

## CHEBRA HIKUR CHOLIM UKEDISHA SOCIETY.

This is another benevolent organization composed of members of the Hebrew denomination, devoted to the relief of the sick and assistance of the needy of that faith. The Society was organized in February, 1857, since which time it has been in active operation, holding regular meetings once a month to carry out the objects of the Association.

## SCANDINAVIAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

This is an Association of citizens hailing from Northern Europe, who have united themselves for the purpose of aiding the sick and distressed amongst their countrymen who stand in need of aid. The Society has a handsome library, which is open to all members; and when any one is out of employment, every effort is made by his associates to obtain it for him. The Society at present number some two hundred and fifty members, and has a respectable relief fund in place ready for any emergency that may arrive.

## THE SANITARY COMMISSION IN CALIFORNIA.

In the first week of September, 1862, the news of the continuous battles and defeats of our armies under Major-General John Pope came across the continent, creating the most intense excitement among the masses of the loyal people. In a well-known saloon in this city several gentlemen were collected one evening during that week and were discussing the topic of the times, when expressions of sympathy for the suffering soldiers were naturally called forth, and prominence given to the fact that California had yet done nothing for the war. Her distance from its center had precluded her citizens from being called upon, and the President was unwilling to subtract from the strength of the State, all of which might be needed in case of complications with foreign powers. In the heat of the conversation one gentleman expressed his determination to contribute a certain sum to the United States Sanitary Commission. This action was met by others with equal fervor, and one catching the generous glow with another a subscription list was started and in a few hours other names were added until the total sum amounted to \$6,600. This movement proceeded no further, for it was conceived upon more mature reflection that the movement might be made more general, and in place of a small sum a large sum might be obtained. The money subscribed upon that list was therefore not collected, but a movement for a wider recognition of the people's duties to the Union and its noble defenders was made at the next meeting of the Board of Supervisors held Monday evening, September 8th, 1862, by Supervisor John H. Redington, who offered the following resolution, which passed unanimously:

"Resolved, That this Board recommend that a public meeting of the citizens of San Francisco be called for Wednesday evening the 10th inst., at 8 o'clock P.M., at the chambers of the Board, to take measures for increasing to the greatest extent possible the Patriotic Fund for the benefit of the sick and wounded Union soldiers, and that the Clerk of this Board be instructed to advertise the same in the several daily papers of the city."

In accordance with the foregoing a meeting was held, of which Hon. H. F. Teschemacher, Mayor, was made Chairman, and F. MacCrellish and J. W. Bingham, Secretaries. At this meeting there was so meager an attendance that it was suggested that it be postponed to the next evening to ensure a large attendance. But the feeling prevailed that action be taken at once, and after considerable discussion the result of the meeting was the choosing of an Executive Committee of five "to report a plan of action and organization and the names of a General Committee of thirteen." The Executive Committee

was composed of Hon. M. C. Blake, Chairman, Eugene Casserly, R. G. Sneath, D. C. McKuer, and E. H. Washburn, and the meeting adjourned to the next (Thursday) evening. At the adjourned meeting Judge Blake offered the somewhat extended report of the committee, which clearly and forcibly recognized the obligations of each citizen of the Republic to make the cause of the Constitution and Government his cause, involving in its issue his honor, patriotism, and manhood; which pledged the people of this community to the constant support of the Government; which recommended that a mass meeting be held at Platt's Music Hall at an early date and the appointment of a committee of thirteen whose primary object should be "to raise money for the benefit of sick and wounded soldiers and seamen of the army and navy of the United States and to disburse it through the proper channels;" that "the committee shall continue during the war," with power to fill vacancies; that it invite the cooperation of Union men throughout the State and the neighboring territories, and "use its best endeavors to raise and forward with the least possible delay a sum of money large enough to make up in some degree for our past neglect, and to be an assurance of our present interest in the cause of the Union and its defenders; and hereafter, monthly, during the continuance of the war, such a sum that it may be truly said of California, in this respect she has done her whole duty." The report recommended the names of thirteen gentlemen who should compose the General Committee, as follows: H. F. Teschemacher, Wm. Norris, J. B. Roberts, John H. Redington, James Otis, John N. Risdon, Henry Seligman, A. L. Tubbs, Peter Donahue, Horace P. James, Herman Michels, Eugene L. Sullivan, and Wm. M. Lent. The report of the committee was unanimously adopted, and the arrangements for the mass meeting and for all future action were referred to the Committee of Thirteen.

The gentlemen named as the Committee of Thirteen all accepted the position assigned them excepting Herman Michels, Esq., who declined the position on account of his being a representative of a foreign power in this city. In his place J. G. Kittle, Esq., was immediately chosen. The committee held their first meeting Friday, Sept. 12th, 1862, the day following their appointment and organized by the choice of H. F. Teschemacher, Chairman, A. L. Tubbs, Secretary, and James Otis, Treasurer. It took measures immediately for a mass meeting to be held on the next Sunday evening, Sept. 14th, 1862, at Platt's Music Hall. On that evening was assembled one of the largest gatherings ever held in this city. The proceedings were appointed to be held at 8 o'clock, but an hour before that time the large hall was filled with an audience, which in point of respectability and intelligence has perhaps never been excelled. The hall was tastefully decorated with American flags. The meeting was called to order punctually by D. C. McKuer, Esq., and organized by the choice of Hon. H. F. Teschemacher as President, supported by a list of seventy-seven Vice Presidents and four Secretaries, selected from the most prominent citizens. After introductory remarks by the President, eloquent speeches were made by Eugene Casserly, Esq., Frederick Billings, Esq., Hon. Jas. McM. Shafter, Edward Tompkins, Esq., and the late Rev. Thos. Starr King. The most intense enthusiasm prevailed, the speeches were received with the heartiest applause and the people entered fully into the spirit of the holy occasion. At the close of the speeches the appointment of the Committee of Thirteen as amended was unanimously confirmed. The President then announced, in accordance with the plan of the committee, of which sub-committees had been previously appointed to canvass the whole city, that it was the intention of the committee to raise as large a sum as possible at once and for that pur-