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BY MCCLURE & STONER.

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THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Again has the Army of the Potomac become the central point of the world's attention. A new and peculiar interest has been given it from its passing under the personal command of the most successful soldier of the age, upon whom a grateful republic has just thrust untold honors, and who seems to have wisely selected this army as that which will best test his claims to be considered a great, as he has hitherto been known to be a victorious, general. Should victory, whose benignant smile brightened the banners of Grant, in his marvellous sweep of triumph down the Valley of the Mississippi, as, with a glory greater than De Soto's, he opened its glad waters to freedom forever, desert him now; history will not be so false to her proudest records as to charge such a reverse of fortune upon the Army of the Potomac. The Lieutenant General, clothed with the amplest authority, the favorite of the Administration, and supported by the confidence and affection of the people, can form and strengthen his forces at his will. At once upon his assuming supreme command, the organization of this army was re-constructed; high officers, who have not realized expectations, were quietly exiled, others, whom trial has approved, were placed at the head of corps; and re-inforcements are drawing in from all permissible sources. The territory to be traversed, in its onward march, is thoroughly mapped, almost every acre from the defenses of Washington to the very fortifications of Richmond being occupied by the body of a martyred patriot, who yet holds it in trust for his country. The position of the enemy is well known—his tactics understood—his capacity fully appreciated. Above all, a concentrated and simultaneous movement "against his works," can now, under the co-ordinating will of the commander-in-chief, be secured. All that a general can ask to effect his ends in the possession of the hero who stakes his fame upon what is called the "ill-starred" Army of the Potomac.

In what sense is this term "ill-starred" applicable? As applied literally to the shoulder-straps of some of its commanders, past and present, it has indeed "felt the influence of malignant stars," but in regard to its achievements, it is questionable whether it can be considered as ill-starred, in a figurative sense. The accredited prime object of its formation, the capture of the rebel capital, it has failed to effect; but it has come much nearer this great triumph than we should have reason to expect, could we have appreciated the immense obstacles in the way, as afforded by the topography of the country (its frequent river courses, its dense forests, its mountain ranges and its defensible hills) by the vast disadvantage of operating in an enemy's country, in which its movements were easily observed, where, too, the suicidal leniency of the government protected spies all about it; with long, ever weakening lines of communications to keep up; with the necessity of defending our own, while menacing the rebel metropolis, and protecting the otherwise defenceless North which lay invitingly open to the inroads of a Bedouin-like foe, who could have invaded it by so many routes that the Army of the Potomac had to divert its brave soldiers to guard. In its two-fold character of an aggressive and a defensive force, it was in discord. Its ventures must be cautious, and it could not risk the bold stroke of fate that had the chances in its favor, while the mischance of a severe defeat would have left the seat of government and the loyal States a sure prey to traitors.

The Army of the Potomac is striking at the very heart of the rebel power.—When its mission is accomplished, it will be but holiday soldiering to carry the Stars and Stripes around the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and back to the historic shores of the Potomac. To thwart its progress, the rebels have labored with the genius and energy of fiends. On the river banks, and hill sides, and mountain slopes in front of it they have their choicest troops and ablest generals, and when the notes of its advancing bugle is heard and heralded by the hundreds of traitors that hang about it, and when its banners are seen coming in the spirit of the master of the vineyard to claim their heritage, tens of thousands of the rebels against their government and humanity are hurried up from all quarters of the Confederacy and crowded behind their formidable defenses. Against these tremendous odds and fearful barriers, the Army of the Potomac has dashed with wondrous valor, and, though often foiled, has been surely wearing out the enemy, and strewing the hills and valleys of Virginia with the very flower of the Southern chivalry.

The Army of the Potomac has failed to take Richmond, because our loyal people had inadequate conceptions about the feasibility of the work. The lesson of the fatal mistake at the first Bull Run engagement, when a handful of hastily collected and raw troops, under an ill-fated leader was supposed sufficient to defeat a conspiracy carefully and deliberately planned and disclosed when completed, has never been properly regarded; and, again, and again, and again, our national pride has forced our army to attempt beyond its ability. The Army of the Potomac should have marched with three its strength or been supported by a heavy auxiliary force.

