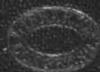


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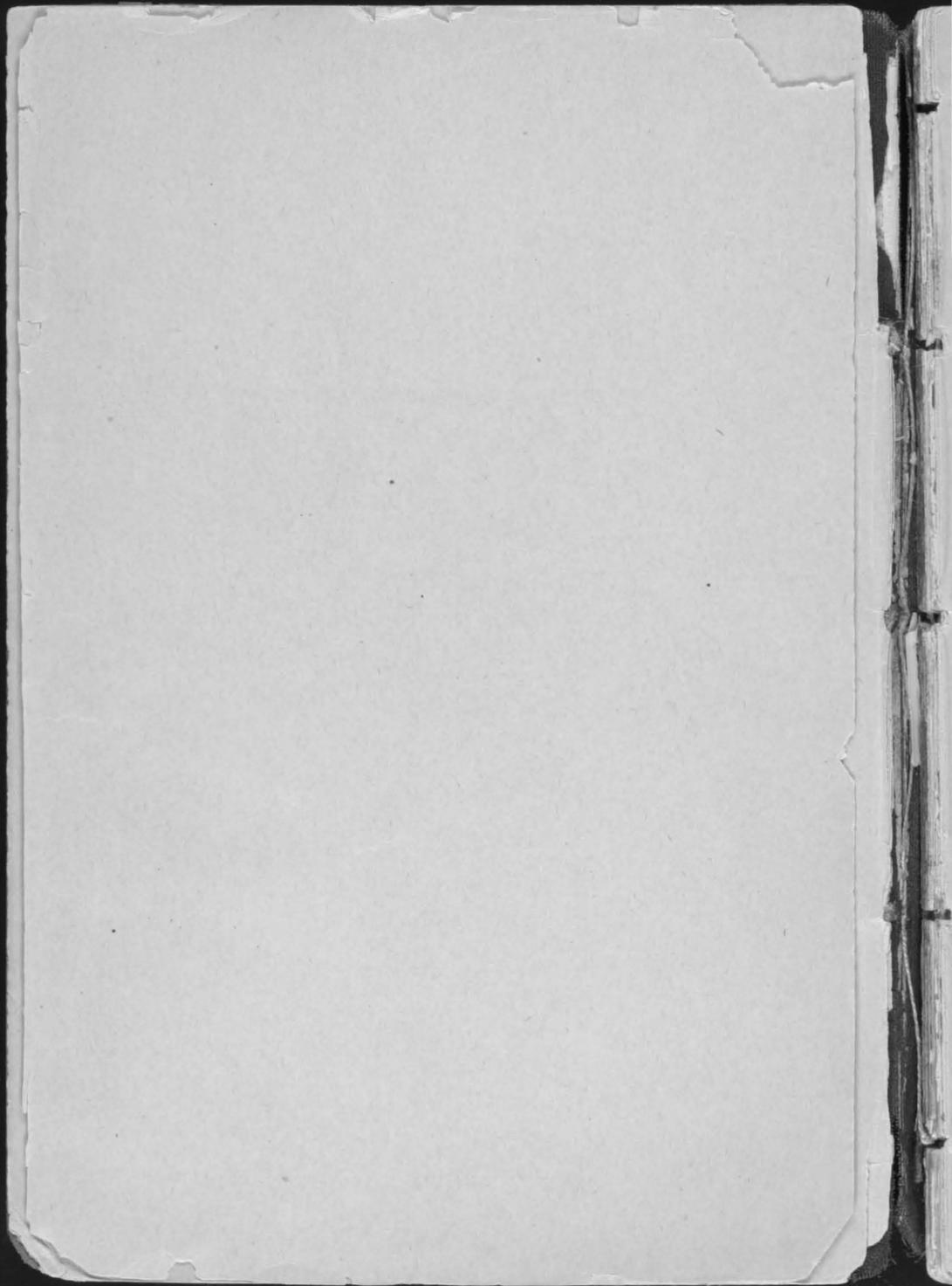




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THE
UNITED STATES
SANITARY COMMISSION

BY

HENRY W. BELLOWS, D.D.

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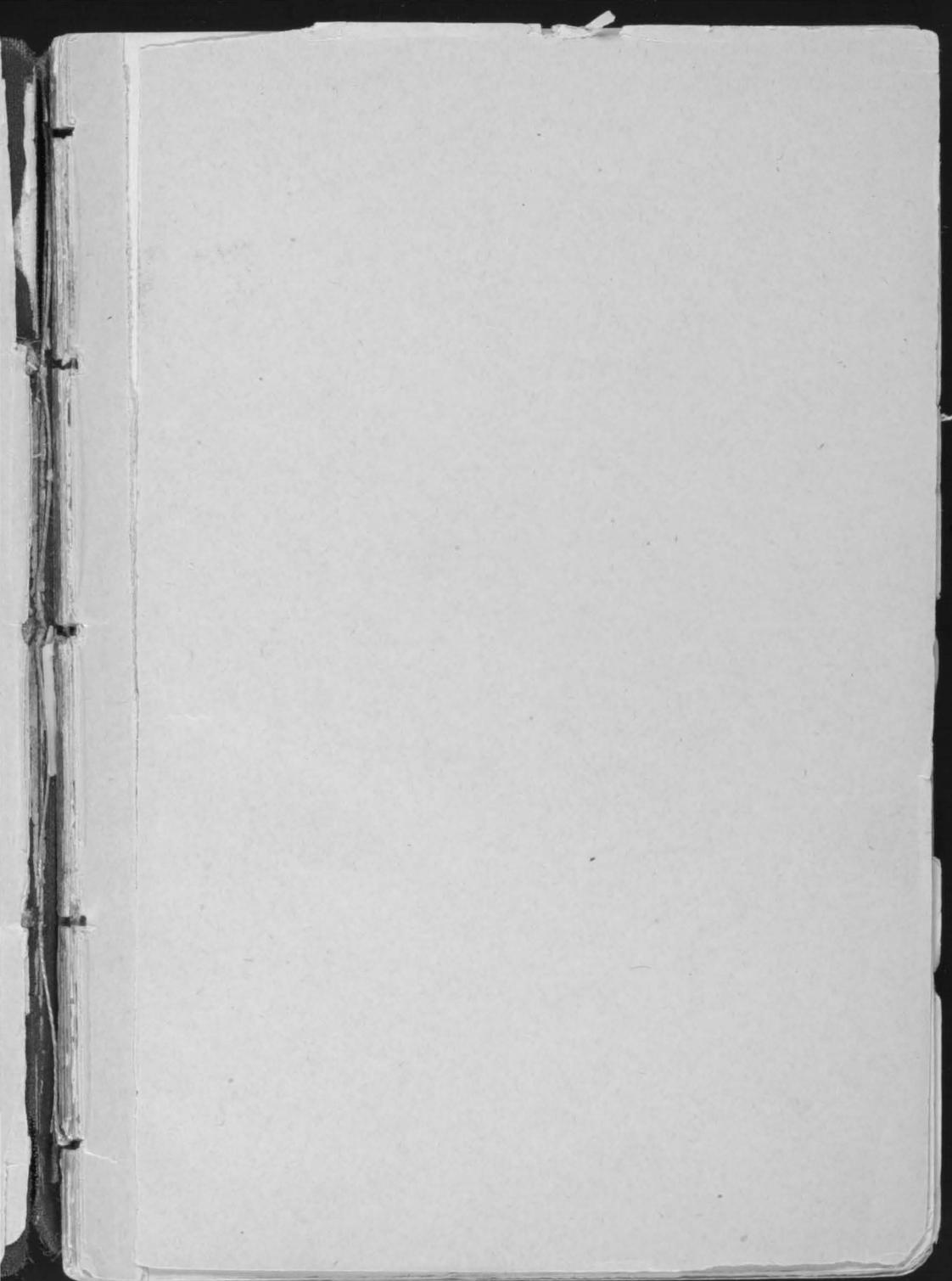
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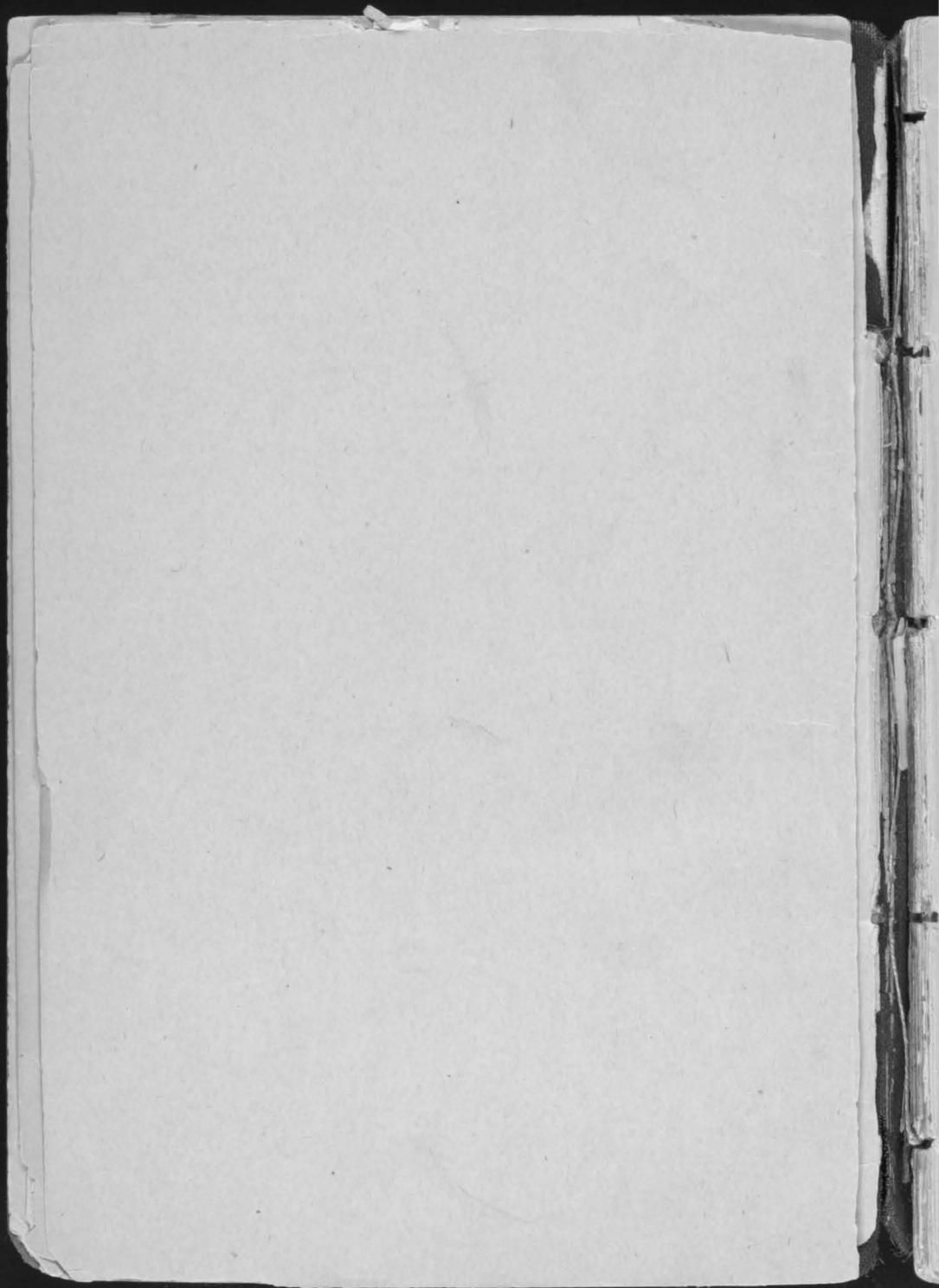
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THE UNITED STATES
SANITARY COMMISSION.

