he saw so much care taken of him he was sorry that he had ever raised his hand against such good friends. There used to be a misunderstanding about the Christian Commission. The question had been asked, have not the army got chaplains? No; there are detached batteries, companies, and regiments without chaplains, and the Christian Commission supply chaplains.

The speaker then paid a glowing tribute to the bravery of the American army, and instanced Lookout Mountain and Fort Fisher. The latter place was the strongest ever captured in warfare. No place in the Crimea was like it, and it couldn't be taken. American soldiers had not been tried. And when tried, did they fail? No. Victory crowned their efforts, and the whole sea coast was our.

Mr. Philip Phillips, of Cincinnati, then sang alone two beautiful songs, entitled, "Your Mission" and "Won't we be a Happy People when the War is Over."

Rev. B. W. Chidlaw, of Wales, Ohio, then addressed the audience. He paid a high tribute to America, and blessed God that he had been permitted to come to this country, and to be called to be chaplain of the 32th Ohio Regiment. He found when he got into the army that there was a pressing want; that want was the want of an institution like the Christian Commission. It took all benefactions right where they were wanted. They came in personal contact with the soldier. They came into the hospitals and cleansed the wounds of the soldiers themselves. He had done that, and one poor boy had said on one occasion: Well, I don't know what I would have done if it was not for the Christian Commission. He had procured milk and toast, on a certain occasion, for a sick soldier in a hospital, and when the milk was presented to him, he said, "What, does the Christian mission keep some down in the army?" The speaker told him they did not, but they had got hold of the big cow at home. This was the work the Commission was doing.

General G. B. Fisk, of St. Louis, Missouri, followed. No report, no speech, no array of figures could show the good that the Christian Commission had done. The soldiers in the field knew the good that it had done; but not until God should come to make up his jewels could the full good done by this Commission be known. The Commission here to-night having served out the first term of its enlistment for three years, come here to-night, in the Academy of Music, to re-enlist veterans for the war.

As he had been used to singing in the camp, he requested the audience to make the room ring into camp and join with him in singing the good old hymn, "Come, thou fount of every blessing." The audience rose to their feet, and, with a will, sang the hymn, Jesus Fisk leading. At its conclusion he said: How often had he heard that song by many a soldier who would never sing it again this side of the walls of the Eternal Jerusalem! He had been reduced from being a superintendent of a Sabbath school to being a general in the army. When letters were received in the army they were very much prized: on one occasion a soldier came to him and said the letters had been delivered, and as the soldier did not recognize him, being in undress uniform, the soldier asked him to read a letter that he had received. "Why, said he (General Fisk), can't you read, John? The man replied that he could not. I thought, said General Fisk, that maybe you had got the wrong letter; all those men can't read are in the Jeff Davis' army. But when he told me that he had been born in Tennessee, that acquainted for life. The letter was directed to John Sheerer, and the directions began at the upper corner, and ran in a very crooked line down to the lower corner. I read the letter. It began, "My dear John." Most letters for the army began that way often. It was from his wife, and after talking about having got a pair of boots for Johnnie and a dress for Susie, and the cunningest little pair of shoes for baby that ever was seen, it said that the elder of their church had been to see her, and he told her that the army was a very bad place; that it was full of swearing, drinking, and lying, and everything that was bad. She finished by reminding him of his promise to her that he would not commit any of these bad deeds. After reading the letter he wiped a tear from his eyes with his coat sleeve, and said "bully for her." I asked him if he had kept his promise to his wife. He said he had; that he had been a very bad man. I talked with him awhile, and he promised to do right in the future. I afterwards saw John Sheerer on his dying bed, and stayed with him, and prayed with him, and the soul of John Sheerer passed upward to its Maker. I acted for the Christian Commission. This is the kind of work that they do. At appeal for continued efforts was then made by the speaker, and a glorious future promised to the country. The day was dawning. The constitutional amendment had passed, and our country is free. It will be re-school in the world. And he read the jubilee of liberty and hope. The Union will be re-established. The old love is to come back again, and when the war has ceased, then the work of the Christian Commission will only have been begun. There will be brother to restore to brother. The returning prodigals must be welcomed back. Maine will welcome back Texas. The old love will come back. May God hasten the happy day when we can beat our swords into ploughshares, and our spears into pruning hooks.

He is taking his seat, Gen. Fisk introduced Mr. A. D. Richardson, correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune, who recently escaped from a rebel prison. Mr. Richardson then made a short statement of his privations and sufferings in the prison at Salisbury. He thought he knew something in his capacity as army correspondent of the United States Christian Commission. He had time and again met its agents dispensing its charities. He saluted Gen. Fisk as the Christian light artillery man of the United States. He had fought from Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Atlanta, Savannah, Fort Fisher, and Wilmington. He had seen the Christian Commission at Chattanooga, Nashville