THE SANITARY COMMISSION

Recognized by the Authorities to Gratify a Few "Cranks."

It Raised $50,000,000 in Cash and Performed a Work Not Exceeded in Value by any Other Agency.

HERE ISN'T A man who ever shouldered a musket on the battlefield of the Civil War, after the battle of Bull Run, who will not recognize and understand those enigmatical abbreviations on that barrel—"U. S. San. Com"—but there are lots of people who were born since that battle to whom they are doubtless something of a puzzle. They are not from a physician's perscription, nor do they represent a new brand of wine, but they proved to be the essence of both to the weary and wounded soldiers of the Union throughout four trying years. "United States Sanitary Commission." That is the full text, but the full history would fill the Cyclopædia Britannica, and its motto ought to have been "Ad astra per aspera," only that that was getting ready to go into business for Kansas at the time the commission was born.

When the South could no longer domineer things to her own satisfaction, but, like the little girl in the story book, took her doll rags and went home, the North concluded to punish her and she did. But it took the flower of her youth and her sturdiest manhood, backed up by a powerful government and an outraged people, to inflict the punishment. And, oh, the hurt of it to her own! The maimed bodies, the wrecked health, the broken hearts and the graves that yawned to be filled with the hopes of desolated homes.

The contract was a big one. The government found it almost too large. The vast machinery she had to put into motion slipped cogs, and belts broke. Sometimes the great drive wheels were weak, and all these pieces had to be replaced by new ones. The enemy cut out great sections of her mechanism and flung it dead or disabled in the path of advance. This debris piled up so fast, inefficiency was so glaring, disease and despondency so apalling that the Nation became restless. The government would not acknowledge it, but she was fast getting into the same condition with her armies that confronted the British troops during the Crimean war, where seven-eights of the mortality during the entire campaign was due to disease and one-eighth only to wounds received in action.

The government learned a bitter lesson before those four terrible years were at an end. Something she profited by the Crimea, but the martinet military had almost to have this lesson read to them from the cannon's mouth before they would avail themselves of the experience or permit others to adopt its salutary teachings. Many mistakes were made; mistakes that were not errors of judgment, but due to overconfidence in inflexible military maxims.

Our army was composed of that class of men who, from their previous habits and modes of life, were not only least likely to bear well the exposure and privation, but also certain to become victims of diseases which have always proved scourges to armies. Other nations, upon sudden emergencies, have been compelled to form an army in the face of the enemy, but they have had at least the skeleton of a military organization in long-tried officers well versed in the details of the service. We were forced to try the novel experiment of improvising the most artificial and complicated of human organizations—an effective and disciplined army, under what had been hitherto esteemed insurmountable obstacles. This apparently impossible task was finally and successfully accomplished, but at fearful waste of life and energy, at terrible cost and sacrifice. It was a success beyond that recorded of any similar service in military history, and all this was due, in a large measure, to the benign influence and the unparalleled achievements of the United States Sanitary Commission, an organization that had its birth the night that Sumter fell, which was received in New York simply as a measure "to humor temporary philanthropic excitement," was considered a huge joke by the government and was instrumental, in the end, in raising over fifty millions of dollars for the relief of the loyal armies.

ORIGIN OF THE MOVEMENT.

The very first popular impulse which succeeded the grand burst of enthusiasm by which 75,000 citizens were suddenly transformed, at the call of their country, into soldiers was directed to some crude and imperfect means of ministering to them such aid and comfort as was suggested by the anxious and tender solicitude of their friends, and naturally the earliest movement that was made for relief was begun by the women of the country. On the 15th day of April, 1861, the very day on which the President issued the call for men to uphold the honor of the Constitution and defend the Nation's flag, the women of Bridgeport, Conn., organized a society with the somewhat vague idea of affording relief and comfort for the volunteers for that section of the State. In Charlestown and Lowell, Mass., a few days later, societies were organized for the same purpose. These women were groping in the dark. They were not quite sure what they might be able to accomplish, but they were gifted with ideas and energy. They proposed "to supply nurses for the sick and wounded, and to bring them home when practicable, to purchase clothing, provisions and matters of comfort not supplied by the government regulations, to send books and newspapers to the camps, to preserve a record of the services of each soldier, and to hold constant communication with the officers of the regiments in order that they might be kept informed of the condition of their friends."

The list of "intentions" is formidable, even for the ignorance of the day, and had these brave women foreseen the years of tumult, the rivers of blood and the mountains of difficulty that lay between their modest declarations and achievement, despair would have cut short their God-directed efforts at the outset. But, unable to forecast the future, the seed they planted took root. By the last of April all the Eastern States and many of the Western ones had similar societies, but only women were working and they were ridiculed for their efforts. One night, at the close of that fateful April, the Rev. Dr. Bellows and Dr. Elisha Harris attended a Woman's Aid Society meeting in New York city. They were deeply impressed with the zeal and enthusiasm, and catching the spirit, suggested an association upon a wider basis, embracing churches, schools, and all minor aid societies in the city. A mass meeting was called for Cooper Institute which resulted in one of the monster conventions of that period. Out of the stirring appeals there made grew the "Woman's Central Association of Relief," which afterwards became one of the greatest feeders of the Sanitary Commission. Its object was comprehensive: "To collect and disseminate information upon the actual and prospective wants of the army, establish recognized relations with the medical staff, and act as auxiliary to it, to maintain a central depot for stores and to open a bureau for the examination and registration of nurses."

