

The Soldiers' Journal.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 2, 1864.

E. A. CASSIDY, - - - - Editor and Publisher.
AMY M. BRADLEY, - - - Proprietor.

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PROSPECTUS.

"THE SOLDIERS' JOURNAL,"
PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY AT
RENDEZVOUS OF DISTRIBUTION, VA.,
RECENTLY

CONVALESCENT CAMP, VA.

At the subscription price of \$2.00 per annum, payable always in advance. Single copies Five Cents each. The proceeds resulting from its sale to be devoted to a fund for the maintenance of the orphans of soldiers who have fallen, or may yet fall in defence of the cause of the Union.

Its primary objects will be to promote the interests of the soldier in the ranks. To this end it will contain all necessary information as to the methods of keeping in good order their accounts with the Government.

The soldier in hospital will find in our columns instructions how to procure pay and clothing when entitled to it; what are the requisites exacted by the Government when furloughs are granted; and discharged soldiers will be put in the way of procuring prompt settlements of their accounts without the interference of claim agents.

Aside from this THE SOLDIERS' JOURNAL will contain interesting original and selected reading matter. It is the intention of those engaged in its publication to make its pages lively and readable, and it is believed that the varied talent pledged to its support will enable it to take at least a respectable rank among the journals of the country.

AMY M. BRADLEY, R. A. CASSIDY,
Proprietor. Editor and Publisher

Surgeon Sanford B. Hunt,

who has served at this post for the past year, first as President of the Board of Examination, then as Medical Director of Convalescent Camp, and since its discontinuance, as Surgeon in Charge of Angur General (late Camp) Hospital, has been relieved and ordered to report to Louisville, Ky., to assume control of a more important field of duty. His administration has, in the different positions he has occupied, been distinguished for its ability and energy, and has won for him the highest encomiums from the department to which he is attached. No man connected with it has contributed more largely toward the efficiency of the medical branch of the service, in this department of the army, than Surgeon Hunt, and his assignment to a more important field of duty affords the best possible evidence of the high esteem in which he is held by those in the executive charge of its administration.

SURG. GEORGE L. SUTTON, his successor, has served as President of the Board of Examination at this post for the past five months, where, by his energy and ability, he has proved himself eminently qualified for the new position to which he has been assigned. The regret experienced at the departure of Surgeon Hunt is sensibly modified by the fact that his successor is a gentleman so well qualified to fill his place. May Surgeon Hunt be even more successful in his new field of labor than he has been here, and his successor's labors be attended by as important and substantial results.

Our Veteran Troops.

No better evidence of the harmony and unanimity of our troops, in their purpose to suppress the rebellion by force of arms, could be furnished than the fact that our armies are re-enlisting almost *en masse*. From every department from the Rio Grande to the Potomac, and from the everglades of Florida to the wide-spreading prairies of Missouri, the same cheering intelligence reaches us, that instead of growing weary of the service and "tired of the war," the old troops are everywhere renewing their adhesion to the cause by re-enlisting. How pleasing the comparison between the conduct of our troops and those of the enemy. By wholesale conscription they have succeeded in placing every available man in the Confederacy in the army, but while their recruits are coming up from the rear, their armies are filtering into our lines with almost as great rapidity as the reinforcements arrive. This is a striking illustration of the "perfect unanimity" of the Southern people. There has been much ado recently at Richmond about the re-enlistment of the veterans of the rebel armies, and the would-be President of the Southern Confederacy has issued a long, bombastic proclamation, in which he lauds the bravery and endurance of the chivalry to the skies, but forgets to mention that the "perfect unanimity" of their armies in re-enlisting is the result of sundry resolutions in the rebel Congress, entitled "An Act to conscript all the able-bodied men in the Confederacy," including those who have furnished substitutes under all previous calls, whether they have been, are now, or have not already been in the service. With these inducements it is probable that, if the war should continue so long, the rebs might become gray in the service, and yet not be veterans in the sense implied by the voluntary re-enlistment of the patriotic soldiery of our armies. The veteran corps of our army promises to be a most formidable organization, in the character of the material of which it is composed, as well as numerically, as none but those who have seen two or more years active service are eligible to its ranks. To men who have seen two years' field service the army becomes a home, and trade, and it seems more like assuming new business obligations than what most persons in civil life regard as a slavish servility. The experience of the veterans who were granted thirty-day furloughs under the late order, clearly demonstrates this fact.—Used by long habit to life in camp, the veteran experiences much the same solicitude for a return to his martial associations that the new recruit feels for the pleasantries of his home and fireside. While the recruit muses of his associations in the crowded metropolis or the pleasant rural village, the veteran's thoughts are of the fierce battle, the exciting skirmish or the tiresome march, and he never feels so perfectly at home as when sitting with his comrades in arms around the blazing camp fire, reciting and hearing related the scenes of the various bloody conflicts in which they have participated. With a haversack full of pork and crackers, a canteen of good water, and a pouch filled with "cut and dry," a well-tried rifle and plenty of ammunition, he can look forward to the shock of battle with a complacency entirely unknown to those in civil life who live on the fat of the land, but are in constant dread of the "coming draft."