But has it achieved nothing? After our deadly illness in the fall and winter of '61 and '62 enabled the rebels to prepare against us, did when the army crept slowly up through the swamps and rains of the Peninsula, and was lying in weak lines along the pestiferous Chickahominy, the confident rebels summoned all their strength, and bore fiercely upon it with a sudden dash. Fresh, healthy, high-spirited, sure of swallowing it up in their vast masses, they bore impetuously upon our feeble and fatigued ranks. Seven days incessant fighting followed—the rebel hordes were held back by our men, famishing and worn by loss of sleep, and enervated by a sickly climate as they were, until at Malvern Hill the proud traitors ceased, for a time, to be an organized army.

Incompetence and treason under the blessed Stars and Stripes, co-operating with treason under the confederate standard, sacrificed the army again at Bull Run. But straight from this disastrous battle field it followed under its trusted leader, as rapidly as it could reunite its fragments, the rebel conquerors, and found them poised upon the mountains of Maryland for a fatal sloop upon Baltimore and the Capital. Half fed, half clothed, with their blood poisoned by the malaria of the Peninsula, the men of the Army of the Potomac charged upon the mountainsides, and drove the invaders broken and bleeding across the Potomac, across the Rappahannock, and—now, indeed, "ill-starred"—were broken by mad mismanagement against the heights of Fredericksburg, in mid-winter. During the inclemency of this season, they toiled and marched and proffered battle, until the snows, and rains, and mud locked them in friendly fetters. In the spring following, its rash but gallant commander, has the army lost and repulsed with slaughter in the labyrinth of a "wilderness" in which the great Roman conqueror might have despaired and been bewildered. Pursuing their success, the legions of Lee, heavily re-inforced by the selected troops, pushed rapidly along the Potomac, and the loyal North lies panting at their mercy. They fix themselves quietly among us, and at their leisure, digest plans of capturing our cities, and setting upon terms of peace. But their hour of triumph is brief. In the midst of their security and power, the mountains around about them are alive with armed men, and their old antagonist, which they believed bleeding and weeping, and keeping a sorrowful watch by the banks of the Rappahannock, breaks resistlessly upon them, and as they fall back broken, routed, from the hills of loyal Pennsylvania dark with rebel gore, they exclaim in horror—"The Army of the Potomac!" Half-shorn of their strength, despoiled of their prestige, abandoned by hope of success, they hasten before the patriot army back to their strongholds, away beyond the Potomac, beyond the Rappahannock, beyond the Rapidan; and there tremblingly await the final stroke, with which the Army of the Potomac will end Lee's army and the Rebellion.

Since the days at Gettysburg, the Army of the Potomac has had frequent skirmishing with Lee's forces, and has always triumphed—in anything like an equal contest it always will triumph and always would have triumphed.

Has the world furnished a nobler illustration of endurance, forbearance, patience, valor, than this army of heroes? It is an easy task, comparatively, to press through difficulties, when success cheers us on and a defeated foe is before us; but how much more sublime the courage that outlives frequent disaster; that sustains troops repeatedly cut to pieces when victory seemed in their very grasp; that nerves them to rise from a disastrous field to pursue a victorious enemy; that animates them in wearily retracing paths crowded with graves of comrades who seem to have died in vain. It has become too much the habit to decry the Army of the Potomac as a failure—to make invidious comparisons between it and the gallant Army of the West. Such is not the estimate of the South. They appreciate its surpassing loyalty as well as its surpassing bravery. They have flattered themselves upon its defection, when favorite

leaders have been taken from it; and have repeatedly regarded it as destroyed after reverses, to be amazed at its resurrection to victories. Bathed in blood, shattered, decimated, famished, as it has been, they know it is incapable of rout or panic, and they feel the prophetic foreboding that it is destined finally to march unbroken over the ruins of their accursed tyranny. They know that the choicest blood of loyalty is in its ranks; that it is inflamed by a holy zeal for its country, and that it is instinct with that high spirit which "though baffled off its sure to win."

We believe, and we are assured the rebels believe also, that its coming campaign will seal the triumph of the government; and while we regard the leadership of Grant as greatly securing this end, his failure, if it can be possible he shall fail, may not be blamed upon the long suffering, heroic Army of the Potomac.