This "declaration of principles" was signed by ninety-two of the prominent women of New York city. A delegation of men was sent to Washington to inquire into the best method of pushing the relief so that it would dovetail with the government work, and the result of that trip was the Sanitary Commission. This organization was opposed by a jealous medical board and ridiculed by the military authorities; even President Lincoln, with all his humane instincts, could not understand it, and regarded its establishment, to use his own expressive language, as adding a "fifth wheel to the coach," but he gave it his support, and of course, with that came a grudging recognition from the government. They were all satisfied that it could do no great harm, even if it accomplished no good, and felt quite sure it would be abandoned as practically worthless and remembered only as a monument of the folly of weak enthusiasts and well-meaning but silly women. The Secretary of War issued an order for "a commission of inquiry and advice in respect of the sanitary interests of the United States forces" and the Sanitary Commission was born. Reviled and persecuted, by those high in authority it still managed to grow, and the work it did was enormous, yet its practical benefits have never been appreciated by the public, but the boys whose arms and legs and lives it saved have never lost an opportunity to extol its praises. The order for its creation was issued June 9, 1861. Its object was to supplement government deficiencies, and not in any way to substitute itself for the government organization known as the medical bureau. Its first duty was to inspect the camps and hospitals to obtain an exact knowledge of the condition of the troops so as to ascertain what sanitary measures were most essential, and to evolve some definite plan of raising money to sustain the work.

BEGINNING THE WORK.

Fortress Monroe and some of the camps around Washington were first visited and the inspector found that "the tents were so crowded at night that the men were poisoned by the vitiated atmosphere, that the sinks were unnecessarily and disgustingly offensive, that personal cleanliness among the men was wholly unattended to, that the clothing was of bad material and almost always filthy to the last degree. * * * There seemed to be an abundance of beef and pork, but under army regulations, no green vegetables could be provided. The consequence was that the army was generally believed to be in great danger of decimation by scurvy and dysentery." The reports from the camps in the West gave the same story, yet the first call for troops was then less than four months old. The commission urged immediate reform and rigid rules, strictly enforced, but the government did not see fit to avail itself of the suggestion. Then came the rout at Bull Run, which filled Washington with a hungry, dirty, demoralized mob of undisciplined men who had enlisted as soldiers.

Within a week after that battle, the commission, by searching investigation, had established the fact that if the men had been properly fed, more strictly disciplined and free from malarial disorders due to the vile sanitary regulations of their camps, the spirit of the men engaged would have made a vast difference in favor of the Union troops. It proved so clearly the inefficiency of the government measures as to care and discipline of the volunteers that the report was withheld from the public for a year or more, but reorganization was speedily instituted along the lines indicated by the commission.

The labors of the Sanitary Commission were divided into general and specific relief. The first concerned the inmates of the general, field and regimental hospitals, and of men in camp or on the march; the other the care of sick and needy soldiers in the vicinity of military depots, discharged men and paroled prisoners. Another distinct avenue of labor was termed battlefield relief, a term which fully defines its object. Theoretically the government was supposed to provide all that was necessary for the care and comfort of the soldiers in the army and hospital, practically about all it did was to get out of its human material the maximum of fight, with a minimum of care and protection. It is altogether probable that greater precaution for the health of the men while well and more sympathetic care for the sick and wounded would have lessened to an appreciable degree the frightful lists of wounded, dead and disabled which decimated the ranks of available men.

The commission was greatly hampered in its early labors by a hostile medical bureau, and finally prevailed upon Congress to reorganize that department of the government. Then they were circumscribed by the question of transportation of their stores. The quartermaster-general controlled the transportation lines and the surgeon-general was too often unable to get his supplies through to the points where they were needed. The quartermaster-general seemed imbued with the idea that food, clothing and amunition for those still able to fight was more important than to provide for the wants of those who were no longer able to shoulder a gun. For this particular class of sufferers the "battlefield relief" was instituted.