Many think, doubtless, that the large Government, State and municipal bounties offered are the principal inducement to the enlistment of our veteran soldiers. While this may be an inducement, it must not be supposed that the

desire to obtain a few dollars bounty is the impelling motive to the assumption of these new obligations. If their experience had demonstrated to them that military service was so fraught with danger, and attended with such unendurable vicissitudes as many imagine, and so entirely devoid of redeeming qualities, is it to be supposed that they would barter away their liberty, and, in effect, sell their lives for a few paltry dollars? Not so. We are not of the number who believe that old soldiers can be bought and sold like sheep in the shambles, but on the contrary, that their's is a loftier and more patriotic motive. Having assisted in the achievement of the success that has thus far attended our arms, they are unwilling that others should step in and carry off the laurels their valor and endurance have won, now that the power of the rebellion is gradually but certainly waning, and the evidences of its coming dissolution are daily becoming more apparent. They would not rest easy at home while their services are required to give the finishing stroke to treason and rebellion by the suppression of which the permanent safety of our government will be secured.

Sanitary Work in Convalescent Camp.

The subjoined extract from the report of "Special Relief Department," refers to the work of the Sanitary Commission in this camp, and its reproduction here may not be deemed inappropriate. While it serves to show "what an amount of labor can be performed, relief afforded and influence exerted by one individual, thoroughly in earnest and with resources at hand," it pays a well merited compliment to Miss Bradley for her untiring zeal for, and disinterested devotion to, the welfare of the soldier. In the closing paragraph the successful administration of Col. McKelvy is very pertinently recognized:

The Relief Station and branch of the "Home" at Convalescent Camp, Va., near Fort Barnard, is still under the care of Miss Amy M. Bradley, formerly matron of the "Home."

The whole work is managed efficiently and with great success. She has the confidence and co-operation of all the officers in charge of the Corps, and daily she comes with ambulances into Washington, to the Paymaster's office, and to the "Home" and Railway station, bringing the sick and discharged men who have been receiving her care.

Miss Bradley's report of the past nine months' labor in this camp of some five thousand men, shows what an amount of work can be done, relief afforded, influence exerted by one individual thoroughly in earnest, and with resources at hand.

Tickets directing the bearer to call at the Sanitary Commission Lodge, for such articles as the Surgeon may specify, are put in the hands of all the surgeons and officers in the camp, and as soon as occasion calls these tickets are filled out and given to the invalids who need supplies. In this way, since June 1st, (four months,) Miss Bradley has distributed from the stock kept constantly on hand, some four thousand of shirts, drawers, socks, &c., besides some 10,000 smaller articles, such as towels, handkerchiefs, slippers, and the like. Previous to April, at which time regular hospitals were first established here, Miss Bradley, in hospital tents attached to the Lodge, attended to the very ill, receiving there during that time 125 sick men.

She accompanied to Washington to the Paymaster's office during four months, and assisted many of the more feeble in getting their pay, discharged soldiers whose united pay amounted to over \$100,000.

In the camp she visits and writes letters for the sick, and in all ways practical, ministers "special relief."

It has been a good work, and I may fitly mention, that under the wise executive management of Lieut. Col. McKelvy, the name "Convalescent Camp" no longer is associated with suffering, but is synonymous with care, comfort, and kind and liberal provision for all that the convalescent soldier needs.