NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES SANITARY COMMISSION. By CHARLES J. STILLE. 8vo. pp. 653. J. B. Lippincott & Co.

An interesting and valuable contribution to the internal history of military operations during the war for the Union is contained in the present volume. It has been prepared in accordance with a vote of the Sanitary Commission which decided to intrust the work of making a permanent record of its transactions to experienced and competent hands, including a general history of the origin of the Commission, its purposes and methods of operation, a narrative of its special relief service, and an account of the organization and working of its supply system. The work was to be comprised in three parts, according to the above stated division of subjects, and the first installment is presented in this volume. It will be read, we are sure, with deep interest, by a numerous portion of the American people who are aware of the magnitude of the debt which they owe to this energetic and efficient organization for its large share in the maintenance of our national existence.

In the first flush of enthusiasm which inspired our population at the commencement of the war, there was but a faint sense of the dangers which threatened the soldier's life beyond the conflict of arms, and the perils of the battle-field. Many appeared to regard the whole movement as a holiday spectacle, and the march of the volunteers as a pleasant excursion. A careless unconcern with regard to the true character of the position was spread far and wide. It was believed that the rigid discipline which was necessary to the enforcement of hygienic measures could not be carried into effect with an army of volunteers. Little attention to their duties in this respect was paid by the officers. The result, as regards the health of the troops, was disastrous in the extreme. A few individuals of equal intelligence and forethought gradually arrived at a perception of the appalling evils which loomed up in not very remote prospect. The fearful risks to which the health and safety of the army were exposed, became the subject of anxious consideration, and at length gave rise to vigorous concerted measures. The Government seemed powerless to provide any remedy. Several men of insight and judgment, most of whom had been taught by professional experience the value of sanitary precautions, resolved to infuse a portion of the popular sympathy into the machinery of Government. This was the germ of the Sanitary Commission, which afterward expanded into such grand proportions,—a lofty and beautiful tree, whose leaves were of such potent efficacy in the "healing of the nation."

We have no space to follow Mr. Stille in his account of the formation and growth of the Sanitary Commission, nor in his subsequent narrative of its beneficent achievements wherever there was a call for the ministrations of loving tenderness and heroic self-devotion in the hospitals and on the battle-field. His sketches of the individuals, however, who bore a prominent part in the organization of the Commission, or who were engaged in the practical accomplishment of its benign mission tempt us to enrich our columns with a few specimens of their genial character-drawing.

The eminent founder of the Sanitary Commission is thus described.

The Rev. Dr. Bellows, to whom much of the credit of the original conception of a Sanitary Commission at all suited to the peculiar circumstances of this country was due, and who was with entire unanimity selected as its President, possessed many remarkable qualifications for so responsible a position. Perhaps no man in the country exerted a wider or more powerful influence over those who were earnestly seeking the best means of defending our threatened nationality, and certainly never was a moral power of this kind lorded upon juster and truer grounds. This influence was not confined to his home, the City of New-York, although there it was incontestably very great, but it extended over many other portions of the country, and particularly throughout New-England, where circumstances had made his name, and his reputation for zeal and ability familiar to those most likely to aid in the furtherance of the new scheme. This power was due, partly of course, to the very eminent position which he occupied as a clergyman, partly to the persistent efforts and enlightened zeal with which he had long advocated all wise measures of social reform, partly perhaps, to his widely extend reputation as an orator, but principally, and above all, to that rare combination of wide comprehensive views of great questions of public policy with extraordinary practical sagacity and wisdom, which enabled him so to organize popular intelligence and sympathy that the best practical results were attained while the guiding principle was preserved. He had the credit of not being what so many of his profession are, an dreamer, he had the clearest perception of what could and what could not be done, and he was untainted by regard actual experience as the best practical test of the value of his plans and measures. These qualities, so precious and so exceptional in their nature, appeared conspicuously in the efforts made by him to secure the appointment of the Commission by the Government, and it will be found that every page of its history bears the strong impress of his peculiar and characteristic views. The first fruit which the Commission received from his labors was the "Plan of Organization," and in order to show how soon a grand idea was developed to its full maturity in his fertile mind, it is only necessary to say that this fundamental law which, by a strange providence, seemed perfectly fitted to meet all the emergencies which arose in a service hitherto untried and unknown, assumed the shape and form it now bears, during the labors of a single morning.