Perhaps the most striking instance of the worth of the "U. S. San. Com." was illustrated at the battle of Antietam, Sep. 17, 1862. The brief campaign in northern Virginia had resulted in great destruction to transportation facilities, and by the burning of the bridge over the Monocacy river the army was temporarily deprived of the channel through which supplies could be forwarded. The immense losses and terrible exhaustion of the week of battles, the consequent confusion, and disorganization placed the army at Antietam in the worst possible condition so far as its ability to care properly for its wounded was concerned. The battle left 10,000 Union soldiers and a large number of the enemy to care for. The Sanitary Commission had not relied upon the government for transportation, but had furnished its own wagons and had teams scattered along the route from Washington to Antietam, with orders for a wagon train to be dispatched each day so that relays of their stores arrived at intervals during several days within the week after the battle. The commission had distributed 29,000 pieces of clothing, such as shirts, drawers, towels, bedticks, pillows, etc., besides thirty barrels of old linen bandages, 3,000 pounds of farina, 2,700 pounds of condensed milk, 5,000 pounds of beef stock and canned meats, 3,000 bottles of wine, several tons of lemons and other fruit, crackers, tea, sugar, rubber cloth, etc., and had got from New York and distributed 4,000 sets of hospital clothing and 120 bales of blankets. This was done while waiting for government supplies which arrived three days after the battle. At the battle of Perryville the commission was in like manner forehanded. The government supplies arrived when the battlefield was six weeks old.

APPEALS THAT WERE NOT IN VAIN.

When the scurvy threatened to decimate the Union army through the short-sighted policy of portioning government rations and the rascality of distributing officials, the government advertised for 50,000 bushels of potatoes and onions and the same of other vegetables, but not a bushel could it get. The men fairly fought over the few onions that came into their hands. They were literally starving for such vegetables. Some of the noble women left their hospital work on the battlefield, and at the bidding of the Sanitary Commission hurried North to ask contributions and in two weeks time the Sanitary Commission had 15,000 bushels of vegetables, half of them the longed-for onions for the government to portion out to the armies, and more on the way—showing conclusively that the work of the commission lay very close to the hearts of the people.

The question of removing the wounded and sick from the vicinity of battlefields to the hospitals in and about Washington, and from there to those scattered between Washington and New York and Chicago, became one of serious moment to the commission. The government refused ambulance wagon trains, and the methods of removal practiced were positively brutal. The commission urged reforms and presented plans for a system of hospital cars, which were approved by the quartermaster-general, and the War Department ordered a number of cars set aside for the use of the commission. These were to be fitted up at the expense of the commission and to have headquarters in Alexandria, from where they would be sent to the nearest point to battlefields. Two or three railroads gave the commission free transportation for these cars, and one railroad fitted up one car and presented it to the commission. An engine was purchased with "sanitary" money, and such orders were issued that this hospital train "moved" whether anything else did or not.

These cars were crude enough as to construction for comfort, but were of incalculable help to the commission. The ordinary hospital litter or stretcher was used in loading and unloading and carrying the patients. These simple litter beds with pillows, mattresses and comforts attached, were then ingeniously and securely swung in tiers—three high and end to end—upon light stanchions, and there suspended by stout tugs of India rubber, which gave sufficient elasticity to obviate all jar to the bed and its patient. Thirty of these beds were thus swung along the side of each hospital car. A number of invalid chairs and a broad couch filled the remainder of the available space. A pantry furnished with medicines, utensils and beverages and substantial food ready for serving to the patients, hot or cold, made up the sum of creature comforts, while nurses abundantly provided with towels, socks, blankets, sponges, etc., "kept every man clean and warm, however, long the trip or storm the weather. All the usual appliances and skill of a well-regulated hospital were at hand. The fitting up of this train was largely borne by the commission. The runs between Washington and New York began in the fall of 1862, and were continued daily with regularity and growing efficiency till the close of the war.

The field hospital work is best described by one of the workers in it during Sherman's campaign in Georgia. "Each division of the army had a large number of wagons devoted exclusively to the conveyance of hospital tents and hospital stores, besides which there was a reserve train of over forty wagons for the Army of the Cumberland. These accompanied the troops and moved up to the places selected for the hospitals. This was usually so near the line of battle that the wounded might be carried but a little distance, and yet be out of reach of shot and shell, where they might not be disturbed, and the surgeons and nurses might work without danger. Suitable grounds having been selected men were detailed to make the necessary preparations. The hospitals were established in dense woods and one set began to cut up by the roots the thick underbrush, others to make brooms of the twigs, sweep and level the ground and remove the stones; another set to pitch the tents or build arbors where there was not likely to be sufficient canvas to cover the wounded; others to make bunks of poles for the beds. Another set picked the green leaves of the oak, the chestnut or the pine to fill the bed ticks, or if the ticks were not to be had, the leaves were placed on poles laid on the ground. In front of the tents large piles of leaves were laid upon which the wounded were placed before they were examined and dressed. There were three piles for each division hospital, corresponding to the brigades, and before them were three strong tables, provided with a pillow and covered with a rubber cloth—the operating tables. Over three hundred such hospitals were established during the campaign, so long was the line of march and so frequent the change of position. During the ten days before railroad communication at Acworth was reached by the army, twenty-four large wagonloads of sanitary stores were distributed close to the line of battle." All this for one army and one campaign alone!

WORK IN THE GREAT BATTLES.