THE FLORIDA CAMPAIGN.

We give herewith the official report of Maj. Gen. Gilmore relative to the Florida battles which the Democratic press has so persistently and maliciously charged to Mr. Lincoln as a political campaign. Will the Spirit publish Gen. Gilmore's report, and correct its slanders upon the President? It has done much to mislead its readers in relation to the movement of Gen. Gilmore, and it would be but simple justice to allow its readers to see the truth. The following is the official report:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH ATLANTIC HEADQUARTERS,
SOUTH CAROLINA, March 8, 1864.

Maj. H. W. Halleck, General-in-Chief, Washington, D. C.

GENERAL.—I have the honor to submit herewith copies of certain letters and telegraphic dispatches which comprise the instructions given to Brig. Gen. T. Seymour, relative to the operations in Florida prior to the fight at Olustee on the 10th ult., and a brief narrative of events connected with the recent occupations of Florida, west of St. John's River, will not be out of place. Under date of the 22d December, 1863, I was authorized by you to undertake such operations in my department as might seem best, suggesting conference with Admiral Dahlgren, etc. etc. On January 16, 1864, I wrote you that unless it would interfere with the views of the War Department I should occupy the west bank of the St. John's River, in Florida, very soon, and establish small depots there, preparatory to an advance west at an early day. On January 15th I wrote to the Secretary of War that I had in contemplation the occupation of Florida to the west bank of St. John's River at a very early day. Under date of January 22d, you informed me that as regards any proposed operations in Florida the Secretary replied that the matter had been left entirely to my judgment and discretion, with means at my command, and as the object of the proposed expedition had not been explained it was impossible for you to judge of the advantages and practicability. On January 31st, I wrote informing you that the objects to be attained by the operations were: First, to procure an outlet for cotton, lumber, timber, etc.; Second, to cut off one of the enemy's commissary supplies, etc.; Third, to obtain recruits for my colored regiments; Fourth, to inaugurate measures for the speedy restoration of Florida to her allegiance, in accordance with the instructions which I had received from the President, by the hands of Maj. John Hay, Assistant Adjutant General.

On February 5th I directed Gen. Seymour, whose command was already embarked, to go to Jacksonville, Fla., effect a landing there, and push forward a mounted force to Baldwin, seventy miles from Jacksonville, the junction of the two railroads from Fernandina to her ally, the command reached Baldwin on the 9th, at which point I joined it on the evening of the same day. At that time the enemy had no force in Florida, except the scattered fragments of Gen. Finnegan's command. We had taken all his artillery on the 10th. A portion of our forces was sent toward Sanderson, and I returned to Jacksonville. The complete communication was established between Jacksonville and Baldwin on the 11th. On that day I telegraphed to Gen. Seymour not to risk a repulse in advancing on Lake City, but to hold Sanderson, unless there were reasons for falling back which I did not know; and also in case his advance met with serious opposition to concentrate at Sanderson and South Fork of St. Mary's, and if necessary to bring back Col. Henry, commanding the mounted force, to the latter place. On the 17th Gen. Seymour informed me, from Sanderson, that he should fall back to the South Fork of the St. Mary's as soon as Col. Henry, whom he had ordered back from the front, had returned. On the same day I telegraphed to Gen. Seymour that I wanted his command at and beyond Lake City, and to advance at once, without delay, for reasons which I gave him. Gen. Seymour joined me at Jacksonville on the 14th, the main body of his force being at Baldwin, as directed. He had, however, sent Col. Henry towards the left to capture some railroad trains at Gainesville, on the Fernandina and Cedar Keys Railroad. After arranging with Gen. Seymour for the construction of certain defenses at Jacksonville, Baldwin and the south fork of St. Mary's, I started for Hilton Head on the 15th, leaving behind me Captain Rose, of the Engineers, to give necessary instructions for the defenses referred to. I considered it well understood at that time between General Seymour and myself that no advance would be made without further instructions from me, nor until the defenses were well advanced. On the 18th I was greatly surprised at receiving a letter from Gen. Seymour, dated the 17th, stating that he intended to advance without supplies, in order to destroy the railroad near Swantee river, 100 miles from Jacksonville. I at once despatched Gen. Turner, my Chief of Staff, to stop the movement. He was the bearer of a letter to General Seymour, upon arriving at Jacksonville, after considerable delay, due to the inclemency of the weather. He learned that General Seymour was engaged with the enemy in front, near Olustee, forty-eight miles from Jacksonville by railroad.—When I left Jacksonville on the 15th, I was entirely satisfied with the success of our operations up to that time. I briefly communicated to you my plans with regard to Florida in my letter of February 13th, from which I extract as follows: Gen. Seymour's advance has been within a few miles of Lake City, but as his instructions were not to risk a repulse, or to make an attack when there was a prospect of incurring much loss, he has taken up a position at Baldwin, the junction of the railroad from Jack-