On April 15, 1861, the day on which the President's call appeared for 75,000 men, then deemed sufficient to quell the rebellion, the women of Bridgeport, Conn., organized a society with the somewhat vague idea of affording relief and comfort to the volunteers. In Charlestown, Mass., on the same day, and at Lowell, a few days after, the women of those cities formed similar societies. On April 19, the Ladies of Cleveland, O., organized an association for the care of the families of volunteers. On April 29, a public meeting, called at Cooper Union, New York, by 91 of the best-known ladies of New York, and attended by influential women from the city and its neighborhood, formed an association known as the Women's Central Relief Association of New York, in which the principles and ideas that afterward flowered into the U. S. Sanitary Commission were first promulgated. The objects of this association were to systematize the impulsive, disorderly, and uninformed sympathies and efforts of the women of

the country, so as to make effective, with the least waste of time, labor, and money, the generous and restless desire to help the young army just gathering with such supplies and protection as it was feared the government could not afford it. It is not perhaps peculiar to this country that the women are as much agitated and engrossed by the dangers and exposures incident to war as the men who are called to face them directly. But under no system of government but our own could women feel so deep a responsibility or see so ample an opportunity for supplementing the defects of the governmental care. Besides, it was felt from the first, in our late war that the very life of the country was at stake, and that the homes, the hopes, and the honor of the American nation were desperately threatened. This feeling sooner or later drew 2,500,000 different men into the field from all classes and ranks of life, and of these one eighth of all were in their 19th year, about three tenths under 21, one half under 23½, and three quarters under 29½ years of age. Perhaps the first draft of 75,000 had in it as many or more youths under 20 years as any later drafts. It is easy to understand how anxious and tender were the home-feelings that accompanied these striplings into the field. The Women's Central sent a committee* to Washington to confer with the Medical Bureau and the War department in order to learn more definitely in

* The committee consisted of Dr. W. T. Van Buren, Dr. Harsen, Dr. Harris, and the writer.

what way, with least embarrassment to the government and most help to the army, the women could serve the volunteers. This committee soon discovered, what might have been anticipated, that the regular medical machinery of the government, which had been quite adequate to deal in time of peace, or small Indian and other wars, with a little standing army, was rusty, valetudinarian, infested with routine prejudices, imperfectly awake to the situation, and very jealous of its powers, without appreciating the difficulties that were soon to overwhelm it. It became plain to the committee that no mere organization of the humane sympathies and helpful hands of the women, or even all the people that stayed at home, could meet the case; that the government, the medical bureau, the army, and the country needed to be aroused to the fact that gunshots and cannon wounds, and death from battle, were not the enemies most to be feared in the war, but the diseases of the camp, arising from private ignorance, inexperienced officers, neglected or unknown sanitary police, the recklessness of raw soldiers, and the influences of exposure, unaccustomed food, and bad cookery. It was known to the committee that the British government had saved what remained of the frightfully decimated army of the Crimea by over-riding the regular medical department with a civil commission with nearly absolute powers, which rapidly restored health and the power to achieve a successful campaign. Could a similar commission be established at the very outset of the war in advance of the necessity anticipated with too well-proven

fears, instead of after the event of fearful losses by camp-fevers, the committee felt that it would be a great triumph of reason and prudence. They accordingly presented their plan to the government, based very much on the sanitary commission of Great Britain, asking for the appointment of a scientific board, to be commissioned with ample powers for visiting all camps and hospitals, advising, recommending, and if need be, enforcing, the best-known and most approved sanitary regulations in the army.

The government not unnaturally dreaded the possible collision of such a body with the medical and military authorities, and, although feeling the force of the representations, required that the consent of the medical bureau should be obtained before such a commission was appointed. Conferences fully proved that no such consent could be gained, but that a sanitary commission of inquiry and advice, *without authority* of any kind might be endured, though it would not be welcomed, as an act of deference towards a respectable body of supposed fanatics and philanthropists, backed by a large class of anxious and sympathetic women. And in fact, after great difficulties, this was all the committee gained—the appointment of a doubtful semi-official commission, with the privilege of advising with the medical bureau, of visiting the army in the field, and of recommending to the war department such sanitary regulations and reforms as it might deem useful. The commission as compared with the British, might be said to have been born par-

alytic—to have promised nothing but a paper existence, and a speedy death after ignominious failure to fulfil any of its hopes. If it had depended on the government or the medical bureau, as it proposed to do—not for pecuniary support, but for hearty sympathy and co-operation—it would have died in its infancy. But, happily, although it did not realize it at the time, and was nearly discouraged and hopeless of the usefulness it had dared to plan out, there is a dependence in a country accustomed to self-government on public opinion and the better instincts and sympathies of the nation which in times of danger and war may be trusted, and which the U. S. Sanitary Commission soon found more than an offset to the loss of official encouragement and official powers which they had reckoned on. Without powers, without pecuniary support, without any immediate sympathy even from the people in their main object, which was scientific and preventive, they flung themselves upon the merits of their cause, and upon the secondary purpose, which was intelligible and popular, the relief of suffering and want, and went to work in faith that somehow they should effect at least a moderate amount of good, if not what they could have hoped had they been armed with governmental powers to enforce sanitary laws.

A few things became soon obvious, and guided their course :

- I. The great object of the commission must be to develop, strengthen, and support the regular medical and military authorities and methods—to stimulate the de-

partments having the supply of food, transportation, camp equipage, drainage, and incite them by kind and wholesome criticism and counsel, and by the force of public opinion, to do their utmost for the prevention of pestilence and the spread of scurvy, and the lessening of needless exposures of every kind. Any plan of taking the place of the regular authorities, of supplanting instead of supplementing their efforts, would have been as injurious to the prospects of the soldiers as offensive to the military and medical officers. The government had money, transportation, stores, and final responsibility. It was the soldier's richest, ablest and most constant friend. To make the government feel this to the utmost, and the soldiers to recognize and lean upon it, was the true policy of the Commission—never lost sight of from the beginning to the end of the war. But this was the last thing that the people at home would believe. They appreciated neither the importance of strict military discipline, the indispensable value of what is so foolishly stigmatised as *red tape*—meaning order and method—nor the utter folly of any outside or philanthropic association attempting to step in between the army and the government to meet the daily and ordinary wants of a million of men. The service the Sanitary Commission—which early understood all this—rendered the country was by standing between the army, as cared for by the government, and the country, which expected impossibilities, and proposed to take care of the army by countless State, county, and town committees, and, while defending

ilitary discipline and strictly conforming to it, pacifying the fears, and representing the solitudes of home by doing all that could be done to supplement governmental short-comings, while prompting, sustaining, and leading, if needs be, such reforms in the medical and sanitary care of the army as would make the governmental administration efficient.

2. The Sanitary Commission became very early in its history thoroughly convinced that to *prevent* evils to the health of the army was greatly more important and serviceable than to attempt to *cure* them after they appeared. It accordingly gave its attention chiefly, from first to last, to *prevention*, by a system of camp inspection and the promulgation of counsels touching the choice of camp sites, the importance of drainage and police, and the character and cooking of food. By the appointment of skilled medical inspectors it established at once an advisory and tolerably friendly relation with the surgeons of all the regiments in the field, and by supplying them with short medical and sanitary essays, and engaging them by direct personal appeal and co-inspection in the practical enforcement of hygienic and sanitary regulations, it aroused and maintained, or else supported and elevated, a general zeal in this all-important principle and plan of prevention. The surgeons of the volunteers were not seldom among the best practical physicians of the country, but they were generally of a less valuable and accomplished class of doctors. But they were usually found willing to learn, and were persistently urged and

warned of the duty to prevent sickness by the medical inspectors of the Sanitary Commission, until the intelligence and experience of the medical bureau had acquired the power of maintaining its own authority and enforcing its own enlightened policy. It is not too much to say that coaxing, instructing, and urging the regimental surgeons were for a long time more efficient in promoting the preventive service than any orders from head-quarters. But as it was the rule for the Sanitary Commission to seek admission into every department, corps, camp, or regiment from the officers in command, and to do nothing without their consent and approval, it ought to be added that by deference, patience, modesty, and tact its agents gradually overcame to a large degree the natural jealousy and distrust of the generals and officers, both military and medical, and had in most cases, if not their personal support and sympathy, their forbearing sufferance and official furtherance. There never was, there never could be, a wholly cordial relationship between a body of unofficial meddlers, who were charged with representing the sentimental feelings of the women at home, and the officers of the army, particularly the under officers. And probably it was just as well that they did not wholly coalesce. Had the military and medical officers been without jealousy or dislike of the Sanitary Commission and its agents, they might have been less active and willing to notice the defects in the service. They would have been friends, and not critics. The coldness and caution with which the government

from first to last treated the Commission, from the cabinet and the medical bureau to the generals and surgeons on the field, was a salutary restraint upon what might easily have become an ill-judged, unmilitary, and intermeddling exercise of merely domestic and popular wishes and sympathies, enervating, demoralizing, and worse than useless. It was in this attitude of suspicion, jealousy, and check that the Commission began, continued, and ended. It acquired its caution, its knowledge of war, and how to deal with army wants, its etiquette and subordination, its painstaking foresight and watchfulness of legitimate opportunities, in this chilling atmosphere, which hardened its own muscles and cooled its brain, while perhaps it only made its heart beat with a deeper and warmer pulse.

Among the *preventive* policies of the Sanitary Commission was the prevention of incompetency, inefficiency, and contracted ideas in the medical bureau. It soon took a sufficiently modest view of its own usefulness to discover that all it could render in the way of actual comforts and supplies was a miserable offset to what the army must be steadily losing by any needless ignorance, incompetency, or want of energy in the medical bureau. Doubtless in due time the government, which earlier discovered the necessity of setting aside the rule of regular succession in all the other bureaus in favor of qualifications and vigor, would have seen the necessity of putting younger blood and firmer hands and more inventive minds in charge of the medical bureau. But from its

technical nature the medical department would be the last the government would either understand or criticise. The Sanitary Commission soon concluded that the greatest service it could render the army would be to direct the attention of the government and of Congress to the necessity of reforming the *personnel* and the spirit of the medical bureau, and it had the satisfaction, at the risk of its own existence, to accomplish that vital object.

Another *preventive* measure which it inaugurated was the suggestion, and finally the erection of pavilion hospitals from its own models, designed to make contagion and pestilence less easy and fatal. Its plans, improved upon and enlarged, became the type of the great general hospitals which were erected at the base of our armies, and became such wonderful sources of relief to our sick and wounded men.

Among the earliest services of the Commission was the establishment of soldiers' homes at the chief places where new regiments were concentrating, to take care of the sick and supply the defects in the expanding but unperfected arrangements of the quartermaster's bureau for receiving them. Thousands of men arrived at Washington and Louisville hungry, sleepless, half sick, who had to wait perhaps twelve hours after leaving the cars before their quarters in camp were ready or their officers knew how to draw their rations. Temporary homes, where the sick could be sheltered and nursed, and from which whole regiments could be supplied with coffee and food, were extemporized by the Commission at or near the

railroad depots, and later developed into a complete system of soldiers' homes, in which the estrays, the men passing from the hospitals to their regiments, the convalescents, and men who had lost their papers were, through the whole war, received and tenderly cared for—to an extent which averaged about 2,000 soldiers daily for the whole four years of the war.