If Dr. Bellows is to be regarded as the brain in whose fertile suggestions the Commission had its origin, the functions of right hand were discreetly committed to one, who often clothed with important trusts, has never failed in their faithful discharge.

The General Manager of the Commission was responsible for the faithful performance of all the work which it had undertaken, even to its minutest details. It was of course not easy to find a man wholly qualified for such a position. It was necessary that he should possess perhaps the rarest combination of qualities found in human experience. He must unite great administrative capacity with unswerving faith and reliance upon great fundamental principles of policy, and his capacity was to be tested in a field of labor perfectly new, and hitherto wholly unexplored, at least in this country. The Commission, after a good deal of deliberation, decided that Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted, at that time Architect-in-Chief and Superintendent of Central Park, in New-York, possessed the essential qualities requisite for this position, and he was induced to accept it. How he performed the duties of the office, how much the Commission is indebted to his earnestness of purpose and his extraordinary power of organizing labor in a new mold, it will be the business of the historian to tell in almost every page of this work. It is only necessary to say here that by the public, to whom the name of Mr. Olmsted was familiar as the author of the most complete and philosophical account ever published of the condition of the Southern country before the war, and as the Director of a great public work, the success of management of which had been marked by incorruptible integrity and the rarest administrative ability, his appointment was universally regarded as a sure guarantee of the success of the Commission's plans.

The original question of Mr. Olmsted's mind, as well as his peculiar training, gave him, in both, some very great advantages in the novel and extraordinary position to which he had been called. The theory of the Commission in regard to its relations with the Government had been from the first, that it would carefully avoid doing anything to impair the regular action of Government officers, or undertake in any way to assume duties more rightly managed by them. In fact, now the Government machinery was the true and proper agency for performing the Government work, if that machinery was found defective or unable to accomplish what the novel circumstances of the times demanded, then its business was to urge in the proper quarter that the machinery might be so enlarged or modified as to suit the emergence. But the Commission always scrupulously avoided interfering with Government further than to proffer its aid. In other words, it sought to do its work through Government channels, and by means of existing Government agencies. Its whole system of Inspection, of Relief, General and Special, and of the distribution of Hospital supplies, and indeed its whole organization, was based on this theory. Its object was to supplement Government deficiencies, not in any way to substitute itself for the Government organization, but on the contrary to secure from every Government official a sense of his responsibility. The delicate and difficult task of determining exactly where the Government responsibility ended, and that of the Commission began, devolved practically upon its General Secretary, who was charged with the administration of its executive service. Any mistake in this matter at the outset would have been fatal to all hope of success; nothing but constant collision, resulting at last in the withdrawal of the Commission from the field, would have marked any unwise interference with the details of the recognized usages and regulations of the army. Fortunately, the matter was in the hands of one whose studies and experience and thoroughly trained mind in a science little understood in this country—that of administration. The foundation of that science is the principle that each agent of any organization shall have his share of responsibility for the work exactly defined, and that he shall then be accountable to his superior officer for the thorough and faithful performance of that particular portion of the work, and nothing more. Pursuing this plan, and insisting upon its constant observance by his subordinates, the General Secretary soon placed their relations with the officers of the army upon the most friendly and cordial footing. Thoroughly understanding the distinct field occupied by the Government and the Commission, he insisted that each should maintain a proper recognition of the other's work. The remarkable fact, that during the whole war, there was scarcely a single instance of discourtesy or official insolence toward men occupying the anomalous position held by the Agents of the Commission in the army is due perhaps quite as much to the constant observance of this rule as to the personal character or personal services of the Agents themselves.

The patriotism of California seems to have been embodied to a large degree in the eloquent pulpit orator, the tones of whose earnestly pleading voice still linger on the ear.

The most gifted and inspiring of the patriots who rallied California and the Pacific coast to the Flag of the Union, was undoubtedly Thomas Starr King, Minister of the First Unitarian Church in San Francisco. Born in New-York, but reared in Massachusetts, he had earned an almost national reputation for eloquence and wit, humanity and nobleness of soul, in the lecture-rooms and pulpits of the North and West, when, at the age of thirty five, he yielded to the religious claims of the Pacific coast, and transferred himself to California. There, in four years, he had built up as a public speaker from the pulpit and the platform, a prodigious popularity. His temperament sympathetic, mercurial, and electric; his disposition hearty, genial, and sweet; his mind versatile, quick, and sparkling; his taste exquisite and infallible; with a voice clear as a bell and loud and cheering as a trumpet, his nature and accomplishments were perfectly adapted to the people, the place and the time. His religious profession disarmed many of his political enemies, his political orthodoxy quieted many of his religious opponents. Generous, charitable, disinterested, his full heart and open hand captivated the California people, while his sparkling wit, his delicious oddness and rhetorical abundance perfectly satisfied their taste for intensity, and novelty, and a touch of extravagance. It has been said by high authority that Mr. King saved California to the Union. California was too loyal at heart to make that boast reasonable. But it is no less much to say that Mr. King did more than any man by his prompt, outspoken, uncalculating loyalty, to make California know what her own feelings really were. He did all that any man could have done to lead a public sentiment that was unconsciously ready to follow where earnest loyalty and patriotism should guide the way.