sonville with the one from Fernandina. He holds also the crossing of the St. Mary's south fork, about twelve miles west of Baldwin. He intended to construct small works capable of resisting a coup de main at Jacksonville, Baldwin, Piatt, and perhaps one or two unimportant points so that from 200 to 300 men would be sufficient at each of these points. Twenty-five hundred men in addition to two regiments that have been permanently stationed in the State, one at St. Augustine and one at Fernandina, ought to be ample in Florida. The artillery captured here will be sufficient for such defensive works as may be deemed necessary. I desire to see the lumber and turpentine trade on the St. John's river revived by loyal men, and for that purpose, and to give assurance that our occupation of these rivers is intended to be permanent, I have written to the Secretary of the Treasury, recommending that the port of Jacksonville be declared open. Very respectfully your ob't servant,
Q. A. GILMORE, Maj. Gen. Com.

WASHINGTON.

The Calm before the Storm.—Movements of Gen. Grant—Army Changes—Speech of George Thompson—McClellan's Deposition—Richmond Prisoners—Judge Taney—Capt. McGowan.

Correspondence of the Franklin Repository.

WASHINGTON CITY, April 16, 1864.

The last week has been one of exceeding quietness in military circles. Both armies have come to a stand-still, each enjoying rest preparatory to the grand and fearful struggle which must inevitably take place as soon as the roads and weather will permit. Even Mosby and his marauders have gone, no one knows where. General Grant, however, is not idle. Everything indicates that at the earliest moment possible, he intends to "move on the enemy's works." He never stops in this city more than a few hours at a time. During the past week he has visited Butler and Burnside, and no doubt from what we can learn, has been just as active there, as with the Army of the Potomac. On his arrival here from Fort Monroe, he immediately left for the front, accompanied by Maj. Gen. J. P. Sheridan, formerly a division commander in the Army of the Cumberland, but now assigned to duty as commander of the cavalry of the Army of the Potomac.

The staff of Gen. Grant consists of the following named officers:

Brig. Gen. John A. Rawlins, Chief of Staff; Lieut. Col. C. B. Constock, Senior Aid-de-Camp; Lieut. Col. G. B. Babcock, Aid-de-Camp; Lieut. Col. W. R. Rowley and Lieut. Col. Adam Badeau, Military Secretaries; Capt. E. S. Parker, Asst. Adj't Gen.; Capt. A. R. Lee, Asst. Adj't Gen.; Lieut. Col. W. H. Dunn, Jr., Aid-de-Camp; Lieut. Col. T. S. Brown, Asst. Adj't Gen.; Lieut. Col. W. L. Duff, Asst. Adj't Gen.; Lieut. Col. E. S. Lee, Aid-de-Camp; Lieut. Col. Horace Porter, Aid-de-Camp; Capt. H. W. Jones, Staff Quartermaster.

A total re-organization of every branch of the Potomac army has taken place. The Provost Marshal General's Department, has been reformed much more efficient, and new rules have been established for the organization and equipment of the pioneers of the army. New orders have also been promulgated from the Inspector General's office.

The following order has been issued from the War Department:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, April 15, 1864.