At the battle of Gettysburg, where the resources of the government medical bureau were speedily exhausted, the United States Sanitary Commission filled the breach with sixty tons of perishable goods alone, besides the thousands and thousands of garments and other necessaries furnished. At Chickamaugua, where there were 10,000 wounded men, the government supplies, rations, forage and all gave out, and the ten wagonloads that the commission managed to get through helped to succor the famished and starving men for two days after the battle.

Most of the great battles of the war were fought far away from the supply base of the armies engaged in them, and it is not easy to overrate the agony endured by those heroic men, who, with mangled limbs and utterly exhausted by fatigue and hunger, were slowly borne to the rear. These sufferings were rendered as comfortable as possible previous to starting by contributions from the commission's stores. At convenient points they were met by special relief agents and were supplied by such food and stimulents, coffee, soup and soft bread, as would refresh them and keep up the strength necessary to enable them to reach their journey's end. These feeding stations were of inestimable value during the campaign of the armies of the Tennessee, Georgia and Cumberland. General Grant and General Sherman both recognized the invaluable aid furnished by the commission, and lent them every assistance possible.

The foregoing does not represent a tithe of the magnificent work done by the Sanitary Commission during the four years of its existence. Its ramifications were infinite, its accomplishments stupendous when it is considered that the money back of it was contributed, a free and gracious gift from the loyal people of the North and of foreign lands. A few paltry thousands would cover every dollar the government ever furnished the commission, of the fifty millions of money and material that it handled directly and indirectly for the amelioration of the condition of the Union Army and for thousands upon thousands of rebel wounded abandoned by their stampeded comrades. The manner and the pitiful conditions under which most of the money and material was raised forms one of the grandest lessons in self-sacrificing and practical loyalty ever presented by any government on earth. One city alone, San Francisco, guaranteed $25,000 a month, for each month of the year 1864, and paid every dollar of it, and more. The State at large gave $100,000 more for that year. The great fair in Chicago raised $75,000; that in Cleveland, $250,000; that in St. Louis, $75,000; an organization called the Christian Commission raised $200,000. In the cities prominent men gave benefit lectures and great singers benefit concerts. Great insurance companies swelled the fund by thousands, theaters announced regular benefit nights, churches for once in their lives got onto one common plane—Christian humanity—and organized sewing societies of a scope that beggars description. But in the villages and the quiet country homes the struggle was the most generous and noblest, and only the recording angel knows the extent of the sacrifices that were practiced that the mite could be given to swell the fund for the soldiers, and aid and comfort extended to the wives and helpless little ones left behind. General Low Wallace once said: "The two most effective ways in which our armies in the field were sustained in the long struggle, were, first, by the general and generous assurance that the wives, children and the others dependent upon the men in action should not suffer for the necessaries of life while their supporters were in the service of the country; second, that the sick and wounded would not lack for any of those things which, though not provided by army regulations, might conduce to the comfort and expedite recovery, save the lives and sustain the morality of the soldier."

But our people were not alone in their grand work of charity. All the large nations on the globe, except Russia, contributed to the fund. The Sandwich Island sent $17,799; Buenos Ayres $18,412. From England, whose sympathies were largely with the South, $11,145. China sent $3,000, Japan $5,000, France $3,500. From Italy and Turkey come $30 each, and from Cuba $23. Other nations sent varying sums.

This was the mission of the "United States Sanitary Commission," and grandly was it accomplished. During our national struggle 280,420 men sealed their patriotism by death in the service. Of these 60,000 were killed in battle; 35,000 survived the battle only to die of wounds, and disease carried off 184,331. Thus for every one killed in battle, two died of swamp fevers pestilent and malarial disorders. If the government had proceeded as it started out with the ordinary sanitary and medical appliances and tactics such as Napoleon employed with his armies and such as the English had in the Crimea, the deaths of our armies by disease would have reached the fearful aggregate of 368,000, in the ratio reached in those campaigns. Thus it appears that the result of all these labors and sacrifices by our loyal women, of the abundant returns from our sanitary fairs and of the constant loving, unremitting care for the brave champions of the Union, has been a saving of more than 184,000 lives that would otherwise have been victims of the malaria of Southern climates, the exposures of the camp, the transport ship and the bivouac, the infection of hospitals, the depression consequent upon being forgotten and neglected among strangers, homesickness and the slow corrosion of constant anxiety for the loved ones left behind. Its that were assuaged if not abolished by the sympathetic care and tender treatment of the "United States Sanitary Commission."

MOTHER BICKERDYKE'S WORK

Honest, Resolute and Aggressive, Her Services Were Invaluable.

A Forceful Personality, Great Energy and Persistence Brought Splendid Results in the Hospitals.

Mother Bickerdyke has nearly as large a family of boys as the Father of His Country, but she is more particular about the color of their clothes. The Father of His Country stands as paternal sponser for boys in blue and boys in gray, and, in fact, any kind of an American boy, no matter what the color of his uniform or whether he wears any at all. Mother Bickerdyke would turn a Gatling gun loose on anybody who would suggest to her the possibility of her mothering men so color blind as to prefer gray, or any other color to blue.