As soon as the capture of Fort Donelson, the Commission finding the government transportation of the sick to hospitals very rude, inadequate, and cruel, began to organize a system of hospital steamers. The several States were already doing something in the way of transporting more carefully in steamers supplied by themselves, each its own wounded men. But this discrimination was felt to be not only impolitic, but dangerous to the Federal feeling, which forbade the soldiers from bearing any less patriotic title than the common name of "national." The Commission therefore set its face against state distinctions, either in the distribution of supplies or the care of the sick and wounded. Its hospital transports were the earliest form in which it came into collision with State and local partialities, but it had a long and painful controversy with this natural but unwise and injurious prejudice through the whole war; and it always considered that one of its chief objects was to discountenance and abolish the treatment and aid of any soldiers otherwise considered than as national soldiers, each and all possessing equal claims on the care of the country and the Commission. The hospital steamers of the Commission,

supplied with every comfort, with surgeons and nurses, plied between the ports nearest to the seats of war and the nearest general hospitals, and transported in comparative comfort tens of thousands of sick and wounded men to the places where their cure was to be attempted or their sufferings made tolerable to the end.

But it was not all or most of the wounded who could enjoy the privilege of water-carriage. The cars in which the largest portion were transported were places of torture to wounded men, who were jolted over the rough roads, sitting up in their faintness or lying about the floors of freight cars. The Commission devised a sort of hospital car, in which the common stretcher upon which the wounded man was carried from the field could be converted into a hanging bed in the car. The car was so hung on gutta-percha springs as to obviate all jolting. Food, medicine, hot drinks, and surgical attendance were provided in each car, and trains of these cars were regularly run by the Commission until the system was adopted by the medical bureau and the duty transferred to the government. Dr. Elisha Harris was the inventor of the hospital car.

Supplemental Hospital Supplies.—It was a popular error through the war, and remains such since, that the main object and chief service of the Sanitary Commission was to supply the army with food, dainties, flannels, stockings and handkerchiefs over and above what the government could or would supply. Doubtless this was the original impulse in the early days when all the women of the coun-

try were excited about the "lint and bandage question ;" and certainly it was the desire to meet these supposed wants that induced the framers of the Commission to go to Washington and study the question. But the very name the committee chose for the new Commission proves that they had put the *preventive* service before the relief service in their plan, and designed to keep the supply of food and clothing and comforts quite secondary to the object of preventing sickness and suffering by teaching, urging, and enforcing, so far as their influence went, sanitary regulations. The people at home could, however, know little of, and do nothing for, the preventive service except give their money to support it ; and this they could never have been induced to do directly. The relief of actual suffering from want of food, clothing, niceties, medicine, stimulants, anybody could appreciate. Accordingly, the Commission in its home field had to organize a system of supplies, which at length became so vast and so nearly universal that the collection and distribution of these supplies stood for the whole work of the Commission in the popular judgment. The wants of the hospitals and camps very early in 1861 had exhausted 60,000 articles which the spontaneous sympathy of the homes of the country had forwarded to the Commission. By September of that year it became plain that a demand for extra food and extra clothing was going to exceed anything that the unorganized and intermittent beneficence of the people would furnish. The Commission was reluctantly forced to acknowledge that the government could not provide for the humane treatment of all its sick

soldiers in a measure likely to satisfy the homes of the land. And it was felt that the furnishing of extra supplies, if left to the impulse of different neighborhoods by different agents of their own, would become so annoying to the government and so subversive of discipline that a terrible conflict of ill-feeling would grow up, in case of a long war, between the government and the homes of the country, out of the inevitable necessity the government would feel to preserve order and exclude a rabble of well-meaning camp-followers, and the equally inevitable necessity the homes of the land would feel to make sure that no avoidable wants or suffering were allowed to fall upon the husbands, sons, and brothers who were fighting the country's battles. Moreover, the Commission saw in the lively sympathy and desire for co-operative work among the women of the country not only an opportunity for securing all the supplies required, but a means of relieving the distress, impatience, and suspense which in a long war rends the hearts of the people at home, and tends to make them unjust critics of the policy of the war or hasty in their wishes to bring it to a premature and barren end. The success the Commission had in organizing over 7000 aid societies, which offered opportunities to millions of American women to take some active share in the war, to do something personally for the comfort of the men in the field, and to feel themselves part and parcel of the national struggle, was one of its best services. It united the women in a common array, helped to federalize and nationalize public sentiment, made the war popular at home, beguiled

the impatience of mothers, wives, and sisters to recall their husbands and brothers and sons, and filled up the weary years and months with active duty instead of idle tears—with vigorous helpfulness instead of futile murmurs and longings.

The waste, the loss, the misdirection of a vast quantity of supplies for special regiments or individuals, which were entrusted to public channels of conveyance and to the care of regimental officers that could not be found, gradually made the homes of the land willing to look favorably upon a general agency like the Commission, which received no supplies having any particular designation, but held all for the general use of the national soldier. When the system of the Commission was fully explained and its pretensions and plans verified by many witnesses sent forward by local fears and jealousies to examine its work, the various aid societies began to fall in with its plan. Women's councils were convened at Washington from time to time, composed of representative women from the various centres of supplies, to agree upon plans for collecting and to explain and make acceptable plans for distributing supplies. A large body of associate members, selected men of weight and influence, was added to the Commission from the home fields to give the women the aid of their counsel, to collect money for the purchase of materials for hospital clothing, etc., and to explain and support the policy of the Commission. These associates were afterward not only the chief instigators of money contributions, but the inaugurators of the great fairs which so generously and magnificently fed the treasury of the Commission.

On Sept. 5, 1861, dépôts of supplies were established at New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Cincinnati, and Wheeling. Already central aid associations existed at Boston for New England, at New York for the State and part of New Jersey, at Philadelphia for Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Western New Jersey; in Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, in Chicago, in Iowa, and Wisconsin, for the great Western States, which throughout the war were animated by the greatest zeal and liberality.* These and other centres had each hundreds of town and village tributaries steadily pouring into their dépôts supplies of food and clothing. They arrived at the central dépôts in boxes containing often a most promiscuous assortment of old clothes and new, stockings, handkerchiefs, dried fruits, jams and jellies, cordials and wines, carpet slippers, books, combs and brushes, the combined gifts of the richer and poorer homes, the work of women's hands or the purchase of their difficult and ill-spared savings. Often they contained every blanket in a poor home which the immediate wants of the family could spare. They were most touching collections to open and behold, and often drew tears from eyes long accustomed to read the secrets of sacrifice and love which every one of them more or less vividly betrayed. These boxes were all emptied, sorted on a system, each article marked, their sorted contents

* Among the numerous devoted women who labored in the forming and directing of these auxiliaries it may be allowed without invidiousness to name Miss May and Miss Stevenson at Boston, Miss Collins and Miss Schuyler at New York, Mrs. Grier and Mrs. Moore at Philadelphia, Mrs. Rouse and Miss Brayton at Cleveland, Miss Campbell at Detroit, and Mrs. Hodge and Mrs. Livermore at Chicago.

repacked, and held subject to orders from Washington. They were shipped to any point where supplies were needed or likely to be needed, to the care of agencies established at all commanding points along the lines of active war. Agents appointed by the Commission moved about the country encouraging and forming aid societies; the *Sanitary Reporter* in the West, the *Sanitary Bulletin* in the East, kept the people freshly informed of the wants of the army and the disposition made of the stores and supplies the aid societies gave. Circulars, now from Washington to the central auxiliaries, and then from the auxiliaries to their supporting aid societies, kept each village society on the alert. The immense result of this admirably organized system secured a steady, persistent, and copious flow of supplies all through the war, which redounded to the praise of the women, who soon became, as business-like, orderly, and systematic in their administration of their own societies as the best shop-keepers. At Washington in the East, and at Louisville, Ky., in the West, were seated the great distributing offices, Washington being the office from which the administrative orders and regulations proceeded. But these offices were so remote that the Louisville office had to assume great responsibilities, and often to act without any other orders than those of its own energetic chief, Dr. John S. Newberry. Vast dépôts existed in both these cities of received supplies, kept against the wants of great battlefields, besides those which daily went forward to the order of regimental and general hospitals or to the supply of

the homes, rests, and field agencies that accompanied the various corps of the army in the field. At the call of its circulars immense quantities of potatoes, onions, and other antiscorbutics were poured into the transports and dépôts of the Commission from time to time as the army was threatened with scurvy, and frequently the Commission was able to stamp out the seeds of pestilence by its supplies of fresh vegetables. It established vast kitchen-gardens at several points, and raised by the aid of volunteer labor thousands of bushels of vegetables after the supplies of the farmers had given out and the government could obtain no potatoes or onions.

It remains to show how these supplies were distributed. The word "relief," as used by the Sanitary Commission, was a technical term and embraced several distinct modes. Thus, the work of relief was *general* and *special*. *General* relief concerned the wants of the inmates of general, field, and regimental hospitals, and of men in the camp and on the march; *special* relief, the care of sick and needy soldiers in or near military dépôts, discharged men, paroled prisoners, and that vast class of sufferers known as "soldiers in irregular circumstances"—*i.e.* having no legal claim upon the ordinary provisions of the government. Another distinct form of relief was *battle-field relief*. In administering this relief the Commission was studious not to weaken the efficiency of the regular sources of relief by any gratuitous superfluity. First, the need must be plain; second, some satisfactory explanation must be given of the cause of the need; and third,

a voucher from the surgeon showing that he had called for aid. These rules seem strict, but any looser ones would have made the Commission a curse to the army and not a blessing, as it proved.

The principles of distribution being settled, the machinery by which the gifts of the people reached the soldier, and the means adopted for estimating his needs, may be described. To each army sent on a distant expedition, and generally to each column of the main armies operating in Virginia and in the South-west, was assigned an inspector with a competent staff known as relief agents. This corps was permanently attached to, and accompanied, the army as an integral part of its organization. It had its own *dépôt* of supplies. The Commission owned wagons and horses, and had steamboats under its orders; and one or the other accompanied each corps loaded with supplies. The inspector, always a medical man, had it for his business to visit constantly the hospitals within his field of duty, to notice and advise with the surgeons in charge touching all wants, dangers, and defects in the government service, and to furnish such supplies as the surgeons were willing to ask in due form. The Commission, thanks to the generosity of the country, was never wanting in the means of meeting these demands. Whether it were hospital clothing and diet for the Army of the Potomac, or antiscorbutics for Gen. Rosecrans' army before Chattanooga, or Gen. Grant's before Vicksburg, or Gen. Gilmore's army on Morris Island requiring 400 tons of ice to make its unwholesome water drinkable, the Com-

mission did not fail to meet the occasion. Relief on this vast scale in all departments of the army was the regular daily business of the Commission, and it was reduced to such a system, and the machinery so perfected, that it became at last as easy to deal with troops in Texas as with those in Northern Virginia. Of course, it was easier to deal with hospitals at the base of military operations than with the wants of remote field and regimental hospitals; but with six relief agents in the Army of the Potomac alone, with wagons and horses and men to carry out their orders and purposes, with a base of supplies to meet their calls central to their several posts, and with a great dépôt at Washington with means of communication of its own with the field-base, the system worked with wonderful success.