We close with the following felicitous portraiture of a noble American woman whose fine social qualities were equaled only by the fervor of her patriotism and the energy of her self-devotedness.

The last of the glorious band who laid down their lives for their brethren, was Arabella Griffith Barlow, whose life from the very commencement of the war resembles more that of those holy women whom the Roman Catholic Church has canonized as Saints for their unshrinking devotion to the relief of human suffering in its saddest and most repulsive forms, than like that of one reared among the influences of the hard material, and artificial state of society in which we live. Mrs. Barlow was the wife of Major-General Barlow, one of the most brilliant and heroic officers of the army. They were married on the day of his departure for Washington, whither he went as a private in one of the New York regiments in which he had enlisted. She was a lady of rare personal attractions, of highly cultivated intellect, of the best social position, beloved and sought for by a large circle of friends, full of life, spirit, activity and charity. Her husband's extraordinary merit led to his rapid promotion. He went through the Peninsular Campaign as Lieut.-Colonel of his regiment, and his wife was one of those women who worked hard and nobly, as close to the terrible battle-fields of that campaign as they were permitted to go. She again appeared as an angel of mercy at Gettysburg, where her husband in command of one of the Divisions of the Second (General Hancock's) Corps, added by his skill and bravery fresh laurels to those he had so dearly earned. At the commencement of the Wilderness campaign, she identified herself, as we have seen, with the peculiar labors of the Auxiliary Relief Corps at Fredericksburg, superintending the important work of preparing proper food for the wounded, in the special diet kitchens established in the Hospitals. While thus occupied, she could hear distinctly the roar of the storm of battle in which her husband was exposed to extremest danger, but this served only to stimulate her to renewed activity in succoring those around her who had already fallen victims to its fury. Her mind, fruitful in resources, was always busy in devising some means of alleviating the miseries of the wounded, and many a fractured limb rested on cushions improvised from materials which she alone was able to discover and make available. She was the last to leave Fredericksburg, and passing to Port Royal and White House, she actively continued her beneficent and life-saving work in the Hospitals in those places. Arriving at City Point, she went at once to "the front" in the lines before Petersburg, and there gave herself up to incessant labor in the Hospitals. This perpetual toil and privation proved, at last, too much for her strength, and a fever was produced by it which soon after terminated her pure and noble life. Mrs. Barlow was a true heroine, the record of whose career is that of one who sought, by personal service, to mitigate those horrors of war which are appalling, even to the perfect spirit of devotion which is so characteristic of her sex. Her motives were the worthiest and the loftiest which can stir the human heart, and she appears at all times to have been wholly unconscious of the promptings of a spirit of self-indulgence, and love of ease. With this intense and absorbing desire to relieve the suffering soldier, she combined that ardent love of the cause for which he was fighting, which sustained and cheered her in the midst of the most toilsome and forbidding labors. She and her noble husband were true types of the grandest moral ideas which the war developed—a pure love of country combined with a perfect spirit of self-sacrifice. "There are many glories," writes one who knew them both well, "of a righteous war. It is glorious to fighter to fall, to bleed or to conquer, for so great and good a cause as ours; it is glorious to go to the field in order to help and to heal, to fan the fevered soldier and to comfort the bleeding brother, and thus helping, may be to die with him the death for our country. Both these glories were vouchsafed to this bridal pair."