And who is mother Bickerkyke? Not to at least know of her is to argue yourself unknown. Somebody asked a veteran that question once, and he replied quickly, as though offended at the interlocutor's ignorance: "Why she is—a—ah—why, why, Mother Bickerdyke, of course, I reckon she has some other handle to her name, but 'mother' is good enough for us boys."

Mrs. Mary C. is the other handle, and when the war began—"when hell broke loose," is Mother Bickerdyke's picturesque way of putting it—she was a widow, nearly forty years of age and had two little sons to support. She was very poor, and was acting as housekeeper for a family in Cleveland, O. What her struggles had been up to that time nobody will ever learn from her lips. She insists that the only interest the public can possibly have in her must naturally begin with the boom of the guns at Bull Run, and if you get anything relating to those four fateful following years, it is picked up piecemeal as she flies around among her boys at reunions—Mother Bickerdyke has a reunion on hand every day in the year—and the grizzled old veterans jog her memory with

do it now." She added, as she flung him aside: "But I reckon if the devil had any place for you, he'd have taken you long ago."

NOT SCARED BY RED TAPE.

Mother Bickerdyke is said to be the only woman connected with the civil war for whom "red tape" had no terrors. She simply refused to recognize government interference when its slow unfolding augured ill for the success of her own plans, or conflicted with her ideas of the best thing to do. Many a soaring government official owes his downfall to her. If she found him delinquent in forwarding or furnishing supplies, if he was arrogant, negligent or inefficient, she forthwith reported him at headquarters and followed him up until he was degraded or discharged. She could unmake officials with a celerity and dispatch that was remarkable. She had very little regard for shoulder straps at any time, and rather delighted in humbling their wearers. One instance has become notable in history. About 11 o'clock one morning she went into the hospital of which she was matron and found the assistant surgeon had not yet shown up, consequently the sick men under his care had been without food that day. She knew that this surgeon had been at a wine supper the night before, hence was not slow at placing the blame on drunken sleep. She was apostrophising him in terse and graphic language when he appeared on the scene and jocularly demanded the cause of her wrath.

"Matter enough, you miserable scoundrel!" she blazed out. "Here these men, any one of them worth a thousand of you, are suffered to starve and die because you want to go off on a drunk. Pull off your shoulder straps," she ordered, as he feebly attempted to laugh off her reproaches, "pull off your shoulder straps, for you shall not stay here a week longer," and she was as good as her word. Three days later he was degraded to the ranks. He went to Major-general Sherman, then in command, and begged to be reinstated. Serman asked on what grounds he had been degraded.

"It was in consequence of misrepresentation," was the evasive reply of the surgeon.

"But who preferred charges?" persisted General Sherman.

"Why," said the surgeon hesitatingly, "I presume it was that woman—that Mrs. Bickerdyke."

"Oh, well, if it was her, I can do nothing for you," replied the general, commiseratingly. "Mother Bickerdyke ranks me!"

When this report got through the hospital, one wan-eyed boy whom she had nursed back to life, said weakly: "Mother Bickerdyke ranks everybody but Christ. Him and her are pardners!"

Mother Bickerdyke's sturdy independence and devotion to the hospital work made her a favorite with most of the more prominent generals. She was particularly strong with Grant and Sherman. Utterly devoid of diplomacy or finesse, she yet managed to carry her point at all times and on all occasions, simply because it was known that she was always right. Uncompromisingly exact in her dealings and indefatigable in her labors for her boys, she commanded the respect of those high in authority, while the men for whom her time and energies were spent loved her most devotedly.

After Donelson, in February of 1862, where Unconditional Surrender Grant wrote his new title in letters of fire, and at Shiloh, Mother Bickerdyke rendered great and important service in searching out and caring for the wounded. The largest field hospital established, up to that time, was placed in her charge, with a corps of trained nurses from Chicago. After the battle of Perryville, in October, 1862, she took the field again, and the work she did in that blood-drenched valley was grander than any history ever before recorded. With her own hands she dressed the wounds of the maimed men and provided nourishment for all she could reach. She went upon the field and carried away in her own strong arms men who were left for dead, revived and nursed them, and many of them live to-day to bless her for her splendid courage and unexampled tenderness.

She was not satisfied with that work alone, however. Thousands of convalescent Union soldiers had hardly clothes enough to cover them, and the government would not furnish more, while the stores of the various sanitary commissions had been exhausted. As soon as Mother Bickerdyke got her hospitals as nearly in accord with her ideas as was possible with the material and advantages at hand, she entered upon a new field of work. She got together a lot of negro women who had escaped from plantations along the route of the Union army, and under her personal supervision they were set to work gathering up the clothing and blankets left upon the battle field. All the clothing of the dead and desperately wounded that could be spared was taken, and the coats, blankets and other articles thrown away in the ebbing and flowing tide of battle. All this material she had carefully washed and distributed among her wounded boys, who were sadly in need of clean, comfortable clothing. She also marshaled a lot of contrabands and had them pick up the arms and accoutrements of war left on the field, and these she turned over to the quartermaster. There were many who laughed at this careful thrift of a woman of the common people, but the boys who were benefited by her tender solicitude for their comfort did not laugh. It was impossible, at that time, to obtain comfortable garments for her hospital-bound boys in any other way. If the thousands of expensive but worthless camp followers along the line of other battle fields had been set to work in like manner thousands of dollars would have been saved to the government, and there would have been a corresponding increase in the comforts about field hospitals.