Of course, the character of the agents was of primary importance. The Commission would not receive any agents who would not pledge themselves for a lengthened, definite period of service, nor put any one in a responsible place until disciplined and prepared by a subordinate service. The agents were all instructed and drilled in the principles and requirements of the Commission, and were brought as nearly under military discipline as this special service would allow. They were promoted or degraded as they won or lost the confidence of their superiors. After trying the volunteer plan for a brief season the Commission found it dearer than the plan of wages, and it was fortunate in possessing the means of hiring a choice body of agents, at a moderate compensation each, whom

it could command and treat with the discipline to which unpaid agents would not submit. These men had their badges of office, and were known and respected in the army as no masters of their own time and ways could possibly have been. Whenever peculiar circumstances compelled the Commission to accept temporarily the volunteer services of men who worked for love only, they found that after a brief spurt of service under fearful pressure of battles and wounds they could not rely upon any patient continuance in the exhausting, often dreary, routine-work required from their agents. By its system of giving about the pay of army surgeons to its inspectors it secured the best services of the best men. In battle-field emergencies it accepted any volunteer aid that offered, and it was often most effective.

Battle-field Relief.—The unexpected circumstances of place, time, and preparation under which great battles take place necessarily expose the wounded to sufferings which no foresight of the regular authorities of the army and government can fully provide against. It was one of the main purposes and constant efforts of the Sanitary Commission, by studying the situation of our armies and the probabilities of their collision with the enemy, to place their own stores and relief corps where in case of change of strategy or accident they might be ready to supply the wants of the wounded or supplement the deficient or baffled preparations of the medical and the quartermaster's bureaus. The medical department, having no independent transportation, often suffered from the

inevitable preoccupation of the quartermaster's department with the more urgent duty of forwarding military stores. The Sanitary Commission, as one of its chief means of usefulness, had wagons and horses of its own—often forty 4-horse teams at a time—and this enabled it at periods when transportation of medical stores was most embarrassed to forward medical and sanitary supplies to the seats of immediate battle far in advance of the medical department. After Antietam (Sept. 17, 1862) nearly 10,000 of our own wounded, besides many of the enemy's, were left, an immense proportion of the whole, shelterless in the woods and fields, without any adequate supply of surgeons, and with not a tenth part of needed medical stores, which were locked up in the block of the railroad between Baltimore, the base of supply, and the battle-field. A wagon-train loaded with medical stores had, however, been sent forward from the Sanitary Commission daily for some time to meet this anticipated difficulty. For four days the medical director received no government supplies, and the wounded were mainly dependent meanwhile on the stores of the Commission. Within one week after the battle the Sanitary Commission had distributed by its agents on the field "28,763 pieces of dry goods—shirts, towels, bed-ticks, pillows, etc.—,30 barrels of old linen bandages and lint, 3128 pounds of farina, 2620 pounds of condensed milk, 5000 pounds of beef-stock and canned meats, 3000 bottles of wine and cordials, several tons of lemons and other fruit, crackers, tea, sugar, rubber cloth, tin cups, and

other conveniences." It had succeeded in transporting from the purveyor's office in New York to the dépôt at Frederick 4000 sets of hospital clothing and 120 bales of blankets. This must serve as a sample. At Perryville, Ky., the same services were rendered; at Gettysburg, on a vastly larger scale. An auxiliary relief corps, supplementary to the field relief corps (always continued), was organized in May, 1864, to look after the wounded left behind in hospitals as the army moved on. It was designed to secure personal ministrations to the wounded by chosen men responsible to a superintendent; to meet the wounded, as they were carried in ambulances, with proper food and stimulants and secure them tender carriage; to assist in carrying them to the hospitals, and there look after their comfort; to meet both their physical and moral wants; to write letters home; to provide them with reading and consolation. This corps, sometimes over a hundred and fifty in number, was composed usually of educated men, and sometimes of refined women, frequently of ministers of religion, and always of humane and self-consecrated persons. This corps established "feeding stations" to meet the long trains of ambulances, full of famishing wounded, *en route* to hospitals. At Belle Plain and Fredericksburg, after the battles of the Wilderness, they rendered great services to humanity and performed all the duties of skilled nurses. This corps had its martyrs; *e. g.* William Wilson, treacherously shot by guerillas during his efforts to promote this humane service; Charles H. Stanley;

Prof. Hadley (of the Union Theological Seminary); Mrs. Barlow, wife of Maj.-Gen. Barlow; and Miss Gilson, perhaps the flower of female heroism and devotion in the whole service.

It may be stated, as an evidence of the sagacity, enterprise, and comprehensiveness of the plans for battle-field relief, that of nearly or about 700 battles or bloody skirmishes in the whole war, it is estimated that the Sanitary Commission was present by its agents and stores at about 600.

Special Relief Service.—Besides an elaborate machinery of hospital visitors, field relief corps, and auxiliary relief corps, there was required, as experience revealed, a very large ministration to men, without any fault of their own, in what may be called "irregular circumstances," put beyond the reach of ordinary government or army care. Early in the war new regiments, often under incompetent officers, arrived at Washington and other centres with sick men and exhausted soldiers, compelled to walk many miles to their camps, with no government provision of food for them at dépôts. The Sanitary Commission at once established near the principal dépôts "soldiers' homes," where weak and sick men could be temporarily received, restored to health, and forwarded to camp. This was the beginning of what became a great and costly service of *special relief*. Its several objects were—(1) to supply the sick men of arriving regiments with medicines, food, and care at periods of confusion and under circumstances when they could not

be obtained "regularly;" (2) to furnish lodgings, food, and furtherance to soldiers honorably discharged from service or dismissed from general hospitals or from their regiments, but delayed on their way by inability to procure their papers and pay; (3) to communicate with distant regiments in behalf of discharged men and obtain their corrected papers and pay when too sick or weak to go in person; (4) to act as unpaid attorneys for soldiers too feeble to present their own claims at the paymaster's; (5) to aid discharged men without means, if worthy, to reach their homes; (6) to protect disabled soldiers from swindlers in the shape of ticket-agents and sharpers on their way home, procuring them railroad tickets at reduced rates, etc.; (7) to see that discharged and paid men started for home before being seduced into squandering their pay; (8) to make reasonably clean and comfortable before leaving for home discharged soldiers reduced by misfortune and sickness to self-neglect; (9) to meet at once with food and other aid the necessities of sick men forwarded in large numbers from battle-fields or distant hospitals; (10) to keep a watchful eye upon all soldiers out of hospital, but not yet in service, and prevent desertion and avoidance of duty. Important soldiers' homes and lodges were established at Boston, Hartford, New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Cairo, Chicago, Louisville, Nashville, Memphis, and New Orleans. Forty homes and lodges, in short, were sustained by the Sanitary Commission in its broad field, reaching from Washington to Brownsville, Tex., and from Louis-

ville, Ky., to Port Royal, S. C. Over 4,500,000 meals and over 1,000,000 nights' lodgings were thus supplied, and \$2,500,000 of soldiers' wages were collected by the Sanitary Commission. The care of wounded men *en route* was one of the most valuable services of this special relief department; at one time 8000 men were fed for two days by this department.

Convalescent camps—immense establishments found necessary by government—were one of the chief spheres into which the special relief corps penetrated. 200,000 men passed through the one in the rear of Alexandria. The Commission placed a wonderful woman, Miss Amy Bradley, at the head of its volunteer labors in the camp, where for two and a half years she and her assistants rendered incalculable service—(1) in distributing clothing among the needy; (2) procuring dainties for the sick; (3) accompanying discharged soldiers to Washington and assisting them in obtaining their papers and pay; (4) furnishing paper and postage and writing letters home for the sick; (5) forwarding money home by drafts that cost nothing to the soldier; (6) answering letters of inquiry to hospital directors; (7) securing certificates of arrears of pay and getting erroneous charges of desertion removed (the Commission saved several innocent soldiers from being shot as condemned deserters); (8) distributing reading matter; (9) telegraphing the friends of very ill soldiers; (10) furnishing meals to feeble soldiers in barracks who could not eat the regulation food. Miss Bradley assisted 2200 men to

secure arrears of pay amounting to \$200,000. Prisoners of war, while in prison and when released by general exchange, were largely and promptly relieved and comforted by this department. Rev. Frederick N. Knapp was the leading spirit in this whole special relief service, and organized and controlled it with masterly zeal, humanity, and success.

The Hospital Directory.—This was an organized effort to tabulate and keep the run of the names of all private soldiers who passed through the general hospitals, so that the soldier's friends could follow him, know where he lay, if he lived or died, and what became of him when out of hospital. The central office at Washington was opened to the public Nov. 27, 1862; branches were soon established at Philadelphia, Louisville, and New York. Returns were constantly received at the central office from 233 general hospitals, with the names of their shifting occupants and such hints about their condition and changes of place as were most important. The hospital directory contained in its four offices the names of over 600,000 men, with the latest information procurable in regard to the condition of each one of them. Agents of the directory accompanied the supply agents to the battle-field the moment battle had ceased, to find out the names of the wounded, and to assure them that information should at once be sent to their friends. The method of the hospital directory was simple but efficient. Applicants for missing men or men not heard from at home communicated the name, rank, and regiment of

the person inquired for, and the place he had been last heard from. With this clue he was followed through the book and hospitals by the agents, and 70 per cent. of all such inquiries were successfully answered. This service was unspeakably grateful to the people at home; none received higher praise. An immense number of great ledgers, still preserved in the archives of the Commission, attests the strength of this work.

Pension Bureau and War-Claim Agency.—This agency, free of all cost to soldiers, was designed to obviate the ignorance or inefficiency, or want of strength to win their own way or to secure correct papers, among thousands of soldiers passing through the homes and lodges of the Commission. Delay and exposure often increased the illness of feeble applicants. The Sanitary Commission established a lodge just opposite the paymaster's office, and spread a table at which 50 invalid soldiers were sometimes seen seated together, comfortably waiting their turn at the paymaster's. After the war closed this bureau expanded into a claim-agency for soldiers, widows, and orphans, by which about 57,000 claims were put in proper shape, missing testimony secured, and \$7,500,000 collected at a saving of half a million of cost to the soldiers—claims which could probably never have been carried through the government offices if not thus assisted, or at only too late a period to be serviceable.

