

SANITARY COMMISSION.

NO. 13.

ADDRESS OF THE CENTRAL FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The undersigned, associate members of the Sanitary Commission lately appointed by Government to inquire into and provide for the wants of our volunteer regiments now in the field, respectfully recommend this Commission and its most important object to the prompt and liberal support of their fellow citizens.

Great mortality by disease is an inevitable feature of every war. It invariably exceeds at least four-fold that produced by all other causes.

But our volunteer regiments, made up in a great degree of men and officers utterly without knowledge or experience as to the remedies and precautions which the case requires, are exposed to the greatest and most pressing danger from this source. The present defective state, of the camps and quarters generally as to ventilation, police, drainage and other sanitary provisions, and of a very large portion of the men in point of cleanliness, clothing and shoes, the want of proper arrangements for furnishing well cooked food and wholesome water, furnish ground for the most serious alarm. Predictions are confidently made that (without prompt and energetic remedial measures) a very considerable proportion of our volunteer forces will fall victims to disease before the end of the present season.

If these predictions should be unhappily verified (and they come from sources entitled to the highest respect) we are in imminent danger of a disaster which could hardly be exceeded, in its effects on public credit and on individual prosperity, by defeat in a great battle.

To meet this danger (which can be met and fully remedied)

the Sanitary Commission has been appointed. Its members serve gratuitously, but call on their fellow-citizens for means to enable them to do their work. They decline applying to Congress for funds, for reasons which we consider satisfactory.

They propose, among other things, to place an agent of intelligence, activity, and scientific education, specially acquainted with the laws of hygiene, in every camp or centre of military operations, to remedy at once the defects and abuses that exist in most of them. If they can be furnished with means to do this within twenty days, they expect to save the nation at least twenty thousand lives.

Members of the Commission are already personally engaged both at Cairo and Washington, in organizing a sanitary system for the camps at those points.

The undersigned earnestly urge on the public the importance of sustaining the Commission by prompt and liberal action.

Every day is of the utmost importance, and every dollar applied to the protection of life at this time will save the community from much larger expenditure, or from humiliation and defeat at no distant period.


On behalf of the Committee.

JOHN A. STEVENS, Chairman *pro tem.*

CHAS. E. STRONG, Secretary.

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 Contributions can be sent to either of the above, or to George T. Strong, Treasurer, No. 68 Wall street, New York.