PRACTICAL WORK AT MEMPHIS.

Shortly after this Mother Bickerdyke was appointed matron of the largest hospital of eight in Memphis. It was formerly the Gayoso Hotel, the largest in the city. When put under her charge it was in a deplorable condition. Army regulations required that the nurses, attendants and ward masters of these hospitals be convalescent soldiers. Mother Bickerdyke determined to abolish this practice in her department.

"I won't have it," she declared emphatically. "My boys, when they are getting over wounds or recovering from disease, are weak and peevish and can't help it. They can't afford to squander their returning strength performing hospital duties. Besides that, I often find them sleeping on their posts of duty and that is bad for the patients under their charge, and I won't have them reprimanded, for they need to sleep. Then, they are not fit to do manual labor, and I can't keep my hospital clean with only their help. I'll have the kind of help I want or I'll break a hornet's nest in the War Department."

She didn't wait for any War Department red tape, however, but quietly gathered in the best of the colored women who swarmed about Memphis and set them to work in the hospital, cleaning, washing, scrubbing and waiting on the patients. In a short time the Gayoso was a model of cleanliness. She arranged a special diet according to her own ideas and had it prepared under her own supervision. Naturally she met with objections, but at first they were not loud because she had powerful backing. The surgeon in charge of the hospital was a cranky old martinet, devotedly attached to red tape procedure, and declined to submit to Mother Bickerdyke's infringement of rigid military discipline. He procured from the medical director an order that none but convalescent soldiers should be employed as nurses and attendants in the Memphis hospitals, and this order was promulgated just at dark, to take effect at 9 o'clock the next morning. It had been raining dismally for several days, and nearly a mile of mud and bad roads lay between Gayoso hospital and headquarters. She had some clerk in the hospital draw up the form of an order permitting the employment of contrabands in her department, then she set out on her dreary tramp to headquarters. Arrived she was informed that the general in command was ill and could not be seen.

"Ill," she retorted indignantly, "so are my boys, but it isn't from swilling too much whisky. That's all that ails him. Get out of my way! I've got to see him," and see him she did. In spite of his staff officers, she invaded his room where she found him in bed. She told him her errand, propped him up in bed, despite his protestation, put a pen in his hand, the order she had taken the precaution to fill up before him, and to get rid of her he signed it; and she departed in triumph with a conveyance and an escort. A man, for a tithe of her bravado and disregard of military form, would have been court-martialed and dismissed from the service.

Her errand and its result were not known at the hospital, so at 9 o'clock the surgeon and the medical director appeared on the scene to enforce the order of the evening before. Mother Bickerdyke, with a wave of the hand, peculiar to her, ordered them to clear out an not bother her as she had graver duties on hand than entertaining shoulder straps, and shook the order from the general in command under their noses. That settled it; and she was never again molested.

She found it impossible to furnish her patients with the milk, butter and eggs needed, because such things were not to be procured in that war-blighted section of the South. So, leaving the hospital in careful hands, she went up through central Illinois on a mission. Wherever she stopped public meetings were called, and she addressed crowded houses. She told in her plain, blunt way of the awful suffering and the dire need of certain supplies. The response was instantaneous and liberal. Two hundred cows and one thousand hens were contributed. Loading these into cars, which she also pressed into service, she returned to Memphis. Here her live stock made such a racket that the chivalry of the Southern city rebelled and she was forced to corral her noisy family elsewhere. The government gave her a little island out in the Mississippi in front of the city, and here she established her dairy and poultry farm, and supplied her boys with the delicacies they so much needed.

After the surrender of Vicksburg, she left the Memphis hospital and went with Sherman on his expedition to Jackson, cooking and caring for the sick and wounded. This kind of campaigning was destructive to her dresses, and though the pink of cleanliness she had not a particle of regard for the quality, cut, or condition of her clothes. While on one of her expeditions North in 1863 for supplies she visited Chicago, where her faded old dress, plentifully open-worked by too close contact with campfires, excited pity as well as admiration, and some wealthy woman sent her a box of clothing. The linen garments were richly trimmed with lace and embroidery, and the dresses of elegant material were heavy with fringes and galloons. Mother Bickerdyke picked out one or two of the plainest dresses and traded all the other contents of the box to rebel women in exchange for necessaries for her "boys," excepting two frill night dresses which were exquisitely trimmed with lace and ruffles. She kept these to take on a contemplated trip to Cairo, where she thought she could get more money for them. At a place where she changed cars on her way up, however, she found in a shanty near the depot two poor lads whose wounds were bleeding and clothing stiff with dirt and blood. They were hungry, helpless and penniless. Mother Bickerdyke got some soap and water, and then out came those night gowns. The tails were torn off and used to bandage the cleansed wounds, and the tops, embroidery, lace ruffles and all were substituted for the soiled and worn-out shirts. What one of the women who stitched into those garments loving thoughts and loyal tears, would ever say that the service they performed was not a holy one.