War against Scurvy.—The first appearance of symptoms of scurvy in the armies of the Tennessee and the Cumberland led the Sanitary Commission to make an

urgent call on the farmers of the North-west for a gratuitous supply of vegetables. Within a month 15,000 bushels were gathered without cost from a region where the government had been unable to purchase any, and were sent forward to the army, largely meeting the exigency and driving out the disease. Eight barrels of potatoes a day were furnished by the Sanitary Commission to each field hospital, besides other vegetables, pickels, sauer-kraut, etc. To keep up the supply after the farmers' stores had given out, the Commission established *hospital gardens* at Murfreesboro', Nashville, Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Newberne, from which abundant fresh vegetables were drawn for the sick and convalescent and for many other soldiers. At Vicksburg, where the soldiers were depressed by the long delay, the climate, and the crowded condition of boats and barracks, Dr. Newberry, the distinguished representative of the Commission at Louisville and head of the Western department, pushed constant supplies, by the hearty co-operation of Gen. Grant, into the camp, and furnished a large part of the comforts and luxuries that reached the sick and the desponding. His services and those of Dr. Warriner were of the highest value in fighting off the symptoms of scurvy and typhoid by extra supplies of sanitary food and antiscorbutics. After the fall of Vicksburg the Pittsburg, Cleveland, and Cincinnati branches of the Sanitary Commission, Davenport, Ia., Quincy and Alton, Ill., N w Albany, Ind., Louisville, Ky., Chicago, all vied with each other in supplying the

agents of the Commission with boatloads of stores for the heroes who had achieved so difficult a victory. The following list will show the nature and the amount of the articles issued from the Sanitary Commission dépôt at or near Vicksburg to the army of the Tennessee during the four months ending Sept. 1, 1863: Groceries, 2360 pounds; wines and liquors, 2833 bottles; butter, 5839 pounds; apple-butter, 30 gallons; eggs, 2476 dozen; pickels, 5409 gallons; molasses, 85 gallons; potatoes, 7596 bushels; ale and cider, 3139 gallons; ice, 47,367 pounds; crackers, 26,517 pounds; codfish, 13,593 pounds; corn meal, 2485 pounds; tea, 1589 pounds; relishes, 662 bottles; lemons, 25,200; hospital furniture, 2162 articles; fans, 4700; crutches, 65 pairs; mattresses, 199; spices, 2690 papers; comforts, 2429; pillows, 4357; sheets, 9029; drawers, 13,230 pairs; farina, 2125 pounds; sago, etc., 2125 pounds; bed-sacks, 1121; pillow-cases, 6511; shirts, 7909; dressing-gowns, 746; socks, 4218 pairs; slippers, 1504 pairs; bandages, 50 bands; fruit, 7330 cans; dried fruit, 45,208 pounds; dried beef, 1496 pounds; condensed milk, 11,282 cans. The hospitals at Memphis, Vicksburg, Natchez, Helena, Duval's Bluff, Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Brownsville, and Fort Smith were supplied from the steamer Dunleith in the hands of the Sanitary Commission, which constantly refilled at the storehouse at Cairo, from the stores furnished by the branches in the Northwest, distributed its cargo to the naval vessels on the White and Arkansas rivers, and relieved the ports they visited, if not always adequately, yet to a most serviceable degree.

In June, 1863, the Army of the Cumberland set out to take Chattanooga over a barren region, mountainous and ill-inhabited, a poor railroad, held by the enemy, the only communication between Murfreesboro' and Chattanooga, except by dangerous wagon-roads. Gen. Rosecrans had about 80,000 effective men, 22,000 artillery horses, 3000 private horses, 36,000 mules, requiring immense supplies of forage. All the food for men and horses had to be brought from Louisville, 300 miles away, and 3000 freight cars were required to do this business. Of course, the medical supplies had to be greatly limited. Rosecrans's lines of communication with his base were several times interrupted by the enemy's temporary successes. By the course of events the Army of the Cumberland became blockaded at Chattanooga, and it is easy to see how limited its means became of relieving the 10,000 wounded men left on its hands after the battle of Chickamauga. For a month, and until the enemy were driven by Gens. Hooker and W. J. Smith from Lookout Mountain, the whole army lived on the scanty wagon supply accompanying its march and intended only for a few days' use; 10,000 mules died of starvation; starvation was imminent for the men, and retreat for a time seemed the only safety. The medical department was greatly embarrassed in its service. A portion of the sanitary train (of which 17 wagon-loads had been intercepted and destroyed by the enemy in the Sequatchie Valley) managed to get through—seven wagons loaded with condensed milk, beef stock,

rags, bandages, and hospital clothing—and reached Chattanooga with the first army-train which arrived there. Three more wagons afterward got through. These ten wagon-loads constituted almost the whole dependence of the hospitals until the Tuesday and Wednesday succeeding the battle. To provide for the necessities of the wounded in crossing the mountains from Chattanooga to Stevenson, where the *dépôt* of the Sanitary Commission was, the Commission established a feeding station midway on the route of the ambulances, which administered most needy relief to the many wounded wayfarers. The following winter in this army was one of necessary repose, chiefly from lack of means of transportation. The chief peril of the waiting troops was from scurvy and chronic diarrhœa, due to the character of their food. To combat this enemy the Commission made desperate efforts to improve the diet of the whole army. During the month of January, 1864, there were distributed from the single *dépôt* at Nashville 3423 bushels of potatoes, 157 bushels of onions, 8742 gallons of sauer-kraut, 1969 gallons of pickles, 13,662 pounds of dried fruit, etc.—all antiscorbutics. The hospital gardens established at Chattanooga by the Commission aided materially in the following months in improving the diet of the army. The estimated value of the vegetables thus furnished from April 15 to Nov. 14, 1864, was (at Chattanooga) \$66,375.70. The beleaguered forces of Gen. Burnside at Knoxville had the same close attention of the Sanitary Commission.

In the rear of the active campaigners was a large force

requiring hardly less attention ; and feeding stations and ministrations to the great hospitals, and aid in easing the transportation of the wounded, sometimes for hundreds of miles, from field or regimental hospitals to a general hospital, were the ordinary forms of service. The hospital car on india-rubber springs, which one of the commissioners, Dr. Elisha Harris, had invented and perfected, was multiplied and put to constant use in transporting the wounded long distances, and gave an aggregate of immense relief to the agonies of thousands of wounded men. In the great hospitals at Nashville, where Rev. Mr. Ingraham and Judge Root were the visitors of the Commission (100,000 men in six months passed through them), immense personal services were rendered, material and moral, to the sick and wounded from the store-rooms of the Commission ; from supplies of delicacies for the use of the "light-diet kitchens," where ladies cooked and distributed them ; from supply-hospital visitors to hospitals and camps, seeking out cases requiring special care ; in supplying State agents and agents of the Christian Commission with the means of meeting the calls of their clients ; and in supplying soldiers' homes and hospital trains with what they lacked after the government had furnished what it could. This lasted until good and sufficient stores and care from the regular authorities were rendered possible by full communication and a more complete order and system.

The Commission then resolved to throw its energies into preparations for Sherman's army in its campaign for

the capture of Atlanta. Before it began, 3000 barrels of vegetables and large supplies of condensed milk, beef, stimulants, under-clothing, and bandages were sent to Chattanooga, and from early in May to the close of July about 100 tons a week of additional stores were forwarded. Our army established over 300 hospitals of a rude kind in the woods on its devious and protracted way. Each one of these hospitals was visited by agents of the Commission, and no less than twenty-four wagon-loads of sanitary stores were distributed close to the line of battle during the ten days before the railroad at Ackworth was reached by the army. At feeding stations in the rear more than 17,000 meals were furnished up to July 14.

Throughout the whole West the affairs of the Sanitary Commission had been managed so prudently that the generals in the field, from Gens. Grant and Sherman down to their lowest subordinates, were on the most friendly and confidential relations with its agents, and did their utmost by army orders and personal labor to aid and advance their humane work. This was seldom as true in the East.

It would be only to repeat the same story, with variations to suit other circumstances, if we went to the Army of the Potomac and followed it to the heights opposite Fredericksburg, and saw the work of the Commission there. This army was much better supplied, it is true. Still, the medical officers welcomed, in the distress caused by an unexpected snowstorm early in December,

the supply, which could not elsewhere be had, of 1800 blankets, 900 quilts, 5270 woollen shirts, 4439 pairs of woollen drawers, and 4270 pairs of woollen stockings. The wounded after the battle of Fredericksburg were swiftly removed by rail to Acquia Creek, where the Sanitary Commissioners at once established at the landing "a feeding and relief station," where on the first night of its existence over 600 men were fed and cared for. After the defeat at Chancellorsville the wounded probably suffered more than on any occasion in the war, as not only the regular medical service, but the supplementary service of the Sanitary Commission, was baffled by the fortunes of war. The Sanitary Commission agents accompanied the army on its forced marches to Gettysburg, its wagons continually replenished from Washington, and its supplies freely given to surgeons' orders during all the skirmishes, fatigues, and privations of that midsummer march. The most extensive preparations were made by the Commission to meet the wants of the impending crisis, the inevitable and perhaps final conflict of two equal armies—100,000 men on either side. Experienced officers were sent to Frederick, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Harrisburg, and a systematic daily communication kept up between them and the agents with the army, while supplies were accumulated and concealed at different points near to the expected field of battle. In the early conflicts of the two armies, on July 1 and 2, many of our men were wounded, and the surgeons received prompt assistance from two wagon-

loads of sanitary supplies which had reached Cemetery Hill the night before. The hospitals of the 1st, 2d, 3d, 5th, 11th, and 12th corps were very materially aided from these stores on this first day of a general engagement. The empty wagons were at once sent back to Fredericksburg and reloaded—one to return *via* Westminster, the other by the direct route. Dr. McDonald, in charge, and Rev. Mr. Scandlin, one of the most effective Sanitary Commission agents, with two laboring men in the service, were captured by the cavalry of the retreating rebels, marched to Richmond, and confined for months in Libby Prison. At this very hour the Sanitary Commission was taking care of men from the rebel side with just as much tenderness as of its own troops; and this it did always when the enemy's wounded fell into our hands. Before railroad communication between Gettysburg and the North was restored, the first and most pressing wants of the wounded had been materially relieved by the energy with which the Sanitary Commission forced its supplies forward by its independent transportation. When communication by rail was fully established, the Commission poured its stores into Gettysburg in immense amounts. Large quantities of fresh provisions were sent every day from Philadelphia in "refrigerating cars." The following table will give some notion of the relief the people sent to Gettysburg, during the ten days succeeding the battle, through the hands of the Sanitary Commission. Each morning the supply-wagons of the division and corps hospitals

were at the doors of the Sanitary Commission storehouse, and went away laden with what was needed. If the stores asked for were not on hand they were telegraphed for, and by the next train arrived and were delivered. The personal services rendered in the hospitals to sick and dying men, to men waiting amputation, to men forwarded by rail and fed on the way by its agents, were enormous and indispensable.

TABLE OF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE SANITARY COMMISSION AT GETTYSBURG IN THE TEN DAYS SUCCEEDING THE BATTLE.

<i>Articles of Sustenance.</i>		Catsup, jars	42
		Vinegar, bottles	24
Fresh poultry and mutton, pounds	11,000	Jamaica ginger, jars	43
Fresh butter, pounds	6,400	Tobacco, pounds	100
Eggs, dozen	8,500	Indian meal, pounds	1,621
Fresh garden vegetables, bushels	675	Starch, "	1,074
		Codfish, "	3,848
Fresh berries, bushels	48	Canned fruit, cans	582
Fresh bread, loaves	12,900	Canned oysters, cans	72
Ice, pounds	20,000	Brandy peaches, jars	302
Concentrated beef-soup, lbs.	3,800	<i>Articles of Clothing.</i>	
Concentrated milk, pounds	12,500	Drawers (woollen) No.	5,310
Prepared farinaceous food, pounds	7,000	" (cotton) "	1,833
Dried fruit, pounds	3,500	Shirts (woollen) "	7,158
Jellies and conserves, jars	2,000	" (cotton) "	3,266
Tamarinds, gallons	750	Pillows, "	2,144
Lemons, boxes	116	Pillow-cases, "	264
Oranges "	46	Bed-sacks, "	1,630
Coffee, pounds	850	Blankets, "	1,007
Chocolate "	831	Sheets, "	274
Tea, "	426	Wrappers, "	508
White sugar, "	6,800	Handkerchiefs, "	2,659
Syrups, bottles	785	Stockings (woollen) pairs	3,560
Brandy "	1,250	" (cotton) "	2,258
Whisky "	1,168	Bed-pans, No.	728
Wine "	1,148	Towels and napkins, "	10,000
Ale, gallons	600	Sponges, "	2,300
Biscuits, crackers, and rusks, barrels	134	Combs, "	1,500
Preserved meats, pounds	500	Buckets, "	200
Preserved fish "	3,600	Soap (castile) pounds	250
Pickles, gallons	400	Oil Silk, yards	300
		Tin basins and cups, No.	7,000
		Old linen, barrels	110

