

The Soldiers' Journal.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 11, 1864.

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

OUR VOLUNTEER AGENTS.

The following persons are announced as our agents at the places standing in connection with their names, and are authorized to receive subscriptions and contributions for THE SOLDIERS' JOURNAL:

MISS AMY M. HOMANS, East Vassalboro', Maine.
MR. GEORGE B. RANDLETT, Richmond, Maine.
MR. GURDON BRADLEY, Little Falls, N. Y.
MISS MARY P. LOCKE, Charlestown, Mass.
MR. W. M. MELLEN, Boston, Mass.
MR. G. T. CRAWFORD, Camp Agent.

We still invite the co-operation of our friends everywhere, to increase the circulation and influence of our paper.

Contributions, intended for publication, must be accompanied by the name of the author to insure insertion.

Advertising.---A limited amount of advertising inserted at ten for the first and five cents per line for each subsequent publication. The cash must accompany all orders.

All Communications, and other mail matter, intended for THE SOLDIERS' JOURNAL (except such as is prepared in this camp) should be addressed to 214, F Street, Washington, D.C. No notice taken of communications unaccompanied by the name of the author.

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.

Soldiers' Pay.

The proposition to increase the soldiers' pay, which has received a large share of the attention of Congress for some time, has culminated at length in the adoption of a bill, by a unanimous vote, which gives to all grades of enlisted men a fair pecuniary remuneration. The following paragraph embodies the prominent features of the bill:—

"That on and after May 1, 1864, the pay of privates shall be increased from thirteen to sixteen dollars a month; corporals, to eighteen; sergeants to twenty; orderly sergeants to twenty-four; sergeant majors, twenty-six dollars a month. The ration of 1861 is restored, and there is to be no commutation for rations. Among other provisions, the twenty-first section of the enrolment act of 1863 is so amended that officers may obtain leaves of absence for causes other than sickness or wounds, without a deduction of pay and allowance; but such leaves are not to exceed thirty days in a year.

Soon after the war broke out Congress authorized an increase of the soldiers' pay from eleven to thirteen dollars per month. This advance was not intended as an inducement to enlistment, but was simply a recognition of the standard of wa-

ges which our progressive domestic industry had established—neither was it intended that this pay should be regarded as an equivalent for the service rendered, it being supposed that those who would compose our armies assumed the obligations of military service from higher motives than pecuniary emolument—and that this is a correct view of the case none will fail to admit. Men, in many cases, forsook lucrative employments and comfortable homes and enlisted for the holy purpose of preserving the nation from the danger with which treason and rebellion had encompassed it, the matter of pay, bounty, etc., never for one moment entering into their calculations. They had no other object than, and were willing to submit to any privation and face any danger for, the preservation of the nation.—

For one, two and three years, these men have borne the fatigues of the march, exposed alike to the scorching rays of the sun and the peltings of the storm; have endured hunger, thirst, nakedness, wounds, sickness, imprisonments, and we might include stripes—added to which, in many instances, the appeals of families but partially provided for—to say nothing of the danger of battles, which they have fearlessly confronted, and yet these things have not moved them. They have submitted to it all uncomplainingly, not for a moment entertaining the thought that the value of their services could be computed in dollars and cents, their only wish being that the thirteen dollars per month promised should be paid promptly, so that it might be devoted to the relief of those who depended upon their labors, while at home, for support. Articles of clothing and subsistence have increased double, and in some instances treble, in value, the currency has depreciated, and yet the soldier has not asked for the advance of pay necessary to meet the augmented demand upon his salary. While his former associates in the different departments of domestic industry have asked for and received an advance of pay commensurate with the demands of the times, the soldier accepts his thirteen dollars per month without a complaint at its insufficiency to meet the requirements of those dependent upon him.