SOME OF HER OTHER SERVICES.

Mother Bickerdyke was ordered to Huntsville, Ala., to straighten out affairs in the hospital there, and from there Sherman sent for her to join the Fifteenth Corps when it set out for Chattanooga. In the hospital on the north bank of the Tennessee river, on a slope at the base of Missionary Ridge, 1,700 wounded and dying soldiers were gathered under her care. For four long weeks she was the only woman attendant. It was bitterly cold but the hospital was located in a forest, and big log fires were built around the camp, which in a measure abated the terrible cold. On these camp fires, Mother Bickerdyke made tea and toast, soup and coffee for her wounded boys, and from a house torn down for the purpose bunks were made for the helpless. Out of the bricks of the big chimney a dutch oven was built, in which she baked bread for the hospital inmates. Later a field hospital was established close to Chattanooga, and Mother Bickerdyke put in charge. Here she had another row with the surgeons and stewards. She found them robbing the sick of delicacies sent by the Sanitary Commission, using them for their own tables, or selling them to others and pocketing the money. She went to General Grant and told him of this, affirming her belief that the surgeons and stewards were a set of rascals, and remarked that her word need not be relied on for evidence, but for the General to go there in disguise sometime and see for himself. This advice the General took, and as a result six surgeons were degraded at one time.

When Sherman started on the Atlanta campaign he sent word for Mother Bickendyke to accompany the troops, and she did. She was at Dalton and Resaca, and the field hospitals all along the line of that march were made more endurable because of her energetic oversight of them. After that campaign she had to take a short rest. Then she was called to Nashville and Franklin to attend to the wounded of General Thomas's command. When Savannah surrendered she organized the hospitals there, and helped to establish the field relief in Sherman's campaign through the Carolinas.

"When the devil had been whipped," as Mother Bickerdyke puts it, she was given charge of the distribution of clothing sent by the Sanitary Commission to the poor lads turned naked from the prisons and the hospitals, and with that ended her labors in the Southern field, but not her interest in the soldiers or the cause for which they fought. She was for a long time connected with the Freedman's Home and refuge in Chicago, and wherever or wherever there was a scheme afoot for hospitals, sanitariums or homes for the soldiers, Mother Bickerdyke had a finger in the pie, if not a whole hand, and she always saw that her "boys" had the lion's share of the spoils.

Mother Bickerdyke is an old woman now, broken before her time with the weight of care she has borne so long. Her wealth of wavy brown hair has turned to snow white, and her deep-set blue eyes look out from a face seamed and wrinkled, while the feet once so willing and fleet in service for the soldiers bear her slowly and almost painfully as she visits among the veterans at the reunions and encampments where she is always in demand. Mother Bickerdyke is poor. Giving her money is like pouring water in a sieve. The Vanderbilt wealth would last her just long enough to give her time to divide it among her needy boys. To this day she will sell or trade the last stitch of clothes she owns, except those on her back, to succor a penniless veteran. But she is at all the reunions, State and national. When her home was in California, the State Department held itself responsible for her attendance, and in Kansas it is the same. She seems to live in anticipation of these reunions, for she loves her boys just as dearly as though they were really her own flesh and blood. And how the old fellows love her! The veteran war nurse is supposed to live with one of her sons in Barton county, Kansas, and she makes her headquarters there, but she really lives in "the field." From January to December she is traveling hither and thither in response to invitations to attend reunions, invitations that are usually accompanied by transportation and assurance of lavish hospitality, and which she has generally accepted. But the years that have whitened her hair have stolen her strength, and it is not so easy now to get up and go at the call of her boys as it was in the old days.

When Death's bugler sounds "taps," and Mother Bickerdyke's light goes out, it will carry darkness and sorrow into the home and heart of every veteran living who shouldered a gun in the war for the Union.

DRAPERIES—Eastman, Schleicher & Lee

SETS of the G. A. R. edition of The Journal, Sept. 2 to 8, inclusive, will be sent to any address for 25 cents.

THINGS AND PLACES TO BE SEEN.

Prominent Buildings, Notable Objects, and How They May Be Found.