By direction of the President of the United States, the following changes and assignments are made in the Army of the Potomac:
Maj. Gen. P. H. Sheridan is assigned to the command of the Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Potomac.
The 11th and 12th Army Corps are consolidated, and will be called 20th Army Corps. Maj. Gen. J. C. Horner is assigned to command.
Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger is relieved from the command of the 4th Army Corps, and Maj. Gen. O. C. Howard is assigned to command.
Maj. Gen. Schofield is assigned to the command of the 2d Army Corps.
Maj. Gen. Sherman will report to Maj. Gen. Sherman, commanding the Division of the Mississippi, and Maj. Gen. Stoneman will report to Maj. Gen. Schofield, commanding the Department of Ohio, for assignment.

Maj. Gen. Granger will report by letter to the Adjutant General of Army.
Maj. Gen. Porter, Aided States Department, is announced as an Aide-de-Camp to Lieut. Gen. Grant, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.
By order of the Secretary of War,
B. D. TOWNSSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Also by a recent order, Brig. Gens. Stone (so long held a prisoner after the battle of Ball's Bluff) Andrew Porter and Nagle, have been reduced to their original rank in the regular army, and ordered to join their regiments.

George Thompson, of England, delivered a lecture in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Wednesday week to an immense audience, among whom were the President, Vice President, Secretaries, Senators and Members. At the commencement he completely used up the copperhead Mr. Morris, member of Congress, emphatically denying and challenging Mr. Morris to produce proof that he had ever said "that the dissolution of the Union must be constantly kept in view." On the contrary he had always been its most steadfast friend. His expressions of "Thank God the hour of compromise is past. The South, so constituted it is still in rebellion—can plead no constitutional guarantees, no pledges, no compact. She stands with one foot on the Constitution of the United States, and one upon the neck of the negro, brandishing the bloody weapons of treason for the destruction of the national life," was most enthusiastically applauded.

A large delegation of contractors of engines and hulls for the Navy are here, trying to get a bill through Congress to remunerate them for losses which they have met with owing to the rise in the price of all kinds of material, labor, &c., since the contracts were taken. The losses on their part, they say, amount to over two millions of dollars. It is hardly probable that Congress will allow any such claims.

A new department of the Pacific is to be made, composed of Oregon, California and the territories West of the Rocky Mountains. Gen. Irwin McDowell has been assigned to the command, and will go thence in a few days. He is authorized to raise ten new volunteer regiments.

All the dispatches which Gen. McClellan, for some cause, saw fit to leave out of his report, have been collected and are nearly ready for the press. They will make a volume about as large as his report, and many of them, in fact all of them, are of the utmost importance as throwing more light into the history of the Po-

tomac army, than anything which is embraced in the very important report of Gen. McClellan.

A number of large fortifications are to be built on the hills near Culpeper, so as to have a safe and permanent depot of supplies for the army when it moves forward. By this arrangement the fifteen thousand men which are now required to guard the railroad can be relieved and made available in any forward movement.

I learn from a friend just returned from Annapolis, that over five hundred of our men lately released from Richmond prisons, are inmates of the hospitals there. Many have already died, and many more will, despite the great care which the physicians and nurses are giving them. Starvation and exposure have so effectually done the work to these men who went out to the war stout and hearty, that all the skill and science of man cannot save them from the grave.

Chief Justice Taney, of the Supreme Court, resumed his seat on the bench to-day, after a long illness. He looks as though he might still live to swear in another President, or rather a second time, Abraham Lincoln, for really here and elsewhere, it does seem as if all opposition for nomination at the Baltimore Convention had given way to him!

The numerous friends of Captain Theodore McGowan will be glad to learn that he has been made Chief of Staff to Brig. Gen. Martindale, Military Governor of the District of Columbia, vice Major Sherburn, who has become Colonel of "Scott's 900," and gone to Florida. Capt. McGowan is one of the most faithful officers in the service, and his advancement is as deserved as it is honorable.

HARRISBURG.

The Apportionment—State Interest—The Appropriation Bill—No Revision of the Revenue and Militia Laws Proposed—Military Claims—Southern P. A. Railroad.

Correspondence of the Franklin Repository.

HARRISBURG, April 18, 1864.

The last week has been an important one in legislation. The apportionment bill has passed the Senate—the first section under the previous question. It unites Adams and Franklin for Senator, and associates Franklin with Perry to elect two members. The House bill, which has not yet been acted on, makes the same districts in your section, so they may be regarded as settled.