Water-tanks, No.	7	Lanterns, No.	180
Water-coolers, "	46	Candles, pounds	350
Bay rum and cologne, bottles	225	Canvas, square yards	300
Fans, No.	3,500	Mosquito-netting, pieces	648
Chloride of lime, barrels	11	Paper, quires	237
Shoes and slippers, pairs	4,000	Pants, coats, and hats, pieces	189
Crutches, pairs	1,200	Plaster, rolls	16

Want of space compels us to pass rapidly over the work of the Commission in the battles of the Wilderness, never perhaps so laborious and effective: By two steam-boats, two barges, and forty-four 4-horse wagons of its own it conveyed 200 tons of stores to advantageous points, while it employed 200 relief agents in personal services to the wounded. From May 3 to 12, the Union army suffered a loss of 3300 killed and 30,000 wounded, and the Sanitary Commission was busy in aiding the humane and efficient Dr. Cuyler, medical director, in the work of assuaging their sufferings. At Port Royal, White House, and City Point their work went on equally efficiently. The money required by the Sanitary Commission during the months of May and June to supplement the supply for the wants of the army of Virginia alone amounted to \$515,000. Morris Island, Olustee, and Newberne, owing to the marshy character of the soil, required and received special attention from the Commission in seeking to drive off the effects of malarious poisons; and Gen. Gilmore would willingly testify to the efficient service of Dr. Marsh and his assistants of the Sanitary Commission in sustaining the health of his troops before Charleston, S. C. At and after the terrible siege of Fort Wagner the Commission rendered immense

help by its antiscorbutics, ice, and other comforts, so that its flag was saluted by the grateful regiments as they passed its station. Its agents were specially fortunate in supplying the wants of the troops after the unexpected battle of Olustee in Florida, where a terrible deficiency existed in the medical supplies of the government. Gen. Burnside's army in North Carolina, from the character of the soil and climate there, suffered from scurvy, and was attacked at Newberne and Beaufort with yellow fever. Every one of the Sanitary Commission agents, except Dr. Page, was prostrated with the fever. Dr. Hand, the medical director, showed himself a hero in the danger, but he was most zealously supported by the Sanitary Commission inspector, Dr. Page, and together they conquered the pestilence at the risk of their lives, and principally by means of a reorganization of the board of health, with 300 negroes set to work to purify the town. In the department of the Gulf the work of the Sanitary Commission was admirably administered by Dr. Crane and Dr. G. A. Blake, who continued at New Orleans until the close of the war, doing most efficient service. Dr. Newberry sent down cargo after cargo of vegetable food to Dr. Blake, who distributed it among the garrisons at isolated points on the Gulf, the Red River, and to posts in Texas.

Special inspection of hospitals was one of the duties undertaken by the Sanitary Commission. It organized a corps of sixty physicians and surgeons of assured position, under Dr. Henry G. Clark of Boston as inspector-

in-chief, who visited all the general hospitals in the country, and reported in a thorough and exhaustive manner (in 2500 folio pages) by the month of May, 1863 to the medical committee of the Sanitary Commission, consisting of Dr. W. H. Van Buren, Dr. C. R. Agnew, and Dr. Wolcott Gibbs, who prepared the instructions under which Dr. Clark and his corps acted. The object was to obtain such information in regard to the practical management of the hospitals as might furnish suggestions to the surgeon-general for improvements in the system. What effective aid the Commission offered it might be invidious to the excellent government administrators of the hospitals to state. But it is certain that our army hospital system attained an excellence never reached in any country before; and it is lamentable that the lessons it learned and taught have been since so generally disregarded in the hospital buildings erected by civilians, which are almost without exception discreditable to the medical science and art of the country. It is almost impossible to find now in civil use what is known abroad with honor and admiration as "the American hospital;" and this is a disgrace to our intelligence and humanity.

Bureau of Vital Statistics.—The most scientific and permanently valuable part of the work of the Sanitary Commission was its early-begun and persistently-continued efforts to collect, tabulate, and turn to account such returns as a system of careful inspection could supply touching the effects of applied and neglected hy-

giene, of diet, of long marching and heavy equipment, of tent and fixed hospitals; the mortality of young recruits; the influence of climate, age, drill, nationality, of previous occupations, or state of education upon soldiers; the height, weight, strength, and force of the enlisted men. Of camp inspections 1482 were received, representing about 870 regiments. These, conducted according to very careful forms prepared in the bureau, were, after being filled by the inspectors, all tabulated and grouped in a way to convey very valuable information to the Commission in its efforts to correct abuses and soften hardships and dangers. But a vast amount of facts of not immediate practical use, but of great scientific value, were collected by the bureau in matters of profound interest to students of anthropology, to life insurance, and to the whole science of vital statistics; which are either already available in Dr. B. A. Gould's really precious report, or can be examined in the archives of the Commission, arranged for preservation in the Astor Library. Mr. Frederick L. Olmsted, the fertile, thorough, and accurate first general secretary of the Sanitary Commission, to whom the executive management was for two years so judiciously confided by the board, did few things greater in his term of office than the inauguration of the bureau of vital statistics; his report of the statistics of the battle of Bull Run was the first scientific attempt to generalize the causes of our disaster; it began the work which was enlarged under Mr. E. B. Elliott, Mr. T. J. O'Connell, and finally still

more effectively under Dr. Gould, until the bureau of vital statistics became one of the most creditable and one of the most fruitful portions of the work of the Sanitary Commission. Its reports have made it known to the whole scientific world, and probably it has added more new and valuable facts to the science of vital statistics than any one contribution at any time.

Financial History of the Commission.—The earliest call for aid published by the Commission was June 21, 1861, in two brief papers—one addressed to the people at large, the other to life insurance companies. It received from all sources up to Sept. 1, \$13,630, a sum soon exhausted, and with grave uncertainty whether it could be renewed. Up to March 28, 1862, the Commission had received only \$53,720, while its expenses were continually increasing, and, if it went on, must evidently increase rapidly and in a greater ratio. In March, 1862, it looked as if the Sanitary Commission must disband for want of funds, but its board were resolute to try the experiment to the last gasp of their strength. The services of the Commission in its hospital transport system, which cost it \$20,000 per month (although the hire of its steamers was paid by the government), began to tell upon the public, and at the darkest moment money came flowing in, in comparatively small sums, but from a wide number of contributors, almost all convinced by their own observation or experience of the services the Commission was rendering. The financial infancy of the Commission ended in Sept., 1862. Till that time it had lived from hand to mouth, never

sure of a month's continued solvency. The treasurer reported at the ninth session of the board that its receipts to Sept. 10, 1862, had been \$158,501. Thus far its receipts had been chiefly from New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, but now they began to come in from all parts of the country; and either in money or valuable supplies they became considerable. But it was the munificence of California and the Pacific States following her lead that first made a great impression on the public of the needs and possibilities of the Commission. California and her sisters, remotest from the war and least able to contribute men, indulged their patriotism and gave relief to their pent-up sympathies with the national cause by pouring out their money like water. And, fortunately for the Commission and the country, they adopted the Sanitary Commission as their almoner. The first glorious contribution from California of \$100,000, by telegraph dated San Francisco, Sept. 19, 1862, was the making and saving of the Sanitary Commission. Supplies had been coming in out of all proportion to the money necessary to move and distribute them. The more the commission received of goods to aid the soldier, the more embarrassed it was for money to forward and apply them. But this splendid thing done for the soldiers by distant California, the first in magnitude and in power of surprise, awoke a general enthusiasm. Only fourteen days later California sent another donation of equal amount, and from that date its donations to the Sanitary Commission became systematic and av-

eraged probably \$30,000 per month while the war lasted! From that date, after every great battle, money and supplies came pouring in from other quarters, but with each of them came a still greater drain on the stores and the treasury. About this time (the beginning of 1864) a series of great fairs was inaugurated, either by officers of the Commission, or by its friends, in aid of its treasury or of the independent treasuries of its branches. They occurred at Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Pittsburg, Albany, Baltimore, Boston, Brooklyn, L. I., New York, Philadelphia, and many other towns and cities. The net product reached the enormous sum of \$2,736,868.84. The total amount in money received from the people by the Sanitary Commission up to May 1, 1866, was \$4,962,014.26. But at least \$2,000,000 more were raised in its interest by its branches, which they expended themselves, and which, though equally serviceable, never came into its treasury. Gratuitous transportation by railroad and express companies and free communication by telegraph lines saved the Commission at least two thirds of the cost in these necessary departments of its work. The aggregate value of the services rendered by the public to the Commission has been estimated at \$25,000,000. No officer or member of the Commission, excepting its secretaries, who left other occupations to devote their whole time to the work, ever received a dollar for his services. But it had at some periods 500 persons, from physicians and surgeons to cooks and teamsters, upon its roster, who were receiving its support at army rates, ac-

ording to grade of service, and its other expenses were enormous. The finances of the Commission received a punctilious care under the lead of George Templeton Strong, a lawyer and a man of the highest character, its only treasurer through the war, who gave the most scrupulous attention to vouchers and accounts, and under the direction of the Commission submitted his books to three auditors, Messrs. A. A. Low, Jonathan Sturgis, J. J. Astor, Jr., who employed an expert to examine them from time to time and report their audit, without finding a single flaw, through the whole life of the Commission. Mr. Strong's great services were held in the highest respect and gratitude by his fellow-commissioners and the public acquainted with his solid devotion; and his recent death has not diminished the sense of them among his old fellow-workers. The sources of the money contributions, and their amount, will be found in the following table, taken from the official report of the Commission:

RECEIPTS OF THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION FROM
JUNE 27, 1861, TO JAN. 1, 1866.

Maine	\$24,938.43	Virginia	703.60
New Hampshire	21,926.84	Ohio	16,049.50
Vermont	3,521.17	Indiana	1,264.15
Massachusetts	15,532.00	Illinois	4,342.50
Mass. (through Boston Branch)	106,396.60	Michigan	691.30
Rhode Island	11,823.96	Wisconsin	916.60
Connecticut	8,418.55	Iowa	13.50
New England (States not designated)	6,683.75	Minnesota	67.85
New York	229,328.71	Kentucky	6,608.05
New Jersey	20,741.25	Louisiana	3,177.25
Pennsylvania	12,736.77	North Carolina	8.00
Delaware	775.00	California	1,233,977.81
Maryland	5,913.95	Nevada	107,642.96
Dist'ct of Columbia	12,124.53	Oregon	79,406.94
		Wash. Territory	20,918.92
		Idaho Territory	5,301.31

Colorado Territory	1,025.00	Fair	1,184,487.72
Nebraska Territory	10.50	Warwick, Orange Co.	
Vancouver's Island	2,195.61	(N. Y.), Fair	1,432.73
Sandwich Islands	17,955.51	Po'keepsie (N. Y.) Fair	16,192.27
Chili	5,376.79	Hornellsville (N. Y.)	
Peru	2,002.00	Fair	800.00
Buenos Ayres	18,412.85	South Adams (Mass.) Fair	3,087.04
Cuba	23.00	Maryland State (Balti-	
Costa Rica	84.00	more) Fair	40,234.54
Canada	441.48	Wheeling (Va.) Fair	2,500.00
Newfoundland	150.00	Great Central Fair, Phila-	
England	11,145.33	delphia	1,035,398.96
Scotland	74.75	Unknown sources	3,952.26
France	3,550.00	Interest on U. S. Certifi-	
European branch (Paris)	13,372.72	cates	37,771.71
London branch	36,790.42	Interest on deposits in	
Belgium	100.00	Nassau Bank, Brooklyn	1,923.63
Germany	843.22	Interest on deposits in	
Italy	50.00	Fourth National Bank,	
Turkey	50.00	N. Y.	3,154.15
China	2,989.90	Receipts from advertise-	
Japan	5,000.00	ments in <i>Sanitary Bul-</i>	
U. S. Army	1,738.30	<i>letin</i>	2,160.00
U. S. Navy	199.00	Receipts from subscrip-	
Boston and New England		tions for <i>Sanitary Bul-</i>	
Fair	50,000.00	<i>letin</i>	191.80
Yonkers, N. Y.	12,000.00	Contributions to medical	
Flushing, L. I., Fair	3,934.32	fund	197.00
Brooklyn and Long Island		Proceeds from sales of fur-	
Fair	305,513.83	niture, surplus stores,	
Schuyler Co. (N. Y.) Fair	1,287.43	etc..	72,298.07
Albany (N. Y.) Fair	80,000.00		
Metropolitan (New York)		Total amount	\$4,924,480.99

NOTES—(1) For a table of disbursements we must refer to the official *History*, by C. J. Stillé, where an audited account will be found on p. 547, Appendix.—(2) The estimated value of supplies sent to the Commission, in various kinds of dry goods, raw material and made up, vegetables, fruits, wines and cordials, and all else, is roughly estimated at \$15,000,000.