THE Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument stands in the Circle, recently re-christianed Monument Place. The spot was originally the geographical center of the city, and is still practically the center. The monument was projected in honor of the soldiers and sailors of the civil war; the legislative appropriations and subscriptions by Grand Army posts were made on that basis, but owing to a misconception of authority on the part of the superintendent the honors have been divided between the civil and the Mexican wars. This has caused great dissatisfaction among civil war veterans and the offending dates were last week ordered by the commissioners to be removed. The monument is yet incomplete. Several bronze groups and figures are to be placed about the base, and fountains are to be built on the east and west sides, but as it now stands it is the finest military memorial in the United States, and probably in the world.

THE Statehouse can be reached by any line of cars in the city. Architectural experts pronounce it one of the handsomest public buildings in this country. The corridors are especially admired. The structure is remarkable from the fact that it was built within the legislative appropriation of $2,000,000. It contains, besides the legislative halls and State offices, the State library, whose walls are embellished with portraits of Indiana's Governors, and a museum of war relics well worth examining.

THE State Institution for the Blind is between Pennsylvania and Meridian streets, fronting on North, six blocks north of Washington street. It can be reached by the Pennsylvania street cars. The institution is a public school for blind children, and not an asylum. Several hundred pupils receive instruction there during the school year.

THE Indiana Woman's Reformatory is reached by the East Washington-street and Irvington cars. This is a unique institution, being the first women's prison, officered and controlled by women, in the world. All the female convicts of the State are sent here. Under the same roof, but entirely separate from the penal department, is a reform school for girls. The reformatory is an object of interest to philanthropists and reformers throughout the country, and receives many visits. It is at all times open for inspection by strangers.

THE State School for the Deaf and Dumb is at the intersection of Washington street and State avenue, and is reached by the East Washington street and Irvington cars. Thousands of deaf mutes have received a liberal education within its walls.

THE United States Arsenal is east of the city and can be reached by the Clifford-avenue and East Washington-street cars. It is a storehouse for munitions of war, and is in charge of a detachment of United States troops, Major Varney in command. The grounds are handsome, and form an objective point in pleasure drives.

WOODRUFF PLACE is a beautiful residence suburb just east of the city, in the neighborhood of the Arsenal and Woman's Reformatory. It has some especially attractive features, and is reached either by the Clifford-avenue or East Washington-street cars.

THE Central Hospital for the Insane is a State institution, with accommodations for 1,500 or more patients. It is west of the city, beyond the river, and is reached by West Washington-street cars. The buildings and grounds are handsome, and special attention is paid to visitors.

THE Propylæum is on North street, facing the Institute for the Blind. It is a woman's clubhouse, and was built and is owned by an association of women. It is a meeting place for clubs, organizations and social gatherings, and is open at all hours of the day.

THE residence 149 North Pennsylvania street was for many years the home of Oliver P. Morton, the "war Governor," and was occupied by him at the time of his death.

EX-PRESIDENT HARRISON'S residence is 674 North Delaware street. It was visited by tens of thousands of people during the campaign of '88, and the picket fence then in front of it was carried away piece-meal by relic hunters.

THE statute of Vice President Schuyler Colfax stands near the southwest corner of University Park, three squares north of Monument Place. This statue was erected by the Daughters of Rebekah, a branch organization of the Odd Fellows, which was founded by him.

A STATUE of the late Vice President Hendricks stands in the southeast corner of the Statehouse grounds. Those who knew him well do not consider the statue a good one. The face is fairly accurate, but the attitude of the figure is entirely unlike that in which he habitually appeared.

PLYMOUTH Congregational Church, corner of New York and Meridian, three squares north of Monument Place, is headquarters for the organized charities and other benevolent organizations. Its doors are open all hours of the day.

THE City Library, a well-equipped institution, free to the public, is now at the corner of Ohio and Pennsylvania, opposite Denison Hotel, but will be moved, in a short time, into the new building erected for its use one square west.

CROWN HILL CEMETERY, north of the city, reached by the North Illinois-street car lines, is one of the most beautiful burying grounds in the country. Within its limits, and near its center, is a national cemetery, where several hundred soldiers are buried. Among the more distinguished heroes interred at Crown Hill are Gen. Jeff C. Davis, General Canby, Gen. George H. Chapman, Gen. Ebenezer Dumont, Maj. Jonathan W. Gordon, Col. William M. Wiles and Maj. Gorden Tanner. Gov. Oliver P. Morton's tomb is near where the soldiers lie.

The Journal's Encampment Edition

The issues of this paper, Sept. 2 to 8, inclusive, are and will be the

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Of all the features of the great Encampment. Every issue is a

SOUVENIR EDITION

And all the comrades should have them. The complete set will be sent to any address for TWENTY-FIVE CENTS.

reminiscential scraps, rich in historical data. It is then one learns all that she has been and is to these war-worn men.

When war became an established fact, Mrs. Bickerdyke kissed her sons, and, leaving them in careful hands, turned her face to the south and never paused until she got close enough to the leaden hail to succor the men who fell under its deadly force. She was not a very large woman then, just medium height, with a strong, kindly face, big blue eyes brim full of sympathy, and masses of dark hair just a little wavy about the temples. She had a splendid physique for end