

TO THE PEOPLE OF MAINE.

At a period when the most urgent necessity summons every aid to the preservation of national existence, action is imperatively demanded

The business of this war upon Rebellion is to save and strengthen ourselves, as well as to destroy or vanquish the enemy. Operations in the field, on a scale of surpassing magnitude, are liable to *obscure the necessities of the Hospital*, which, however, keep alarming pace with the progress of this terrible struggle. Suffering again appeals to us, and demands that our neighbors, (citizen soldiers,) prostrated in battle or by disease, shall receive more substantial evidence of our sympathy. While the Administration fulfills its part in affairs, it cannot look into an infinitude of particulars, and apply the needed care; hence philanthropy and private bounty are left to their appropriate work—qualities which prompt attention to the humblest soldier, searching out and attending to his wants.

Of the twenty-nine (29) regiments of our State, at the present time in the field, the greater part is in the army of Virginia, and in the vicinity of Washington. Here are brought the wounded and the disabled of the late battles, and the sick each day are brought from Maine regiments to the Hospitals at Washington.

The "Maine Soldiers' Relief Association," composed of citizens of Maine residing in Washington, has already achieved eminent usefulness in alleviating distress, exposing and correcting abuses, and by co-operating generally with all humane enterprises for the relief of sick and wounded men in the service. Hospitals are daily visited; their management scrutinized and reported; the name, rank, command, and condition of each patient ascertained and registered. The members of the Association have expended largely of their means to promote these beneficent ends, and they will continue, cheerfully and religiously, to execute the trust devolved upon them; but they must be aided and sustained by the people of Maine. It is your generous patriotism that must replenish the funds which enable human agency, under Providence, to save many a valuable life. Therefore, in behalf of our Country, our Religion, our Liberty, our Neighbors, and Humanity, we appeal to every citizen of Maine to take this matter personally in hand, that all may be instrumental in alleviating the sufferings of those who have gone out from among us to vindicate the works of our fathers.

It need not be said that where hardship and death most abounded there the gallant volunteers of Maine have been of the foremost—ever answering to the roll-call of danger; hence let not their sufferings invoke our humanity in vain. The ties of neighborhood, kindred, and human nature, unite to bind upon us the high obligation to care for and cherish the devoted men who "do and dare" for the country; who, at vast expense of treasure, and infinite sacrifice to private interests and tender affections of family, have gone *forth for us* to battle with the rebellion. Be it our part to sustain their hands while they strive with the enemies of the Republic, and so maintain the integrity and invincibility of our armies.

The Sanitary Commission is doing a marvelous work, and should be amply sustained by every patriot, Christian, and philanthropist. Its labors of love are as broad as the Republic, and as universal as light. But, when it is possible, soldiers from Maine wish to be visited by persons and contributions from Maine; it makes them cheerful and happy. Contributions in money are the chief aids required, as it can be instantly applied to purchase all the necessaries required, suggested by the condition of the invalid. All other contributions, however, are earnestly called for. All contributions of money should be forwarded to the Hon. Horatio King, Treasurer of the Association.

The Association has provided itself with a Store-house and Store-keeper. All goods should be marked: *Maine Soldiers' Relief Association, Washington, D. C.* And the receipt whereof will be immediately acknowledged.

The Association will actively co-operate with the agency of Maine now established in Washington. It will promptly answer all requests for information of soldiers of Maine regiments who may be confined in the Hospitals here.

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Description: This open letter describes the work of members of the Association on behalf of the Maine soldiers serving in the American Civil War, 1861 - 1865, and seeks assistance from the reader.

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