Internal Organization.—The original board, named by the medical bureau and the secretary of war after advising with the originators of the plan, consisted of nine persons—Rev. Dr. H. W. Bellows, Prof. A. D. Bache, Prof. Wolcott Gibbs, Dr. Jeffries Wyman, Dr. W. H. Van Buren, Dr. Samuel G. Howe, R. C. Wood, surgeon U. S. A., G. W. Cullum, U. S. A., A. E. Shiras, U. S. A.,

with power to add as many more associates as they deemed necessary. The order of the secretary of war creating the Commission is dated June 9, 1861. Immediately after, Elisha Harris, M. D., G. T. Strong, Esq., J. S. Newberry, M. D., F. L. Olmsted, Esq., Bishop T. M. Clark, Horace Binney, Jr., Esq., were added, and later Hon. R. W. Burnett, Hon. Mark Skinner, Hon. Joseph Holt, Rev. J. W. Heywood, Fairman Rogers, Esq., J. Huntington Wolcott, Esq. C. J. Stillé, Esq., Ezra B. McCagg. During the early months of the war the board met in Washington (where excellent quarters were provided by the government) once in every six weeks, but after the first year its sessions were held quarterly. The board had a general supervision of the work, the defining of its policy and measures, which were committed to secretaries, heads of bureaus, and agents for execution. The board held twenty-three sessions, usually four or five days each. To them was presented by the general secretary a sketch of the work founded on the reports of the heads of the various bureaus—of Inspection, Statistics, Special Relief, War-Claim Agency, Hospital Record, the Treasury, and the Branches in the Home-field. The pressure and complexity of the business soon compelled the board to appoint from its members a standing committee charged with all the responsibility of the Commission during the intervals of its sessions. This committee consisted of Rev. Dr. Bellows, Dr. W. H. Van Buren, Prof. Wolcott Gibbs, Mr. G. T. Strong, and Dr. C. R. Agnew, to whom Mr. C. J. Stillé was afterward added. It was necessary that

this standing committee should be constituted of gentlemen living near each other, as their meetings were necessarily held daily, and the city of New York thus became their head-quarters. For four years their daily meeting was scarcely intermitted, except on Sundays. The care, anxiety, and labor thrown upon them in explaining, defending, and maintaining the deliberate policy of the Commission, anticipating its wants, arranging and addressing public meetings, planning financial schemes, meeting the exigencies of field-work by summoning supplies and forwarding them to distant dépôts, settling delicate questions with the government, the army, and its own agents, was something which only the immense excitement of the times, and the growing interest and success of their humane work, could have enabled professional men—every one of them with numerous public duties besides—to bear.

But the burden of the labor fell upon the general secretary at the head of the central office at Washington. Mr. F. L. Olmsted occupied this post for the first two years, and it is not too much to say that he impressed his genius upon the Commission, which had originated with others, in such a way as to make it doubtful whether without his fine power of organization, his influence with subordinates, his experience in great undertakings, and his extraordinary powers of concentrated attention upon what he undertakes, it would have survived its youth. He was succeeded by Dr. J. Foster Jenkins, who was promoted for his prudence, faithfulness, and high medi-

cal and general intelligence from a lower office in the Commission to this important post, and labored effectively for two years in it until his health broke down. He was succeeded by Mr. John S. Blatchford, who brought rare power of order, industry, and zeal to the work, and specially distinguished himself by his success in organizing the war-claim and historical bureau, and finally by closing up the long-protracted business of this involved and widely-related enterprise. The office at Washington, with its several bureaus, presented all the extension, activity, order, subordination, and checks and balances of a great commercial house. Dr. John S. Newberry at Louisville, the Western secretary, had a large force of clerks, inspectors, and agents under him admirably managed. The office of the standing committee in New York was the scene of constant hard work under Mr. Benjamin Collins, assisted by Mr. C. G. Lathrop and Mr. S. H. Stebbins, accomplished accountants. Considering the fiduciary nature, the extent and growth of this—probably the largest work of volunteer benevolence ever carried on in the same space of time or under similar circumstances—it is gratifying to remember how generous the trust of the public was in the integrity and wisdom of its administrators, and how little friction of a harmful kind, notwithstanding its constant difficulties, it suffered in its anomalous relations to the government and army and the navy.

This long yet imperfect digest of the work of the U. S. Sanitary Commission is mainly taken (though with the help of a full personal knowledge of the general facts

and internal policy here set forth) from the official *History of the Sanitary Commission*, so ably written by one of its members, Mr. Charles J. Stillé, now provost of the University of Pennsylvania, and with his concluding words, we end this article: "However opinions may differ in regard to the policy of the government or the strategy of the generals during the late war, the organized sympathy and care of the American people for those who suffered in their cause stands out alone in its ever-fresh beauty from the dark background of civil strife, and must always and everywhere call forth the homage and admiration of mankind. It is the true glory of our age and our country, one of the most shining monuments of its civilization. May it ever prove a beacon to warn, to guide, and to encourage those who in future ages and other countries may be afflicted with the dire calamity of war!"

List of the Members of the Sanitary Commission and its Officers—Henry W. Bellows, D. D., New York, president; Alexander Dallas Bache, LL.D., Washington, D. C., vice-president; George T. Strong, Esq., New York, treasurer; W. H. VanBuren, M. D., New York, C. R. Agnew, M. D., New York, Prof. Wolcott Gibbs, M. D., New York, medical committee; Fred. Law Olmsted, Esq., New York, general secretary, Prof. John S. Newberry, M. D., Louisville, Ky., Western secretary; Elisha Harris, M. D., New York; Charles J. Stillé, Esq., Philadelphia, official historian; S. G. Howe, M. D., Boston; Rt. Rev. T. M. Clark, Providence, R. I.; Horace Binney, Jr., Esq., Philadelphia, Pa.; Rev. J. H. Heywood, Louisville, Ky.; * Hon. R. W.

Burnett, Cincinnati, O.; Hon. Mark Skinner, Chicago, Ill.; * Hon. Joseph Holt, Washington, D. C.; J. Huntington Wolcott, Esq., Boston Mass.; Ezra B. McCagg, Esq., Chicago, Ill.; † Fairman Rogers, Esq., Philadelphia, Pa.; ‡ Robert C. Wood, M. D., U. S. A.; § G. W. Cullum, U. S. A.; || Alexander E. Shiras, U. S. A.

HENRY W. BELLOWS.

* These gentlemen never took their seats.

† Resigned 1864.

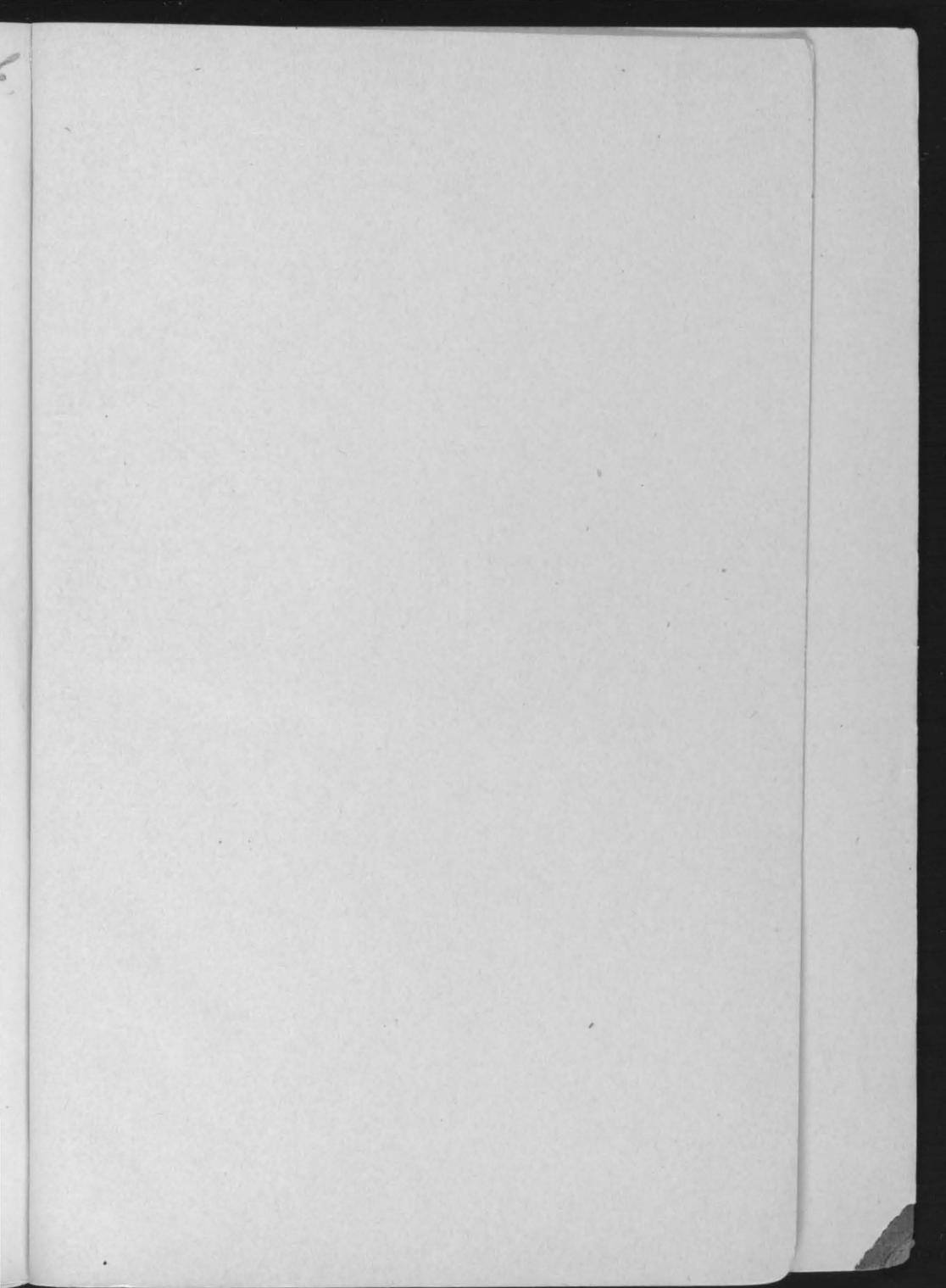
‡ Resigned Dec., 1864.