The Senate also passed the bill providing for the payment of the interest in currency. It was finally disposed of on Wednesday night after a protracted session; lasting until midnight, and enlivened at times with spicy debates. The Democrats voted solid against the measure with the exception of Kinzey, of Bucks, who voted with the Union men. The bill is now a law, and the August interest will be paid without robbing the people of another half million.

The House passed the general appropriation bill on Friday. It differs little from the usual appropriations. The committee had originally agreed to report a general increase of salaries, including State officers, legislators and their officers, and judges; but the Union men subsequently held a caucus and resolved to go against any increase of salaries. A few, however, were carried in the House. The Democrats vote for all manner of appropriations, although they well know that the treasury has not the means wherewith to pay. They seem to want it bankrupted, and labor and vote steadily to embarrass it.—They would appropriate millions to-day for any plausible purpose, and at the same time refuse to levy a dollar of tax, or in any other way provide revenue to meet their extravagance.

The House will pass the apportionment this week, and the Senate will pretty certainly dispose of the appropriation bill. Both will very likely go to Committee of Conference, and then be adopted.

There seems to be no reasonable prospect of a revision of the revenue or militia laws this session. The anxiety to get home is growing stronger every day, and the body of the Democrats seem to want the State as helpless as possible, both in a military and financial view. The military claim bill will pretty certainly pass, authorizing the adjudication of the claims, and pledging the faith of the State to pay them at the close of the war.

The Connellsville and Southern Pennsylvania Railroad bill will pretty certainly pass. It will secure a railroad at an early day from Connellsville to Chambersburg.

HORACE.

Meeting of the Commissioners of the National Cemetery—Nine States Represented—National Monument to be Erected.

Correspondence of the Franklin Repository.

GETTYSBURG, April 9, 1864.

The Commissioners of the Soldiers' National Cemetery met here on Wednesday last, and continued in session over Thursday. Messrs. B. W. Norris, of Maine; Ira Porley, of New Hampshire; Henry Edwards, of Massachusetts; John R. Bartlett, of Rhode Island; David Wills, of Pennsylvania; John R. Latimer, of Delaware; Chester D. Hubbard, of West Virginia; Gordon Lofland, of Ohio; Thos. White Ferry, of Michigan, were present, and a permanent organization was effected by the election of David Wills, Esq., President, and John R. Bartlett, Esq., Secretary. The commissioners divided themselves into three classes, by lot, in accordance with the act of incorporation; the 1st class to expire in 1865; the 2d in 1866 and the 3d in 1867. The drawing resulted as follows:

First Class.—New Hampshire, Illinois, Rhode Island, Indiana, New York, and West Virginia.
Second Class.—Ohio, Delaware, Minnesota, Maryland, Maine, and Massachusetts.
Third Class.—New Jersey, Michigan, Connecticut, Vermont, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania.

A committee to prepare by-laws was appointed, and Messrs. Wills, Bartlett, Norris, and Ferry were selected to invite proposals, with designs and estimates, for a National Monument. A resolution of thanks to Mr. Wills was adopted for his efficiency in initiating the great enterprise. He was authorized to make all necessary contracts to improve, beautify and keep up the grounds. The sum of \$250 was appropriated to be paid to the person who shall present an acceptable design for the Monument.

Mr. Wills was instructed by resolution to procure a printed list of all the officers and privates who fell in the battle of Gettysburg, as far as it can be obtained, and send copies of the same to the several commissioners so that complete lists of the killed may be made up from the rolls of the States.

On motion of Mr. Ferry a portion of the ground in the Cemetery was appropriated to monuments of individual officers, in cases where friends desire to erect them.

It is confidently expected that the coming summer will see the National Cemetery beautified as far as art can add to it, and the Monument in course of erection. **YOUNG GUARD.**

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APPEAL FROM GOV. CURTIN.

Gov. Curtin has issued the following appeal to the People of Pennsylvania to join in the Great Fair, to be held in Philadelphia in June next, for the benefit of the Sanitary Commission:

PENNSYLVANIA EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
HARRISBURG, April 18, 1864.

To the People of Pennsylvania:
I have been requested by the Committee of correspondence to address you on the subject of the Fair, to be held in Philadelphia, in June next, for the benefit of the Sanitary Commission.