The success of the Sanitary Commission affords a splendid illustration of the power of combined voluntary efforts, as compared with the old-fashioned official methods in which buckram and red tape play the most conspicuous part. In spite of the cold shoulder which was turned by the antiquated votaries of tradition and precedent upon the infant organization that subsequently became such a mighty influence upon the prosperity of our arms, it accomplished what has never been done by the torpid machinery of governmental routine. At the same time, it reacted with inspiring effect on the mass of our population. It awakened a deeper sympathy with the brave men whose lives were always ready as a national sacrifice. It fired the imagination and softened the heart. The soldier in the field, the sufferer in the hospital, the man of business in the city, the farmer on his acres, the workman in his shop, and the mother in the family at her fireside, were brought together in the tenderest and most sacred ties. Who can compute whether the physical health of the army or the moral health of the nation was the more largely indebted to the noble labors of the Sanitary Commission?

BOSTON LITERARY ITEMS.

From Our Special Correspondent.

BOSTON, Nov. 18, 1866.

Longfellow's "Flower de Luce," an exquisite little volume, on toned paper, illustrated by Fenn, Perkins, Eytinge, Ward, and Coleman, is just out. It consists of 13 poems, some of which have now appeared for the first time.

This is the opening piece—the poem from which the volume takes its name:

FLOWER DE LUCE.

Beautiful lily, dwelling by still rivers,
Or solitary mere,
Or where the sluggish meadow-brook delivers
Its waters to the weir!

Thou laughest at the mill, the whirr and worry
Of spindle and of loom,
And the great wheel that tolls amid the hurry
And rushing of the flume.

Born to the purple, born to joy and pleasure,
Thou dost not toil nor spin.
But in thy pride glad and radiant with thy presence
The meadow and the fen.

The wind blows and uplifts thy drooping leaves,
And round thee throng and run
The rushes, the green grasses of thy manor,
The outlaws of the sun.

The burnished dragon-fly at thine attendant,
And lifts against the field,
And down the listed tourney rides resplendent
With steel-blue mail and shield.

Thou art the Iris, fair among the fairest,
Who, armed with golden rod,
And winged with the celestial azure, bearest
The message of some God.

Thou art the Muse, who far from crowded cities
Haunttest the sylvan streams,
Playing on pipes of reed the artless ditties,
That come to us as dreams.

O flower de luce, blown on, and let the river
Linger to kiss thy feet!
O flower of song, blown on, and make forever
The world more fair and sweet.

The other pieces are entitled Palingenesis, The Bridge of Cloud, Hawthorne, Christmas Bells, Kambalu, The Wind over the Chimney, The Bells of Lynn, Killed at the Ford, Grotto a Tower, To-morrow, Divina Comedia and Nosi.

Longfellow is still engaged on Dante. He has not only translated the whole poem but has nearly all the notes done and stereotyped; so that the work will certainly appear during 1866.

Emerson is now reading the proof-sheets of a new volume of poems which will be issued before Christmas. It is entitled "May Day and Other Pieces." Emerson goes to the West this Winter to lecture. So, also, does his friend A. Bronson Alcott, who leaves for St. Louis within a week to give "Conversations" on Philosophy.

James Russell Lowell is writing a series of articles, in prose and verse, for The Atlantic of next year. The statement that he is engaged on a novel is incorrect.

Oliver Wendell Holmes is writing a novel for the Atlantic. The first part of it will be published in the January number. It is called "The Guardian Angel." It is a novel of New-England life of the present year.

John G. Whittier is engaged in preparing for publication a new volume of poems, to be called "The Tent on the Beach." It has not left his hands yet, but it will probably be issued in the Spring.

Prof. Agassiz is lecturing at the Lowell Institute, and is also busily at work writing his Travels in Brazil. This book will be of a popular character—a volume of adventures, or travel proper, rather than of scientific exploration. It will make a handsome thick octave, full of illustrations.

Mrs. Lydia Maria Child is engaged on a novel, name and nature not yet announced.

Ticknor & Fields have in press a volume by Prof. Stowe "On the Origin and History of the Books of the Bible: what the Bible is not, what it is, and how it is it." It will be a large thick 12mo.

Thoreau's journal is still in *statu quo*. Nothing has been done with it. Mem.—"An editor wanted."

James Parton is traveling "out West" in order to collect material for a series of articles for the the all-devouring Atlantic on the great cities of the West. He has been earnestly urged by Mr. Redpath to write an elaborate life of John Brown, and will probably soon set to work on it.

Bayard Taylor has been chartered by The Atlantic to make a new trip to the Old World and write a series of papers on the "By-ways of Europe."

Miss Louisa M. Alcott has returned from Europe, and is said to be writing a volume of European sketches.

The author of that popular novel, "Faith Gartney's Childhood" has another book on the stocks. It will be published by Ticknor & Fields.