All classes concur in the belief that the mechanic who, before the war, received one dollar and fifty cents per day, requires two dollars and fifty now in order to pay the expenses which the soldier's family must incur in common with him, but when the matter of increasing the pay of the soldier so that he may receive an amount equivalent to that paid the mechanic or laborer is suggested, a great ado is made about increasing the "national debt," "onerous taxation," etc., and it is predicted that if the government increases its expenditures by adding to the pay of the soldier, "bankruptcy" and "repudiation" must inevitably follow. If the foundation of American patriotism is laid upon so unsound a bottom as that formed by the quicksands of a parsimonious, unpatriotic fear of taxation, we are greatly mistaken in the character of our people, and only wish that a policy could be adopted by which these growlers could be placed in the army, and their places in civil life supplied with men who have learned lessons of practical patriotism at the mouth of the cannon and the point of the bayonet. We congratulate our fellow-soldiers upon this action of Congress, and while we do not expect that they will be more earnest in their efforts to accomplish the work assigned to them by reason of this slight increase of pay, we doubt not it will be appreciated as a merited and a needed concession of that body to the men to whom the nation owes its present safety.

Mortality of Federal Prisoners in Rebel Hospitals.

Mr. J. B. Abbott, Chief Assistant "Special Relief Department" U. S. Sanitary Commission, has kindly furnished us with the following report, showing the mortality of our prisoners in the hospitals of rebeldom:

The following is an extract from the report of the Surgeon in Charge of the hospitals for Union prisoners at Richmond, secreted and brought away by one of the patients recently paroled, and now in one of the Baltimore General Hospitals:—

	NO. IN HOSP'LS.	NO. DEATHS.
January,.....	646	311
February,.....	1252	524
March,.....	823	561
Total,.....	2721	1396

To this we might add the following extract from a late number of the Columbus (Ga.,) *Enquirer*:

If some arrangement for the exchange of prisoners is not speedily effected, the Confederacy will derive but little benefit from it. A few days ago, while the cars were at Andersonville, the editor learned that the mortality among the Yankee prisoners at that point was frightful.—One of the guard informed him that fifty-two died on a previous day, and that since their arrival the average number of deaths per day was thirty. Small-pox, pneumonia, diarrhoea, are taking them off by wholesale.

Judging by the above authority, it is but fair to infer that, from some reason not given, the enemy fail to properly provide for those whom the fortunes of war have placed in their hands, when they fall victims to the diseases which their confinement in lonesome prison houses produce. As dead to the common instincts of humanity as the rebels seem to have become, we indulged the hope that our treatment of their sick and wounded would have met with at least a partial reciprocation in the care of those who, while their prisoners, fell sick among them, but the array of mortality figures presented above would seem to dispel even this, and forces the conclusion that they are, to say the least, indifferent as to whether federal prisoners live or die while inmates of their hospitals. To treat their sick in a similar manner would be but a just retribution for their conduct, but we trust that, to whatever extreme the contest may be driven, the honor of America may never be sullied by a resort to such an unchristian and inhuman practice by the representatives of our government. Whatever relation men may sustain to us as the enemies of our liberties and government, whenever rendered helpless by wounds or disease the ordinary claims of charity demand that they should be treated with human consideration, and to refuse this would be to equalize our philanthropy with that of our enemies.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN, recognizing the interposition of Providence in behalf of the nation in the recent decisive victories achieved by our arms, has issued the following recommendation:

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 9, 1864.

To the Friends of Union and Liberty:

Enough is known of army operations within the last five days to claim our especial gratitude to God; while what remains undone demands our most sincere prayers to and reliance upon Him, without whom all human efforts are in vain. I recommend that all patriots, at their homes, in their places of public worship, and wherever they may be, unite in common thanksgiving and prayers to Almighty God.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

DESTRUCTION OF THE REBEL RAM ALBEMARLE.—The War Department received a dispatch on Monday evening, stating that the rebel ram Albemarle had been attacked and sunk by the United States iron-plated gunboat *Sassagus*. The Albemarle will be recollected as the ram which has been lately doing so much damage in the North Carolina waters.