It gives me much pleasure to comply with this request, and to avail myself of the opportunity, also, of calling your attention to the Fair to be held in the same week and for the same purpose at Pittsburg.

I cannot, however, speak of the relief of the sick and wounded volunteers of the State without saying a grateful word in their behalf to you. Charged by a joint resolution of the Legislature with the duty of caring for them, it has been my privilege to provide for their comfort and look after their welfare. To this end the State Surgeon General has at all times, subject to the regulations of the United States, visited with corps of surgeons and nurses the battle fields, and besides the General Agency maintained at Washington, special agents have constantly been sent to the camps, to the armies in the field, and to the hospitals, and at all times when the occasion required or admitted of such aid, the provisions made by the United States have been supplemented by generous supplies of bandages, clothing, delicate food, in fact everything that could promote the comfort of our soldiers when suffering from wounds or disease.

The compensation of the general agency and the general staff, and the expense of medicines and supplies of like character, were of course paid by the State.

The special agents, men of standing and character, performed all their duties with diligence, fidelity and in no instance received any compensation for their services. I have never had to seek for such agents. My only regret is that I have been unable to accept the offered services of too many men of the same kind, who being disqualified for military services, and having freely co-operated of their means to every patriotic cause, were still not contented unless they could bestow their time, labor and personal attendance on our disabled and suffering defenders. The bandages, the clothing, the food, the supplies of all sorts were furnished in kind by you, individually. On every occasion when it has been made known through the State that a battle had been fought or was expected, or that from any other cause our sick and wounded volunteers were likely to suffer, the earliest trains from all quarters have brought the needed supplies in profusion. Every hospital within the State has been beset by individuals of both sexes, and chiefly women, eager to nurse, to watch, to tend the inmates. Through the cities, towns, villages, hamlets, farm-houses of the Commonwealth, are found the Heaven-directed benefactors whose names are unrecorded; for whose individual efforts no reward has been sought; but who has witnessed the results, as I have, must have a heart of stone if it be not melted by their true, unpretending, gentle, persistent, inexhaustible alacrity in this best and holiest of their means to the object of the proposed Fair is to provide means for similar good works, and it is one that commends itself to every friend of his country—to all who admire the heroic devotion of the brave men who are bearing arms in its defence. It is understood that the managers of these Fairs solicit donations in goods, saleable articles of every description of manufacture, American glass, produce, fruits, flowers, paintings, engravings, statuary and the income of all the people of the States for one day. Several similar Fairs have been recently held, the proceeds of which are stated in the newspapers to exceed one million of dollars. Another is now being held in New York, and others in Baltimore and St. Louis are to be held in the next month, the proceeds of all which will no doubt be large. The spirit of emulation has been stimulated, and Pennsylvania has been appealed to in the hope that she will rival her neighbors.

I cheerfully bear my personal testimony to the prompt and beneficial efforts of the Sanitary Commission immediately after several battles, and especially after the battles of Gettysburg, and to the abundance of supplies then furnished by it.

Beyond this I have no knowledge of its actual operations, nor of its internal structure or administrative arrangements. The oppression of public duties has been too great to allow me to acquire or seek such knowledge. It is well known, however, that gentlemen of the highest character participate in its management, and that its objects are patriotic, meritorious and charitable.

The proceeds of the Fairs are to pass into the hands of the Sanitary Commission, as declared by the committee, for the relief of sick and wounded soldiers, in anticipation of the opening campaign of our noble armies, and the object commends itself to every friend of his country.

A. G. CURTIN,
Governor of Pennsylvania.

A "STRAIGHT" ANSWER.—The Springfield News announced the arrival in that town of Maj. J. C. Vanada, of the 8d Ohio, from Libby Prison. He was captured with Col. Straight, and did not see the outside of the prison, will be was liberated. He relates that Col. Straight was frequently consulted by the rebel authorities, who finally got from him a straight reply. They asked him if the North ever expected to subjugate. "We have been fighting you now a little less than three years, and have subjugated three-fourths of your territory, and put one-half of your fighting population on crutches or in their graves, and I think that in three years more we can finish you up." That ended the interview.