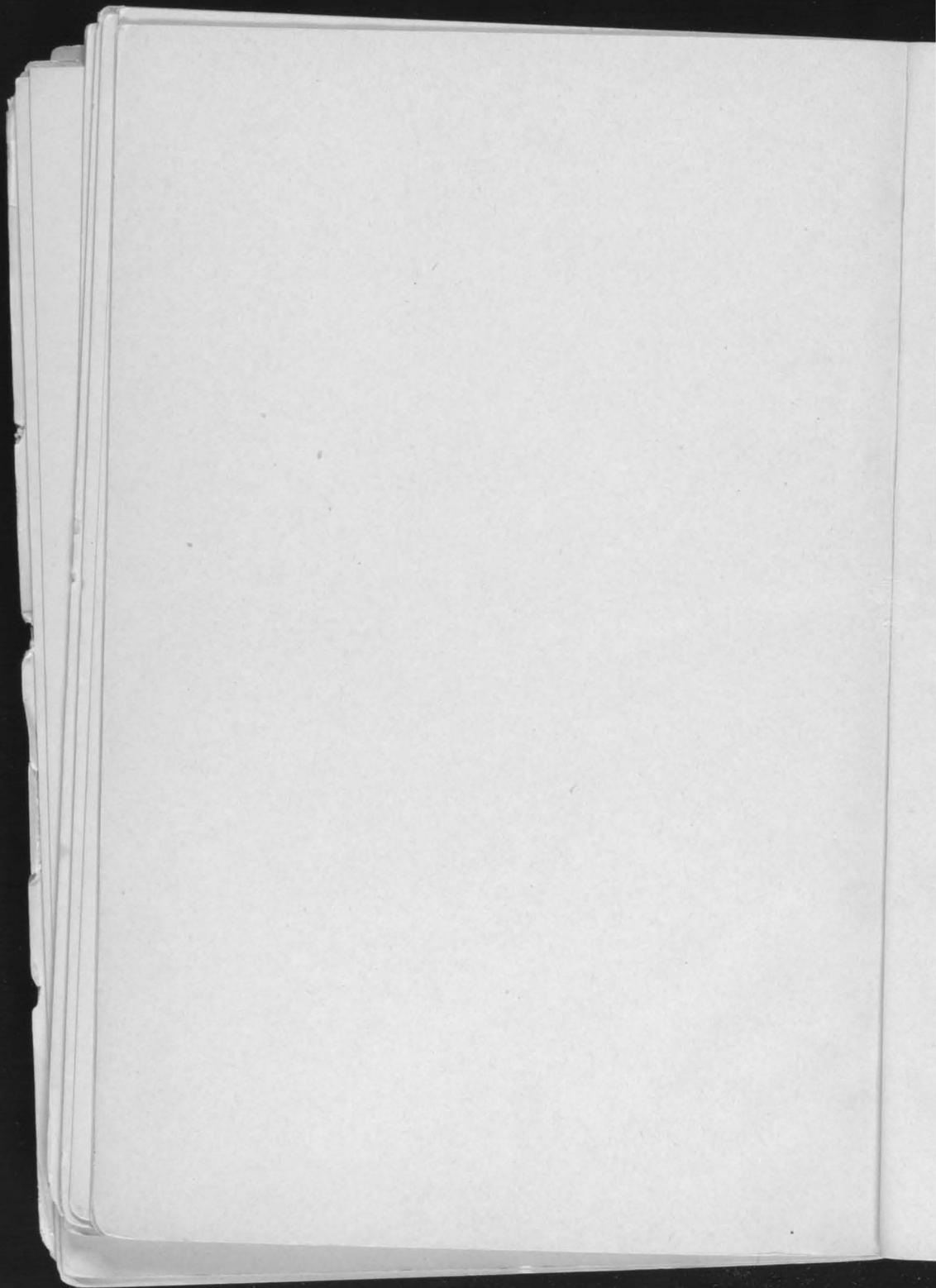
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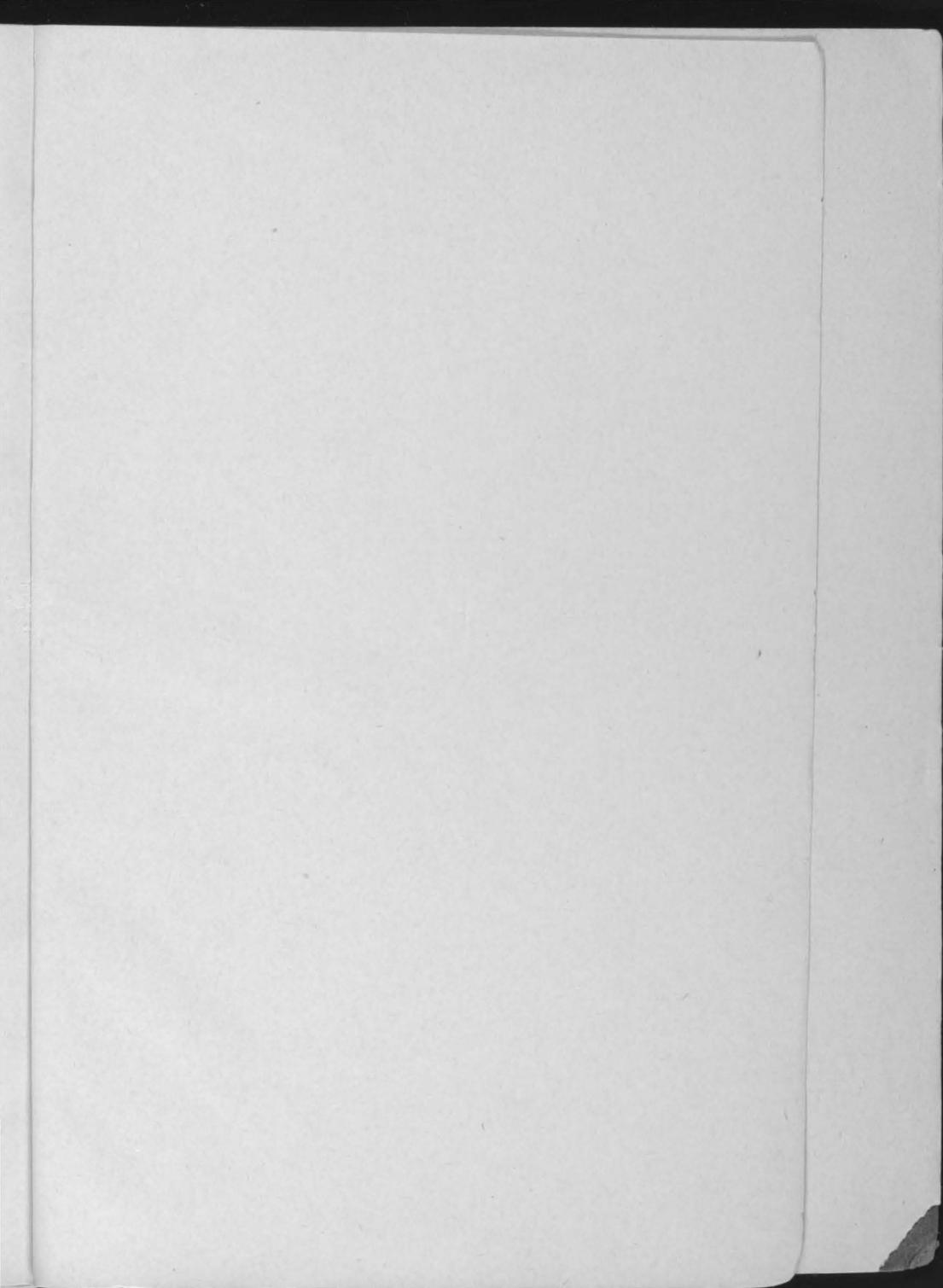
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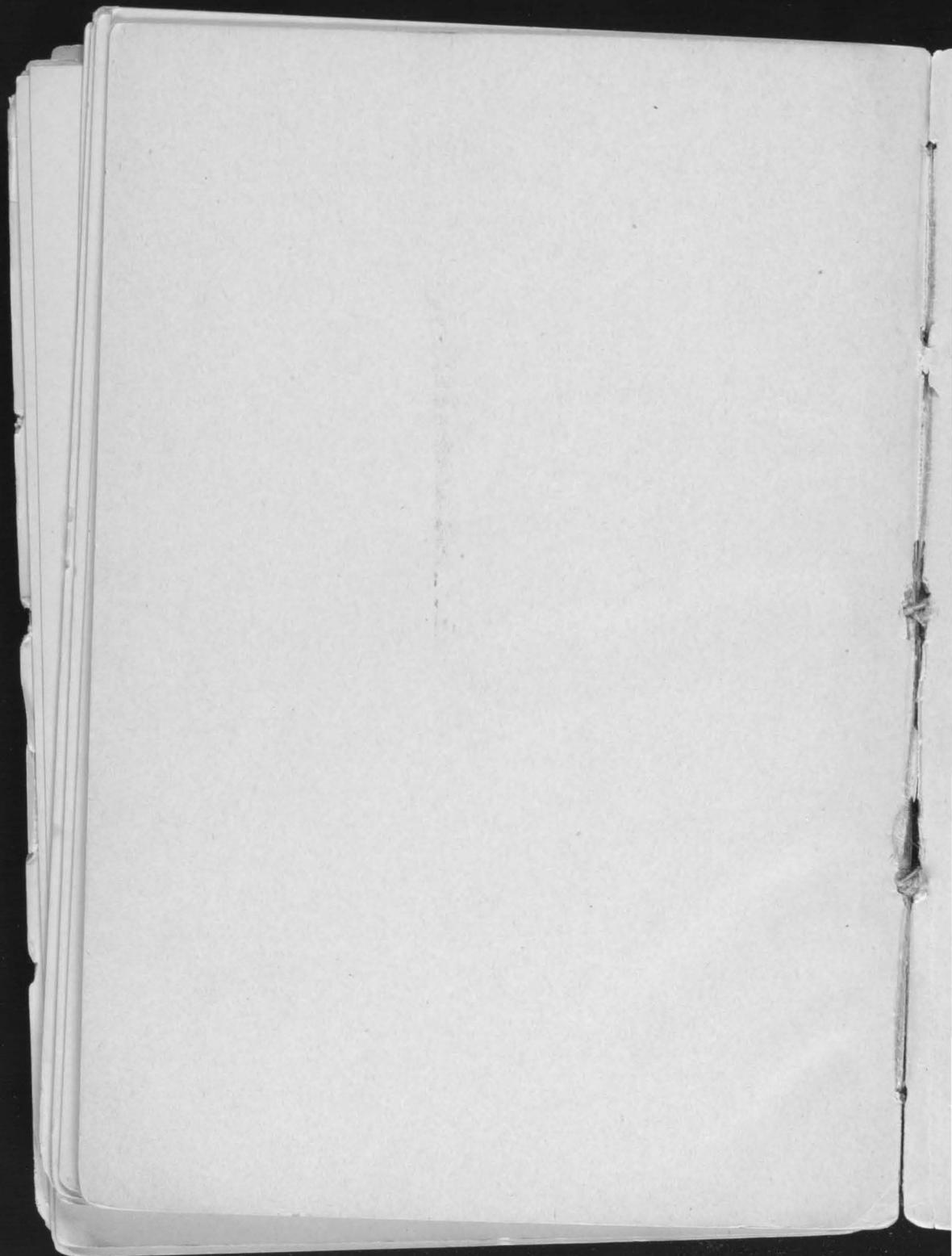
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