The Life of Josiah Quincy by his son Edmund Quincy will not be published until Spring.

The second and concluding volume of the Life of John Winthrop by Robert C. Winthrop will be published next month.

Forsythe Wilson, the author of "In State" and "In Sepulchre," which obtained considerable celebrity during the war, has a volume of poems in press. The name of it is "The Old Sergeant and other poems."

Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Chimney Corner Papers" will be gathered into a volume and published soon. She is now occupied on a novel for The Atlantic, which will probably take up all her time next year.

Lee & Shepard announce a new weekly illustrated magazine to be edited by Mrs. Julia Ward Howe and Edmund Kirke. The first number will be issued on New-Year's Day. It will be "devoted" to tales, novels, poems, sketches and essays. Charles T. Congdon, Richard B. Kimball, Postmaster Nasby, Frederick W. Shelton, Louisa M. Alcott, Jane G. Austin, Rose Terry, and other noted writers are announced as contributors. *The Daily Advertiser* announces, with becoming gravity, that this new periodical is to be called The Northern Lights, because it is expected to be—a roarer!

The Roberts Brothers have in press the "Memories of Madame Récamier, Her Friends and Correspondence." Translated and edited by Miss Luyster; "the Genius of Solitude, comprising the solitudes of Nature and of Man, with sketches of distinguished men who have led solitary lives." By the Rev. Wm. R. Alger. "The Book of the Sonnett," edited with notes by Leigh Hunt and S. Adams Lee. Mr. Hunt contributes an Essay on Italian and English Sonnets and Sonneteers, with a selection of Sonnets enriched by the addition of original notes. Mr. Lee finishes the Essay on American Sonnets and Sonneteers with a selection of American Sonnets. This work will be in two volumes. Roberts Brothers have also in press "Winter Nights with the Young Folks" by Edmund Kirke.

Jean Ingelow's Poems published by Roberts Brothers have sold in the United States alone 27,000 copies of the American edition. A lavishly illustrated and richly bound edition of her poems is nearly ready for the market. It was got up in England, and a large edition imported for our market.

Wm. V. Spencer will issue "First Year in Europe," a new volume of Old World Sketches by George H. Calvert.

Lee & Shepard are about to issue a juvenile magazines called "Our Boys and Girls," edited by Oliver Optic.

J. E. Tilton announces "The American Journal of Horticulture and Florist's Companion;" an illustrated monthly magazine. "Our Solon Robinson's" name appear, among the contributors to General Horticulture. The list contains the names of many of the most eminent horticulturists in the country. This work is intended to be a specialty in rural literature—to occupy a field or garden hitherto comparatively neglected. Tilton also has in press a translation of Finette by Edward Labonlarye—a rich holiday book, on toned paper, and with 53 first class wood cuts executed in France.

Little, Brown & Co. have nearly out Schenkel's Characteristics of Jesus, translated by Wm. H. Furness, in two vols. 12mo. They issue to-day a pamphlet by Samuel Hooper on Custom-House frauds, which is making a local sensation.

Littel's Living Age, published since the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, is retaining its hold in the market. Some 90 odd volumes of this standard periodical have been published. Littel has in press "Sir Brook Fossbroke;" a novel from Blackwood's Magazine.

Nichols & Noyes have in press a juvenile entitled "Climbing and Sliding," a book for boys by Mrs. Pike.

E. P. Dutton has in press "Ned Grant's Guest," by the author of Hertha Weisser; "Fannie and Robbie," a new book for the children of the Church;" (an Episcopal juvenile) and a devotional book—"Hours with the Lord," from the German.

The Boston religious papers are preparing to enlarge their dimensions. *The Watchman and Reflector*, the able organ of the Baptists, will be enlarged to as nearly the size of *The Independent* as the mechanical appliances of Boston will allow. It will be a double paper like *The N. Y. Observer*, with a "secular" and religious department—or, as the workmen will say, a worldly and other worldly sheet. Nine editors and assistant editors besides from 20 to 30 contributors are already engaged for this our mammoth religious weekly. Let us hope that in imitating *The Independent* they will not leave Hamlet out, and fail to reach the splendid position now occupied by that journal by being afraid to freely and boldly utter their inmost belief on every "secular" topic.

The Radical, organ of the "extreme" school of Liberal Theology, is increasing in circulation.

It is likely that Boston will have a larger show of splendid holiday books for Christmas than on any previous year.

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